

Headteacher's Bulletin

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was good to see so many of you at our annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday evening. Celebrating the talents of our students in music, dance and drama. Well done to all who took part!

As a lifelong Elvis fan, and as a special treat for me, there was a surprise appearance from the King himself! No, not Charles...Enzo in Y10! Enzo is an Elvis Tribute Artist in his spare time and has actually achieved the accolade of European Champion for his age group – quite an achievement!

You can watch a clip from Enzo's wonderful performance [here](#)



Our Christmas tree was decked out in true splendour by the decorations created in our Origami Club – they looked wonderful! See for yourself!



Staff Festive Cheer

We like to surprise our students with random fancy dress and of course, Santa and her elves were out and about in force yesterday! The Christmas Tree was represented by the dazzling art department and Mr Tyrer was....Rudolph! A huge thank you to all staff for making such an effort and a huge thank you to our Catering Team who made 1,000 Christmas dinners too! Crackers were pulled and a good time was had by all!



Your PA needs you!!



Altrincham College Parent Association

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!



ACPA - Call for Volunteers

ACPA were out in force again this week, serving refreshments at the Christmas Concert and organising a raffle on the night, raising much needed funds for our school. Thank you to them! If you are interested in joining, please contact: ACPA@altrinchamcollege.com

Please read the information below from the SEN Advisory service at Trafford Council.

Trafford have a number of services and support available during the festive period for SEND children and families. See what's on in Trafford in the December [SEND Newsletter](#)

We're excited to announce the launch of a new creative, wellbeing-focused workshops for neurodivergent young people aged 10-17 who are living in or registered with a Trafford GP. This offer is being delivered by Starling, who specialise in delivering inclusive, creative sessions designed to enhance social connection and emotional resilience.

Starling use creativity and the arts as a tool to build a sense of belonging, positive identity, and self-expression. The focus isn't on artistic outcomes but on building confidence, connection, and wellbeing.

What is the Offer:

Monthly workshops in central Trafford location (TBC)
Weekly online sessions for enhanced accessibility

Next Steps

Starling would love to support your young person to attend these sessions. You can find more information and how to refer a young person here: [Current Offer – Starling](#). If you have any questions you can email fionna@starlingcio.org.uk.

Bus Information

All Greater Manchester bus services will be joining the [Bee Network](#) on Sunday 5 January 2025 including our school bus services.



Here's what to expect:

- Students will be able to continue using our school bus services as normal.
- Students can continue to pay low fares and use their [igo cards](#) on school services.
- Our services will either be operated by Diamond Bus or Metroline Manchester.
- Some services will use the operators' own vehicles, and some will use yellow Bee Network branded buses. All will display the Bee Network logo.

For up-to-date information on using school services, please visit Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM): <https://tfgm.com/travelling-to-school/bee-network-school-services>

There is also a dedicated page for Altrincham College: <https://tfgm.com/schools/trafford/altrincham-college> and bus information can also be found on our website: www.altrinchamcollege.com/buses

“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.” 3

Inclusive:

LRC News

The LRC has been very busy during the last few weeks, with students enjoying lots of Christmas activities including colouring, wordsearches and movie time with Mrs Turner. Mrs Dawson also held craft sessions when students could make some lovely festive bows.



Mrs Turner and 10 students are enjoying being part of the Carnegie shadowing book club. This has been organised alongside Wellington School and Altrincham Girls. We are looking forward to meeting up with students from both schools in the new year.





ACTV

ACTV have been busy learning new skills including using Photoshop, CapCut editing software and Canva.

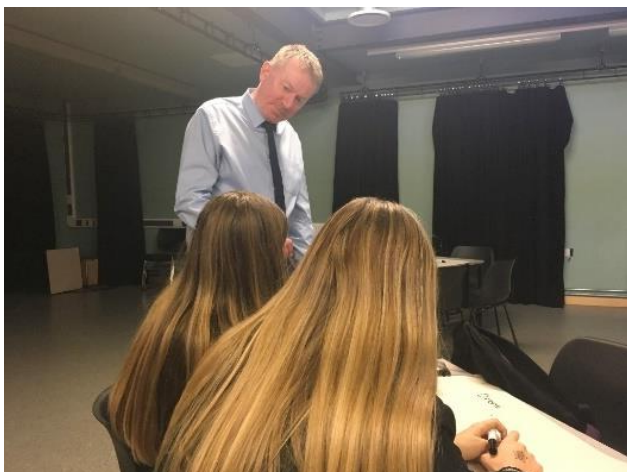
Canva is a free online graphic design tool and students created some great posters, presentations and social media posts-well done ACTV.

The group have also been busy completing broadcasts on History, Drama and the LAMDA qualification and the SEN department/the nurture room.

Well done ACTV!! 📄ACTV-CANVA.pptx

Girls In Tech Event

This week we welcomed Jenny Dunphy into school who is an ambassador for 'Tech She Can', a charity committed to changing the ratio of women in technology. Jenny led three workshops that explored technologies that are used to help the environment and people. The year 9 girls involved in these workshops came up with some great ideas for a variety of problems from deforestation, homelessness, caring for the elderly to reducing pollution. Hopefully, a career in technology will very much be on their radar!



Ambition: Sixth Form News

UCAS offers: Well done to Year 13 students who, following their mock examinations in November, have been working hard on their UCAS applications to ensure they are submitted before the Christmas break.



This is one of my favourite times in the academic year, when I see the offers coming in from some of the top universities in the country, and of course, the smiles on the students' faces when they receive an offer, for which they get to put a star on the offers board!

If your child/ward is behind in the application process, we would appreciate your support with encouraging them to work on this during the Christmas break – Mr Mahmood.

Some of the offers received this term include:

- University of St Andrews (Chemistry)
- King's College London (Geography)
- University of Leeds (Fashion Design, Mathematics, Geography, Chemistry, Law with Spanish)
- University of Bristol (Chemistry, Neuroscience, Marketing)
- Loughborough University (Marketing, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence)
- University of Manchester (Law, Geography)
- University of Liverpool (Law, Geography, Chemistry)
- University of Nottingham (Neuroscience, Law with Spanish)
- Lancaster University (Law, Chemistry)
- Queen's Belfast (Chemistry)
- University of Sheffield (Computer Science, Accounting and Financial Management and Economics)
- University of York (Marketing)
- University of Birmingham (Computer Science)
- MMU (Primary Education, Multimedia Journalism, Law, AI and Data Science)
- Newcastle University (Law)
- Cardiff University (Geography)



Congratulations also to students who are making progress with their degree apprenticeship applications, include Cleo who is at the third stage of her BBC degree apprenticeship application in project management. Good luck Cleo!

Sixth Form applications – it’s not too late! We have received an unprecedented number of applications – in the hundreds – from both internal and external students. All applicants will receive a letter of acknowledgement shortly, which Mrs Pearson is busily working her way through. The next steps will be communicated in the new year. If your child/ward hasn’t yet applied, but intends to do so, we would encourage them to submit their application as soon as we return to school in the new year.

Young Enterprise – In Year 12 students have the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise Scheme, where they are required to set up their own business. The scheme is a great opportunity to learn how a successful business operates.

This year’s team has been established, and key roles have been allocated. Congratulations to Katy T who was appointed as Managing Director. The team’s business proposal is a product designed to helping people to read. The students took part in a bake sale yesterday to raise money and are looking forward to taking their product to market when they visit the Trafford Centre early next year. – Mr Mahmood

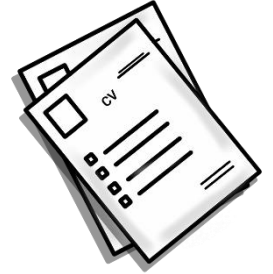


Aspiration: **Work Experience**

A reminder that students in years 10 and 12 will take part in a **three-day** work experience placement on the following dates:

w/c Monday 3rd March - Year 12

w/c Monday 30th June - Year 10



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

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

Altrincham College Careers Fair 2025!

We are excited to host our next careers fair on Monday 3rd February 2025 for students in Years 9-13.

If you work for a company that would like to host a stand, please complete the following form by 6th January 2025: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rjdJiPkPDK-HP_xNelBos_wiCUBTvlhJq25zewKruZxUMjhBVEFKMzc1UkxJWkdRULZYNlhaNFM3Ui4u

By attending, you will play a significant role in inspiring and informing our students about their future career path.





Career Assemblies

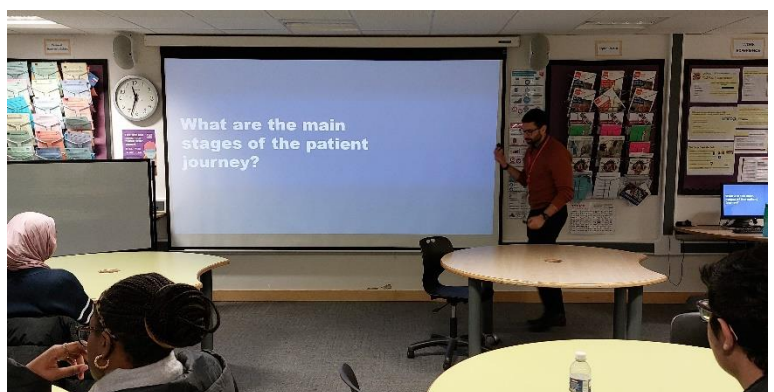
A massive thank you to the establishments that have delivered virtual careers assemblies this half term to students in Year 8-13. These include Mott MacDonald, AtkinsRealis, Lancaster Maloney Martin and Manchester Metropolitan University. If you missed them, the recordings and slides have been added as Classcharts announcements and to Unifrog accounts.

Healthcare Enrichment Group

In December we launched our 'healthcare careers enrichment group' for students in Years 10-13. Students have been added to a Classcharts group and have been signposted to lots of resources to aid their careers search and to help make them stand out when applying for healthcare-related courses. After Christmas the sessions will move to a Tuesday 3.15-4pm, starting on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

The sessions delivered so far include:

- Meet the Year 13 A Level Biology Students.
- Meet the qualified doctor.
- Meet the 1st year Medical student (She left AC 6th form with grades AAA and is now studying at the University of Bristol).
- Meet the Midwife (Saskia)
- Workshops delivered by the University of Manchester (Years 12 & 13) – strokes and cancer.



Careers Parent/Carer Survey

Thanks to those who have already complete the Careers parent/carers survey. If you haven't yet, please do we value your opinion: <https://forms.office.com/e/vjUwrXsssi>
- Miss Mitchelmore

Belief: Sport

Football results:

Year 9

AC 3 - 0 Fred Longworth High School

Goals: Wilson x2 & Jamie

POTM: Wilson – for coming off the bench at half-time to great effect, sealing the win for AC in the second half!

Year 10

AC 7 - 2 Stretford High

Goals: Jayden x4, Jamie, Tom & Zidan

POTM: Jayden, fantastic finishing from his right-wing position.

Swimming:

Following our first time taking part in the boys swimming gala for a number of years last year, AC returned looking to improve on our performance.

All boys did a great job and competed well in every race. Highlights included Oliver who finished 2nd in breaststroke, Ben who finished 3rd in back stroke and Yaseen who managed 3rd place in the butterfly and freestyle. – Mr White

Rugby

The year 9/10 rugby team headed to Trafford MV to take part in their first tournament of the year after the first was frozen off. AC started with a convincing win against Sale Grammar with both Jamie W & Skye running tries home alongside a couple others from 2 Ashton players who teamed up with us for the evening. AC were then knocked back by the same score of 4 tries to none by a very strong Stretford Grammar side.

Our final two games both ended in score draws as we went toe to toe with both Wellington and Sale High. Luke continued to lead the team by example with multiple tackles and a superb solo try as he jinked through several opponents.



The year 9s & 10s continue to go from strength to strength and they will continue again in the new year hoping to string together some more positive performances. – Mr White.



Year 7 Rugby

The year 7s turned up to their first Trafford Rugby festival short on numbers, due to a clash with a football fixture, but full of heart! There were three other schools in attendance: BTH, Stretford Grammar and Wellington. All the schools there had far more experienced teams than our own, but this didn't dissuade the boys from throwing themselves into every match. In all three games they were very competitive and our leading try scorer for the night was Bobby.

Player Of The Match: Marlow for a number of crunching tackles and being a natural leader on the pitch. Well done! – Mr White

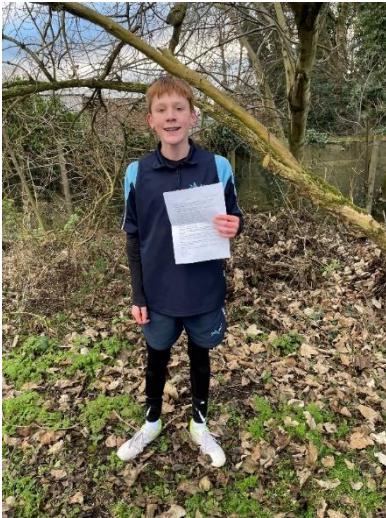
Netball:

The Year 8A netball team have had a successful start to their season so far. They are demonstrating a great level of netball and are look forward to their upcoming fixtures. Well done girls! – Miss Holden



Cross Country:

Congratulations to **Daniel T** and **Jamie W** who made the top 10 in the district, with Daniel coming 2nd, and Jamie 10th. Both students have progressed to the national round of the school's cross-country event! – Mr Jones



Karate:

What a truly remarkable achievement for **Ryan W** in Year 10 to become a black belt in Karate. It takes 1 in 10,000 people to achieve such an honour. We are all immensely proud of him at Altrincham College!! Well done Ryan, welcome to the Black belt club!! – Mr Stephenson.



Basketball:

The year 9 basketball team have been training hard this half term aiming to have a good run in the Trafford Schools basketball league. They beat North Cestrian 49-23, followed by another good win beating BTH school 44-29!

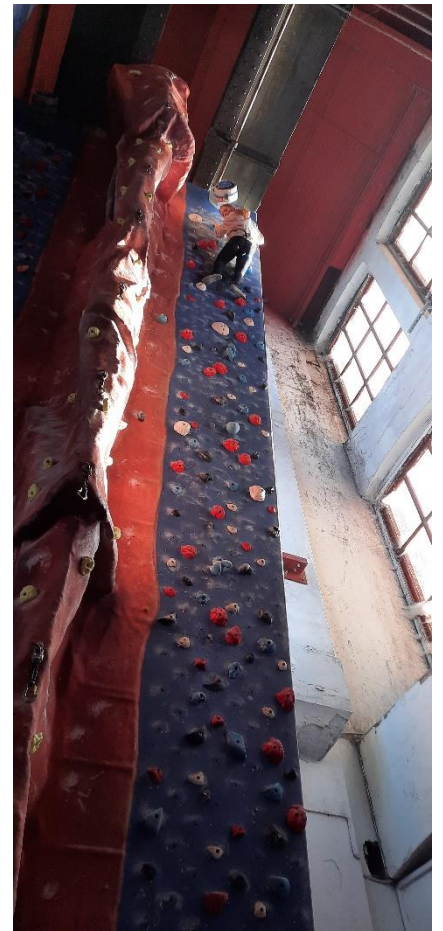
Special performances by many of the team with **Skye F** getting **Play of the Match** for the first two games. We look forward to St Ambrose and Wellington after Christmas to see if we can make the play-off finals. – Mr Stephenson



Duke of Edinburgh Award's Scheme

Congratulations to the 8 Year 10 students who passed their bronze physical assessment by climbing to the top of the highest wall in England at Awesome climbing walls last week. Star of the term was **Grace D** who showed her resilience to get to the top after 15 minutes of persistence and problem solving. Well done Grace!

The Year 11 DofE challenge group successfully climbed to the top of Pendle Hill this term as part of their physical challenge for the DofE Bronze award. Well done to this fabulous team! – Mr Stephenson



Dance

Our Key Stage 3 Dance Company headed out to Trafford's Got Talent earlier this month, performing alongside 19 other schools across Trafford.

The team did us incredibly proud and were absolute superstars!

Why not catch them at their next performance in April? More info to come in the new year! – Miss Matthews



Community:

Community hub meetings:

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers at the last community hub meeting, which is a great opportunity to meet new people, chat, and share ideas.

Our much-anticipated cookbook is also taking shape! We are incredibly grateful for the recipes we've already received, and in the new year, we will be inviting everyone to submit their own favourite recipes to be included. We want to create a collection that represents the diversity, culture and creativity of our Altrincham College families.

Additionally, our pupils have been hard at work designing a front cover for the cookbook. The winner of the design competition will have their idea featured on the cover, adding a personal touch to this special project. – Mrs Hudson-Kirkham



BEE WELL

We are thrilled to have been a part of the BEEWELL initiative again this year. Thanks to the incredible efforts of students, parents, and educators, the #BeeWell survey has made a significant impact since its inception. This year, over 35,000 young people across Greater Manchester have participated in this important work, contributing to what is considered the gold standard in measuring adolescent wellbeing in England.



Music

Our annual Christmas Concert took place in a packed school hall on Wednesday 18th December - another fantastic celebration of the Performing Arts at Altrincham College!

The audience enjoyed a wonderfully varied selection of music, dance, and drama from students in Years 7 to 11. There were performances by bands, ensembles, soloists and enrichment clubs, showcasing the breadth and depth of performing arts talent across the whole school.

All our performers were enthusiastically and appreciatively supported by the audience of family members, friends and staff. The orchestra kicked the evening off with a mix of traditional Christmas carols and songs, interspersed with a pair of knockout piano solos on a theme of Jingle Bells by **Sarthak S** and **Dimitar K**! The first half continued with a beautiful vocal solo from **Amie K**, a reflective instrumental version of 'I Believe in Father Christmas' from Guitar Group, and then Band Skills ended with a bang, performing songs by Ariana Grande, Oasis and Elton John.

After the interval, the stage was cleared for Year 7 Drama Club to give us their warm-hearted and thought-provoking performance entitled 'Finding Peace at Christmas'. This was followed by a pair of dances specially devised and performed by Year 10 Dance GCSE students. Following the dances, we were then royally entertained by Year 10 Musicians... joined by The King himself! For a few short minutes, Elvis was in the building, brought magnificently to life by **Enzo S-B**! No easy act to follow, we then enjoyed the beautiful singing of **Rainbow S** in 'Last Christmas'.

We heard one more lovely vocal solo from Hannah U, before our Year 11 Musicians brought the evening to a close with a set of songs including 'Snowman' by Sia, as well as that pair of festive finale favourites, 'All I want for Christmas is you' and 'Merry Xmas Everybody' – and special mention must go to everyone in Staff Choir who led the singalong!!

Thank you to all our performers, family and friends supporting in the audience, and the many staff involved - both artistically and logistically - for helping make this year's Christmas Concert so successful and enjoyable! – Mr Madden



Food

Mrs Otway's Year 10 GCSE Food students got into the festive spirit this week by making Gingerbread Houses, which look absolutely delicious! The masterpieces took place over three lessons where they made the biscuits, then constructed the house and then decorated them in the final lesson. They were all very proud of their Christmas creations Well done all!



Art - Artist Workshop

A number Year 9 students were lucky enough to take part in a workshop by artist Joel Penkman. Joel spoke to the students about her career as an artist and the painting techniques she uses. Students then painted their own Jammy Dodger in her style using water colour and acrylic paint, layering up the colours. The students produced some amazing artwork! – Mrs Wagstaff



And finally...



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

Year 7: Ruby R and Nico B

Year 8: Jessica B and Ben S

Year 9: Zuzanna B and George T

Year 10: Alizey A and Max W

Year 11: Max S and Jayden L

Year 12: Becca Y

Year 13: Terry I

Sara H (Year 7) and Chloe Y (Year 10) (Christmas Card Competition winners) and Edward H and Aaron M (Year 9) for volunteering to pick up litter).



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: winter 2025

Monday 6th January:

Thursday 9th January:

Thursday 16th January:

Thursday 23rd January:

Monday 3rd February:

Thursday 6th February:

Thursday 13th February

Thursday 13th February:

Friday 14th February:

Start of term

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 11 & 13 Photographs

Year 13 Parents' Evening

Careers Fair (Years 9-13)

Year 9 Options Evening

Year 10 Parents' Evening

End of term

STAFF INSET DAY

Ms K Earle

Headteacher and CEO of the Achieve and Learn Trust

