

## Headteacher's Bulletin

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Introduction

It's been a fabulous start to the academic year and a very busy one! If your child is in Year 7 or Year 12 I hope they are enjoying the new phase of their educational journey with us; if your child is a new starter in another year group, I hope they feel they have never been anywhere else and are fully settled.



The autumn term is when we 'frontload' the year ahead. Staff will be ensuring students learn well and will be checking to see how much progress they are making at every opportunity. We will then intervene to plug any gaps in knowledge so that your child continues to succeed. But learning takes place outside of the classroom too and our enrichment clubs are now well underway with many sporting successes to report and events to support charity planned for the coming months! I am very proud of how well our students have applied themselves so far – long may it continue!

Our new staff have also been a wonderful addition to the AC family and we have two newly elected Parent Governors, Mrs Watson and Ms Coles, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our Local Governing Body. I am most grateful everyone for all they do to support our school, thank you!

### **Trust News**

As CEO, I updated staff and students about our new Trust name at the start of term and spoke about further collaborative events which are happening this year, which are really exciting!

Our Student Council will continue to have a bi-annual joint meeting with their counterparts at Reddish Vale High School (RVHS) to plan for the academic year. Over the next few months, we will be looking out for students who may be in the running for the end of year Trust award “Student of the Year” at both schools; evidence is currently being gathered! Mr Keegan is doing a sterling job here at AC as Head of School when I am over at RVHS, and Mr Moroney is also doing a sterling job as Acting Headteacher at RVHS; he sends his regards to everyone at AC.

Our Trust Board welcomed three new Trustees this half term: Ms Quesnel (former Headteacher of two secondary schools); Mrs Patel (Parent Trustee and also Deputy CEO of a local Primary Trust) and Mrs Dickerson (Parent Trustee who also works for the Hamblin Trust). I am delighted that we have secured such knowledgeable and experienced people from the world of Education who will challenge and support the work we continue to do along with all our other valued Trust Board volunteers. I continue to be most grateful for the time they give so freely.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

Student learning is seriously impacted if holidays are taken in term time. Please can I remind you that holidays in term time will not be authorised and will incur a fine. Fines are paid to the Local Authority, not the school, however the staff time to plug knowledge gaps of those students who have been out of school takes considerable amounts of THEIR time; this is not fair when they have already delivered the lessons as planned with all other students.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

## ACPA - Call for Volunteers



Altrincham College Parents' Association (ACPA) is planning an exciting schedule of events for this year but really needs more volunteers to help organise and run these activities. All the money raised goes to benefit the students in school so you would be giving up a small amount of time for a very good cause with the opportunity to make new friends along the way!

Next half-term they are planning a Year 7 Disco and the return of our successful Christmas Fair, so if you or a member of your family have some time to spare, the ACPA team would love to hear from you.

*If you would like to volunteer your time or find out a bit more about what it might involve, please contact [acpa@altrinchamcollege.com](mailto:acpa@altrinchamcollege.com) and someone will be in touch.*



**Your PA needs you!!**



**Altrincham College Parent Association**

[ACPA@altrinchamcollege.com](mailto:ACPA@altrinchamcollege.com)

**Make lasting friendships!**

**Help change to make school even better!**

**Improve your child's learning!**

**It's not just for mums!**

**Create lasting memories!**

**Support and arrange fund raising events!**

**Come and join us, just contact us by email if you want  
to make a difference!**



## Inclusive:

LRC Readathon



We have just started our annual **Year 7 'Read for Good Readathon'** and we'd love your child/ward to join in.

The charity Read for Good encourages children to read, inspiring reluctant readers to give reading a go. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audio books to blogs - it's all about reading for fun. They are motivated to read because the money they raise in sponsorship helps to provide a regular supply of brand-new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK.

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. They'll be helping kids in hospitals get books, as well as helping themselves. Our school also receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total – so there really is something in it for everyone.

All year 7 students have been given an information letter, sponsor card and bookmark. The readathon will take place from now until Sunday 3rd November and we ask for all sponsorship money to be paid by **Friday 8th November**.

For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card, visit [www.readforgood.org](http://www.readforgood.org) or get in touch with Mrs Turner in the LRC.

## Harry Potter Book Day

Students really enjoyed our celebration of all things Harry Potter in the LRC. There were lots of fun activities including a quiz, colouring, wordsearches and more.

We also watched the third film at break and lunch, 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' which was chosen by the students who all agreed it is the best book of the series.

All 22 student librarians helped with preparing for and running the event, learning how to create posters on Canva and crowd control as it was a very busy day. A big thank you to all of them!!





## ACTV



ACTV have been busy so far this half term filming a new 'promo' for the club. This is available to view on our school Facebook page as well as the website.

The group are also busy preparing for a broadcast on History and Remembrance Day, as well as the Year 7 Singing Showcase!

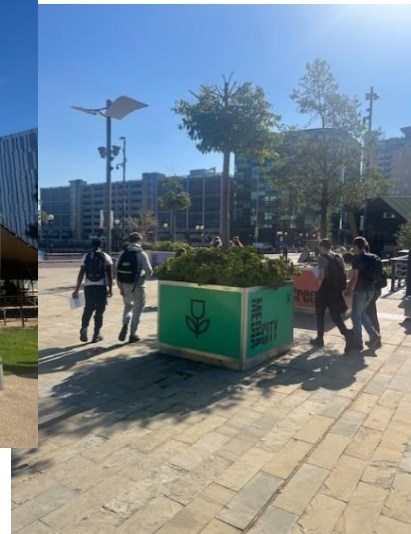
All new members welcome to join, Tuesday after school in the main school LRC.

## Ambition:

### Geography Trips!

This half term we've taken over 250 geography students out to complete a variety of fieldwork.

Year 9 pupils visited Altrincham town centre for their geography fieldwork trip and spent the day collecting data in order to make a judgement about how successful the regeneration of the area has been. They behaved impeccably throughout the trip, the highlight for many being a pitstop at Greggs for a breaktime treat!



Year 11 students visited Salford Quays to complete their human GCSE fieldwork component. They collected a range of data to help them to evaluate the impact of changes in and around Salford Quays. This will form an integral part of their Paper 3 material for their June exam.

Year 12 and 13 A Level students ventured into Snowdonia for the day to complete their Glaciation fieldwork. They were able to see a number of unique glacial features and develop their fieldwork techniques through the use of various equipment. The sun shone and the pupils had an enjoyable experience which will help them with their A Level paper one.

*"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."* 6

## ICELAND 2024

39 students in Year 11 spent four amazing days in Iceland from 11th to 14th October. They got to see first hand many of the wonderful features they study at Geography GCSE, from volcanic craters and tectonic plates, to beautiful waterfalls and glaciers. Members of the public and the tour company complimented the students on their exemplary behaviour and attitude throughout the trip. Well done Year 11!

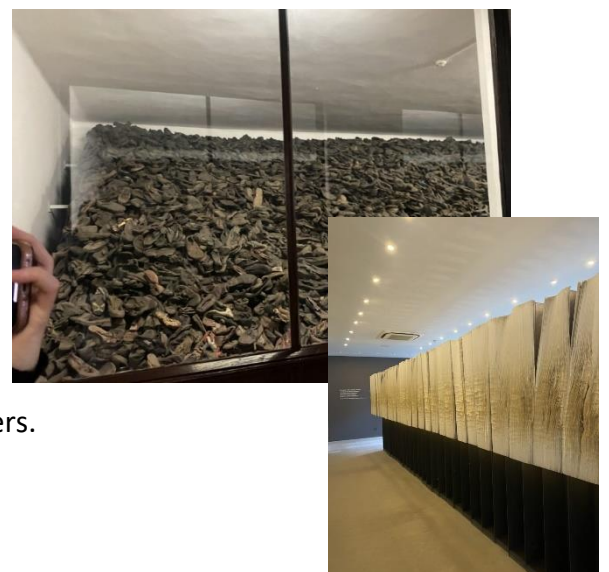


## Year 12 History trip to Auschwitz – written by Grace and Lily.

On 10th October, we visited the most well-known Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz, through an opportunity with the organization, 'Lessons from Auschwitz'. In the lead up to the one-day trip, the LFA Project provided us with tasks to complete to ensure we had a better understanding of what we would see, including the names of the people and families whose lives were lost at Auschwitz. One of the LFA's main objectives is to help to humanize the events that took place and the lives that were lost, instead of seeing it more as statistical and factual information.

Our first stop was to the Museum of Auschwitz where we were met by a tour guide who gave us a thorough tour of the museum in a respectful and educational manner. We saw many of the artefacts that had been recovered from Auschwitz, which helped us to visualize and see the extent of just how many lives were taken by the Nazis. For example, the picture below

shows just one of the 10 cases of shoes on display which represents one day's collection at the peak of the gassings - about twenty-five thousand pairs. The second picture shows 'The Book Of Names' which contains the names of the murdered, however this book does not contain everyone who was murdered there as the Nazis did not have all the names of those who were killed, which show us the extent of the numbers.



The Nazis deported about 232,000 children and young people to Auschwitz, the majority of whom perished in the gas chambers immediately after arrival. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 1944, Red Army soldiers

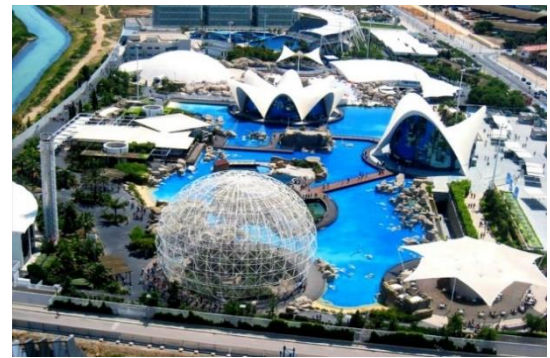
liberated about 650 children and young people, of which 450 were under 15 years old.

We then moved onto Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial which was also vital in trying to understand the conditions and life experienced by the prisoners. We were shown the gas chambers, the bunks where they slept, some of the places in which prisoners worked and many more parts of the site.

Overall, this educational trip has expanded our knowledge and had a much more emotional impact than what we would have learnt through reading books about the Holocaust. The LFA project has provided us with a once in a lifetime experience and one we will never forget.

### Valencia Trip: Year 11 by Mrs Casey

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr Mohammed, Ms Licciardi and Mrs Casey were met by our intrepid explorers at Manchester airport. Dawn was breaking and despite the bleary eyes we were ready for adventure. After a pleasant flight and a short bus ride to the accommodation, we set out to explore this stunning city.



During our stay we were lucky enough to see some of the city's most impressive sights, including the Mercado Central, the Barrio del Carmen, the Turia Gardens and the hypnotic Oceanographic Aquarium. We were also treated to guided tours around the Mestalla Stadium and the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia.

In the evenings we had a choice of delicious meals ranging from typical tapas and pinchos to haute cuisine in the La Buleria restaurant where we also enjoyed an authentic flamenco show. Olé! It really was a fabulous experience, and the students were an absolute credit to us.



## Aspiration: Work Experience

Assemblies have taken place for students in Years 10 and 12 this term to help them prepare for work experience, which will be a **three-day** placement on the following dates:

**w/c Monday 3rd March - Year 12**

**w/c Monday 30th June - Year 10**



The PowerPoint from the assembly has been shared on Class Charts for parents/carers to read.

If you can support our students by offering a work experience placement, please complete this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/rzzxzSuUaR>.



## Belief: Sport

### Sport Results (September – October 2024)

Football Year 7:	Football Year 9:	Football Year 10:
<b>BTH 6-2 AC</b> <b>Goals:</b> Daniel T <b>POTM:</b> Daniel T	<b>St Anthony's 4-2 AC</b> <b>Goals:</b> Ellis & Ethan <b>POTM:</b> Ellis	<b>West Hill 3-2 AC</b> <b>Goals:</b> Riley <b>POTM:</b> Aaron
<b>AC 4-4 Sale Grammar</b> <b>POTM:</b> Daniel T and Maxwell F	<b>Laurus RC 7-1 AC</b> <b>Goal:</b> Ellis <b>POTM:</b> Jamie	<b>AC 6 - 3 St Anthony's</b> <b>POTM:</b> Riley B & Jayden
Football Year 8:	<b>AC 4 - 1 Stretford Grammar</b> <b>Goals:</b> Jamie (2), Ellis & Gabriel <b>POTM:</b> Callum	Football Year 11:
<b>AC 4-3 Sale Grammar</b> <b>POTM:</b> Teddie G	<b>AC 3 - 0 Urmston Grammar</b> <b>Goals:</b> Wilson (2) & Toby <b>POTM:</b> Toby	<b>Wellington 1-2 AC</b> <b>Goals:</b> Narvel, Josh J <b>POTM:</b> George G & Riley R
	<b>AC 3 - 2 Sale High</b> <b>Goals:</b> Gabriel, Ellis & OG <b>POTM:</b> Toby & Alex	

Girls' Netball Year 7	Girls' Football Year 8/9	Dodgeball Year 7	Dodgeball Year 8
<b>AC Vs Sale Grammar: 9-0</b> <b>AC Vs Flixton: 5-2</b> <b>AC Vs Urmston Grammar: 14-0</b> <b>AC Vs AOM: 0-2</b>	<b>AC 4-1 Ashton on Mersey</b>  <b>AC 1-1 AGGS</b>  <b>AC 1-1 Sale Gr</b>	<b>Trafford Dodgeball Tournament:</b>  <b>Year 7 team won to become the Trafford champions!</b>  <b>The girls' team came third.</b>	<b>Trafford Dodgeball Tournament:</b>  <b>Year 8 Girls' A Team won the tournament, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year!</b>  <b>The boys' teams came 3rd and 5th</b>



## Sport

As the weather is due to worsen, and with Year 11 mock exams approaching, it is crucial that even if students are unable to participate in PE that they still bring their PE kit to all lessons.

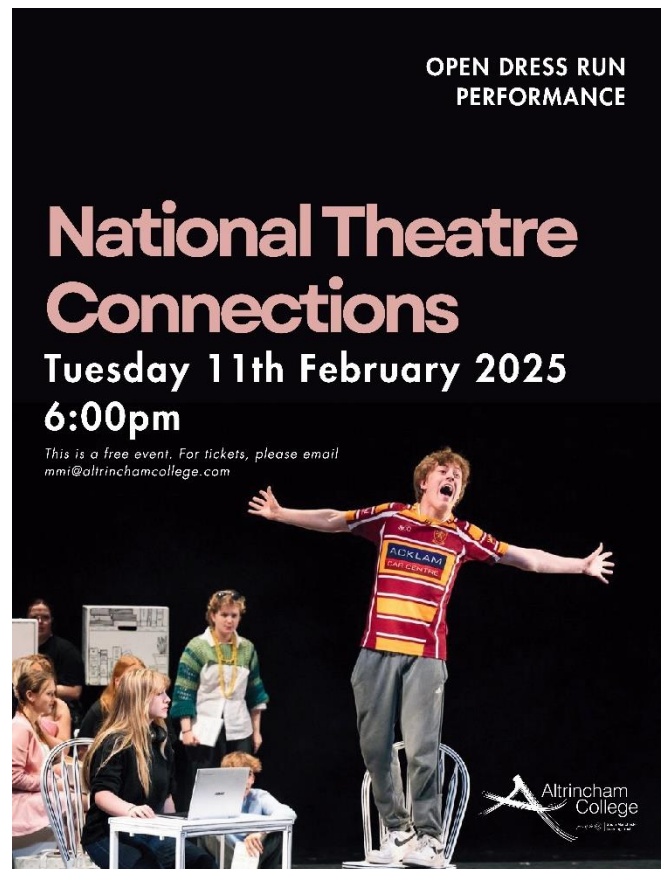
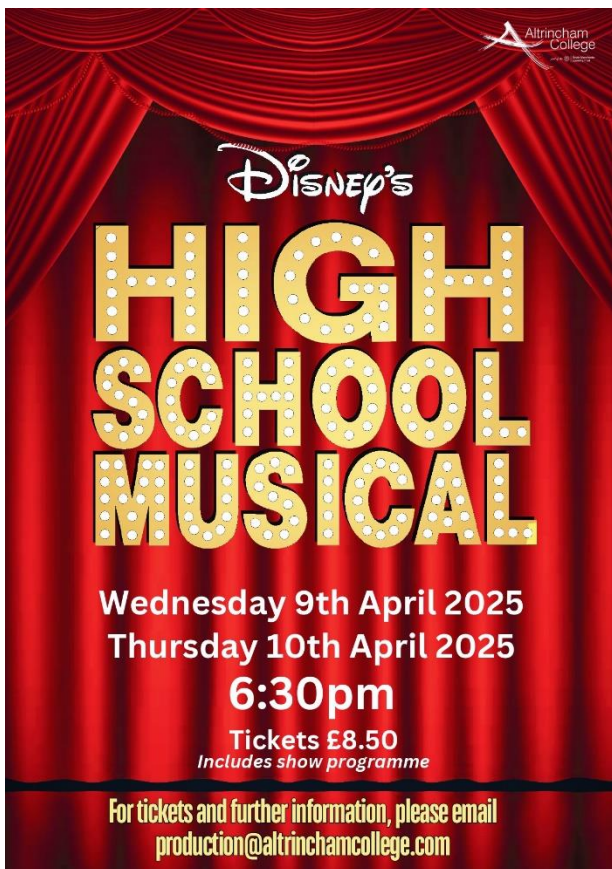
Due to losing the light, football league fixtures will pause however cup games will proceed. Please check the new sports timetable as basketball clubs will be up and running from the first week back!

We have lots to look forward to next term, including a boys and girls swimming gala, the Trafford Schools Cross-Country event, netball, basketball and football fixtures and also rugby competitions.

## Community:

### Performing Arts News

Rehearsals are well underway for **High School Musical**, and the cast list has just gone live for **National Theatre Connections** this week.





### DANESHA

On Thursday 17th October, we were thrilled to host a production of DANESHA - a new coming of age story exploring black culture which premiered at the Lowry.

Before the show our neurodiverse students were invited to meet the cast and have a sensory tour of the set and costumes.

The show was fantastic and well received by all our students.



### Dance

Students studying GCSE Dance had a fantastic weekend away to Anglesey this October, taking part in just under two days of intensive dance training focused on their GCSE qualification.

Workshops included contemporary dance technique, learning of the GCSE set phrases, choreography approaches and performance skill development, as well as a professional street dance workshop from one of the principal dancers from Boy Blue Entertainment. Over the weekend, the students took part in a whopping 18 hours of dance!



The students worked exceptionally hard and the individual progress was fantastic to watch. The trip will be running yearly for future cohorts. Details will be released for next year's trip around February 2025.

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## Music

### Year 7 Singing Showcase

On the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd October, all of Year 7 gathered in the Sports Hall to sing together as a whole year group! In music lessons this first half of term, our main focus is on singing, because we want every child at AC to experience and enjoy the wonderful, life-enhancing benefits of singing together.

We all practised performing the songs during Period 5, and then, once school had finished, our audience of parents, carers, families and teachers arrived for the Showcase performance!

The Showcase got off to bang with an African welcome song called *Banuwa* – including a chance for some enthusiastic audience participation second time round!

We followed this with pop party favourite *I Gotta Feeling* by The Black Eyed Peas, featuring a fantastic vocal solo from Esmerelda M in Year 7! Lastly, we sang a medley of two classic Disney songs from *The Jungle Book*: *I Wanna Be Like You* and *The Bare Necessities*.

Special thanks to Mr Wilson (drums) and Mr Wakefield (piano) for accompanying the singers, and to the PE Department for making the Sports Hall available to stage such a big event!



## Art

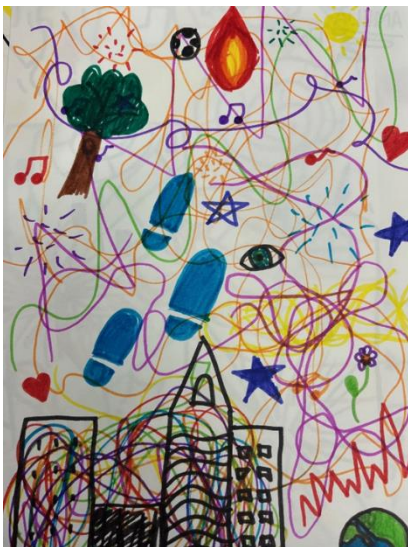
### Y8 Trip to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park

The Art department took 70 Year 8 students to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park in September to explore the sculptures and create some artwork around them. It was a lovely sunny day and the students had a fantastic time, they all came away feeling very inspired.

### Artists Workshops

The Art department have had two visiting artists this half term delivering workshops to students across key stages 3,4 and 5. 3D artist Ella Jones delivered a wire drawing workshop with Year 7 and created latex sculptures with Year 11.

Portrait artist Lizzie Coles did a portrait masterclass with Year 8,12 and 13. The staff and students got so much from the workshops and have learned lots of new techniques that they can now develop in their work.

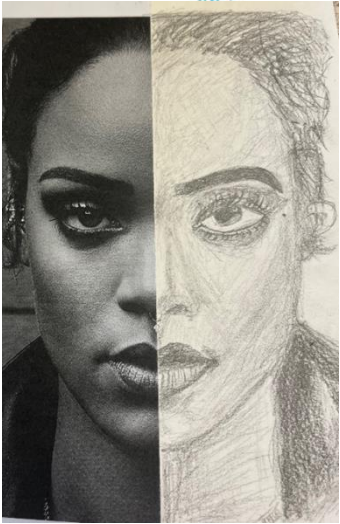


### The Big Draw

Mrs Wagstaff set a whole school challenge in her assemblies this month. October is the month of 'The Big Draw' a worldwide celebration of drawing. The Big Draw promotes the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention.

This year's theme was Drawing in Motion. Each form was asked to draw in motion to music. Everyone had lots of fun doing this and it was a great way to start the day.





### Black History Month

In art we celebrated Black History Month by creating portraits of famous Black people within 'The Arts' during Key Stage 3 art lessons. The students thoroughly enjoyed this and produced some fantastic work that we will display around the school.

**And finally...**

**A huge congratulations to Y11 student Billy C.**

**Billy recently attended a ceremony at the Palace of Westminster to receive a British Citizen award for his commitment to encourage more young people to get involved in politics.**

**The British Citizen Youth Award, now in its ninth year, honoured 21 young people from across the UK that have made a positive impact on their communities and wider society. These selfless young people have shown kindness and commitment to a multitude of causes, raising funds and awareness, and are all dedicated to making a difference. Each inspirational young person was awarded with the BCyA Medal of Honour. Billy can now use BCyA after his name, as a legacy of his achievements and endeavours.**





The following students were nominated by the Heads of Year for deserving a Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher:

**Year 7: Elin H**  
**Year 8: Leo C**  
**Year 9: Demi A**  
**Year 10: Lacey Z**  
**Year 11: Zeina I**  
**Year 12: Sama A**  
**Year 13: Talia L**

**Well done to all of these students; your light is shining brightly at AC and you are noticed for all the wonderful things you do!**

**Dates for your diary: autumn/winter 2024**

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	<b>Start of term</b>
<b>w/c 11<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	Year 11 & 13 mock examinations
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	Year 7 disco
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November:</b>	Year 7 Form Tutor and Parent/Carer evening
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	GCSE Presentation Evening
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November:</b>	Altrincham College Christmas Market
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Christmas Concert
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December:</b>	Christmas lunch and festive jumper day
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December (12.30pm finish):</b>	<b>End of term</b>

Ms K Earle  
Headteacher and CEO of the Achieve and Learn Trust

