

Headteacher's Bulletin: *Thursday 2nd April 2026*



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring term, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy, productive, and rewarding half term and my first full term as Headteacher. It has been a real privilege to lead the school during this time, and I am continually impressed by the commitment, talent, and positivity shown by our students and staff each day.

This half term has been particularly rich in opportunities beyond the classroom. Our students have benefitted from a wide range of educational visits, including a Drama trip to the Royal Exchange Theatre, which gave students the chance to experience live performance in a professional setting and deepen their appreciation of theatre. Similarly, our Year 12 students visited the University of Manchester, where they gained valuable insight into higher education, future pathways, and university life, an important step as they begin to consider their next stages.

Within school, we have celebrated student achievement and creativity through a number of events. The Key Stage 3 Art Exhibition was a wonderful showcase of the imagination, skill, and hard work of our younger students, and it was fantastic to see such a variety of high-quality pieces on display. Our Key Stage 4 Live Lounge was another highlight, providing a platform for our very talented young people to perform in front of a live audience. The confidence and talent on display was truly impressive.

World Book Day was also a great success, with students and staff embracing the opportunity to celebrate reading in a variety of ways. From themed activities to shared reading experiences, it was pleasing to see such enthusiasm for books across the school community.

Our Sixth Form continues to go from strength to strength. We have now completed interviews for students applying to join us in September, and I am delighted to share that we have received the highest number of applications in our history. This reflects not only the strong reputation of our Sixth Form

provision, but also the dedication of staff in supporting students to achieve and progress.

One of the standout moments of the term was undoubtedly our school production of *Annie*. It was a truly exceptional performance, and I would like to extend my congratulations to every student involved, both on stage and behind the scenes. The talent, teamwork, and commitment required to produce such a polished show were evident throughout. My thanks also go to the staff who gave their time and expertise to make the production such a success it was a fantastic celebration of the performing arts in our school.

We also enjoyed a fun and creative Science Week, which included the ever-popular Biology Bake Off. Students demonstrated both scientific understanding and baking skill in equal measure! I am disappointed, however, to report that I didn't reclaim my title of Staff Star Baker, an honour I first achieved back in 2015! There is always next year I suppose!



In my recent whole school assembly, I spoke to students about one of our Trust's core values: belief. This is a particularly important message at this point in the year, as our Year 11 and Year 13 students prepare for their public examinations, which begin shortly after the Easter break. This can be an understandably challenging time, but it is also an opportunity for students to demonstrate all they have learned. We are proud of their efforts and encourage them to believe in themselves, to stay focused, and to approach the coming weeks with confidence and determination. As a school, we will continue to support them every step of the way.

As we conclude the term, I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is vital, and it makes a significant difference to the success and wellbeing of our students. I hope that the Easter break provides an opportunity for rest, reflection, and time with family. We look forward to welcoming students back for what promises to be another exciting and successful summer term.

I look forward to seeing your child/ward back in school on **Monday 20th April 2026**

With very best wishes,
A Keegan
Headteacher



Dates for your diary:

Monday 20th April:

w/c 27th April:

Wednesday 29th April:

Thursday 30th April:

Wednesday 6th May:

7th May-16th June:

Friday 8th May:

Friday 22nd May:

Start of term

Year 10 and 12 mock examinations (2 weeks)

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Year 8 Parents' Evening

'What we believe' Dance show

GCSE/A Level Examinations

David Attenborough Day

End of term

Looking ahead:

Monday 1st June:

Monday 8th June:

Tuesday 9th June:

Friday 19th June:

Monday 22nd June:

Thursday 25th June:

Monday 29th June:

Tuesday 7th July:

Tuesday 14th July:

Tuesday 21st July:

Start of term

Year 12 work experience (3 days)

Key Stage 3 Live Lounge event

INSET DAY (school closed to students)

Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day

Year 11 Prom

Year 10 Work experience (5 days)

Summer Prizegiving Evening

Sports Day

End of Term

Altrincham College - Term Dates

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_irc
- www.instagram.com/actv_altrinchamcollege
- www.instagram.com/altrincham_college_art
- www.instagram.com/ac.careersandenterprise/



**Enrichment...
have a go**

Getting to Know You

Students: you may think you know your teachers, but how well do you really know them?

In this bulletin, we hear from Mr Stephenson, who has worked at our school for nearly 17 years as a PE teacher and the Head of Challenge and Outdoor Education and Duke of Edinburgh:



Q&A

with

MR STEPHENSON,
TEACHER OF PE AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION



QUESTION

WHAT DID YOU STUDY AT SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY?

ANSWER

AT SCHOOL I ENJOYED: PHYSICAL EDUCATION, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY, DRAMA AND MUSIC.
AT UNIVERSITY I STUDIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (MAJOR) AND BUSINESS (MINOR)

QUESTION

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

ANSWER

NOBODY, AS I LOVE MY JOB!

QUESTION

TELL US AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOU:

ANSWER

I AM A MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR I HAVE TWO BLACK BELTS: IN SHUKOKAI KARATE AND FUDOSHIN KAI MARTIAL ARTS, I'M A PADI MASTER SCUBA DIVER.

Inclusive: Baking competitions.



Students were invited to take part in two baking competitions this term!

Firstly, Mrs South's **spring cake competition** saw some fantastic entries. Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students made their own Victoria sponge, jam and then decorated them. Mr Wakefield had the difficult task of choosing a winner, and with entries at such a high standard, this was no mean feat.

Congratulations to the overall winner, **Katie T** and the runners up, **Bobby D** and **Callum R**. Special mention to **Zack F** who was awarded Mr Wakefield's bonus prize.

Great Biology Bake Off

This was a bake-off with a twist, with students applying their baking skills, creativity and knowledge of science to come up with a biology-themed cake.



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The Biology Star Baker prizes were awarded to:

Staff prize: **Ms Diffley**(Poo chart!)

Year 8 prize: **Susie S and Jasmine A** (Flower Cake)

Sixth form prize: **Gabriel and Zak** (Cell phospho lipid bilayer)



Trafford Young Readers

The Trafford Young Readers' Award is a book award for young people aged 11 – 15. We were lucky to take part again this year alongside 10 other Trafford secondary schools.

Three books were shortlisted following suggestions from participating school librarians. The shortlisted books chosen were: **The First Year by Matt Goodfellow, The Line They Drew Through Us by Hiba Noor Khan, and Keep Your Friends Close by Cynthia Murphy.**

The project was led by Mrs Turner and included 10 students from year 7-9, and the final celebration event was held at Sale Waterside Arts where we were able to meet the shortlisted authors.

Our chosen winner Cynthia Murphy was crowned overall winner, so we were very happy! Well done to the wonderful students taking part!





Ambition:

Sixth Form News



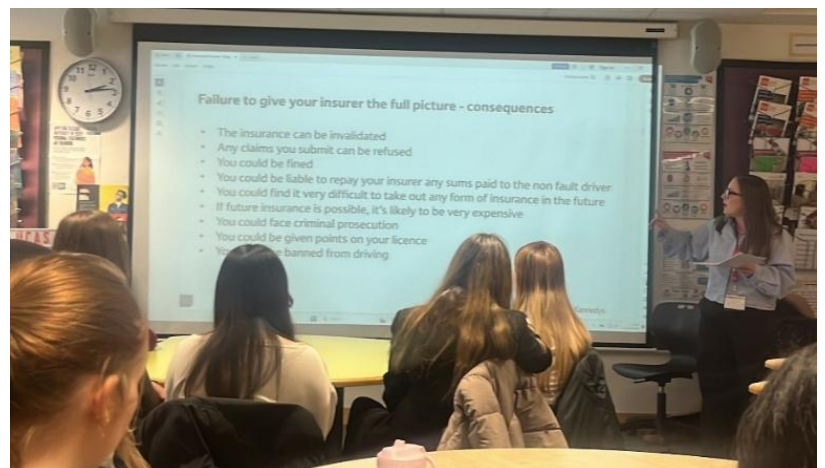
It has been another busy term, none more so than for our **Year 13** students as they move into an intensive phase of preparation for their A Level and vocational examinations, which begin in less than two months' time. Over the coming weeks, teachers will be providing targeted revision, intervention, and personalised guidance to support every student.

We wish all our Year 13s the very best as they continue their preparation. We also have a surprise planned for them on **Friday 24 April** as a well-earned reward for their hard work and commitment this year.

For **Year 12**, learning is also at a crucial stage as students prepare for their mock examinations immediately after the Easter break. To support both students and parents/carers, we held a **Parental Information Evening** last week. We were joined by the Trafford Thrive team, who shared valuable advice about managing exam stress and anxiety, and by Faye from Manchester Metropolitan University, who delivered an excellent overview of the UCAS process and the increasingly competitive Degree Apprenticeship landscape. Thank you to everyone who attended. For those who were unable to make it, the presentations have been shared via SIMs.

Alongside academic preparation, students have continued to benefit from a rich programme of wider experiences.

In March, we welcomed representatives from **Kennedy's Law**, who delivered an engaging workshop on the laws surrounding driving, insurance, and the responsibilities young people take on as they become new drivers. This session prompted thoughtful discussion and was particularly valuable for the many Year 12 students who are learning to drive.



University of Oxford talk

We welcomed Dr Leal from Brasenose College to talk to Year 12 students about applying to Oxford and how to prepare for university admission tests and interviews. As always Dr Leal was very inspiring and gave students invaluable advice!



Year 13 Student Finance Applications

We welcomed Dominic from Manchester Met University to host an assembly about an all-important subject – university finance. For Year 12s it was a first chance to understand how university finance works. For Year 13s, this was a key opportunity to hear how and when to apply for student finance. **Applications are now open: [Apply online for student finance - GOV.UK](#)** A copy of the presentation has been shared with parents and carers.



EPQ

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is an increasingly popular choice with sixth form students. To complete the qualification, Year 12 students delivered a presentation about their chosen topics, and we held a market place style event where they spoke to eloquently about their research to staff and students.



This year's cohort tackled an exciting array of subjects, from 'did the Romanian revolution cause the fall of communism' to 'Should



the age of criminal responsibility in the UK be raised?’



Staff and students visited each stand to hear about their projects and then voted for their favourites! Congratulations to **Abi** who was awarded ‘Best Market Stand’ and to **Hasitha** who was awarded ‘Most Intriguing EPQ’.

Alumni Success

We love nothing more than to hear from our former students so we can continue to celebrate their successes once they’ve left.

Last week, former student Erin (Class of 2025), who is currently studying Sports Journalism at UA92 university was the only first year student invited to join the media team at the annual Class of 92 vs UA92 football match!

Her role was to interview Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes....what an opportunity! Well done Erin!



Year 12 Psychology Taster Day

Year 12 students visited the University of Manchester for a series of lectures about the role of psychologists.

They explored different aspects of psychology, from the use of advanced brain scanning technology to inform psychological research into Dementia, through to the use of behaviour change strategies to motivate people to make lifestyle changes for better health.

During their visit they also conducted the biological psychology practical investigation, interviewing people and gathering research data for their A Level course.



Degree Apprenticeship Workshop for Year 12

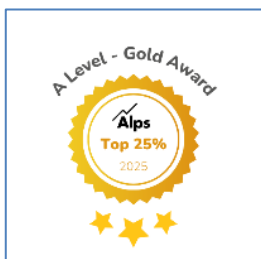
As degree apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly popular option for students, we invited Matthew from Morrisons to deliver an apprenticeship workshop.

The session was full of practical tips from how to write a CV to top tips for smashing your interview!



A very valuable and insightful session that our students loved.

Mr Mahmood, Head of Sixth Form

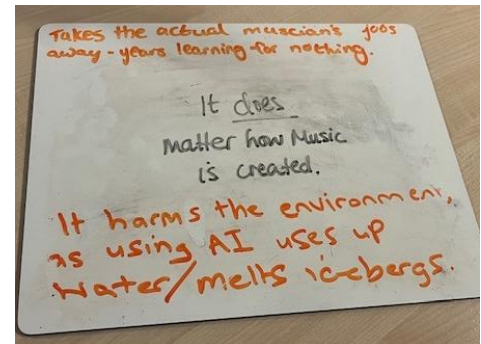


Aspiration: University of Oxford visit

Earlier this week we welcomed Dr Leal from the University of Oxford who worked with a group of Year 9 students. Dr Leal led some interesting discussions around AI and jobs being taken over within the creative industries.

During the first debate, the topic was, "it doesn't matter how music is created, it just matters that people enjoy it."

The session was particularly valuable in guiding students to consider, discuss and in some cases, challenge 'everyday' topics thus developing and refining critical thinking skills that will be useful for academic study and in life generally. Well done all!



Amentum

Year 10 GCSE Triple Science students took part in a STEM takeover day recently, hosted by engineering and technology specialist firm Amentum.

Nico A said: *"I thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Dan was an informative speaker and his enthusiasm for nuclear safety shone through. He was extremely helpful in the task we were set, and it was great fun to collaborate with friends to try to find the questions that will lead to solutions of key issues."*



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Titration

Year 10 Chemistry students have been carrying out Titrations, which is a required practical at GCSE.

In this photo, Year 10 student Avani is carefully analysing the concentration of solutions.



Careers Department

A reminder that students in years 10 and 12 will take part in work experience on the following dates:

- **Year 12: Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th June (3 days)**
- **Year 10: Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July (5 days)**

All placements must be logged via the student's Unifrog account to be authorised. Please contact careers@altrinchamcollege.com with any queries.

Year 10 Practice Interviews

Yesterday, all students in Year 10 had the opportunity to take part in a 'mock interview' to support them when applying for sixth form, colleges and apprenticeships next year. For the majority, mock interviews are their first experience of participating in an interview.

A huge thank you to the employers who gave up their time to support our students. One employer said, *"The event was a really insightful and valuable day for the students to understand their strengths and how they can begin to build their future."*



Belief:

Netball:

Congratulations to our **Year 8** netball team who played in the Trafford Tournament this term, bringing home the SILVER! The team beat two Sale Grammar teams and Loreto, taking AC into the semi finals against Stretford Grammar which was a draw. It then went to golden goal and Abi managed to score the winner!

AC sadly lost 7-3 to AGGS in the final, but the girls played an excellent level of netball, and Mrs Wilden is extremely proud of them. Fantastic achievement girls, well done!



Our **Year 9** netball team have also had a fantastic season.

They attended the annual Trafford Netball competition, where had a very successful night, beating: Stretford Grammar, Urmston Grammar and AGGS, a draw with Wellington and a loss to Loreto.

The girls have had a great season and been a pleasure to work with all year.



The netball season ended on a high with players attending their end of season annual bowling night. They enjoyed some bowling, amusements and had their dinner together. A lovely night for a great group of students! - Mrs Wilden.



Football

Trafford Cup

Our Year 9 boy's football team have had a great start to the Trafford Cup, in particular, Ollie Mo, who scored the goal of the match to earn his POM performance. Well done Ollie! We look forward to hearing the outcome of the next round as they take on BTH!



Trafford Schools' Football Association



Three of our Year 9 students, who play for U14s Trafford celebrated a huge achievement recently with a 3-2 win to take them to a National Cup Final! The squad, made up of some of the best players from Trafford schools, faced Canterbury St Augustine's in the ESFA semi-final.

Albie L, Louie L and Alfie E have done outstandingly well to feature consistently for Trafford, and Albie L was awarded the man of the match! This is the first time in many years that a Trafford district team has reached a national final. Well done boys!

Chloe M

What an achievement for Chloe M (year 10) who played for England U16 Girls' National Football Team in a UEFA Development Tournament in Turkey recently. During the tournament, Chloe played around 80 minutes against Denmark and played half a game against Spain.

Well done Chloe!



Duke of Edinburgh

The Year 10 DofE group had a wonderful day developing their navigating skills around the Rivington area in the West Pennine Moors. They took turns leading each other along exciting paths, reaching land marks from Liverpool Castle Replica and the reservoir, to the Japanese Lake and onto Rivington Pike for lunch.



Many congratulations to these students who gained skills in confidence, problem solving and decision making, preparing them for their next adventure to the Forest of Bowland for their 3-day, 2-night qualifying expedition in June. They were a joy throughout the day! – Mr Stephenson

Star pianist!

Congratulations to outstanding pianist Sarthak S (Year 9) who won awards at two regional music festivals (Ramsbottom and Wirral) over the last fortnight.

A fantastic achievement: two 2nd places at Ramsbottom Music Festival, and 1st place at The Wirral Festival in the Open Piano class. Go Sarthak!!



Rowing Success

A huge well done to Molly in Year 10 who was selected to row in the National Junior Sculling championship at Dorney Lake in Windsor.

Molly and her under 14's Trafford RC crew did extremely well, coming 16th in a field of 54 against all the top crews in Britain (including the likes of Henley RC and elite London schools and clubs). Great work Molly!



Community:

Culture and Diversity Day 2026

Congratulations to everyone involved in our 'Culture and Diversity Day' which raised a whopping **£1,481.65** for Save the Children!



Sustainability

We now have a group of students and staff working as our Sustainability Ambassadors. These ambassadors will support Mr Mahmood and lead a range of initiatives linked to four key areas: **Decarbonisation, Biodiversity, Climate Education & Green Careers, and Site Adaptability**. Our wonderful sixth form students have also set up a sub-biodiversity group.

The first initiative was to provide new paper recycling bins for each classroom in school.

Holocaust Education Trust

The Holocaust Education Trust visited school on 20th March to deliver a workshop to two groups of Year 9 students.

The programme, called Testimony 360, gave our students a virtual reality experience and the opportunity to interact with the testimony of holocaust survivor, Susan Pollack.



Students used the VR headsets to explore Susan's hometown in Hungary and hear her describe her life before the war. Students also had the opportunity to see parts of Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, and the site where Bergen-Belsen extermination camp had stood. Susan was held in both of these camps and she narrated her experiences of both of these places.



Students also had the opportunity to speak with Susan and ask her questions, using her recorded testimony, she responded to students' questions.

The experience was very powerful for our students who were able to visualise different aspects of the holocaust, by hearing how the event unfolded through the story of one person.



The opportunity to ask questions and hear more of her testimony was a really important opportunity for the Year 9s who took part. The representatives from the Trust commented on the quality of questions our students had the depth of their knowledge. – Mr Gillan.



School production:

For those of you lucky enough to watch Annie, we are sure you agree it was a fantastic evening and wonderful to see so many of our pupils involved.

Mrs Morzinski would like to dedicate this year's performance to Mr T. Jackman, who devoted 30 years to Altrincham College as an inspiring and dedicated music teacher. "His passion and commitment left a lasting impact on generations of students and staff. I had the privilege of working alongside him on ten school productions, and his influence continues to be felt in every performance."



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Drama

This term Mrs Mrozinski took her Year 10 GCSE Drama class to see ROAD by Jim Cartwright at the Royal Exchange Theatre.

Mrs Mrozinski explained how the performance began the moment they arrived: as they entered the theatre they stepped back into 1986, with the world of ROAD unfolding all around. They met the neighbours, saw the regulars having a drink in the pub, wandered through a 1980s living room, grabbed a bag of scampi fries and got ready to disco, "because 'owt can happen tonight!"

Afterwards students took part in a Q&A and also got a selfie with Johnny Vegas and he signed some autographs!

The performance was outstanding and the students absolutely loved it.



Wishing you all a wonderful, safe and restful Easter Break!
School returns on **Monday 20th April 2026**