

Headteacher's Bulletin: *Thursday 13th February 2025*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's February half term already and the spring bulbs are starting to sprout all around! Summer's nearly here...well, almost!



A reminder that tomorrow is an Inset day, and the school will be closed for staff training which is a Trust training day being held at Reddish Vale High School.

We have had an exciting half term of activities and events as well as top notch learning opportunities:

- Culture & Diversity Day
- Careers Fair
- Year 9 Options Evening and option assemblies
- Parents Evenings (Years 13 & 11)
- Chinese New Year celebrations
- Year 11 and Year 13 photos
- Year 9 vaccinations
- GCSE Spanish mock speaking exams



School Expansion Update

We continue to have fortnightly meetings with the Council, building contractors and building consultants to ensure the best possible outcome from our expansion. As you will note, no work has started since we were first asked to consider expansion in the Summer of 2022. We now have a timeline for the build which the contractors believe will complete the project ready for the increased intake of 60 additional students into Year 7 from September 2026. We believe this is an optimistic date but hope they are right!

The plan is for the Sports Field ground to be prepared in March to take the temporary classrooms which will be needed as soon as the Maths Block is demolished. Installation of these temporary classrooms, using cranes, will take place over the Easter holidays.

The contractors have assured us that no demolition work will take place during exam season.

We are extremely disappointed by the time it has taken to get to this point, but we are keeping our eye on the prize – the school will be greatly enhanced by this expansion; spaces and specialist classrooms will serve our students well into the future.

Culture and Diversity Day

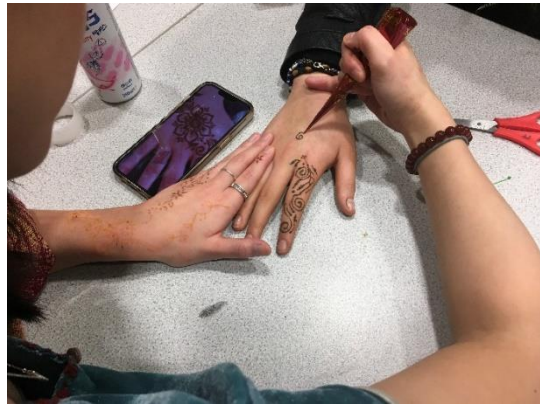
Congratulations to Year 13 student Juri and all the sixth form students who supported her to host AC's third consecutive 'Culture and Diversity Day.'

As shown in the photographs, the event celebrates our wonderful diverse 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.

I am delighted that the event has raised £1,099 for charity, which was nominated by the joint student council at Altrincham College and Reddish Vale High School and serves both Trafford and Stockport.

Well done to everyone involved!





You said, we did:

You said	We did / Our Response
"I feel the school is exceptionally disconnected from parents. The school suggests it is a community however it feels more like 'you and us' rather than a whole school community including parents."	"We appreciate your feedback and are committed to improving our communication and engagement with parents/carers. Please do feel free to suggest events that you would like to be part of / help organise. Please also find below the e-mail address for our parents' association who would value your support."
"The range of after school clubs is exceptionally limited."	"We are always reviewing our extracurricular offerings and will be introducing new clubs based on student feedback where we are able to. Please feel free to suggest any specific clubs you would like to see."
"I would like at the end of term school provide a list of topics for the next term especially English, maths and science thanks."	"Our school website contains details of the work and topics that will be covered to help parents support their children's learning at home." www.altrinchamcollege.com/curriculum
"I think the school is great... My children are doing very well, and I appreciate all of the hard work the teachers do."	"Thank you for your positive feedback. We are proud of our dedicated staff and their commitment to student success. We will continue to support and develop our teachers to maintain high standards of education."
"I have been loving the school's safeguarding bulletins. Very informative!"	"Thank you for your positive feedback. We will continue to provide regular safeguarding bulletins to keep parents informed and ensure the safety of our students."

Introduction

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

February 11th is marked every year as Safer Internet Day. With the national increase in online sexual abuse and cyberbullying, it is more important than ever before that we keep ourselves educated about keeping our young people safe. Please take some time to look at the resources below from some of the national IT and child safety organisations which are produced for parents.

In this issue:

- Introduction
- Six Top Tips
- LGfL
- Help and Advice
- Report Remove
- Sextortion support and resources

LGfL

SafeguardED

Most parents & carers think their children and young people spend too much time on devices. DON'T FEEL BAD! Lots of it is perfectly healthy anyway. Instead, follow these tips to keep them safe, happy and healthy.



Don't worry about screen time, aim for screen quality
Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or video calling Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.

Check the safety settings are turned on
Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or go live, are their posts public? What about safe search and YouTube? See parentsafelgfl.net for more.

Get your children to show you their apps and games
You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced - they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kids' apps and video platforms, search for [Common Sense Media reviews](https://www.commonsensemedia.org).

Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news
If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise on their heads. Why not watch Newsround together and talk about how they feel - there is guidance from [Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk) to help you.

Remind them of key online safety principles
There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... if somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**

If you aren't sure, ASK!
Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at reportremove.org, including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).

LGfL

The National Grid for Learning has a large number of resources for parents including videos, information and links to other websites which are especially designed for parents.



Their PARENTSAFE website has lots of useful advice, particularly with respect to safe settings, gaming, controls and monitoring. Their website can be accessed by clicking this link; parentsafelgfl.net



Help and Advice

You can always speak to your child's school for advice, but there are many other places to go for help. If you are worried about any child, call the [NSPCC helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk). In an emergency, call 999. There are also links for children and young people to get help directly, such as [Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk) or [The Mix](https://www.themix.org.uk) (for 13-25s).

What is Report Remove?

Report Remove is a tool that allows young people to report an image or video shared online, to see if it's possible to get it taken down. Provided by Childline and IWF, it keeps the young person informed at each stage of their report, and provides further support where necessary. To use Report Remove, children just need to follow three steps:

- 1) Follow the instructions to confirm their age. If they're 13 or older, they can choose to prove their age using an age verification service called Yoti, though this is optional. They will need some ID if they want to do this.
- 2) Log in or create a Childline account so they can receive updates on their report.
- 3) Report and remove: share the image or video securely with the IWF, where a specialist analyst will review it and work to have it removed if it breaks the law. They will give it a digital fingerprint to help spot the image or video across the internet and take it down.



**Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.**

Childline will let the young person know the outcome of their report and provide further support where needed. And they're always welcome to speak to a counsellor about how they feel, whether online via 1-2-1 chat and Childline email, or via the free confidential helpline on 0800 1111. More information about how each of the different ways to speak to a Childline counsellor can be found at www.childline.org.uk/get-support

Inclusive:

LRC News

Mrs Turner's book club were very excited to take part in an interschool book award event, of a similar model to the Yoto Carnegie shadowing process. The award is overseen by Trafford Libraries, and we took part alongside Wellington School and Altrincham Girls.

The students delivered a presentation about our winning book, 'Dogs of the Deadlands'. They produced fantastic work including posters, bookmarks, mood boards, CapCut clips, PowerPoint presentations, and two students baked the most amazing chocolate cake!

Well done everyone for taking part and we look forward to finding out the winner on the 5th March.



ACTV

ACTV (Altrincham College TV) is now on Instagram!

Follow the ACTV account @actvteam to find out what's happening in and around school:

<https://www.instagram.com/actvteam/>



Ambition: Sixth Form News

Congratulations to our newly elected Year 12 student leaders, **Leo, Lilly and Eva!** They will meet regularly with Mr Mahmood to represent the student voice and discuss sixth form provision. They have already started their roles by representing the sixth form at the recent careers fair, and will attend future events, organise fundraising activities for our sixth form charity, KidsCan, and be part of something exciting which is taking place in the summer term...watch this space!



Sixth form applications

We have received over 250 applications so far, the highest number we have received in recent years. Conditional offers will be sent out after February half term, with details on the next steps.

Young Enterprise trip to Trafford Centre

Good luck to our Year 12 Young Enterprise team, a group of 8 students who will market their product at a stall in the Trafford Centre today, competing with students from other Greater Manchester schools.

The students have worked hard to develop a colouring book which promotes inclusivity, which was beautifully drawn by Isaac T.



Fingers crossed that they come back to sixth form with a trophy!

Year 12 Advertising Agency trip

Fifteen students in Year 12 visited 'One Media Agency', an advertising agency based in Trafford Park last week as part of the Advertising Unlocked scheme.

Students were split into three groups and tasked with a creating a new brand of bottled water, targeted at fitness enthusiasts. They were paired with staff from the creative team to come up with a brand name, tag line, logo, packaging label, TikTok and a CGI/VFX student idea!

The winning team - Georgia, Eva and Katy – impressed the judges with their thorough market research and innovative product idea. Their bottle of water 'opti-sleep' ("water way to sleep!") was designed to provide optimum sleep and muscle recovery for athletes, through ingredients such as magnesium and vitamin B. Well done to all who took part!



Well done **Khushi**, Year 13, who has been offered a prestigious degree apprenticeship with Barclays as a Technology Analyst!

Year 12 Sports Trip

This term the Year 12 Sports students visited Keele University for a taster day in a range of sports courses. They completed some practical work in the sports science lab, had a campus tour, and taster sessions in courses such as sports psychology, physiotherapy and sports business management. Thank you to Keele for this fantastic opportunity!



UKMT Maths Challenge Prize Winners Announcement!

We are delighted to announce the results of the **UKMT Maths Challenge** held on 29th January. This prestigious competition is known for its challenging problem-solving questions that test logical thinking and mathematical reasoning. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and achievements!

- 🏆 **Best in School:** Kai R (Gold Award)
- 🥈 **Best in Year 10:** Maryam A (Silver Award)
- 🥈 **Best in Year 9:** James W (Silver Award)

🌟 **Silver Certificate Winners:**
Dylan S, Laila A, Grace L, Louie G, Ka Nam P

🥉 **Bronze Certificate Winners:**

Jasmine M, Sebastian S, William GJ, Frank G, Alyssa T, Briony ED, Dimitar K, Renars J, Emilia K, Tom D, Rufus J, Rainbow S, Sam W, Emma J, Archie W, Toby S, Mac F, Neel K, Katherine R, Jake M, Victoria K, Theo L, Cherie L, Sasha B, Jasmine Y, Libby J, Asser A, Aaryan A, Lola B, Harry E, Josh J, Amie K, Jayden L, Ewan M, Ashleigh J and Maggy W

A special congratulations to Kai R, who will go on to represent the school in the next stage of the competition, the Pink Kangaroo challenge. We wish him the best of luck!

We extend our appreciation to all students who took part in the challenge. Certificates and awards will be distributed in the upcoming rewards assembly. - Mr Hill



Aspiration

Altrincham College Careers Fair 2025!

Last week we welcomed more than 30 employers, universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers to school for our annual careers fair. Some of the exhibitors included the BBC, University of

Manchester, KPMG, the Police, McHale Solicitors, Manchester Film School and many more!

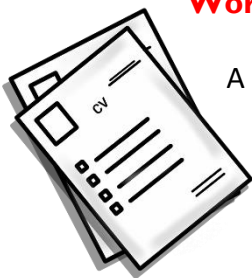


Students from years 9-13 were encouraged to visit as many stands as possible, to find out about courses, apprenticeships and career opportunities. They received a stamp on their card for every meaningful conversation they engaged in, and students who received six or more stamps were entered into a prize draw. Prizes included a tablet, Amazon vouchers, a range of bags and other merchandise!



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

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

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 in working towards our residential tournament in Shropshire in July.

Cross Country

Congratulations to two of our pupils who qualified for the Greater Manchester Schools Cross Country Championships. Jamie W ran and finished 26/64 and Daniel T ran and finished 35/65. They competed against the best runners from Trafford, Bolton, Bury, Wigan, Tameside, Manchester, Oldham, and Stockport. A huge well done to both!

Duke of Edinburgh Award's Scheme

Our year 10 DofE students performed amazingly well last week in their first sports leadership qualification assessment. They led 170 primary pupils from six different primary schools as part of the Trafford Year 6 Athletics event, which took place in our sports hall. The students were confident and professional and received lots of praise from the primary teachers and younger pupils who took part.

The year 10 Orienteering trip to Wythenshawe Park was a huge success on Wednesday 12th February. The students secured their knowledge with navigating techniques to allow them to find some of the most challenging controls in the park, in preparation for their DofE Bronze expedition on 25th May.

Well done guys!! - Mr Stephenson

Community: Community Cookbook

We are thrilled to announce the next chapter of our exciting new project – the creation of our very own School Community Cookbook!

This cookbook will be a celebration of the diverse culinary talents within our school community, and we would love for you to be a part of it.

We are inviting all parents/carers, staff, and students to share their favourite recipes for inclusion in the cookbook. Whether it's a beloved family dish, a creative starter, a comforting main course, a delicious dessert, or even a meal on a budget, all kinds of recipes are welcome!

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the variety of flavours and traditions that make our school community so special.

Here's how you can get involved:

- 1. Submit Your Recipe:** Please send in your recipe(s) with a brief description, any special ingredients, or the story behind it if you'd like to share. Don't forget to include clear instructions for preparation.
- 2. Categories:** We're looking for recipes in the following categories:
 - Starters
 - Main Courses
 - Desserts
 - Budget-Friendly Meals
 - Any other culinary creations you'd like to share!
- 3. Selection Process:** The staff and students will review all the submissions, and the selected recipes will be included in the final cookbook. We will do our best to feature a diverse range of dishes that reflect our community's tastes.
- 4. Submission Deadline:** Please submit your recipes by **Friday 28th February**. You can send them to jhk@altrinchamcollege.com or cbm@altrinchamcollege.com This is a fantastic way for our community to come together, celebrate our culinary diversity, and create something special for everyone to enjoy. We can't wait to see the delicious recipes you have to offer!

Mrs Hudson-Kirkham and Mrs Bellingham



Performing Arts

High School Musical

The last few tickets are available for our school production of High School Musical! Get yours before they go: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/altrincham-college/e-dmjokz>



Altrincham
College

Disney's
**HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL**

Wednesday 9th April 2025
Thursday 10th April 2025
6:30pm
Tickets £8.50
Includes show programme

For tickets and further information, please email
production@altrinchamcollege.com

National Theatre project.

For the first time, students from Altrincham College are taking part in the National Theatre Connections project. The cast is made up from a small group of our year 8 and 9 students. They have been rehearsing every Tuesday evening since October.

On Tuesday 11th February 25, the cast of You 2.0 performed to a small audience of friends and family. We were also visited by a National Theatre director, Nathan Crossan-Smith, who critiqued the show and will provide feedback on which the students have three weeks to work on before the show goes to the Lowry on 26th March! Find out more about the project here:

<https://thelowry.com/whats-on/372//nt-connections-festival>

Tickets to the Lowry can be purchased from the theatre's website:
<https://thelowry.com/>

– Mrs Mrozinski



Art News - Mrs Wagstaff

Blackpool Sealife and Seafront Trip

Art students in years 10,12 and 13 braved the cold weather to visit Blackpool last month. Year 10 visited the Sealife Centre to gather research and photographs for their current project 'Sealife' and then ventured out onto the beachfront to look at the sea, sand, and shells.

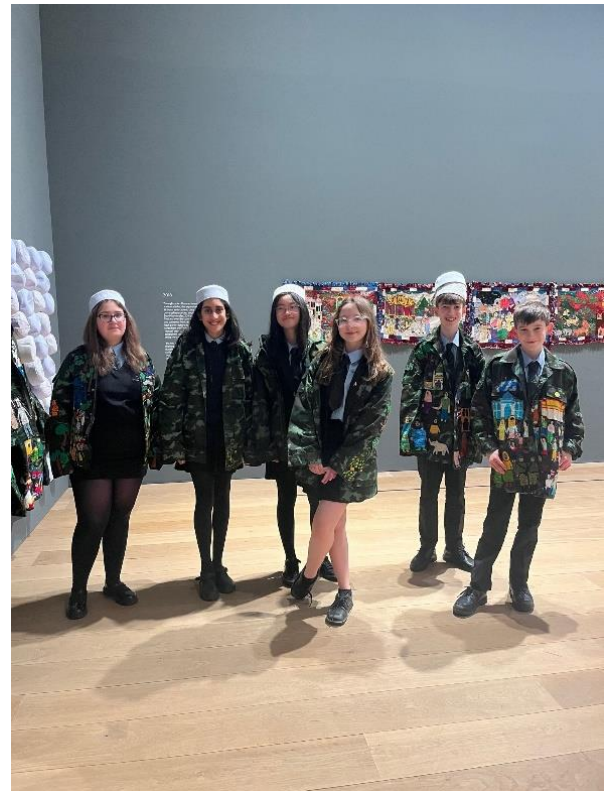
Year 12 and 13 students wandered around the seafront, tower and backstreets to gather primary research for their personal investigation project.

We even managed a little visit in the famous pier arcade!



Barbara Walker exhibition at The Whitworth Gallery Manchester

40 students in Year 8 visited The Walker Art Gallery to study the fantastic Barbara Walker exhibition and took part in a portrait workshop hosted by the gallery. The students were fantastic; they produced some amazing artwork and learned a lot about the deep meanings behind Walker's work.



Art Club

Students in our very popular art club have been busy working on the set for the next school production, High School Musical. The set has been designed by Year 10 Student Harry W and brought to life by our wonderful students during art club.

Well done all!

Art Exhibition

Congratulations to the students in years 7,8 & 9 whose artwork has been selected to showcase in our Key Stage 3 art exhibition on **Tuesday 4th March**. Come along to see their fantastic work!



AC

Join us to celebrate the fantastic art work
of our very talented students.

Altrincham
College

Tuesday 4th March 2025
4.30 pm - 6.00pm
Prizes and certificates to be
presented at approx. 5.30 pm
School Hall
Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

LIVE
lounge

an evening of musical performances
by KS4 students.

"Our vision
a valuable

they make
choices." 1€

And finally...

I would like to thank you for your support this half term; thank you to our Parents Association and Parent Governors too!

I hope you have a wonderful and restful half term and I look forward to seeing your child back in school on **Monday 24th February**.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 24th February:

Thursday 27th February:

Monday 3rd-Wednesday 5th March:

Tuesday 4th March:

Thursday 6th March:

Thursday 13th March:

Wednesday 26th March:

Thursday 3rd April:

Wednesday 9th April:

Thursday 10th April:

Friday 11th April:

Start of term

Year 12 Parents' Evening

Year 12 Work Experience

Year Key Stage 3 Art Exhibition &

Key Stage 4 Live Lounge (6-8pm)

World Book Day

Year 10 Parents' Evening

National Theatre Performance (Lowry)

Year 8 Parents' Evening

High School Musical Performance (6pm)

High School Musical Performance (6pm)

End of term *(Students will finish at 12.30pm)*

Ms K Earle

Headteacher and CEO of the Achieve and Learn Trust

