

Headteacher's Bulletin: **Thursday 12th February 2026**



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of my first half term as Headteacher, I wanted to take a moment to say thank you, it has been a real privilege to step into this role and continue working alongside such a supportive and committed community.

I am incredibly grateful to parents and carers for the encouragement, trust and support you have shown during this first half term. Your partnership with the school makes a genuine difference, and it has been wonderful to see how positively our students have embraced the term so far.

There has been so much to celebrate already. From the vibrancy and thoughtfulness of our 'Colours of Altrincham College' day, to the ambition on display at the Careers Fair, students have been given valuable opportunities to broaden their horizons. The Year 9 Options Evening and assemblies supported students at an important decision-making stage, while Parents' Evenings for Years 11 and 13 provided a vital chance to reflect on progress as students move towards their next steps. It was also lovely to see our Year 11 and Year 13 students mark this stage of their journey with their official photographs.

I would also like to ask for your continued support with maintaining our high uniform standards. Consistent expectations around uniform help to reinforce a sense of pride, belonging and readiness to learn across the school. In particular, I would be grateful if parents and carers could ensure that students are wearing the correct school shoes rather than trainers, and that jewellery complies with our school policy. Your support in checking uniform each morning makes a real difference and helps us maintain a calm, focused learning environment for all students.

I would also like to ask for your continued support in ensuring that students arrive at school on time each day and in plenty of time to start the day calmly and ready to learn. Punctuality plays an important role in establishing positive routines and avoiding disruption to lessons. This is particularly important for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are working extremely hard as they prepare

for their public examinations this summer. Their focus and commitment have been evident throughout the half term, and strong habits around attendance and punctuality are vital in helping them make the most of every learning opportunity during this crucial period.

There is a great deal to be proud of, and I am excited about what lies ahead as we continue to build on the strong foundations already in place. Thank you once again for your continued support, I look forward to working closely with you throughout the rest of the year.

Kind regards,

A Keegan
Headteacher



Culture and Diversity Day, Thursday 12th February

Safeguarding Bulletin:

Please [visit our website](#) to read the latest safeguarding news and guidance.



In this issue:

- Advice for parents
- Digital Resilience
- WhatsApp
- Childline Resources

The Achieve and Learn Trust believes that nothing is more important than safeguarding the young people in our schools.

With the current Government conversation around the use of mobile phones by young people, we thought it was a good time to revisit the appropriate use of social media and how parents can have supportive conversations to promote resilience in their children.

Advice for parents of pre-teens and teens

- **Follow age requirements** - Many popular Apps, sites and games are 13+, it's important to check and follow these with pre-teens.
- **Speak to phone providers** - If your child owns their own smartphone then contact the service provider to make sure it is registered as a child's device. This means additional safety restrictions can be put in place.
- **Support your child with their settings** - Support your child to manage their safety and wellbeing settings across devices and accounts.
- **Focus on regular safety conversations** - It's important to keep conversations regular at this age. Check the NSPCC advice on [tackling challenging conversations](#) including tips for how to use technology to support you with this.
- **Share youth facing help and support** - Make sure your child knows about services that can help like Childline. You could start by sharing the [online safety advice content](#) and the [Report Remove tool](#) created by the IWF and Childline.
- **Revisit parental controls** - you will likely need to revisit your parental controls again at this age and adjust them. Keep checking these regularly to make sure they are in place.
- **Explore healthy habits together** - Healthy habits work best when all the family agrees to following them. This could be agreeing to charge devices away from beds to support sleep and not using devices during mealtimes to help take breaks.



Stay social!

There are lots of ways of finding out information about Altrincham College, such as our school website:
www.altrinchamcollege.com

You can also follow our accounts on social media:

- www.facebook.com/AltrinchamCollege
- www.instagram.com/altrinchamcollege
- www.instagram.com/altrinchamcollege_lrc
- www.instagram.com/actv_altrinchamcollege
- www.instagram.com/altrincham_college_art
- www.instagram.com/ac.careersandenterprise/



We have been asked to share news of this Trafford Centre event on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March to mark the launch of British Science Week:

Bringing science & engineering to life

HubLab

FunLab

Play, explore, and get hands-on with the wonders of science!

7 & 8 March

FunLab Trafford Centre Takeover for British Science Week!

Join us to explore, play and discover in a free weekend of science and engineering fun.

Meet robots, handle dinosaur bones and get hands-on with experiments and activities to take home.

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

TRAFFORD MANCHESTER

Explore more >>>



Getting to Know You

Students: you may think you know your teachers, but how well do you really know them?

In this bulletin, we get to know Mrs Brennan, who has worked here for over 21 years, and is the other half of former Deputy Headteacher Mr Brennan (whom your older siblings or parents might remember!).



Q&A with

MRS BRENNAN, TEACHER OF MEDIA STUDIES

QUESTION

WHAT DID YOU STUDY AT SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY?

ANSWER

**SCHOOL: 11 GCSES. ART AND ENGLISH WERE MY FAVOURITES!
UNIVERSITY: MEDIA AND DESIGN**

QUESTION

IF YOU COULD SWAP PLACES WITH ANOTHER MEMBER OF STAFF, WHO WOULD IT BE?

ANSWER

MRS DAWSON IN REPROGRAPHICS AS I LOVE CREATING RESOURCES!

QUESTION

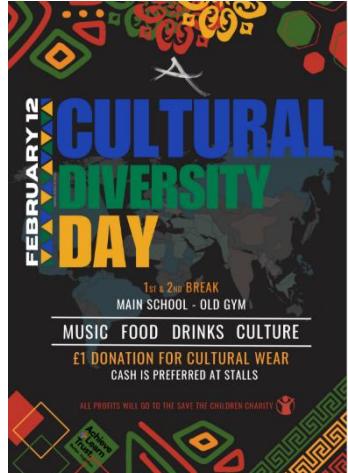
TELL US AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU:

ANSWER

I COME FROM A FAMILY OF TEACHERS: MY MUM WAS A HEADTEACHER, MY DAD A DEPUTY HEAD AND MY BROTHER A PROFESSOR AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY!

Inclusive:

Culture and Diversity Day 2026



Congratulations to our sixth form students who hosted AC's 4th consecutive 'Culture and Diversity Day' and have raised money for Save the Children in the process! The event celebrates our wonderful diverse student and staff community through music, art, costume and food. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to learn more about the different cultures that exist at our school, and to share their own culture and heritage.

As part of the event, students in years 9 and 10 took part in '**Show Racism the Red Card**' workshops to widen their understanding of indirect racism and how it is important to be an ally.



Safer Internet Day

On 10th February for Safer Internet Day we were pleased to welcome Joel Foster, a singer songwriter from the Midlands, into school to perform and talk about his own experiences with friendships, social media and online safety.

Joel performed three sets throughout the day for our Key Stage 3 students and talked about careers in the music business with Key Stage 4 and 5 students.





Ambition: Sixth Form News



This term has been a particularly vibrant and purposeful one in the Sixth Form. Our Year 13 students have engaged thoughtfully with a Thrive session designed to support them in managing anxiety, strengthening resilience, and maintaining positive wellbeing as they move toward their upcoming exams. It has been encouraging to see them approach this period with maturity and a growing sense of confidence.

We were also proud to see Sixth Form students play an active role in the school's Culture and Diversity Day, contributing to an atmosphere of celebration, and community. Their leadership and willingness to share experiences helped make the day genuinely memorable.

Year 12 have also been busy beyond the classroom, taking part in a range of enriching trips. Our sport cohort spent an inspiring day at Manchester City, exploring world-class training facilities and gaining first-hand insight from City's coaching staff about performance, preparation, and careers in elite sport.

Students also attended Salford University's *Shape Your Future* event, where they explored pathways into higher education and discovered a variety of business-related careers. These experiences have given students a clearer sense of the opportunities ahead and have sparked valuable conversations about their next steps.

Mr Mahmood, Head of Sixth Form.



Year 7 sports event, 24th February



Year 13 Sport students are organising and hosting a sports event for year 7 pupils on Tuesday 24th February, during periods 1 & 2. The sixth form students are extremely competent coaches and confident with speaking to younger students and demonstrating skills.

There will be an awards ceremony at the end of the event.

Aspiration:

Achieve High Programme

"It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." JK Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series.



"If your dreams don't scare you, they are too small." Sir Richard Branson, owner of the Virgin group.

To recognise and celebrate excellence, every week staff are invited to nominate a student who shows some or all our school's excellence criteria. Congratulations to the winning students, who were rewarded with free toast and a 'jump the break queue' pass!

Names of this term's winners

Harleigh K (Year 11), **Odubeko A** (Year 9), **Briony ED** (Year 10), **Lewis C** (Year 11), **Lucy MW** (Year 9), **Beiana A** (Year 7), **Humayl J** (Year 8), **Susie S** (Year 8), **Kye W** (Year 11).



The Brilliant Club

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who were our first cohort in 'The Brilliant Club' last year. We are very proud of them all, particularly Amy P, whose essay on the future of vaccines was published here: <https://bit.ly/49nnsRX>



Amy's achievements were recognised when she was presented with a card and present from Mr Keegan. Congratulations Amy!

'Make Your Mark' Year 10 Study Skills Programme delivered by The Brilliant Club

Eight, very lucky year 10 students have been invited to participate in a 10-week study skills programme led by PhD tutors from Arden University. The national programme, led by the very successful Brilliant Club, targeted a small group of students who have shown potential and promise in pursuing academic study.

The weekly sessions focus on learning about and adopting proven study skills that will help support students across a range of subjects, not just in Maths and English.

This is the first time we've ran the programme which follows on from a similar programme delivered by the Brilliant Club last year. Some of the year 11 'Brilliant Club' students met with the current year 10 'Make Your Mark' students to share their experiences and the increased confidence, knowledge and ability they now have to study effectively. The 'Make your Mark' programme finishes with a trip, for all students who complete the programme, to a celebration event at Arden University later this year. We look forward to celebrating their success.

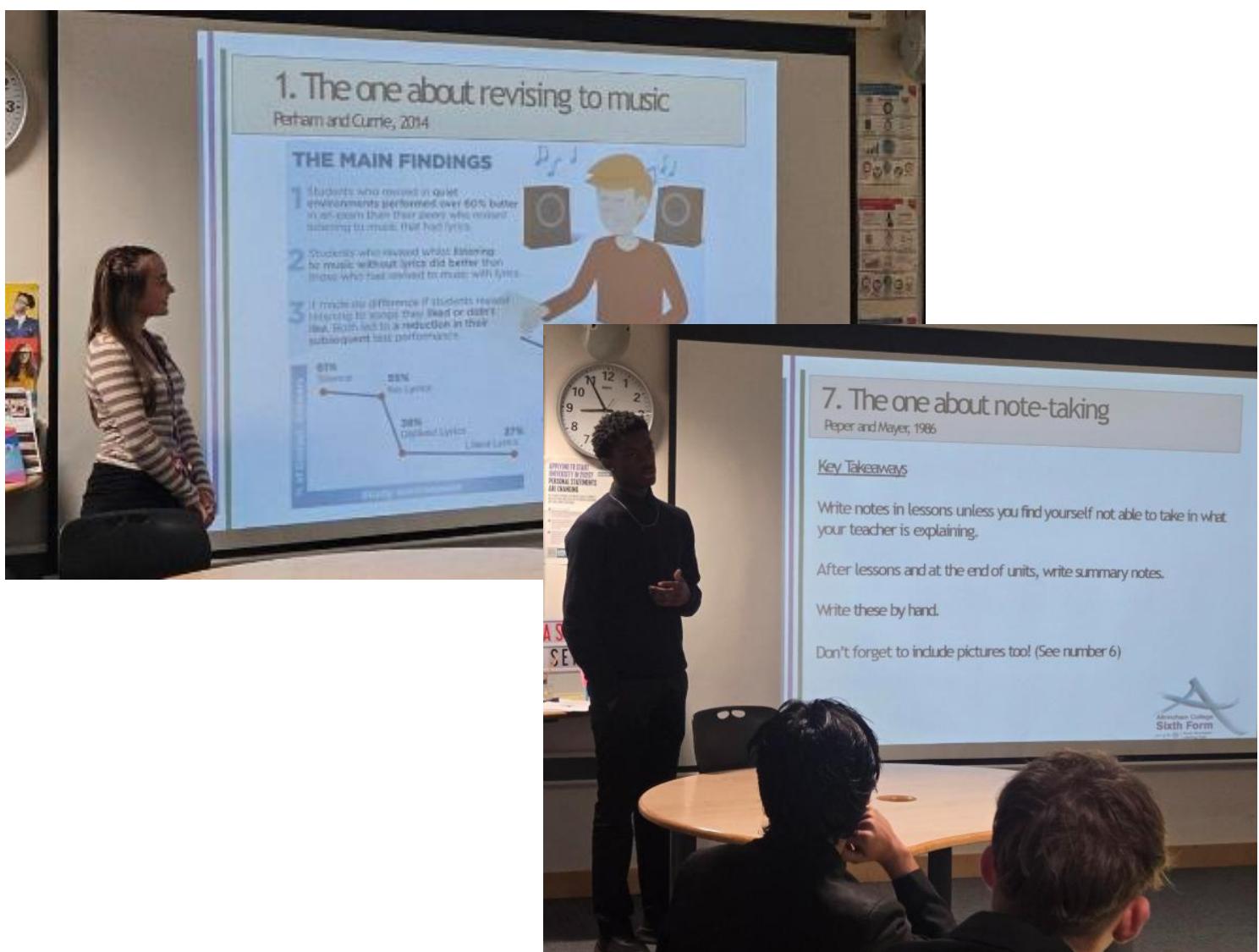
Key Stage 5 and Year 11 'Learning to Learn' Programme

We are very excited to announce that a select number of year 12 and 13 students who have excellent study experience and attainment, were chosen and then trained by Head of Sixth Form, Mr Mahmood, to tutor a group of year 11

students during one weekly form period this term.

The programme, led by year 12 student leaders is designed around a valuable study skills resource that our Key Stage 5 students have first-hand experience of, to guide, inspire and support year 11 students as they prepare for their summer exams. Our students have been able to share their first-hand experience of what is required to excel in academic study and are kindly passing on this valuable experience supported by proven strategies.

A big “thank-you” to the year 12 and 13 students who have embraced this opportunity and benefited themselves from developing tutor skills ready for their next steps at university or employment.





Well done to the students in Years 9–11 who took part in this year's **UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge**. This is a demanding competition that really pushes pupils' problem-solving skills to the limit, and this year we achieved an impressive **37 certificates** in total.

A massive congratulations in particular to **Lucas Cheung, Rufus James and Max Leah**, who all achieved **Gold certificates**. Max will go on to compete in the **Grey Kangaroo Challenge**, while Lucas will compete in the **Pink Kangaroo Challenge**.

Other certificate winners in Year 11 were:

Silver:

Mac, Dylan S, Katherine R

Bronze:

Amy P, Oliver D, Dylan J, Hailey S, Theo G, Lacey Z, Bella B, Lyra W, Subhi M, Opemipo D, Aimee L, Aaron J, Edie F

Other certificate winners in Year 10 were:

Silver:

Will H, Benjamin B, Chloé M, Sebastian S, Gabriel J

Bronze:

Renars J, Wilson M, Redmond C, Kenson C, Luca M, Alex T, Nico A, Jasmine M, Zac N, Jamie W, Quintin C

Other certificate winners in Year 9 were:

Silver:

Eunice S

Bronze:

Elsie B

A huge well done to everyone involved for such an excellent achievement  -
Mr Hill

Careers Department Altrincham College Careers Fair 2026!

Last week we welcomed more than 40 employers, universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers to school for our annual careers fair, which is our biggest and best yet!



Some of the exhibitors included the Elmscot Group, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Trafford College, McHale & Co Solicitors, Manchester Airport, Laing O'Rourke, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Altrincham Football Club, BBC TEKsystems and Lancaster Maloney Martin Ltd to name just a few.



Students from years 9-13 were encouraged to visit as many stands as possible, to find out about courses, apprenticeships and career opportunities. They received a stamp on their card for every meaningful conversation they engaged in, and students who received six or more stamps were entered into a prize draw. Our prize-winnners are: Tom D (10.3) and Viyana H (9.3).



A huge thank you to all the exhibitors, to the students for taking part and engaging brilliantly with our guests, and the staff who helped to facilitate this event – Miss Mitchelmore



A reminder that students in years 10 and 12 will take part in work experience on the following dates:

- **Year 12: Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th June (3 days)**
- **Year 10: Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July (5 days)**

All placements must be logged via the student's Unifrog account to be authorised. Please contact careers@altrinchamcollege.com with any queries.

National Apprenticeship Week

As this week is National Apprenticeship Week, we have arranged a variety of activities to raise awareness of this exciting pathway.

- At last week's school careers fair, there were many apprenticeship providers for students to engage with such as, Elevated Knowledge, BBC, McHale and Co, Pozzoni Architecture, Lancaster Maloney, Sellafield, Laing O'Rourke and Elmscot Nurseries.
- UA92 hosted an assembly on apprenticeships this week for students in Years 11-13.
- Our sixth form students will take part in a degree apprenticeship workshop with Morrisons early in March
- Year 12s will also have the opportunity to speak to more employers and apprenticeship providers at the University and Apprenticeship Fair at Old Trafford Stadium.

We are extremely proud of our students from previous years who have secured an apprenticeship!

APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS!

Freddie:

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Sellafield



Altrincham
College
Part of
Achieve & Learn Trust.

APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS!

Billy

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

JOURNALISM

**The Times
Newspaper**

Altrincham
College
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Achieve & Learn Trust.



APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS!

Tom

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP

AIRCRAFT TECHNICIAN

RAF



Altrincham
College
Part of
Achieve & Learn Trust.

APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS!

Khushi

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

TECHNOLOGY

BARCLAYS

Altrincham
College
Part of
Achieve & Learn Trust.



“Our vision is to nurture well-rounded citizens of the future who are knowledgeable, happy and resilient so that they make a valuable contribution to the world in which they live and are empowered to make informed and positive life choices.” 12

Local Career Events



TRAFFORD APPRENTICESHIP & CAREERS FAIR

Trafford College
Manchester Road, West Timperley,
Altrincham, WA14 5PQ

Tuesday 17 February
2pm-6pm

Just drop in on the day!

TRAFFORD COLLEGE The Trafford Pledge Matching people with business TRAFFORD COUNCIL connexions TRAFFORD



16-18 ACCESS ALL AREAS

OPEN EVENT

Tuesday 24 February 4:30-6:30pm

REGISTER NOW AT trafford.tscg.ac.uk

EXPERIENCE MORE, BECOME MORE

TRAFFORD COLLEGE



APPRENTICESHIPS
AT SALFORD CITY COLLEGE

MEET THE EMPLOYER
APPRENTICESHIP AND JOBS FAIR

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 10.00AM - 1.00PM

CITY SKILLS, LISSADEL STREET, SALFORD, M6 6AP

Come along to our Meet the Employer event at City Skills and meet local employers who have live vacancies including apprenticeships, this event is open to everyone. Our recruitment team will be on hand to register you for opportunities.

Apprenticeships at Salford City College offer qualifications in: Business, Professional & Financial Services, Construction & The Built Environment, Education & Early Years, Health & Social Care, Hospitality & Catering and Leadership & Management. Keep an eye on our social media for confirmed employers.

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

For more information contact our Salford City College Apprenticeship Team:
apprenticeships@salfordcc.ac.uk | 0161 631 5555



16-18 OPEN EVENT

THURSDAY 5 MARCH 5PM - 7PM

Register now

“Our vision is to nurture well-rounded citizens of the future who are knowledgeable, happy and resilient so that they make a valuable contribution to the world in which they live and are empowered to make informed and positive life choices.” 13

Belief: Sport

Netball: The year 7 and year 8 netball teams successfully beat Ashton on Mersey School in both games, with great performances from both teams! We look forward to working towards our residential tournament in Shropshire in July. – Miss Whyte



Pentathlon event

Earlier this term, Ten pupils in Key Stage 3 attended the annual Pentathlon event at BTH where they had a great day doing a range of multi skills events, showing great teamwork and determination. They came 4th out of all the Trafford schools and narrowly missed out on the bronze! – Mrs Wilden



Community: School production:



We hope you are excited for our next school production!

Tickets for performances of Annie, on **Tuesday 31st March** and **Wednesday 1st April**, are available now:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/altrincham-college/e-mjkqxr

Set in 1930s New York, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage. Her luck soon changes when she's chosen to spend a fairytale Christmas with famous billionaire, Oliver Warbucks. Meanwhile, spiteful Miss Hannigan has other ideas and hatches a plan to spoil Annie's search for her true family...

Drama

Lowry Theatre

Earlier this term, a group of Year 9 drama students spent the day at Lowry Theatre, Manchester, working with Samuel Tracy, a qualified actor, theatre maker and RADA graduate.

Samuel is currently a member of the Sixth House Company based at The Lowry.

Throughout the day, students worked collaboratively to explore the creative processes involved in creating and

devising a play. To gain an insight into what it would be like to study GCSE Drama, students also took part in a question-and-answer session with Samuel, learning more about training pathways and careers within the theatre and performance industry. It was a fantastic day which the students thoroughly enjoyed! – Mrs Mrozinski



Art

Year 7 Trip to Macclesfield Silk Museum and Paradise Mill

We enjoyed a memorable and educational visit to the Macclesfield Silk Museum, where students explored the town's rich silk-making heritage. The visit marked their very first school trip as secondary school pupils, making it a special milestone for the year group.

A standout moment was the visit to Paradise Mill, the last remaining silk factory in Macclesfield, which offered fascinating insights into an important part of local and national history.



During the tour, students were able to see the original looms and silk machinery in full working order, bringing the process of silk production to life. Museum staff explained how the mill operated, the skills required to work there, and the conditions experienced by the workers in the past. Pupils listened carefully,

asked thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity as they learned about the history of the mill and the people who worked within it.



The visit also included a creative print workshop, where students designed and created their own prints inspired by traditional silk patterns. This hands-on activity allowed everyone to explore their creativity while linking art and design to the historical context of silk production. After the workshop, pupils toured the museum, discovering further exhibits and deepening their understanding of Macclesfield's role in the silk industry.



To round off the day, students took part in an engaging quiz. Well done to Emily, Evie E, Poppy, Matilda, Ellie, Sruthika, Evie C, Eadie, and Olivia, who worked brilliantly as a team to win the quiz.

The museum staff were full of praise for our students and Mrs Woods, Ms O'Brien, and Mrs Deighton were incredibly proud of their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and maturity. – Mrs Woods

3D artist workshop

Year 10 students recently took part in an inspiring workshop led by 3D artist Faith Bebbington. Faith spoke to students about her career as an artist and shared a range of her work created in and around Liverpool, giving valuable insight into professional artistic practice.



Students then had the opportunity to create their own 3D artworks inspired by coral and under-the-sea themes. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the fantastic outcomes produced will contribute towards their GCSE coursework. – Mrs Wagstaff



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

And finally...

I look forward to seeing your child back in school on **Monday 23rd February**

Mr A Keegan
Headteacher



Dates for your diary:

Monday 23rd February:

Monday 2nd March:

Tuesday 3rd March:

Thursday 5th March:

Thursday 12th March:

Tuesday 31st March:

Wednesday 1st April:

Thursday 2nd April

Start of term

Year 10 & 11 Live Lounge (6-8pm)

Key Stage 3 Art Exhibition

Year 10 Parents' Evening

World Book Day

Parents' Association Quiz Night

School Production of Annie (6pm)

School Production of Annie (6pm)

Year 10 Practice Interviews

End of term (12.30pm finish)