

Headteacher's Bulletin: *Friday 24th October 2025*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and enjoying the beautiful autumnal colours that are all around at this time of the year! What a feast for the eyes places like Dunham Massey are at this time of the year!



The first half term of the academic year is when we 'frontload' the year ahead; when we 'set out our stall' and use other well-known expressions to describe what is in fact an extremely busy time of year!

Our school is due an Ofsted inspection in the summer term and staff have been getting to grips with the new inspection framework so that we are fully prepared. We are very proud of our school and all the achievements of our students and staff; we are also proud of the way in which our Governors and Trustees hold us to account over ensuring an excellent educational offer for all, therefore we know Ofsted, when they visit, will see exactly the same. As you will know, the way Ofsted reports is changing to a 'report-style' document which aims to clarify, especially for parents and carers, which areas of the school are really good and which require further improvement; the old judgements of 'Outstanding', 'Good', etc have now gone. For more information, please visit: [New Ofsted report cards](#)

Hot Chocolate Friday!

Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher took place last week to thank students for being outstanding tour guides at our recent Open Evening.

Our student guides did an excellent job of escorting pupils and families around the buildings and classrooms, and it was lovely to hear them talking to visitors so proudly about their school.

Feedback from those who visited that evening was wonderful – the students represented our school community brilliantly! Well done all!



“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.” 2

For parents/carers who are new to the school, you'll find lots of useful information on our school website:

www.altrinchamcollege.com

You may also like to follow our accounts on Instagram and/or Facebook:

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/



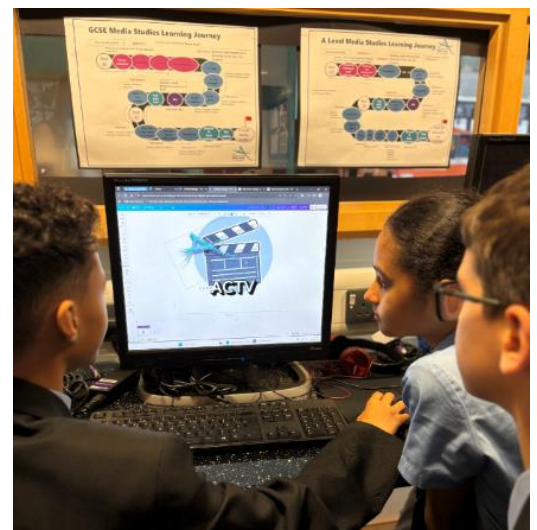
ACTV

We have a brand new ACTV instagram account - **@actv_altrinchamcollege** run by our Digital Media club that meet after school on Tuesday with Miss Walmsley in room 605.



Please follow our page and keep up to date with current news and events happening in Altrincham College.

Thank you to all students who have designed our new logo, filmed and photographed events, interviewed staff and edited all content this half term.



Family

First Magazine

We have been asked to share this free copy of 'Family First', the UK's largest parenting title.

Please click on the link below to access a digital copy of the magazine:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Safeguarding Bulletin



SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

AUTUMN 25 1.4

In this issue:

- Building Confidence and self esteem
- Sleeping
- Coping with loss or grief
- 10 coping skills for grief
- Child Bereavement Charities

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

Thank you for all the positive emails we have received regarding our bulletins and the suggestions for topics to cover. I have selected the most common themes requested, and put them together in this bulletin. I wish you all a happy and safe half term. Next half term the focus will be on "Hate and Derogatory Language"

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

Self-esteem is how you think and feel about yourself. Feeling confident means feeling good about yourself, your abilities and your thoughts.

It is common for young people (and adults!) to feel that they want to be more confident. Sometimes confidence can go up and down depending on the situation. Your child might be really chatty around their friends, but struggle with meeting new people. This is totally normal.

Building up your child's confidence can take time, but taking small steps can often lead to big changes, which can make a big difference in how they feel every day.

It's important to remember that we are all unique and what makes each of us feel our best is going to be different for everyone. It's also important to remember that someone's "best" might look different day to day.

One day your child's best might be feeling confident enough to get out of bed, the next it



12 Ways To Help Kids Boost Their Confidence

- Encourage a growth mindset.
- Encourage independence and risk-taking.
- Remind kids of their strengths.
- Give chances for everyone to shine.
- Give specific positive feedback.
- Teach and discuss resilience.
- Help kids celebrate accomplishments.
- Teach positive self-talk.
- Have kids reflect on growth.
- Celebrate diversity and uniqueness.
- Encourage kids to follow their passions.
- Help kids set and meet individual goals.

www.thepathway2success.com



Please [visit our website](#) to read the latest safeguarding bulletin.

Careers Newsletters

We hope you are enjoying our weekly careers newsletter, which is sent to all parents and carers via SIMS InTouch.

Regular features include a 'job of the week', labour market information, and employer and university spotlights.

The third and final page is tailored towards events and opportunities at our school.

Inclusive:

World Mental Health Day

This half term we raised money for World Mental Health Day by wearing something yellow with our uniform.

We would like to thank everyone for taking part and helping to raise £555.76. This money will be donated to the Young Minds charity and a percentage will also go towards the community garden in school which the Student Council are currently raising money to help renovate the garden into a well-being zone.

Miss Walmsley would like to thank the ACTV team for documenting a fantastic day raising awareness for a worthy cause. ACTV will be publishing a video of the day on social media.

"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." 5

▶ Listen to this newsletter

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

OPPORTUNITIES



DISCOVER! Creative Careers Month is happening in November. Employers & creatives sharing careers, programmes, resources and inspirational stories with the next generation. 150+ speakers inspiring young people to discover and explore creative careers. Check out the agenda and sign up to as many free talks as you wish!



The Into Film Festival 2025 takes place between 7-28 November, and will feature thousands of free screenings and special events right across the UK.



Check out this video of Jim Parkyn, a Model Maker at Aardman Studios, talking about his profession and how people can follow in his footsteps.



UK Youth have teamed up with actor and writer Ben Bailey Smith to launch a new film highlighting the damaging impact of cuts to youth services in the face of the cost of living crisis. Watch here.



Step inside the world of contemporary craft with Cockpit, home to some of the most exciting makers in the world. This session on the 17th November (14:00-15:00) will explore the many creative career paths in craft and design, and how Cockpit supports maker. Register here.

JOB OF THE WEEK

▶ Model Maker

Model makers build the digital or physical versions of everything that is seen on screen in an animation. They translate concept art, character designs and environment designs into models ready to be animated. A degree in animation, computer graphics, fine art, or an equivalent subject is preferred by employers, but not essential.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT



Exploring Iceland's Golden Circle: A Geography Adventure to Remember

This term, our geography students had the incredible opportunity to visit Iceland and explore the world-famous Golden Circle—a region rich in geological wonders and natural beauty. The trip was a true highlight of the academic year, offering students a chance to experience first-hand the dramatic landscapes and physical processes they've studied in the classroom.

The journey included visiting Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where students stood between two tectonic plates—the Eurasian and North American—witnessing the effects of continental drift in real time. It also included visiting Geysir where hot springs in this geothermal area erupt every few minutes in a spectacular display of Iceland's geothermal energy. The trip also included a visit to Gullfoss, the “Golden Falls,” a powerful and majestic waterfall that left everyone in awe of nature's force!

Beyond the geographical learning, the trip was a testament to the character and maturity of our students. Their behaviour throughout was exemplary—they were respectful, engaged, and consistently demonstrated a genuine interest in the environment and culture around them. Staff and guides alike commented on how well they represented the school, and we couldn't be prouder of the way they conducted themselves.





Whether it was hiking across lava fields, discussing glacial erosion, or simply taking in the stunning Icelandic scenery, our students embraced every moment with enthusiasm and curiosity. The trip not only deepened their understanding of geography but also fostered teamwork, independence, and a sense of global citizenship.

Whilst the students and staff certainly experienced some harsh Icelandic weather, resulting in lots of soggy clothes, they were rewarded on the very last night of the trip with a stunning display of the phenomenal Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

We are incredibly proud of all who took part and extremely grateful to Mrs Hardy, Mr Nelson and Mr Eastwood who made the trip possible. Iceland has certainly left a lasting impression—and we look forward to more adventures in the future that bring learning to life.

“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.” 7

‘Heart Hospital’ healthcare trip

On Friday 10th October, nominated Year 10 students interested in healthcare careers attended an insightful day at Wythenshawe Hospital.

The day started with presentations from consultant cardiologists, teaching students about the heart and cardiovascular disease, ways to prevent it, scans, CPR and surgeries that can be performed.



There was then a Q&A with a range of healthcare professionals about their roles within the Cardiology department, including nurses, radiologists, and cardiac physiologists. At lunchtime our students chose to use this time to engage with the professionals further to find out more about what they do. Our students were the only ones to do this and were praised by the professionals.

The afternoon saw them use their knowledge from the CPR lecture and put it into practice in the practical learning using a Resusci Annie, followed by an interactive quiz based on what they have learnt, where some of our students topped the leader board! – Miss Mitchelmore



Ambition:

Sixth Form News – Mr Mahmood

We are delighted that Altrincham College Sixth Form has been awarded the **Alps A Level Gold Award 2025** in recognition of outstanding student progress. This places us in **the top 25% of sixth forms and colleges nationally** and reflects our commitment to high quality teaching and excellent outcomes for our students.



We were proud to showcase the results of our high-quality teaching and learning during our recent open evening, where we welcomed a record number of visitors to sixth form. We are expecting a record number of applications this year to follow.

Applications are now open to both internal and external Year 11 applicants. They can be submitted online, via our website: www.altrinchamcollege.com/sixthform, or paper copies can be handed into sixth form reception. The application deadline for 2026 entry is **Monday 15th December 2025**.

Data Analytics Trip

Earlier this month, Year 12 Maths and Business students attended a Data Analytics workshop at UA92 University with tech companies **SAS** and **Microsoft**, to inspire the next generation of data analytic experts!



Students learnt how AI is used effectively in industry, about quantum computers, and the skills and qualities required to succeed in the world of data and tech.

Students were also taught how to use data analysis to solve a crime and had the opportunity to network with senior staff from Microsoft to quiz on their career journeys!

UCAS Applications

Year 13 students are busy finalising their personal statements for those all-important UCAS applications. Our school deadline for applications to be submitted is on Friday 5th December.



Thank you to Kate from the University of Huddersfield for her talk on Wednesday about student finance – about which there has been much discussion in the news recently – and for meeting students on a 1:1 basis to give advice on their applications.

New York trip!



As we speak, 14 of our sixth form students are enjoying a business trip to New York – home to the world’s biggest brands - where they will enjoy a fun-filled week visiting lots of tourist attractions and enhancing their knowledge of business and finance.


Thank you to Mr Rayworth and Miss Scholes. We hope you all have an amazing time in the big apple!

“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.” 10

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Success!

Congratulations to our Year 12 and 13 students who took part in this year's **UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge**.

 **Kai S (Year 13)** achieved *Best in School*, earning a **Bronze Certificate**.

 In **Year 12**, **Josh J, Aania** and **Effy** also achieved **Bronze Certificates** for their impressive performances.

This year, **50% of our participants** received a certificate — a fantastic achievement!

Well done to all our talented mathematicians for representing **Altrincham College** so brilliantly! 🏆 – Mr Hill

Achieve High – a new initiative which celebrates students who embrace challenge and excel!



Achieve Learn Trust.
Better, together.

What is excellence?

-  Exceed expectations in classwork and homework tasks
-  Be highly motivated and seek challenge
-  Actively listen and make valuable contributions
-  Show independency and be proactive
-  Work collaboratively and support others

Achieve High - Following Ms Greenhalgh's challenge assemblies last week, we are launching a brand-new initiative called Achieve High. The initiative will recognise and celebrate those students who embrace challenge and excel. Students have been asked, with the help of their form tutor, to set themselves a personal goal, linked to the school's excellence criteria, and then work towards that goal on a daily, weekly and termly basis.

Staff will nominate a student who they believe has demonstrated one or more of those qualities and the successful student will be presented with a certificate that celebrates their excellent achievement. The winning student will also receive a 'free toast and skip the queue' pass to use at break time on the Friday of the week that they win.



"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.

One such student who demonstrated independent learning is **Sarthak S** in year 9. Congratulations Sarthak, who embraced the challenge to further his knowledge and understanding of natural hazards. Sarthak was one of three year 9 pupils who were given an optional challenge task to read a National Geographic article based on the pacific ring of fire.

Sarthak and two other year 9 students, Sumaira N and Darcey C, read the article before contributing to a very interesting class discussion. This provided not only themselves, but the rest of the class, with additional knowledge allowing students to make valuable links to prior knowledge already learned within the topic. Sarthak demonstrated an enhanced level of knowledge and understanding, which is normally associated with A-Level, and was keen to share this with his Geography teacher, Mr Hughes, as well as other students.

Aspiration

Year 11 student's work is recognised by The Brilliant Club!

Amy P was one of 14 students who took part in The Brilliant Club programme in Year 10, which offers students the opportunity to take part in university-style learning and research. Her final assignment, focusing on vaccines, was of such exceptional quality that it has been selected for publication in The Scholar – an academic journal that celebrates the very best work submitted nationally through the programme.



Amy's work received a 'First' classification, and it stood out even further by being one of just 30 assignments chosen for publication across the entire country. Her work was reviewed by a panel of PhD researchers and selected based on academic merit and originality.

This is an incredible accolade and a real testament to Amy's talent and hard work. Well done Amy!

Belief:

News from the PE Department

Student success story:

Congratulations to Chloe M in Year 10 – U16 Manchester United midfielder - who has recently been invited onto the England pathway.

Earlier this season, her Manchester United team won a tournament in Derby, competing against all the top teams, such as Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester City and Liverpool, and Chloe was named player of the tournament (chosen by the FA officials).



Keep up the good work Chloe!

Holland Football Trip

Last week, 44 boys in Years 8 and 9 headed to the Netherlands for their first football tour overseas. We departed school on the Friday and arrived at the ferry terminal in Hull ready to start our trip.



The ferry was amazing, with great food, cinema, massage chairs, arcades and much more!

Once we arrived at the port, we headed straight to the Feyenoord stadium tour where students learnt the history of the club, visited the gift shop and gained access to the pitch, press room, stands and changing rooms. We visited Feyenoord Academy for a



professional coaching session where students rotated between different staff and gained some high quality feedback from the coaches

Our first football fixture was vs Meerburg: we played 9 games in total, won 5, drew 1 and lost 3.

Our second match we played against Rotterdam United. Team 1 won, team 2 lost and then it was all down to team 3. AC Ultra's were in the stand watching, and it finished a nail biting 3-2, with a screamer scored by Maximo which then led to a pitch invasion, meaning AC got the overall victory!



Other highlights include a trip to the beach for a play in the sand, a trip to the water park and theme park, and in the evening, 'AC's got talent' which featured a range of magicians, comedians, singers and dancers. It was amazing to see so many pupils



involved, the show could have gone on forever! Following the judges' deliberation, the winner was...Oasis! – Mrs Holden

Special awards were given:

- Team 1 player of the tournament - Daniel T
- Team 2 player of the tournament - Ben W
- Team 3 player of the tournament - Maison H
- Tour personality – Teddy G
- Special awards to Ethan H and Frazer B



Community:

Performing Arts

Year 10s completed their first workshop in partnership the Paperbirds Theatre Company, who are helping them to devise a new verbatim piece of theatre about mental health. We are one of three schools in the northwest who have been chosen to work with them...so it is very exciting! The students will be participating in four workshops across the two years. – Mrs Mrozinski



[48 Thoughts Per Minute - The Paper Birds : The Paper Birds](#)



Annie!

Dates for your diary:

Rehearsals are well under way for our next school production which takes place on **31st March and 1st April 2026.**

Music Department Year 7 Singing Showcase 2025

On the afternoon of Monday 20th 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 life-enhancing benefits, the sense of belonging, common purpose and achievement, that singing together provides.

Joined by some of our fantastic Year 10 Music GCSE students, we practised performing the songs during Period 5, then after 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 – and there was even a chance for some enthusiastic audience participation second time round!

We followed this with a medley of two classic Disney songs from The Jungle Book: I Wanna Be Like You and The Bare Necessities. At this point the Year 7 singers had earned a rest, so we were all treated to a performance by the Year 10 Band of Live Forever by Oasis (special shout-out to Sebastian S for his lead guitar solo!). This was an excellent opportunity for children in Year 7 to see where Music can lead them, and what they could be doing in a few years' time.

Lastly, we sang pop party favourite I Gotta Feeling by The Black Eyed Peas, accompanied by the Year 10 Band, and featuring an uplifting vocal solo from Erin B!

Special thanks to Mr Wilson (bass guitar) 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 News:

Year 10 Textiles Design Students meet Nikki Parmenter.



Our Year 10 Textiles students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a one-day creative workshop led by acclaimed mixed media textile artist Nikki Parmenter. Known for her vibrant, intricately layered artwork inspired by mythology, nature, and ancient cultures, Nikki brought her signature style and wealth of experience into the classroom — sparking creativity, confidence, and new skills.



As part of the workshop, students created a cultural textile sample directly linked to their current coursework themes. Guided by Nikki, they experimented with a wide range of techniques including free machine embroidery, hand stitching, layering, fusing, and embellishment — as well as learning how to incorporate unusual shapes, patterns and

materials into their work. The atmosphere in the classroom was buzzing with energy as students pushed their creative boundaries and explored new processes, and the results were stunning!

Mrs Woods, Head of Textiles, said: "It was an incredibly valuable experience for our students. Nikki's enthusiasm and expert guidance encouraged them to take creative risks and explore new techniques. The cultural samples they produced are a fantastic addition to their coursework portfolios."

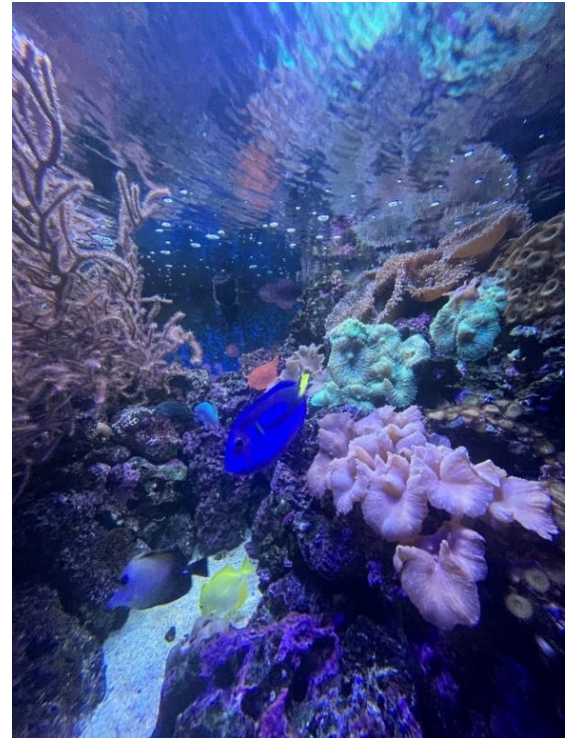
We're incredibly grateful to Nikki Parmenter for inspiring our students and enriching their learning experience. The skills and ideas developed during the workshop will undoubtedly influence their future projects and artistic direction throughout the year.

Blackpool Art Trip

Year 10 & 12 Art Students visited Blackpool on Tuesday 14th October to gather primary research for their coursework units.

Students looked around the Sealife Centre taking photographs of the beautiful fish and coral and then headed onto the beach to collect shells for their projects.

Year 12 students also wandered around Blackpool taking photographs of the varying architecture in the town that they will use for inspiration for their upcoming units of work.



And finally...

I look forward to seeing your child back in school on **Monday 3rd November**

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



Dates for your diary:

Monday 3rd November:	Start of term
Thursday 27th November:	GCSE Presentation Awards Evening
w/c 10th November:	Year 11 & 13 mock examinations
Monday 15th December:	Christmas concert (6pm)
Wednesday 17th December:	Christmas lunch
Thursday 18th December:	Festive dress day
Friday 19th December (12.30pm)	End of term