

17 July 2023

Dear Parents and Parent Liaisons,

**RE: The Alphington Star Program, Information for Families - What is the Alphington Star Program?**

Over recent months we have been working on introducing a Positive Behaviour Support in School (PBIS) initiative in our school. PBIS is an evidence-based framework for creating and maintaining a positive school culture by emphasizing positive behaviour. The goal of The Alphington Star Program is to create a positive school environment where all students feel safe, respected, and supported, which in turn can improve academic performance and social-emotional outcomes for our students.

**Why are we doing the Alphington Star Program?**

Encouragement, guidance, and reward of successful prosocial behaviours are helpful for all students to build their social and emotional skills. Evidence indicates that schools with clearly defined behavioural expectations and formal strategies for acknowledging (rewarding) appropriate behaviour are safer and more effective learning environments.

**What does the Program Involve?**

The Alphington Star Program involves explicitly teaching social, emotional, and behavioural skills that promote positive behaviours linked to our school values, such as Respect and Responsibility. It also involves setting clear expectations for behaviour, acknowledging, and rewarding positive behaviour, and providing support and interventions for students who may struggle to meet age-appropriate behavioural expectations.

The program will initially comprise the following initiatives:

1. **Behaviour Matrix:** Clearly defined behavioural expectations will be displayed prominently on a matrix in classrooms and other key areas around the school.
2. **Dual Learning Intentions Teaching:** Teachers will integrate clear social, emotional, and behavioural learning objectives into daily lesson planning alongside academic learning objectives such that teaching prosocial behaviour is part of all student's daily curriculum.
3. **Reward System:** Students will be incentivized and rewarded for displaying prosocial behaviours as per the behaviour matrix in the form of a small badge presented by teachers along with clear and specific praise. Students can wear their badge proudly for the day if they choose and can then use a reward coin to vote for a Whole School reward. Rewards will be chosen by the Year 6 students and delivered at the end of each term.

The program is considered a pilot trial and will be developed, enhanced, and extended as we see what works well in our school. We look forward to working with our students and families to create a program that contributes to the social and emotional flourishing of all AGS students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Barnewall".

Luke Barnewall  
Acting Head of Primary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maximilian White".

Maximilian White  
Lead School Psychologist