

December 2024

Dear families



End of Autumn Term Letter 2024

At the end of a long Autumn Term, I wanted to write to you to share some of the great things that have happened over the last few weeks and share some important reminders for when we return in January. This term, we have relaunched our 'Bridge Way', and the RAISE values which we underpin in everything we do. This has been important to ensuring that our children understand how to be School Ready, Work Ready and Life Ready. Our students are showing these values more and more each day, which makes us incredibly proud of our student community.

Positive Stories

This term we have seen our amazing students seizing Widening Horizons opportunities outside of lessons including joining the Football Team; created donation bags for children who need them over Christmas; taking part in Forest School; visiting the local area; and volunteering at the local care home. We are incredibly proud of how hard our students have worked this term, and how much they have been able to involve themselves in since September. We have lots of experiences coming in 2025, which includes Duke of Edinburgh; Mixed Martial Arts; and a Residential Trip.

Arrangements for end of this term

The last day of this term will be Friday 20th December, finishing at 1:15pm. I would invite your child to join us in their Christmas jumper on this day, to celebrate the upcoming holiday. There will be a prize for the best jumper as well as some 'end of term' activities that our students can take part in, before the breakup.

Behaviour in the new year

Despite the excellent efforts that most of the students at The Bridge Academy have made, there is a small proportion who continue to need further reminders of our expectations. Our rules are very simple – **Right Place, Right Time; Learn in Lessons;** and **Follow the RAISE values**, and we are working with students on following these expectations; speaking to others with kindness and respect; 'using our words' when we are struggling; and following reasonable requests from an adult. I am asking for your support over the holidays, and well into next year, to work with us and your child on the importance of meeting our expectations and following The Bridge Way. I know the support from our families to them will go a long way. You can use Class Charts as a starting point to these discussions with your child.

Start of the spring term

The school will reopen to students on Tuesday 7th January at the normal time of 9am. We will have an extended RAISE time, where we will remind our students of 'The Bridge Way' and reinforce our expectations.

I am also excited to let you know that The Bridge Academy is well on the way to becoming a 'digital school'. Therefore, we are aiming for this to be the last paper letter you receive as we would like to move to sending you communications via **Class Charts**. Thank you to the parents that are already logged in. If we have noted that you haven't already accessed Class Charts, I am enclosing your personalised log in details and a link is here to find out more about how to use the App - <https://thebridgeacademy.atlp.org.uk/character/class-charts-rewards-points-behaviour/>.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and peaceful break. Please encourage your child to stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming them back in January.

Yours faithfully

Elliot Payne
Head of School