



# AGS Weekly

*Allerton Grange School Weekly Newsletter*

## **Headteacher Recruitment**

The planning and preparation for the appointment of a new Headteacher commenced in June this year, to ensure that the Governing Body had sufficient time to advertise the vacancy at the start of the academic year, giving us time to readvertise if necessary.

Five prospective candidates accepted the offer to visit the school prior to making the decision to apply, of which four external applicants applied, plus Andy Norrington as an internal applicant. The Governors met, with the support of the School Improvement Adviser, Pete Whelan and consultant Tudor Griffiths (recently retired Headteacher and Ofsted inspector), to shortlist the candidates to invite for interview. This process was extremely rigorous, and it was agreed that we should shortlist three candidates (including Andy Norrington).

Wednesday was a full day for the candidates which included the following panels overseen by governors and consultants/advisors:

- Leadership and Management
- Teaching and Learning
- Students
- Staff
- Testing the Temperature
- Learning Walk
- In-tray Exercise
- Staff Meeting

At the end of Wednesday, the Governors and consultants/advisors met to deliberate and to decide who to invite to the Day two formal interview on Thursday.

Day two was once again extremely robust with a presentation and formal interview to ensure that the Governors were confident in being able to make an appointment who would be able to not only continue the journey that AGS has been on but to take it to the next level.

I am delighted to inform you that the Governors offered and ratified the appointment of Andy Norrington to the Headteacher position commencing September 2025, and he has accepted.

We look forward to working with Andy and the Senior Leadership Team as we move forward in this exciting new chapter.

**Barbara Trayer (Chair of the Board of Governors)**

## **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.

## Dates for your Diary:

**Tuesday 26 November - Flu Vaccinations (Years 7 to 11)**

**Wednesday 4 December - Year 10 Theatre Trip to Blood Brothers**

**Thursday 5 December - Year 12 Parents' Evening**  
[Book online appointments](#)

**Tuesday 10 December - Duke of Edinburgh Parents' Information Evening, 5.30 - 6.30 pm**

**Thursday 12 December - World of Music Concert**  
Tickets on ParentPay

**Friday 20 December - Last Day of Term**

## 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**

**Autism Arena** - Support for parent carers of autistic children (with or without a diagnosis) to navigate health & social care, education and leisure.



[Autism Arena](#) is a new locally based non-profit community interest company that aims to help parents and carers understand autism and neurodiversity better, empower them to be more confident advocates for their child and have a positive impact on family time and family support.

Autism Arena are a team consisting of a GP, children's social worker and a teacher (SENCo) who all have lived experience as parents/carers of autistic and neurodivergent children. They understand the challenges that families face and want to share their skills to help make other families' journeys easier.

They have funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver webinars and peer support sessions online in the 2024-25 school year. They are also offering free in-person SEND events/ coffee mornings in settings. [Find out more.](#)

## 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 (EHC).
- ✓ 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
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**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

## Neurodiversity Focus Group

Leeds SENDIASS is jointly commissioned with the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

They are currently gathering new information from parents and carers and their families about their experiences of neurodiversity support.

If you are a parent or carer and you have a child or young person with neurodiversity and would like to join the neurodiversity focus group, please send an email to:

[leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk) and write **FAO Allison** in the subject heading.

You can also leave a message on their answering service: **0113 378 5020**.

## Parents Evening - Year 8 - Change of Date

Please note that the Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening will take place on **Thursday 27 February 2025, 4.30 - 7.30 pm**.

*This was originally planned for Thursday 27 March, 4.30 - 7.30 pm.*

## Sports Results

### Netball

On Tuesday, the **Year 7 & 8 team** played Trinity Academy Leeds and both teams were successful, with Year 7 winning 10-1 and Year 8 winning 4-1.

### Football

Our **Year 8 boys' Football team** played Sherburn and won 7-3 in the English Schools FA Cup and they are through to the next round. Lucas scored two fantastic goals, and Mr Tomlinson awarded him Man of the Match.

### Cross Country

It was the second round of the **Leeds Schools Cross Country Competition** on Saturday 9 November at Cardinal Heenan. Ewan R stormed to victory again in under 9 minutes, achieving first place out of 96 competitors; Woody B came 7th out of 23; and George B, in his first ever race, ended in the middle of the pack. Well done to all students, the next race is in December at Prince Henry's Grammar.

### Ice Hockey

On Saturday 16 November, Miss Caisley went to watch Sophie L play for the Leeds Roses Ice Hockey Team in a top of the table clash against Telford Wrekin Raiders. Sophie is a forward and for the first time was part of the first line, composed of the best offensive players on the team.



Teams rely heavily on this line, which generates the bulk of the team's scoring. These players often see the highest number of minutes among forwards in a game and are usually part of the team's starting lineup. She was superb, covering distances at the speed of light, being strong in defence and amazing in attack, so much so that she scored the only goal for her team. Sophie was also named MVP (Most Valuable Player) which is a great honour.

### SEND Bowling Trip

On Monday, a group of our SEND students had an exciting start to the week with a trip to compete in a bowling competition!



Well done to you everyone who took part.

### Student Council

This week, members of our Student Council took part in a panel interview during the Headteacher interviews, alongside Anna Lees, a member of the Board of Governors, and Tudor Griffiths, an external consultant who is a former Headteacher and Ofsted Inspector.

Thank you to Maryam, Aditya, Ewan, Darcy, Temi, Nicholas and Joel.

We are always impressed with our student leaders and this group were very mature and outstanding ambassadors for our school.





## Booktober Celebration

by Mr Ellis, School Librarian

October became Booktober as Allerton Grange Students embarked on a month-long sponsored read. Between them they raised £362 for Read Easy UK, a charity which helps people learn to read. Since Literacy is one of the cornerstones of the Allerton Grange Curriculum, we thought this was a great charity to support!



Alongside raising money, the real benefit to the students that took part was establishing a regular reading habit. Studies show that children who read regularly not only gain higher results, but have higher levels of self-esteem and empathy.

Our Booktober participants racked up over 6000 pages read in over 5000 minutes spent reading.

A huge well done and thank you to all those that took part, and thank you to anyone who sponsored them for your support.

**Join us for our World of Music Concert on 12 December - Tickets are £4 and available on ParentPay**



## Year 12 visit the University of Leeds

by Ms Ryding

On Thursday this week, 25 Year 12 students spent the day at the University of Leeds as part of the Extended Project Qualification course (EPQ).

They got a real taste of university life with a full campus tour, information on how to join and use the library to support their A level studies, and experienced lectures exactly as they would at university.



This was in addition to learning and practising the key skills for their A level studies like critical thinking, how to conduct research and reach research informed conclusions and how to create accurate references so that they can avoid plagiarism.



The team at the University of Leeds do lots of work with AGS and will be coming in later in the year to work with our students again when they're further along in their EPQ process and are learning how to apply all their research to their chosen question.

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 [Archives] For anyone who loves drums & rhythms. Music pod floor 8	Jazz club Grade 7 & above musicians & singers 3-4.15pm M003	Junior Concert Band Grade 1-3 Musicians - M001	Choir Everyone welcome! 3-4.15pm M002/HuB	KS3 - Coding Club Week 8, M02
KS3 Art Club M02	Years 8-11 Advanced Trackers 3-4.15pm M001/2	Senior Concert Band Grade 4-6 Musicians - M001	Year 7 School of Rock For anyone who wants to learn instruments or enjoys playing in a group 3-4.15pm M001	KS4 - Software Development Club Week 6, M05
	All Years Girls Basketball (Week 8 ONLY) 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 HuB/D005	KS4 - photography catch up A004	
	Year 8 Netball MUGA 3-4pm	Years 7 & 8 Boys Rugby Fields 3-4pm	KS4 - Art catch up M02/3	
	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/ HuB 3-4pm	Years 9 & 10 Netball MUGA 3-4pm	Product Design year 10/11 T002 3-4pm	
		KS4 - photography catch up A004	KS5 Social Sciences drop-in L51	
		KS4 - Art catch up M02/3	Latin Club- all year groups L20	
		KS4 - 3D Design/ Trackers Catch up T001/T010		
		KS4 Science drop-in M002 Chemistry, S011 Physics, S001 Biology 3-4pm		
		KS5 Social Sciences drop-in L51		



### NHS Advice: Cold and Flu Season

To stay well and reduce the risk of spreading flu:

- **Wash your hands often with warm water and soap.**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze** (if you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow, not into your hand)
- **Bin used tissues as quickly as possible.**

**More information is available on the NHS website.**

### Flu Vaccinations

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 are eligible for a flu vaccination. The NHS School Aged Immunisation Service Team will be in school on 26 November 2024 to give the flu vaccine to these students, if parental consent has been given.

**Students will receive slips with their appointment time in school.**

**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	2	10:05am
10:55am	BREAK	2	BREAK	10:30am
11:15am	3	3	3	10:50am
12:05pm	4	LUNCH	4	11:15am
12:55pm	LUNCH	4	LUNCH	12:05pm
1:20pm	5	5	5	12:30pm
2:10pm	6	6	6	12:55pm
3:00pm				1:20pm
				2:10pm
				3:00pm

After School Provisions/Detentions begin

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.