



# AGS Weekly

## Allerton Grange School Weekly Newsletter

It has been an exciting and productive week here at Allerton Grange, and I am delighted to share some highlights with you. Late in the newsletter, there's a reminder about how students can get involved with Black History Month in school (see page 3), and an article highlighting our work, and recent success, in Oracy and Expressive Communication (page 6).

### World Mental Health Day

This past week, we celebrated World Mental Health Day, and I am proud to say that it was a tremendous success. The day was dedicated to raising awareness, promoting self-care, and offering students various opportunities to learn about the importance of mental health. Our dedicated staff led workshops and activities that encouraged our young people to reflect on their emotional well-being and explore practical strategies to support themselves and others.

Thank you to all parents who supported the event and reinforced these important messages at home. Together, we continue to build a culture where every student feels safe, supported, and empowered.



### Year 11 Supporting Success Evening

We recently held our Year 11 Supporting Success Evening, and I was delighted to see so many parents, carers, and students in attendance. This event plays a crucial role in ensuring our students feel fully prepared and supported as they enter this pivotal year of their education. We discussed revision strategies, well-being support, and key information regarding upcoming assessments.

Your engagement and enthusiasm were much appreciated, and we believe that with a strong partnership between school and home, we can give our Year 11 students the best chance of success. If you were unable to attend, you can view the [presentation and other resources](#) on the school website (see page 5 for more information).

### High Standards of Behaviour and Attendance

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the continuing high standards of behaviour and attendance across the school. Our students have shown a fantastic commitment to learning, and the positive atmosphere in classrooms and throughout the school day is a credit to them. High attendance is directly linked to academic success, and I am pleased to report that our figures remain consistently high. We appreciate your ongoing support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and punctually, and we will continue to encourage this positive culture within our school community.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support. Together, we are building a learning environment where every student can thrive, both academically and personally.

**Andy Norrington (Associate Headteacher)**  
**Mike Roper (Headteacher)**

## Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 16 October - Year 13 Parents' Evening (Virtual)  
[Book appointments online](#)

Tuesday 22 October - Year 11 GCSE Drama Devised Performances, 6.00 pm

Thursday 24 October - KS4/5 Concert, 7.00 - 9.00 pm

Friday 25 October - Culture Day

Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November - Half Term Holiday

Monday 4 November - School reopens

Monday 4 November - Battle of the Band Auditions, 3.00 - 5.00 pm

Thursday 7 November - Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.00 - 8.00 pm [Book your place online](#)

Thursday 24 November - KS4&5 Concert, 7.00 - 9.00 pm  
Tickets will be available on ParentPay

Friday 25 November - Culture Day

Thursday 12 December - World of Music Concert

## Training Days 2024-25

The Training Days this school year, when school is closed to students, are on:

**Monday 2 September 2024**

**Friday 20 September 2024**

**Monday 6 January 2025**

**Monday 21 July 2025**

**Tuesday 22 July 2025**

## Ongoing issue with Yahoo (including AOL and Rocketmail) email addresses

This is a reminder that there is an ongoing problem which means we are unable to send emails to Yahoo, AOL and Rocketmail email addresses.

***This is an external problem and not something we can correct within school.***

If you have a Yahoo, AOL or Rocketmail email address, please create a new one with another provider and update us with your contact information to ensure you are receiving all communications from us.  
Thank you for your support.

## Parent/Carer SEND Workshops:



**~ Parent/Carer SEND Workshop ~**

**What is a Parent/Carer SEND Workshop?**

It is a **free** session for parents/carers of children and young people aged 4 to 11 with additional support needs.

The workshop aims to help adults start to explore and understand 'sensory differences' or 'sensory processing difficulties' how this can affect your own and your child's physical and emotional regulation.

The Parent/Carer SEND workshop is delivered by Juniper Tree Therapy, on behalf of LCC SILC Cluster.

**Who is the workshop for?**

- ✓ Parents/carers of children who **do not** have an Education Healthcare Plan (EHCp).
- ✓ Parent/carers with children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder, Dyspraxia, Developmental Coordination Disorder, Learning Difficulties or Learning Disabilities.
- ✓ A formal diagnosis is not required.

**Where and when?** Please choose one of the workshops below

<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b> Leeds City Museum Millennium Square, LS2 8BH	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b> Shine Harehills Rd, Harehills LS8 5HS	<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024</b> Hillside Beeston Rd, Holbeck LS11 8ND	<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> The Vinery Centre Vinery Terrace LS9 9JU
--	---	--	--

**10am to 2pm** – Lunch & Refreshments Provided

To book a place email: [families.first@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:families.first@leeds.gov.uk)

For more information call Send Navigation Team : 07891273893

## Drama and Music Performances:

Family, friends and members of the school community are warmly invited to support our Year 11 Drama students and KS4 & 5 Musicians at their upcoming performances.



**Y11 Drama proudly presents**  
2 new original pieces of theatre  
**'The Murder at Woods Manor'**  
and  
**'The Failed'**

Tuesday 22nd October  
6pm  
Main school hall



**KEY STAGE 4 & 5  
CONCERT**

Thurs 24 October  
7:00-9:00 pm

Tickets: £3 available on ParentPay

You can click on the Extra-Curricular calendar below to open in a web browser:

### Extra-Curricular Activities Calendar

Term 1 – September to December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Samba [L10/10/10/10] For anyone who loves drums & rhythms. Music pool House 8	Art Club Grade 2 & above musicians & singers 3-4.15pm M007	Junior Concert Band Grade 1-3 Musicians - M001	Choir Everyone welcome! 3-4.15pm M002/Hall	KS3 - Coding Club Week 8 M02
KS3 Art Club M002	Years 8-11 Advanced Boxers 3-4.15pm M001/2	Senior Concert Band Grade 4-6 Musicians - M001	Year 2 School of Rock For anyone who wants to learn instruments or enjoys playing as a group 3-4.15pm M001	KS4 - Software Development Club Week 8 M01
	All Years Girls Basketball [Week 8 M007] Sports Hall 3-4pm	Girls Rugby Fields 3-4pm	Year 7 Football Fields 3-4pm	<p><b>ALL YEARS KS3 KS4 KS5</b></p>
	Year 8, 9 & 10 Girls Football Fields 3-4pm	All Years badminton Sports Hall 3-4pm	Year 7 Netball Sports Hall 3-4pm	
	Year 7 Boy's Football Fields 3-4pm	Years 8 & 9 Drama Club 3-4pm Hall/ D005	KS4 - photography catch up M04	
	Year 8 Netball MUGA 3-4pm	Years 7 & 8 Boys Rugby Fields 3-4pm	KS4 - Art catch up M002/3	
	Year 9 Football MUGA 3-4pm	Years 8 Boys Football Fields 3-4pm	Year 9 & 10 Boys Rugby Fields 3-4pm	
	Year 7 Drama Club D005/ Hall 3-4pm	Years 9 & 10 Netball MUGA 3-4pm	Product Design year 10/11 T002 3-4pm	
		KS4 - photography catch up M04	KS5 Social Sciences drop-in L51	
		KS4 - Art catch up M002/3		
		KS4 - JD Design/ Textiles Catch up T002/T008		
		KS4 Science drop-in M007 Chemistry, S011 Physics, S009 Biology 3-4pm		
		KS5 Social Sciences drop-in L51		

## Black History Month at Allerton Grange



All students are invited to take part in Black History Month activities in school.

*Why not put your writing to the test and enter the BHM Essay Competition?*

There are also two more BHM lectures on Thursdays after school, this half term.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

#### LECTURE SERIES

Come along on Thursday afternoons to find out more about...

- Apartheid South Africa:** How did an anti-racist resistance movement grow by the 1980s?  
 Screening of a series of short lectures by Dr Onyeka Nubia (University of Nottingham).  
**Thursday 17 October, 3.15-4pm in L024**

All AGS students and staff are welcome to attend the events!

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

#### BHM ESSAY COMPETITION

"What does Black History Month mean to you?"

We are welcoming written answers to our question including:

- Personal experiences/connections to Black culture
- Nominating a 'Black History Hero' for their achievements
- What Black History you'd like to learn more about in school

This can be in the form of an essay, a poem, a biography – your choice!

Email your contributions to [madow18@allertongrange.com](mailto:madow18@allertongrange.com)  
 Deadline: Friday 25 October

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

#### LECTURE SERIES

Come along on Thursday afternoons to find out more about...

- Black British Feminism:** How did Black Feminist theory and activism emerge in Britain?  
 Screening of a series of short lectures by Professor Heidi Mirza (Goldsmiths, University of London)  
**Thursday 24 October, 3.15-4pm in L024**

All AGS students and staff are welcome to attend the events!

## Sports Results

### Netball

Our **Year 10 Netball team** played their first game of the season on Thursday 3 October against Allerton High. Considering we haven't played a game since February, and have only had two training sessions, the team played with grit and determination.

By the end of the third quarter, we were two goals ahead. However, the opposition started to pass the ball with more accuracy and consistency, and they took the lead with 3 minutes to go. Hannah scored in the last minute to secure a well earned draw.



On Wednesday, it was the turn of **Year 9** to play their first game of the season against Roundhay.

Both of our teams played with great determination and resilience, especially the first team who were up against some Leeds Academy players.

At the third quarter, our first team were down 11-4 and managed to bring it back in the last quarter to 14-9. The AGS second team fared much better, having a storming game and winning 18-2. Well done to you all, you didn't give up!



### Football

On Tuesday, the **Year 7 boys' Football team** played their first game against Carr Manor, and won 4-1.



### Sports Leadership Day

On Wednesday 9 October, Miss Caisley took 9 of our budding leaders to John Charles Centre to take part in a Sports Leadership Day.



The aim of the School Games Leadership Day is to create positive experiences that support the character development of targeted young people so that they can deliver and support activities across the School Games network and in their own school.



Students were grouped and took part in three sports during the day. Leaders can now use their skills to support the delivery of extra-curricular and intra-school competitions. There will also be opportunities across the city to support with Leeds School Games events and to be selected for the West Yorkshire Ambassador Day. The AGS students came away having learnt a lot about leadership and showing they have grown in confidence when speaking in front of other students.

## Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings are all virtual. Parents and carers need to book online appointments to speak to their child's teachers.

You can click on the link below to access the online booking system:

<https://agrange.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

[You can view the Guide to Booking appointments on the school website.](#)

### Parents Evenings 2024-25:

**16 October 2024 - Year 13** Parents' Evening,  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**13 November 2024 - Year 11** Parents' Evening,  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**5 December 2024 - Year 12** Parents' Evening,  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**9 January 2025 - Year 9** Parents' Evening,  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**6 February 2025 - Year 10** Parents' Evening,  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**27 March 2025 - Year 8** Parents' Evening,  
4:30 - 7:30 pm

**23 April 2025 - Year 7** Parents' Evening,  
4.30 - 7.30 pm



**Sixth Form  
Open Evening**

Allerton Grange  
School  
Sixth Form

**7 November 2024  
6-8pm**

## Year 11 Supporting Success

Yesterday, we invited Year 11 parents and carers into school to find out how they can best support their Year 11 child to feel prepared during their GCSE year.

The session focused on GCSE exams, revision strategies, wellbeing and support, and careers. This links to Parents Evenings and School Reports, which are important ways to keep track of how a student is doing in their subjects, and provides the opportunity to think about what can be done differently to have an even better success rate.

You can view the presentation on the [Exams and Revision page of the school website.](#)

There are also useful revision resources, including a revision planner available on this webpage.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Year Team/ KS4 Team.

## English Speaking Union Success for AGS!

*by Ms Halaka, Curriculum Leader for English*

I was delighted to attend the ESU Evelyn Wrench Lecture and Dinner with guest of honour The Rt Hon. the Lord Patten of Barnes KG CH, on behalf of AGS as a finalist in the ESU Oracy Culture Award on Tuesday 8th October. Not only was this a fantastic event, with an inspiring lecture from Lord Patten on 'Free Speech', but it was also an absolute honour (and a lovely surprise!) to be awarded Runner-up in the ESU Oracy Culture Award 2024. The ESU judges were particularly impressed by our Public Speaking Competition for Year 7 and Year 8 students, now in its third year, our Debating Society, now open to Year 10 upwards, and our approach to developing Oracy and Expressive Communication in English lessons across the age range.

Lord Patten spoke about the value of free speech, exploring ideas about the importance of expressing viewpoints with passion and conviction - and without relying on notes - and the challenging but vital skill of thinking critically and expressing your thoughts clearly. He also discussed grappling with views that you disagree with and even are enraged by (he joked about the ability of the newspapers to irritate and enrage him every single day), and the need to remember that it is totally acceptable to disagree with each other, but that we need to disagree agreeably! However, he warned against the worrying use of communication to incite hatred and harm, citing the recent riots in the UK and the concerning use of hate speech to move others to violence. He linked these ideas back to the spread of hatred in Europe during the 1930s and the fear felt by those who were - and still are - targeted and persecuted under totalitarian regimes. He said it was important to fight for your values (such as free speech) but even more important to live up to your values. He ended on a hopeful note of optimism, reminding us that, on the whole, our society is a force for good and our commitment to education, particularly oracy as a fundamental part of education, is the way to ensure society continues to function effectively.

As you'll be aware, Oracy and Expressive Communication are fundamental to our school community here at AGS. You'll no doubt have heard on the news recently that there is a shift to recognising the importance of oracy in education. In fact, just earlier this week there was a report published by the Oracy Education Commission calling for oracy to be given equal status to reading, writing, and arithmetic. You can read the full report here: [We-need-to-talk-2024.pdf \(oracyeducationcommission.co.uk\)](https://www.oracyeducationcommission.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/We-need-to-talk-2024.pdf)

At AGS, we have long believed in the power of effective communication - not just to enable our students to be successful in their studies, but to give them the confidence to navigate the complex and sometimes confusing world in which we live. We know that students who can express themselves effectively and confidently tend to be more engaged with their education and the world around them. We want every single student at AGS to be a confident communicator: in lessons, around school, and as members of their local and wider communities, and we are committed to supporting them on this journey, allowing them to flourish and to find the joy in their educational experiences. In a world of robots and AI, we want our students to be happy human beings capable of critical thinking, clear and convincing expression, and emotional connection, living meaningful lives.

Oracy is linked directly to all of our AGS student virtues: the way in which we speak and communicate allows us to show respect and compassion; we all have to be responsible communicators who are committed to improving the way in which we speak and communicate; we need to be curious when listening and attending to others and often courageous - it isn't always easy to speak up or share what you're thinking - this requires a certain vulnerability and a willingness to move beyond our comfort zones; so much of oracy and expressive communication is about putting yourself out there, being ambitious for ourselves and each other, and having a belief in ourselves - and in each other. Finally, speaking up and communicating is a sure-fire way of showing that we are proud to be students - and teachers - at AGS; it was such an honour to represent our amazing community at the ESU event, and I could not be prouder of our students and staff for all the wonderful work they do each day.

### **Supporting oracy and expressive communication at home**

Please do communicate regularly and mindfully with your children - encourage them to speak and communicate with confidence and at length, to make eye contact with you and to use their body language to support their message. You could ask them to tell you about their current favourite TV programme or game, or ask them to explain something they learnt in a lesson that day, or you could watch or read something together and then let your child tell you their ideas about what you've just experienced together. Give them your full attention when you listen to them and you will see what wonderful things they are capable of communicating to you.

## **Dropping off and collecting students at the end of the day**

If you are dropping off or collecting children by car at the beginning and end of the day, please be considerate to pedestrians and other road users.

The Talbot Avenue entrance is a pedestrian entrance for students and is very busy before and after school.

**We are concerned that there will be a serious accident, due to dangerous driving and parking, and ask parents and carers to be more careful.**

**Please do not stop outside school on Talbot Avenue to drop off or pick up children. This poses a risk to both drivers and pedestrians.**

The Turning Circle, accessible from Lidgett Lane, is there for parents and carers to drop off and pick up children.

Alternatively, you can arrange to collect children from nearby streets.

Students will be reminded in school about road safety, and the importance of checking for traffic before crossing a road. Please talk to your children about road safety, particularly if they are walking to school by themselves for the first time.

The safety of our students is our priority, and we must ensure they are able to always enter and exit the school site safely.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



### **Access to the School Site**

#### **Morning:**

**Talbot Avenue** - The gates open at 8.10 am and close at 8.40 am. Students arriving late will need to press the Student button at the gate to be let through to the Student Entrance/ Attendance Office.

**Lidgett Lane** - The gates will open at 8.15 am and close at 8.25 am. Students arriving late will need to enter school via Talbot Avenue. All cars must leave the Turning Circle area by 8.25 am.

#### **Afternoon:**

**Talbot Avenue** - The gates open at 3.00 pm and close at 3.30 pm.

**Lidgett Lane** - The gates to the Turning Circle open at 2.40 pm and will be locked at 3.30 pm. All cars must leave this area by 3.30 pm, when the gates will be locked.

Students staying in school for after school activities will be supervised by staff and taken to the gate to leave safely via Talbot Avenue.

**Don't start your day by being late to school!**  
**Students need to be in school, in their form room, at 8.25 am**  
**ready for the register to be taken at 8.30 am.**

## SCHOOL DAY 2024-25

Timetable A Years 10/11/12/13		Timetable B Years 8/9		Timetable C Year 7	
8:25am		Warning Bell		8:25am	
8:30am	REGISTRATION				8:30am
8:50am	DEAR	DEAR		DEAR	8:50am
9:15am	1	1		1	9:15am
10:05am	2	BREAK	10:05am	2	10:05am
10:55am	BREAK	2		BREAK	10:30am
11:15am	3	3		3	10:50am
12:05pm	4	LUNCH	12:05pm	4	11:15am
12:55pm	LUNCH	4	12:30pm	LUNCH	12:05pm
1:20pm	5	5		5	12:30pm
2:10pm	6	6		6	12:55pm
3:00pm					1:20pm
	After School Provisions/Detentions begin				2:10pm
					3:00pm

**September:**  
 Year 7 start break 5 minutes early at 10.25 am to aid with their transition

All students should leave the school site by 3.10pm unless attending a session 7 or working with a member of staff. There is to be no waiting in the cafe after school. The only students in the building must be involved in Enrichment sessions, a session 7, or isolation/detention.