

Headteacher's Bulletin: *Friday 19th December 2025*



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has finally hit home that I am leaving the school at the end of the week and after six years as Headteacher this will be my last newsletter to you!

I would therefore like to thank students, staff, parents, carers, governors and trustees/members for the unwavering support, kindness and commitment you have shown during my time here. It has truly been a privilege to serve as Headteacher and to work with such a caring, dedicated and resilient school community.

Like any school journey, our time together has included moments of great challenge (I didn't have any training for RAAC or Covid!), as well as moments of great celebration such as the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and Prizegiving ceremonies. We have navigated some difficult and uncertain periods, and I am immensely proud of the way our students and staff have risen to those challenges with determination, compassion and teamwork. Your support was critical during these times too. Those experiences have strengthened the school and highlighted the values that make this community so special.

Alongside the challenges, there have been many happy and memorable moments — from performances, trips and sporting events to everyday classroom successes and plenty of laughter along the way (long may staff fancy dress continue!). These moments of joy and fun are what make school life so rewarding, and they are memories I will treasure; I hope your child will too. As I move on, I am proud of what I'm leaving behind: our exam results are the best they've been, our attendance is higher than national and staff are highly trained professionals in all areas, giving their time to support students in ways which go beyond the normal school day. This ensures a great future for your child and future children and young people at Altrincham College.

I am excited to be taking up my new role as CEO of the Achieve and Learn Trust. It is a real privilege to have strategic oversight of two schools within the Trust, and I am greatly looking forward to working alongside their communities. I am also hopeful that, in the coming years, more schools will choose to join the Trust so that we can continue to grow, collaborate and share best practice for

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the benefit of even more children.

I leave knowing that this school is in a strong position, supported by an exceptional staff team and a community that genuinely cares about its children. I am confident the school will continue to thrive and go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Thank you once again for the trust, support and friendship you have shown me. I wish all our wonderful young people every success for the future and will always look back on my time here with great pride and fondness.

With my very best wishes and “Merry Christmas!”

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be taking up the position of Headteacher of Altrincham College from January. Having worked at the school since 2010, I feel a deep connection to our community and am privileged to take on this role as we continue to build on our success and go from strength to strength. I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and to working closely with staff, students and families as we move forward together.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Earle for her leadership of the school over the past seven years. Ms Earle has shaped the culture we are so proud of today: one rooted in kindness, aspiration and ambition for all. I am fully committed to ensuring that we maintain and further develop our unique, caring and inclusive ethos as the school continues to move forward.

I will, of course, write to you again in January. For now, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Keegan
Head of School

Annual Christmas Card Competition

Our much-loved Annual Christmas Card Competition once again brought festive cheer and creativity to the whole school. Open to all year groups, the competition encouraged students to design beautiful, hand-made Christmas cards to be sent to Altrincham College's friends and family.

The standard this year was exceptionally high, with every entry showcasing fantastic creativity, care, and originality. Choosing a winner was no easy task!



We are delighted to announce that this year's competition resulted in a joint 1st prize, awarded to two talented Year 7 students – Evie E and Beiana A. Congratulations to both for their outstanding designs!

Altrincham College's Christmas Tree

If you've visited school this term, you may have seen the beautifully decorated Christmas tree on display in the school hall.

The decorations are the work of Mrs Dawson and the talented students in her Origami Club. Each decoration is hand-made, and the level of detail needs to be seen to be fully appreciated! Well done to all involved.



Achieving detail requires extreme precision in every fold, and this is something that Year 9 student Jaden C is well aware of! Jaden recently created a masterpiece in **Origami Club**.

The image below is of his 3D Origami swan which consists of over 400 individual pieces of identical folded paper units, then locking them together using their tabs and pockets to build this complex, 3-dimensional swan. Well done Jaden!



Santa and her Christmas Elves

Yesterday, as per the usual Altrincham College tradition, students arriving at school were greeted by Santa and her elves, spreading festive cheer to one and all!



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 which were absolutely delicious.

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/



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Safeguarding Bulletin



SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

CHRISTMAS 2025



In this issue:

- Financial Pressures
- Mental Health Support
- Domestic Abuse
- Wellbeing support

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

Christmas is often a time for families and celebration, but for some it can also be a time of sadness and stress. This issue focuses on support for those who may need it. We wish you all a happy and safe festive period over the next few weeks.

Financial Pressures

From the conversations we have had recently with some of our parents, the cost of living is becoming very difficult for families and we know that can be tough to cope with the financial pressures of Christmas. This can be very difficult if you're already struggling to make ends meet

If money worries are getting too much for you, The debt charity Step Change can help. [Get free debt advice online](#), any time by following the link.

Many of our families find themselves in the position where they need to use foodbanks to support their children. If you have not used one before, but find yourself in need this Christmas, this link will help you locate your nearest Food Bank.

[Find a food bank | Trussell](#)



Please [visit our website](#) to read the full bulletin

Student Leaders

Congratulations to our Year 11 student leaders for all their work this term, particularly Head Student Hazel, and Deputy Head Student Tom, who delivered wonderful and inspiring speeches during assembly this morning.

The staff-student football match, organised by our Head Students earlier this term, resulted in a controversial 5-4 win to Team Staff! We won't mention the yellow cards. Well done to all who took part, and for raising over £500 for the school's community garden.



"A student leader represents the needs and wants of our school and wider community with pride and respect. Student leaders take on the responsibility of role modelling, guiding and empowering others to achieve their full potential."

Inclusive:

United Colours of Altrincham Day



Earlier this month we celebrated all the different places our community in Altrincham College comes from and there were various activities

that took place throughout the day, such as:

International dress: students were invited to wear an item to represent the flag of their home country.

Anti-racism lessons and 'Show Racism the Red Card' workshops:

both designed to educate and empower students to recognise, challenge, and combat racism in all its forms, fostering a more inclusive and respectful community.



Mural: Mrs Wagstaff and her students created a colourful mural in C Block using inspiration from the Mural Competition entries.



Well done to ACTV for filming, interviewing and documenting the United Colours of Altrincham Day! You can see all videos on Instagram @actv_altrinchamcollege, and on the ACTV section of the school website:

[Altrincham College - ACTV](#)

Following this event, the students from Mrs Painter's form were really excited to talk about different cultures and how so much of our different cultures are represented by the food we eat, so we organised a cultural potluck.

The students bought and made a variety of food to showcase their different cultures – it was brilliant seeing them so excited to share their food!





Ambition:

Sixth Form News

It's been a busy term for both year groups, with exams, coursework and deadlines to meet, but also lots of opportunities for students to get involved with. The main focus for Year 13 this year has been their mock examinations, the results of which were shared with students last week. We look forward to meeting parents and carers at the forthcoming sixth form online parents evening on Thursday 29th January, so please make sure you put this date in your diary.

Year 13s have also been busy working on their UCAS applications. Congratulations to students who have already received offers or attended interviews for institutions such as: University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, University of Leeds, University of York, University of Nottingham, University of Liverpool, University of Birmingham and many more!

Year 11 applications: We are delighted to have received over 200 applications so far for 2026 entry. Look out for further correspondence in the new year about option blocks and interview dates.



Year 12 – Advertising Unlocked Programme

Last month, Year 12 business and media students spent the day at Manchester-based advertising agency Open Partners as part of the Advertising Unlocked programme – a day where the world of advertising

invites students across the UK to participate in the largest industry-wide “Open Day.” It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn all about the advertising industry and be inspired by industry experts!

'Biology in Action' Trip

On the 13th November, Year 12 Biology students headed to the Royal Northern College of Music to hear from a range of inspiring scientists who spoke about their fields, research they have completed, and careers journeys related to their work. They also attended a session all about revision tips for A level Biology.

The content linked to the A level and also further extended their interest in areas related to Biology. Epigenetics, how to save the coral reefs, evolution, the science of de-extinction and brain research using new technology.

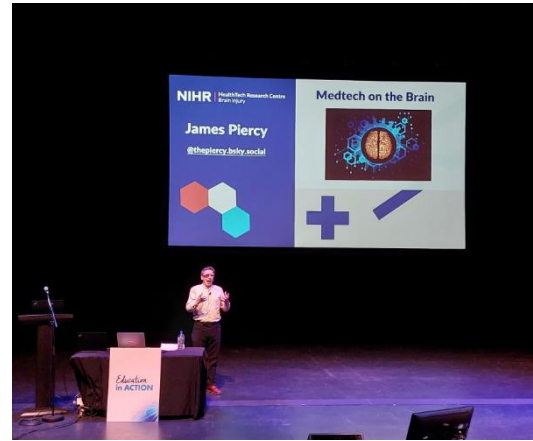
Students feedback: 100% of them would recommend to others.

- 'Very fun and interactive. Never got bored. Sessions were perfect length'
- 'Really enjoyed, very informative would go again!'

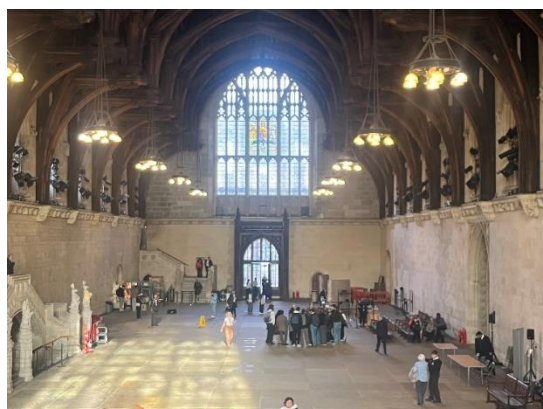
London Trip

Earlier this term, over 40 students in years 12 and 13 enjoyed a fantastic trip to London to visit Parliament.

We enjoyed a tour of Parliament where we learnt about the history of the iconic buildings, including Westminster Hall and the



House of Lords and had the opportunity to watch a live debate with Prime Minister Keir Starmer in the House of Commons. The event culminated with a Q&A session with Connor Rand MP, who is also on the board of our school's trust. Connor took the time to answer lots of insightful questions put to him by our students. – Mrs Khan.



New York Trip

At the start of October half term, sixth-form Business students had the opportunity to take part in a four-day educational trip to New York City. Staying in a hotel in Manhattan meant we were right in the centre of the city, surrounded by the commercial and cultural landmarks we often discuss in lessons. Experiencing the city first-hand helped us understand why New York is considered one of the world's most influential business hubs.

One of the standout activities was the Macy's Business Tour. We were shown how one of the largest department stores in the world manages its operations, from merchandising and stock control to customer experience and marketing strategies. It was fascinating to see how the theories we study are applied on such a large scale.

We also visited One World Observatory, which gave us an incredible view across the Financial District. Being able to look out over the area where so many major banks and companies are based helped us visualise the global financial system in a new way.

Another enjoyable part of the trip was the tour of the Hershey's Store. Although more light-hearted, it provided useful insight into branding, consumer behaviour, and how companies create memorable experiences to build customer loyalty.

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Overall, the trip was both educational and inspiring. It brought our business studies to life, strengthened our understanding of real-world practices, and gave us an unforgettable experience in one of the world's most exciting cities.



Cassius and Grace
W (Year 13)

DJs at Year 7 disco

A huge well done to Year 12 students for getting involved in different opportunities in and around the school. Firstly, our student leaders did a fantastic job of DJ'ing at the Year 7 disco. If anyone is looking for a DJ for their Christmas party, we highly recommend them!



Year 10 Assembly

A group of Year 12 male students took part in an important assembly for Year 10 pupils on the topic of Men's Mental Health. It takes a lot of confidence to stand at the lectern and deliver a presentation, and it is such an important topic, so a very well done to those who took part.

University of Manchester Healthcare talks

On 4th December, Professor Jose Puello from the University of Manchester delivered workshops to A Level Biology students. Year 12's took part in a stroke workshop, linked to their current studies and the Year 13's took part in the cancer workshop.



Students learnt about a patient's journey through the healthcare system from prevention to diagnosis and treatment, and which carers they would encounter. They learnt how medical care is applied in real life situations. A student stated, "Overall I learnt how to communicate with others, making important decisions"

LRC News (main school):

We're very excited to be taking part in The Trafford Young Readers' Award (TYRA) 2025/26. The aim of TYRA is to encourage secondary school pupils in Trafford to read for pleasure. Students across 12 Trafford Secondary Schools will get the chance to vote for their winning book after reading a shortlist of 3 YA titles. The project so far has



enabled us to attend a poetry and performance workshop with Young Identity and a Poetry Together event in Manchester. The project will culminate in a celebration event where we hope the participants will get the chance to meet the shortlisted authors before the winning book is announced.

Mrs Turner, Mrs Casey and the 10 students taking part are really enjoying reading the 3 shortlisted titles which are 'The First Year' by Matt Goodfellow, 'Keep Your Friends Close' by Cynthia Murphy and 'The Line They Drew Through Us' by Hiba Noor Khan.



Aspiration

Achieve High

As part of our new initiative, and to recognise and celebrate excellence, staff have been asked 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!

Beiana A (Year 7, science), **Lucy MW** (Year 9, science), **Lewis C** (Year 11, Music), **Odubeko A** (Year 9, MFL) and **Bryony ED** (Year 10, Geography).

News from the Religion, Philosophy & Ethics Department:

On 8th October, Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students were given the opportunity to participate in BBC Beyond Belief at the University of Manchester Religious Studies Conference. Here the students participated in workshops focusing on Roboethics and Feminist Theologies which was a wonderful opportunity for students to extend their thinking beyond the course.

On 16th October the same students were given the opportunity to participate in a reenactment of the Christian Wedding Service at Christ Church Timperley, which is a key part of the GCSE course. Following a discussion about a range of aspects of the christian wedding service, Father Stephen Dunton led the service with students acting the roles of bride, groom, bridesmaids and so forth. This was an unforgettable opportunity for all present and especially those involved in the service.



Earlier in the term we welcomed the National Justice Museum as part of the Year 9 Curriculum. This term's focus has been Crime and Punishment, and the workshop provided by the NJM allowed students to reenact a real court case! Students were given the opportunity to play the key roles involved in any court

case, such as witness, judge, jury, barristers etc. Students learnt how a court hearing works and all involved spoke eloquently. Well done to all who took part! – Mrs Acharya



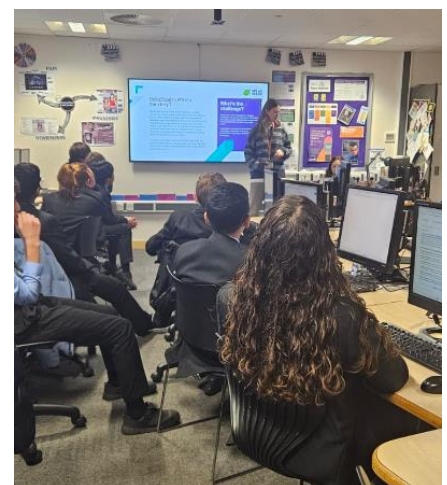
Healthcare enrichment group

On 3rd December, our Year 12 Medicine Society students delivered a presentation to the healthcare enrichment group to share their experiences from the 'Biology in Action' trip. Helping to develop their confidence, communication and presentation skills. Well done all!



Medicine Talk

This week, Dr Erucan, a year 7 parent, kindly visited our lunchtime enrichment group to talk to students in Years 10, 11 and 12 about her medicine journey. She spoke about different specialisms in medicine, her top tips for students and discussed the realities of studying and working in healthcare. The students asked some great questions and gained valuable insight into this field. Thank you to Dr Erucan for giving up her time to inspire our prospective healthcare students! **If any other parents/carers would like to talk to students about their career, please contact Miss Mitchelmore, Careers Leader (careers@altrinchamcollege.com)**



Digital Day

We had a great day on Digital Day. Thank you to the British Interactive Media Association for a fantastic day with marketing company, Great Influence. Our Year 9 Students had a great time working to a brief from Hello Fresh and learning what it is like to be part of a marketing company. – Miss Walmsely

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Community: School production: Annie

Rehearsals are well under way for our next school production which takes place on **31st March and 1st April 2026**.
Tickets go on sale in January!

Year 10s: Year 10 GCSE Drama students enjoyed a trip to the Lowry Theatre on 11th December, to watch a West End Production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe!

It was a great opportunity for students to watch a theatrical adaptation, which uses a storytelling style, including direct address, physical theatre, puppetry, and live music.

Year 10s have also completed two workshops with The Paper Birds. You can find out more information about this on our website: [Altrincham College - The Paper Birds](#)



Christmas concert

Our annual Christmas Concert took place in a packed School Hall on Monday 15th December, and was another fantastic celebration of the Performing Arts at Altrincham College! The audience enjoyed a varied selection of music, dance, and drama from students in Years 7 to 11, with 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, friends, and Altrincham College staff. The Orchestra kicked the evening off with a medley of traditional Christmas carols, followed by Guitar Quartet; then the first half continued with vocal solos and duos (from Zuzanna B, Lilly G, Jessica C), performances by two Y11 trios (Lewis C, Archie W & Archie W; then Evie L, Grace C & Kit R) and was rounded off by our Y10 GCSE Musicians performing 'All I want for Christmas' and 'Run, Rudolph, Run'.

After interval refreshments, during which over £150 was generously donated to our Community Garden Project, the stage was cleared for Dance Club to

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perform, dancing to the song 'Green Light'. Year 7 Drama Club then give us their own take on the long-running Aldi advert – 'Kevin the Carrot: No Carrot Left Behind'. They were followed by Choir, singing 'Snowman' and 'Winter Wonderland', and then one last vocal duo (Erin B & Hannah U). We were then joined once again by Elvis, as Enzo S-B and the Y11 GCSE Musicians performed 'Blue Christmas' and 'Merry Christmas Everyone.'

As we built towards the big finale, Band Skills took to the stage to perform 'Take 5', 'Wipeout' and 'Lady Madonna', featuring some spectacular solos on saxophone (Jasmine S) and drum kit (Ted H)! For our final singalong, the stage was packed with even more performers: Choir, Orchestra, teachers and support staff, as we all joined in with Slade's classic 'Merry Xmas, Everybody!'

Thank you to all our performers, family and friends supporting in the audience, pupils Toby S and Susie S for technical support, and the many staff involved, for helping make this year's Christmas Concert so successful and enjoyable!

Art news:

Joel Penkman workshop

Y9 art students were lucky enough to take part in a painting workshop by popular artist Joel Penkman. She spoke to them about her life as an artist and her career and then demonstrated how to paint a party ring.

The students then had a go at creating their own masterpieces! – Mrs Wagstaff



Getting to Know You

Students: you may think you know your teachers, but how well do you really know them? In this edition, we get to know the maths, darts and football whiz that is Mr Hill, a little better...



Q&A with

MR HILL, TEACHER OF MATHS



QUESTION

WHAT DID YOU STUDY AT SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY?

ANSWER

AT SCHOOL: MATHS, PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY
AT UNIVERSITY: MATHS AND CRIMINOLOGY





QUESTION

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

ANSWER

ANY OF THE PE TEACHERS!
I HAVE A PASSION FOR SPORT AND MATHEMATICS

QUESTION

TELL US AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU!

ANSWER

SPORT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:
MY UNCLE IS A FORMER ENGLAND FOOTBALLER AND MY SECOND COUSIN IS CURRENTLY PLAYING AT BATH RUGBY!

And finally...

I look forward to seeing your child back in school on **Monday 5th January 2026**

Ms K Earle

Headteacher and CEO of the Achieve and Learn Trust



Dates for your diary:

Monday 5th January:

Thursday 15th January:

Friday 16th January:

Thursday 29th January:

Monday 2nd February

Tuesday 3rd February

Thursday 5th February

Thursday 12th February

Friday 13th February

Start of term

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Practice Interviews

Sixth Form Parents' Evening

Careers Fair (Years 9-13)

Year 11 & Year 13 photographs

Year 9 Options Evening

AC Culture & Diversity Day

End of term

Staff Inset Day (school closed)