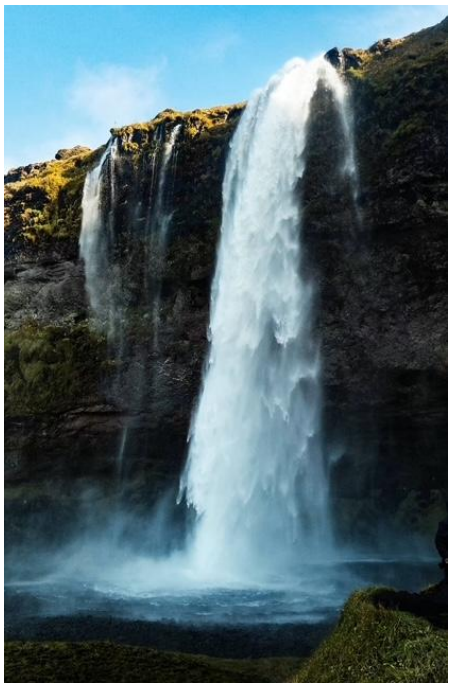
Headteacher's Bulletin: *Friday 23rd October 2026*

Dear Parents and Carers,





As I write this message, I am looking at the stunning waterfall photograph taken by Miss Diffley during the recent Geography trip to Iceland. The image perfectly captures the spirit of opportunity, adventure, discovery and exploration that we want every student to experience during their time at Altrincham College.

As you read this newsletter, some of our Year 13 Business Studies students will be embarking on their own adventure, travelling to the Big Apple for our annual New York trip! These opportunities, alongside visits to Salford Quays, Beeston Castle, Blackpool Sea Life Centre, Duke of Edinburgh activities and numerous sporting events, enrich the curriculum and help our students develop confidence, independence and lifelong memories.

One of the highlights of the half term for me was our Open Evening. Following the event, I had the pleasure of serving hot chocolate as a reward to the many students who had volunteered their time to support the evening, whether as tour guides or by helping departments showcase their work. Their enthusiasm, confidence and professionalism were exceptional. They represented Altrincham College brilliantly and were a credit to both their families and our school. We received many compliments from prospective parents on the warmth, friendliness and maturity of our students, and I could not have been prouder of the way they conducted themselves.

This week also saw our Year 7 Music Showcase, which was a wonderful way to begin the final week of the half term. It was fantastic to see so many of our newest students performing with such confidence and enthusiasm. The event celebrated the talent, commitment and courage of our Year 7 students and highlighted the important role that music and the arts play in the life of our school.

Attendance continues to be a focus for the school. We know that students who attend regularly achieve better outcomes, build stronger relationships and gain more from the many opportunities available to them. Thank you for your

continued support in ensuring that students attend school every day wherever possible and arrive punctually, ready to learn. By working together, we can give every student the very best chance to succeed.

As we reach the end of a successful first half term, I would like to thank all of our students, staff and families for their support and commitment. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 2nd November.

A Keegan
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

Monday 2nd November:	***Start of term***
Thursday 5th November	*Year 7 Parents/Carers' Evening with Form Tutors*
w/c 9th & 16th November:	*Year 11 & 13 Mock Examinations*
Thursday 3rd December:	*GCSE Certificate Collection Evening (5-6pm)*
Monday 14th December:	*Christmas Concert (6-8pm)*
Thursday 17th December:	*Festive Dress Day and Christmas Lunch*
Friday 18th December:	***End of Term (12.30pm finish)***

Please visit our website for information on term dates and inset days:

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_lrc
- www.instagram.com/actv_altrinchamcollege
- www.instagram.com/altrincham_college_art_
- www.instagram.com/ac.careersandenterprise/



Enrichment…have a go!
Visit our school website to find out more:

Altrincham College - Enrichment Timetable and Information

ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE – SEPTEMBER 2026 – FEBRUARY 2027

CLUB	NOTES	LOCATION	TIME	STAFF	YEAR GROUP
MONDAY					
Origami Club	Make amazing things from simply folding paper in a relaxing, friendly and fun space.	Reprographics Room	Afterschool	Mrs Dawson	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10
Skittle	A space for students openly proud, questioning or an ally.	B0-09	Afterschool	Miss Bruckshaw	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
Healthcare Careers Club	Explore healthcare careers, hear from professionals and develop key skills required for healthcare careers.	B1-01	KS4 Lunchtime	Mrs Mitchelmore	Y10 Y11
School Choir		G0-01	Afterschool	Miss Owen	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
Band Skills		G0-03	Afterschool	Mr Wilson	Y7 Y8 Y9
Orchestra	Orchestral instrument players above Grade 1 standard	School Hall	Afterschool	Mr Madden	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
GCSE PE Coursework		C0-18	Afterschool	Mr Jones	Y11
Girls Football		3G Pitch	Afterschool	Mr White	Y7 Y8 Y9
Dance Techniques		Dance Studio	Afterschool	Mrs Wightman	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
TUESDAY					
KS4 Drama SOS	Drama SOS is your chance to get extra support, boost your confidence and take your Drama skills to the next level!	G0-01	Afterschool	Mrs Mrozinski	Y10 Y11
ACTV	A digital media club which documents upcoming news and events and includes learning about film, photography, publishing, editing and animation.	B1-01	Afterschool	Mrs Walmsley	Y7 Y8 Y9
National Theatre Project	Students will produce a play to be entered into a national competition.	A1-05	Afterschool	Miss O'Kelly	*Year 10 by invitation.*
Production Band	For school production of Shrek Junior	Hall	Afterschool	Mr Madden	*All years by invitation*
Boys Football Fixtures		Field	Afterschool	Mr Jones	Y7 Y10
Dance Performance Company		Dance Studio	Afterschool	Mrs Wightman	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
WEDNESDAY					
School Production Cast	Shrek Junior	School Hall	Afterschool	Mrs Mrozinski, Mrs Wightman and Mr Madden	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
Art Club	Learn new art skills whilst and create art work to display around our school environment or to take home.	E0-19	Afterschool	Art Department	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
Science Club	Exploration of how science works in the world	A0-02	Afterschool	Mr Anyon and Science Team	Y7 Y8 Y9
Debate Club	Discussion of a range of topical issues that pupils can decide to discuss.	B0-13	KS3 Lunchtime	Mrs Acharya-Haworth	Y7 Y8 Y9
Badminton		Sports Hall	Afterschool	Mr Guy	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
Netball		Tennis Courts	Afterschool	Mrs Wilden, Mrs Witchalls, Mrs Owen & Mr Stephenson	Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11
Boys Football		Field	Afterschool	Mr White	Y8 Y11

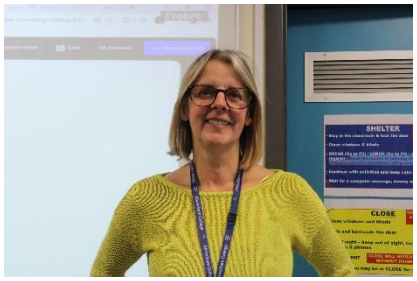


Inclusive:

This 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 us to raise money for the Young Minds charity.

A percentage of this will also go towards the school garden, which the Student Council are currently raising money for, to help to renovate it into a well-being zone. - Miss Walmsley









Ambition:

Sixth Form News

Welcome Year 12!



A very warm welcome to our new Year 12 students as you begin a new chapter in your education. Starting Sixth Form is a significant milestone and students have settled in brilliantly. We encourage you to make the most of every opportunity, embrace Sixth Form life and above all work hard and enjoy the experience!



Our newly appointed **Year 12 Student Leaders** have wasted no time making a positive contribution to the school community. During our recent Open Evening they welcomed visitors, led tours, answered questions and shared their experiences of Sixth Form life so far.

Our student leaders represented the school with confidence, professionalism and enthusiasm. Their support ensured the evening was a great success, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to have throughout the year.





University of Manchester A Level History Trip:

A group of our Sixth Form History students recently had the opportunity to attend an engaging lecture titled, 'History Reimagined for a Changing World.'

A real highlight was hearing from renowned historian and broadcaster Professor David Olusoga, alongside Dr Mark Baker and Maleehah Rehman.



The lecture encouraged students to think critically about how history is studied, interpreted and applied in today's rapidly changing society. Students gained valuable insight into the evolving nature of historical research and the importance of understanding diverse perspectives when examining the past.

The event provided an excellent enrichment opportunity, helping students to deepen their subject knowledge and develop the analytical skills that are essential for success at A Level and beyond.

UCAS Applications

Our Year 13s are busy finalising their personal statements for those all-important UCAS applications. Our school deadline for applications to be submitted is Friday 4th December. Thank you to Dominic from Manchester Met University for his workshop about personal statements earlier this term, which gave students lots of advice, hints and tips.



Sixth Form Applications – 2027 entry



You may well be aware that Altrincham College achieve a "**Strong standard**" following our Ofsted inspection in May for post-16 provision. Inspectors said A Level outcomes had

demonstrated a "**notably sophisticated grasp of subject content**". They added, **"Students, including those with additional needs, leave the post-16 provision with the knowledge, skills and self-assurance needed to succeed in the next stage of their lives."**

We are expecting a record number of Sixth Form applicants this year as a result of this inspection. **Applications are now open** to both internal and external students in Year 11. 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 2027 entry is **Monday 14th December 2026.**

Sixth Form Dates and Events

Half Term Two:	
4th November	MMU Sociology Trip
9th - 20th November	Year 13 Mock Exams
11th November	Y13 Sport Mountain Biking Trip
12th November	Year 12 Media Advertising Agency Trip
3rd December	GCSE Presentation Evening
4th December	Year 12 & 13 Psychology in Action Trip
12th December	Year 12 Sport: Manchester City Community Football Coaching course Taster event
17th December	Christmas Lunch and Festive Dress Day
17th-18th December	A Level Law Trip to Parliament
18th December	End of Term (12.30pm finish)



Mr Mahmood, Head of Sixth Form

Aspiration:



Careers Department

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

- **Year 12: Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th June 2027 (3 days)**
- **Year 10: Monday 28th June – Wednesday 30th June 2027 (3 days)**

All placements must be logged via the student's Unifrog account by **30th November 2026** to be authorised. Please contact careers@altrinchamcollege.com with any queries.

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.

Family Careers Network is hosting a careers fair at Altrincham College on **Wednesday 28th October 3-6pm** (during the half term break).

This is a great opportunity for parents and carers to attend along with students and speak to employers, universities and colleges.


Altrincham College

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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

See the poster below for more information and to book a place:





"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."

Belief:

Football – Mr White

Year 11: AC vs BTH



AC battled to a 2–2 draw against BTH in a tightly contested game, with a late equaliser earning AC a deserved point.

BTH arrived with a large squad of 18/19 players as they looked to establish their squad for the remainder of the league season. In contrast, AC were short on numbers, giving Year 10 students Teddie and Louis the opportunity to make their Year 11 debuts.

The two youngsters made an immediate impact. Louis was involved in some excellent play down the left before finding Teddie, who finished to put AC 1–0 ahead. BTH responded from a corner, with a front-post flick finding its way past Alex to level the scores at 1–1. The game remained extremely close, but BTH then took the lead when a cross to the back post found a free player who finished over Alex to make it 2–1. AC nearly responded before the break when Jamie's effort was saved and the rebound fell to Teddie, who could only put his effort just over the bar.

The second half continued in the same fashion, with very little separating the two sides.

As the half progressed, AC began to show more composure in possession, led by Ethan in central midfield, and continued pushing for an equaliser. With just five minutes remaining, the pressure finally paid off. Jamie picked up the ball on the edge of the box and squeezed his effort into the bottom corner to make it 2–2.

A hard-fought draw in a very evenly matched contest, with particular credit to Teddie and Louis for stepping up from Year 10 and making an impact on their Year 11 debuts.
Final score: AC 2–2 BTH, Goals: Teddie & Jamie, POTM: Ethan

Year 11: AC vs. North Cestrian

Altrincham College produced an excellent attacking display to record an emphatic 8–1 victory over North Cestrian, with Jamie scoring four goals in a Player of the Match performance. AC threatened from the opening stages. Ellis delivered an early cross which Will volleyed narrowly wide, before the opening goal arrived following some excellent football. Toby played Jamie through down the left and his pull-back found Ellis, who finished at the front post to make it 1–0.

The second goal came when Zack found Jamie, who did the rest himself, beating two players before firing high past the goalkeeper at the near post.
AC were now firmly in control. Another excellent move involving Jamie ended with a pull-back for Callum, who finished to make it 3–0. Before half-time, a Toby corner was met by Jamie from close range to give AC a commanding 4–0 lead.
North Cestrian almost pulled one back before the break with a curling effort from the edge of the box, but Alex produced an excellent save to preserve the clean sheet. AC picked up where they left off after half-time. Joel played an excellent through ball to Ellis, who finished confidently for his second of the game and AC's fifth.
North Cestrian eventually got themselves on the scoresheet when Liam slipped and collided with an opposition player inside the area, resulting in a penalty which their captain converted to make it 6–1. AC responded immediately. Will provided the through ball for Jamie, who completed his four-goal haul to make it 7–1. There was still time for one more. Jamie turned provider with a long ball through to Will, who rounded the goalkeeper and finished to complete the scoring at 8–1.

A dominant victory, with some excellent attacking football and plenty of chances created throughout.
Final score: AC 8–1 North Cestrian, Goals: Jamie ×4, Ellis ×2, Callum & Will, POTM: Jamie

Year 8:



AC vs North Cestrian

Altrincham College suffered a difficult 8–1 defeat against North Cestrian, on a day where the visitors were clinical in front of goal despite AC continuing to battle throughout. North Cestrian took the lead from the penalty spot after Yaseen was penalised for a push inside the area, with the resulting penalty emphatically converted for 1–0.

Their second came in frustrating circumstances, with a goal allowed to stand despite the scorer appearing to be two or three yards offside. A superb finish into the top corner from the edge of the box then quickly made it 3–0. AC had Year 7 goalkeeper Calum stepping up in place of Tom, and he produced an excellent save to prevent North Cestrian extending their advantage further.

The game became increasingly difficult for AC, with Ryan fortunate to remain on the pitch following a late challenge from behind. North Cestrian's fourth took a deflection on its way past Calum before another goal made it 5–1. The visitors continued to demonstrate their quality in front of goal, smashing their sixth in off the underside of the crossbar. Calum then produced another good save from a corner, only for North Cestrian to react quickest to the loose ball and make it 7–1. The scoring was completed in spectacular fashion with a strike from around 25 yards flying in for North Cestrian's eighth.

AC continued playing until the final whistle and almost grabbed a late consolation when they were awarded an indirect free kick, but Ollie's effort was pulled narrowly wide.

A tough afternoon for AC against a clinical North Cestrian side, but plenty of credit should go to Calum for stepping up from Year 7 at short notice and making several excellent saves in goal.

Final score: AC 1–8 North Cestrian, Goal: Ollie, POTM: Calum

AC vs Stretford High

The game started brightly with AC creating a number of good opportunities in the opening half. Fletcher tested the Stretford goalkeeper early on with a well-struck free kick that was well saved, before Charlie went close with a clever, lobbed effort that dropped just over the bar. Stretford threatened at the other end but skewed an effort wide, while Ollie also went close for AC with a shot just past the post. Theo then found himself through one-on-one but could only find the side netting. Stretford finished the half strongly, forcing Tom into an outstanding flying save to keep out an effort heading towards the top corner and ensure the teams went into half-time level at 0-0.

Stretford started the second half quickly and took the lead with a scrappy goal shortly after the restart. AC responded well, with Fletcher testing the goalkeeper from long range before some excellent defending from Yaseen produced a crucial block at the other end. A great throw from Oscar then released Fletcher, whose effort flashed narrowly wide as AC pushed for an equaliser. The closest AC came was through Yaseen, who unleashed a powerful strike that smashed against the crossbar.

Unfortunately, Stretford sealed the game late on after Tom was adjudged to have handled the ball outside his penalty area. Stretford took full advantage, scoring directly from the resulting free kick to make it 2-0.
Despite the result, AC created plenty of chances and were unfortunate not to get themselves on the scoresheet. A competitive opening game of the season with plenty of positives to build on as the team look ahead to their next fixture.
Final score: AC 0–2 Stretford POTM: Oscar

Girls' U13 Football – GMCSFA Cup Round 2
What a game! Our U13 girls produced a fantastic performance in a thrilling second-round GMCSFA Cup tie against Hazel Grove, eventually progressing to the next round after a dramatic penalty shootout!
AC started poorly, with pass from Jessie intercepted by Hazel Groves centre forward, who calmly slotted it into the corner to give them an early 1–0 lead. AC responded well, Elizabeth rattled the crossbar with a brilliant strike from outside the box, with Betsy narrowly missing the follow-up. At the other end, Emily, who had stepped up to play in goal for the first half, produced an excellent close-range save.
AC eventually found an equaliser, with a superb finish into the bottom corner from outside the box by Elizabeth. There was more drama when Hazel Grove were awarded a rather harsh penalty for handball against Matilda. However, Emily came to the rescue with a fantastic diving save to her right! Despite further attacking opportunities for AC, Hazel Grove managed to put themself ahead at half time with a 2–1 lead.
Nevaeh took over in goal for the second half, but Hazel Grove struck first, capitalising on a misplaced pass across the box to take a 3–1 lead. AC showed fantastic character and responded immediately. Millie provided the assist for Elizabeth, who finished brilliantly off the inside of the post to make it 3–2. The drama continued when Hazel Grove handled the ball on the goal line, giving AC a penalty of their own. Elizabeth stepped up and confidently converted to complete her hat-trick and tie the game at 3-3.
Betsy then produced a stunning strike from around 20 yards to put us ahead 4-3. Meanwhile Nevaeh made an excellent save from a long-range free kick and Matilda went close with a powerful left footed effort. Hazel Grove refused to give up and capitalised on a defensive mistake to equalise at 4–4, sending the match straight to penalties.
With the game on the line, Elizabeth swapped her shooting boots for goalkeeping gloves and produced an incredible performance in the shootout, saving THREE penalties! Betsy and Elizabeth both converted their spot kicks, securing a 2–1 shootout victory for AC! An incredible cup tie full of goals, drama, outstanding saves and fantastic determination from both teams. The girls showed brilliant resilience and teamwork to battle through to the next round.
Well done, girls! Onto Round 3!
Final score: **AC 4–4 Hazel Grove (AC win 2–1 on penalties), Goalscorers:** Elizabeth x 3 & Betsy, **POTM:** Emily. **Oppositions Player of the Match:** Matilda

Community:

Dance

GCSE Dance Weekend in Wales – Mrs Wightman



From technique classes and choreography workshops to learning professional repertoire with Boy Blue Entertainment, our GCSE dancers have had a jam-packed weekend of creativity, hard work and plenty of laughs. The students have challenged themselves, developed their skills and made some brilliant memories along the way.
For a glimpse of the weekend's activities you'll find videos on our school Dance Instagram account: Instagram

Performing Arts

Rehearsals are officially underway for our exciting production of **Shrek the Musical!** With the cast now confirmed, the team is busy bringing this much-loved story to life, filled with unforgettable characters, fantastic music and plenty of ogre-sized fun. We're looking forward to seeing the show take shape over the coming weeks and can't wait to share all the hard work, creativity and enthusiasm with you. Keep an eye out for more updates as our journey to the swamp continues!

Music

Year 7 Singing Showcase 2026 – Mr Madden
After lunch on Monday 19th 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 pupil at AC to experience and enjoy the life-enhancing benefits – the sense of belonging, common purpose and achievement – that come from singing together. Joined by our fantastic Year 10 band 'Everglades', we practised the songs we've been learning during Period 5, then after school the audience of parents, carers, families and teachers arrived for our Showcase performance.

The Showcase got off to a bang with the West African welcome song Banuwa, followed by pop party favourite I Gotta Feeling by The Black Eyed Peas… accompanied by Everglades and featuring a vocal solo from their lead singer Ayva M!

At this point, the Year 7 singers had earned a rest, so we were all treated to Everglades performing She's Electric by Oasis. This was an excellent opportunity for Year 7 pupils to see where Music can take them, and what they could be doing themselves in a few years' time, with continued musical involvement, dedication and practice.

To finish, the Year 7 singers performed an energetic medley of two classic Disney songs from The Jungle Book: I Wanna Be Like You and The Bare Necessities. Special thanks must be added here to Mr Wilson (drum kit) and Mr Wakefield (piano) for their musical accompaniment, and I would also like to add my thanks here to the PE Department for making the Sports Hall available for us to stage such a big event!

Art

The Art department took Year 10 and Year 12 to Blackpool for a fabulous trip. Year 10 gathered lots of primary research for their GCSE coursework at the Sealife centre and the Pier. Year 12 took inspiration from the Sealife and explored Blackpool focusing on photographing architecture, signs, sweets and urban landscapes. – Miss Walmsley









The Big Draw Festival

The Art department launched the Big Draw Festival this month. Since its launch in 2000, the festival has championed drawing as a universal language and a powerful tool for learning, self-expression, and innovation. Every October, organisers across the globe sign up to be part of the festival. This theme is 'Make a Mark' which is about experimentation and the joy of creating. It's a celebration of drawing and mark-making as something that is open to all.



This year our students took part in a series of drawing workshops in Art club and took part in 'inktober.' in lessons. Students had to draw a series of drawings for the month of October based on the official 'inktober' prompt list.



Textiles

Year 10 students experienced a fused fabric workshop with artist Nikki Parmenter. Students enjoyed learning how to use free machine embroidery and creating embellished ring frames based on natural forms. The pupils really enjoyed having the luxury of a day's workshop and all achieved finished pieces.



Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Iceland

Our Year 11 Geography students recently enjoyed an unforgettable field trip to Iceland, where they experienced some of the country's most spectacular physical geography firsthand.

The trip began with a visit to the famous bridge between continents, where students stood between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates and learned about the processes of plate tectonics and continental drift.

Students then explored Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where they observed dramatic rift valleys, volcanic landscapes and evidence of Iceland's unique geological location along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. This provided an excellent opportunity to connect classroom learning to real-world examples of tectonic activity.

Another highlight was the visit to the magnificent Gullfoss Waterfall. Students witnessed the power of glacial meltwater as it cascaded through a rugged canyon, helping them develop their understanding of river processes and landscape formation.

The most adventurous part of the trip was trekking across Sólheimajökull Glacier. Guided by experts, students explored the glacier's icy surface, examining crevasses, meltwater channels and the visible impacts of climate change on Iceland's glacial environments.

The field trip offered an invaluable opportunity for students to apply their geographical knowledge outside the classroom while developing teamwork, resilience and observational skills. It was an inspiring and memorable experience that brought many aspects of the GCSE Geography curriculum to life.





Safeguarding Bulletin:

Please visit our website to read the latest bulletin: [Altrincham College - Safeguarding Bulletin]

Achieve Learn Trust.
Better, together.

SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

AUTUMN 26 – 1.1

IN THIS ISSUE...

WHAT IS HAZING?

IS IT HAZING?

HOW TO RECOGNISE HAZING

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD

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

It has been wonderful to welcome our young people across the Trust back into school over the past week.

For some children, coming back into school can be a challenging. Some children strugle with the routine, and others struggle with appropriate friendships.

This half term we will be looking at how we as parents and teachers can encourage positive influences and friendships and teach our children how to make appropriate choices .

WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing involving teenagers often incorporates forced or coerced drug and alcohol use as a dangerous rite of passage to gain entry into sports teams, school clubs, or peer groups

Risks and Dynamics

- Peer Pressure: Adolescents experience strong social desires to fit in, making them vulnerable to dangerous demands from older or dominant group members.
- Impaired Judgment: Coerced consumption of alcohol or illicit substances leads to lowered inhibitions, increasing compliance with even riskier or harmful behavior.
- Physical Harm: Teen bodies process intoxicants differently, and forced binge drinking or drug use drastically raises the risk of overdose, neuroinflammation, and physical trauma.

Long-Term Effects

- Self-Medication: Teens who experience physical or psychological trauma from hazing frequently turn to substances like marijuana, prescription pills, or alcohol to cope with anxiety, depression, or PTSD.
- Substance Use Disorders: Early exposure and forced initiation can trigger long-term chemical dependency and severe mental health challenges later in life.

IS IT HAZING?


GMP
PROTECT YOUR PHONE BEFORE IT'S STOLEN
#06#
Record your IMEI number (dial #06#)
IMEI:
Enable Find My iPhone / Find My Device
iOS
PIN
*****
code
Use strong screen locks and two-factor authentication
Register your phone free with Immobilise:
www.immobilise.com
Immobilise
Never buy a second-hand phone unless the seller can prove ownership
Pc Andy Walsh
Trafford High Schools Engagement Officer
GMP - Trafford
Keeping Trafford Safe

A message from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service:

Bonfire night and Halloween should be fun, but they can also bring serious fire risks. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging families to attend organised firework and bonfire events wherever possible, but if you are planning your own firework event you should follow the Firework Code.

If children are dressing up for Halloween, please check costumes are UKCA or CE marked so they meet the required safety standards. Keep all costumes away from naked flames, including candles, and consider using LED candles instead.

Please help everyone enjoy the season safely by talking to children and young people about bonfire and firework safety, respectful behaviour and staying visible when out after dark.

Thank you for your continued hard work to support children, young people and their families across Greater Manchester.
Yours sincerely,

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service



FREE SCHOOL MEAL UPDATE

From September 2026, the government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). All children in households receiving Universal Credit will now be entitled to free school meals, regardless of income level. This means more families will qualify for support. From September 2026 there are two types of eligibility for free school meals.

Targeted Free School Meals
For families who get:

- Universal Credit with household earnings of £7,400 or less per year.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Guarantee element of Pension Credit.

Families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) may also be eligible. If your family has NRPF status, please contact the school office to find out more. Families eligible for targeted free school meals may get additional benefits, including extra funding for schools to support your child's education.

Expanded Free School Meals
For families who get:

- Universal Credit with household earnings above £7,400 per year.

End of Transitional Protection
Temporary protections that allowed children to continue to receive free school meals without rechecking eligibility ended in July 2026.

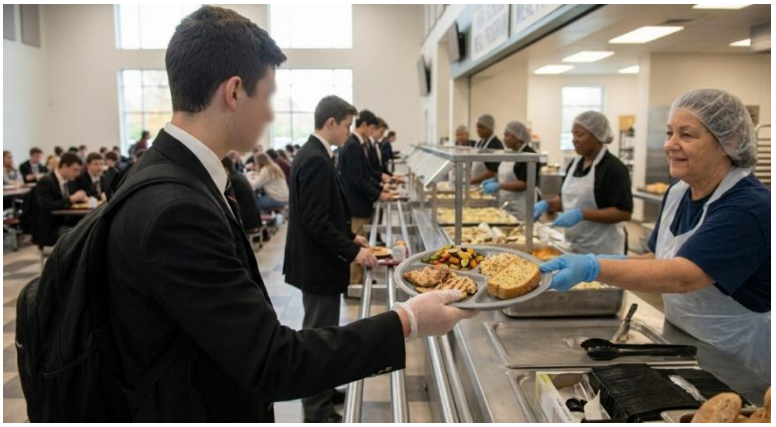
From September 2026 all families will need to meet the updated eligibility criteria. You don't need to do anything as we will automatically recheck your eligibility. We will let you know if anything changes. If you claim Universal Credit or other eligible benefits, it is very important you apply for a free school meal. If you don't make an application, we will not receive the correct funding for your child's meal.

How to Apply
Apply here: https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-trafford

MESSAGE FROM TRAFFORD LOCAL AUTHORITY - FSM HOLIDAY FOOD PAYMENTS ENDED
We wish to let parents and carers know that Free School Meal (FSM) holiday food payments have now come to an end.

This change follows the UK Government's decision to end the Household Support Fund (HSF). This has funded school holiday food payments in Trafford for eligible families over recent years. The new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) has replaced the HSF. Sadly, it has different funding criteria and does not permit funding to be used for universal school holiday food payments schemes. As a result, local authorities like Trafford Council are unable to continue providing this support.

We understand that this news may be concerning, particularly at a time when many families continue to face financial pressures. We want to reassure parents and carers that a range of national and local support remains available to help families access financial assistance, food support and advice when needed.



If you have any further questions about these changes, please email TraffordCRF@trafford.gov.uk