



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

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SEN Coffee and Cake Event

The Inclusion Department were delighted to host their first Coffee and Cake Event this term. The event was attended really well with a packed-out LRC! Parents took the opportunity to meet our new SENDCo, Mrs Noonan, our new Deputy SENDCo, Ms Klays, as well as all the members of our Learning Support Team. Mrs Noonan and our Educational Psychologist, Tracey Woodley-Hume, presented to parents on how we meet the needs of our young people with barriers to learning at Altrincham College. Trafford Family Information Service also attended the event and shared information with parents. Our SEND governor, Karen Stepanova, took the opportunity to meet with the parents of children with SEND at the event. We look forward to our next event in the Summer term.

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Dear Parent and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support this week with the early closure of school. I am sure this must have inconvenienced many families. Unfortunately there are ongoing problems with some parts of the school building but we have now completed all surveys and preliminary work therefore we will re-open on 6th January 2020, utilising different spaces in school which will serve as classrooms. I can reassure you that your child's learning will not be affected by this and our highly professional staff will ensure the best education and student support as they always do.

This term draws to a close after some wonderful activities and events in school! The visit from David Attenborough's Sound Man, Chris Watson, was a real boost for our Careers programme - he was truly inspirational! Members of our student Eco-Committee, students studying GCSE or BTEC Music and 6th formers all listened in awe as Chris played recordings in surround-sound of vultures, cockroaches and hippos which fired their imaginations but also highlighted how amazing creatures such as these are. The evening session for staff and parents highlighted Chris' trip to the South Pole and we were given a unique opportunity to hear David Attenborough commentating on his feelings when entering Terra Nova, Scott's base which was used for that fateful expedition. The whole day was moving; it raised the aspirations of students and gave us all memories which will stay with us for a very long time.

Thanks to donations from parent/carers we were able to purchase microphones for the Drama department and these will be in use in our forthcoming performance of The Twits in February - please get your tickets soon! We also made considerable donations to our local Food Bank this month and thanks go to staff and students who helped but also to you for your support of such a worthwhile cause.

Finally, our students never cease to amaze me by their kindness and generosity; they are a real credit to you! We have had charity fundraising activities led by the 6th Form Enterprise Group and Charities Committee and I must also mention a young man in Year 7 who voluntarily collects litter every day, in all weathers. It is an absolute pleasure to be Headteacher of Altrincham College.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you!

K. Earle

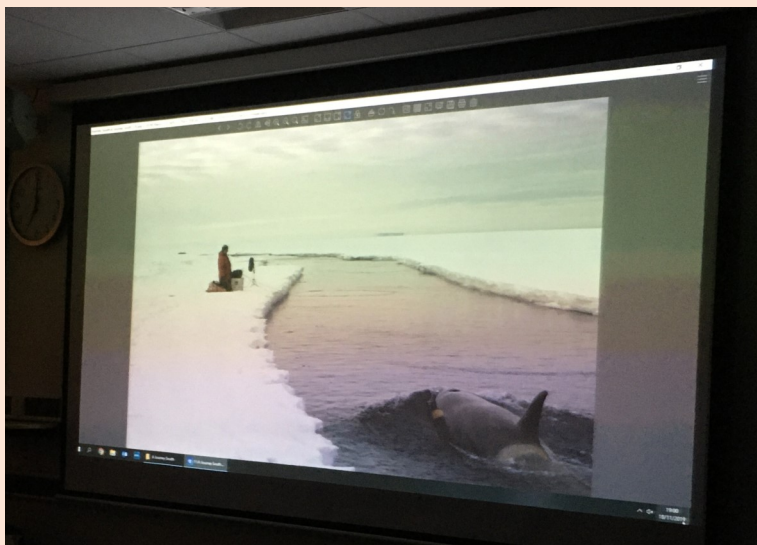
An Evening with Chris Watson

In November, we welcomed Chris Watson into school and he delivered sessions to students about his work and also hosted a paid event in the evening to showcase his work.

Watson was a founding member of the influential Sheffield based experimental music group Cabaret Voltaire during the late 1970's and early 1980's. Since then he has developed a particular and passionate interest in recording the wildlife sounds of animals and habitats from around the world. As a freelance composer and sound recordist Watson specialises creating spatial sound installations which feature a strong sense and spirit of place.



His television work includes many programmes in the David Attenborough 'Life' series including 'The Life of Birds' which won a BAFTA Award for 'Best Factual Sound' in 1996, and as the location sound recordist for the BBC series 'Frozen Planet' which also won a BAFTA Award for 'Best Factual Sound' (2012).



Watson has recorded and featured in many BBC Radio 4 and World Service productions including 'The Wire' which won him the Broadcasting Press Guild's Broadcaster of the Year Award (2012). His music is regularly featured on the BBC Radio 3 programme 'Late Junction' and he has also worked extensively for RTE Radio 1 on series such as 'Sound Stories'

In 2013 Watson received a Paul Hamlyn Composers Award.

His installations have been commissioned by international galleries and festivals such as Sheffield Millennium Gallery, Opera North in Leeds, The National Gallery, London, The Louvre, Paris, the Aichi Triennial in Japan and Unsound in Kraków.

Child Criminal Exploitation Day: Thursday 5th December

On Thursday 5th December we were delighted to invite Gorse Hill Studios into Altrincham College to work with staff and students on heightening the awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines. Staff were given training on how to recognise signs of CCE amongst young people and how to report concerns and support them. Year 9 students took part in workshops through out the day on recognising vulnerabilities in each other and the support available. We were also treated to a performance of the play "Lines" in the afternoon which dealt with the grooming aspect of County Lines and heightened staff and students awareness of how the process starts and the possible outcomes for young people. This was an important piece of work with our young people in developing their resilience and awareness of County Lines gangs and the dangers becoming involved.

Work Experience—Student Feedback and Evaluation:

Year 11 students received feedback forms from the employers and they have evaluated the experience themselves. In the new year, Year 11's will be creating and updating their CV's, so please start thinking about things you could include in yours

Last week Year 10 students should have taken part in the Greater Manchester **Life Readiness Survey**.

Thank you to all those who have submitted Year 10 work experience forms. The deadline was Friday 13 December 2019. Students and parents/carers will be informed in writing as to whether their application has been successful and alongside this a voluntary contribution of £5 will be added onto their parent pay account to help support the administration of these forms.

At some point in the new year all students and parents will receive a survey monkey asking questions about careers provision within school.

Mock Interview Day

A massive thank you to all of the 26 employers that came in to support our Year 11 practice interview morning on 5th November. All Year 11 students were interviewed by at least one employer each.

The employers who interviewed are students included:

- Greater Manchester Police
- Trafford Housing Trust
- PureGym Altrincham
- Thorley Day Nurseries Ltd
- The Cartwright Group
- Ministry of Defence



Feedback from employers included:

- Students were all great and eager to participate.
- Really impressed with how engaged the students were.
- Matching the student's interests with the specific employer made a significant difference, far more meaningful and hopefully the students found that helpful.

Foodbank

On Wednesday 27th November 2019, we delivered our foodbank donations to the Foodbank Warehouse in Timperley. Year 8 students involved in sorting the donations were absolute superstars. They labelled up all of our donations and sorted them out ready for delivery.



Our contributions weighed in a whopping 225kg / 35.4 stone!

Thanks to everyone for all of the kind donations.

PE Successes

The term kicked off with lots of football and netball fixtures. We had mixed fortunes in the Trafford football leagues, with several cancelled fixtures, however the Year 7 & 9 teams performed well.

Year 7 remained unbeaten, until losing to Sale High at home. However some excellent performances from some of our Year 7 students in particular. Netball continues to have a very strong following in school, with Tuesday night netball club remaining very popular. The girls had mixed fortunes in the netball tournaments, across all year groups.



Rugby:

Rugby was a main focus of the PE department this term with the world cup, and we hosted a very successful inter-house rugby competition with the boys. We also had some very exciting matches, performing in the Manchester Schools tournaments and the Trafford Schools league.

Basketball:

Basketball fixtures returned this year with our Year 10 team recording a dramatic win over BTH, winning by a 1 point margin, after they missed a 2 point free throw in the dying seconds.

Netball:

Some brilliant results from the netball teams this term. Year 7 performed brilliantly in their first year in their netball league and Year 8 remained unbeaten in their netball league.

Cross Country Event:

A team attended the Trafford Cross Country championships in December and we performed extremely well as a team, with runners making a fantastic effort to complete the challenging course. Many runners finished in the top 30, with some stand out performances

Golf Reward Trip:

Finally we introduced a termly, sports, reward trip for outstanding effort and achievement in PE during the term. We took 12 students from Years 7-9 to Ringway golf club to experience a coaching session from the club professional. The students really enjoyed the afternoon learning the basic skills and taking part in a chipping competition.

Sixth Form Update:

Our Year 13 students have been working very hard this term on their university and apprenticeship applications. Congratulations to the students who have already completed their UCAS application ahead of the deadline. Many have received offers or invitations to interview at universities such as Oxford, Durham, Warwick, Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester, Leeds, MMU, Salford and more! Three students have also been offered degree apprenticeships. Some of our students who are working on their EPQ's (Extended Project Qualification), recently enjoyed a trip to the University of Manchester where they were taught how to research academic texts and online journals.

Well done to our Year 12 students who have successfully secured work experience placements at companies such as the BBC, Global Media, BUPA, Slater Heelis, to name just a few.

Applications to Sixth Form:

The deadline for applying to Sixth Form for September 2020 start has now been extended to Friday 10th January 2020. To apply for a place, please download the application form in the Sixth Form section of the school website and then email your application to Mrs Pearson (Sixth Form Administrator) at LPN1@mail.altrinchamcollege.com.

