



AGS Weekly

Allerton Grange School Weekly Newsletter

Dear Allerton Grange community,

As we approach the end of this term, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared at Allerton Grange. It's been a long term, no doubt, but one filled with moments that have made it truly enjoyable and rewarding.

Our students have once again proven their mettle, showcasing remarkable success across all areas of the curriculum. From academic achievements to outstanding performances in the arts and sports, they've demonstrated the breadth of talent we nurture here at AGS. It's a testament to their hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our parent/carer community.

I've been particularly moved by the fantastic support shown for our local food bank appeal. The generosity and community spirit displayed by our students, staff, and families embody the values we hold dear at Allerton Grange.

Your contributions will make a real difference to those in need this holiday season.



As we wind down for the break, I'd like to extend my warmest wishes to those members of our community who are celebrating Christmas. May your festivities be filled with joy, love, and togetherness.

To all members of the AGS family, regardless of how you spend this time, I hope the holiday period brings you rest, relaxation, and the opportunity to recharge. It's a well-deserved break after the efforts of this term.

Our school community has shown, once again, that we are more than just a place of learning – we are a family that supports, celebrates, and grows together. As we look forward to the new year, I'm filled with optimism for what we can achieve together.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Here's to a restful holiday and an exciting new term ahead.

Andrew Norrington (Associate Headteacher)

Support during the holidays

If you need support during the holidays - our safe@allertongrange.com email address will be monitored 24/7. You can also find help and support on the [Mind website](#).

End of Term Message from Barbara Trayer, Chair of the Board of Governors

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, the Governors would like to share some examples of the involvement that we have had with the school during this term other than attend the Full Governing Body, Strategy and Resources, Personal Development/Behaviour/Attendance and Quality of Education meetings.

All Governors have completed the Prevent Training course to ensure that we are all fully compliant during our frequent visits and meetings in school.

Dan Carver, Jo Travis and I met with the school's LEA improvement advisor to review the Headteacher's performance management for 2023/24. As Mr Roper will be retiring at the end of this academic year, it was agreed that both Mr Roper and Mr Norrington, as the Associate Headteacher, have similar targets. This was a very informative, productive, and positive meeting which will continue to provide opportunities for the school to further develop and meet the vision of becoming 'Outstanding'.

I was privileged and overwhelmed to experience another wonderful Culture Day which was organised by the Student Leadership Team. The outfits, music and stalls of products that were available were a credit to the entire school community. Anna Lees and I, along with many representatives from the business community spent a morning interviewing some Year 11 students in preparation for their progression into Post 16 options where their maturity and confidence was outstanding. Joanne Travis attended the World of Music Concert on 12 December who reported that the show was 'Brilliant'!

In addition to my weekly meetings with Mr Norrington and Mr Roper and Governing Board meetings, I have met with the Safeguarding Team, Director of KS4/5, Deputy Headteacher Quality of Education, Early Careers Teacher Lead and Curriculum Leader for Maths all of which have been extremely positive and showcases the fantastic work that is taking place at Allerton Grange School to ensure that every student can maximise their potential as well as being aspirational. Dan Carver has met with Patrick Fletcher, Finance Manager. All these meetings have been extremely positive which have showcased the superb work that is taking place as well as the priorities for the Spring and Summer Terms.

This has also been a very busy term in the planning for, shortlisting and appointment of the new Headteacher for September 2025. The interviews took place on 20 and 21 November where we invited 3 candidates (2 external and 1 internal) to meet with a group of governors and 4 education consultants who were supported by Natalie Watson, HR Manager. We are delighted to inform you that the successful candidate, after a robust process, is Andy Norrington. We are looking forward to working with Andy who will be able to build upon the growth and success of Allerton Grange School, supported by the outstanding Senior Leadership/Middle Leader Teams and all staff. We believe he is well placed to take the school to the next stage of its growth and development.

The update regarding academisation is as follows: the 2030 deadline for all schools to either have become or in the process of becoming an academy is no longer the case. The Labour Government have retracted some of the previous support/actions in that an individual school can no longer apply to become a stand-alone academy, the funding given to state schools to convert to academy status has been withdrawn and that small trusts must merge or be taken over by another or larger trust. Based upon this information, the Governing Body would like to confirm that Allerton Grange will continue to be part of the LEA for the foreseeable future. However, at the same time, we will ensure that we are monitoring the latest information from the Department for Education and will review our position as and when necessary to ensure that we have the best possible support for the ongoing development of AGS.

The fantastic work that is carried out by the Attendance Team has been acknowledged and rewarded externally in that Allerton Grange is in the top 25% of all schools nationally and in the top 10% of schools that are similar in cohorts of students. This is a most wonderful achievement and confirms how the students who are privileged to be educated at the school enjoy, succeed, feel safe and thrive here.

The Governors have been invited to the end of term staff Star Awards presentations which is fantastic to see the surprises on colleagues faces when they find out that they have been chosen – a fabulous way to finish 2024!

Wishing you all seasons' greetings from the Governing Body and a Happy 2025.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 6 January 2025 - Training Day - School is closed to students

Tuesday 7 January 2025 - First Day of Term

Wednesday 8 January 2025 - A level Certificate Collection, 3.30 - 4.30 pm

Thursday 9 January 2025 - Year 9 Parents' Evening (Online Appointments), 4.30 - 7.30 pm, [Book your appointments](#)

Tuesday 14 January 2025 - Year 9 DTP Men MMR Vaccines. Please complete the [online form](#) to give your consent (Yes) or to refuse consent (No). The code for Allerton Grange School is EE108058.

Thursday 23 January 2025 - Red Kite Battle of the Bands, 6.30 - 9.00 pm at the Wardrobe, Leeds

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

Drama Masterclass

by Mrs Spencer-Matthews

On Saturday 14 December the cast of Guys and Dolls came in to school for an extra special rehearsal with West End choreographer and performer Tino Sibanda.

Tino has worked extensively in theatre on West End shows including Moulin Rouge and the most recent incarnation of Guys and Dolls.

Our students conducted themselves with professionalism and enthusiasm, soaking up the pearls of wisdom offered by Tino to produce some absolutely wonderful movement work.

The students were a joy, with the boys in particular exceeding all expectations.

Thanks to Mrs Neilson for putting us in touch with Tino - a former pupil of hers, and along with Mrs Spencer-Matthews and Mr Hansen for giving up their Saturday.

In a few years time, we are sure that some of these students will be returning to us to deliver Musical Theatre masterclasses to the next generation of performers.



We're very excited about this year's school musical Guys and Dolls.

The show runs from 11 to 13 February 2025 and tickets are available now from ParentPay.

Tickets would make a great Christmas present!

Sports Fixture Results

Cross Country

Saturday 14 December was the third Leeds Cross Country Event and also the trials for Leeds Schools Cross Country team. Five students entered, Ellie was second in the girls race, Ewan was 5th and Woody was 13th. Reuben ran in the U15 race and was 11th. It was a very fast flat course, and all our runners did extremely well. Well done to Reuben, Ellie and Ewan who have all been asked to represent Leeds Schools in the West Yorkshire trials in February 2025.

Badminton

On Tuesday evening, the Badminton team played over at Roundhay. The **Year 7 team** drew 4-4, **KS3 boys** lost 5-3, **KS4 boys** drew 4-4 and the KS4 girls who played a friendly match lost as well.

Our students again were amazing, with some students playing up for a year group higher.



Sparx Maths

This year in Maths, Years 7-10 are using SPARX to complete their homework. This allows each student to receive individual and challenging tasks to help maximise their progress.

We have had competitions throughout the half term to see which students have engaged with SPARX the most.

The top five students are:

- Evan (7ag3)
- Ethan (7ag7)
- Usmaan (7ag6)
- Georgia (7ag4)
- Tasrin (10ag7)

These students have completed lots of additional tasks in addition to the weekly homework.

Well done to these, and every student for their hard work this half term.



World of Music Concert Review by Sam in Year 9

On Thursday 12 December, we held our annual World of Music Concert. This concert showcased our school's incredible talent for music and the wide range of instruments that are played here at Allerton Grange.

We had many performances, including Adam on the bagpipes, the Neon Penguins who played Crazy Train by Ozzy Osbourne and a surprise teacher performance of White Christmas, just to name a few.

It was brilliant to listen to and to watch, so thank you to everyone who performed or came to see what music is like at AGS!



DAHIT News

Staff and students in DAHIT, our Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team, have had a very busy and exciting end to the term.

Last week, they went to watch a pantomime (Oh yes they did!). On Tuesday 17 December, they held their Deaf Assembly and on Wednesday 18 December they hosted a party for children from Moor Allerton Hall Primary School. They played games and had some tasty snacks. Our students were excellent role models to the younger students. Thank you all!



Then, on Thursday 19 December, they went on a trip to try ice skating at the Ice Cube outdoor rink at Millennium Square, Leeds. All the students took on the challenge and had a very fun morning!



Leeds Youth Orchestra Trip

On Tuesday, we took a small group of Year 7 students to see the 'Leeds Youth Orchestra' accompany 'The Snowman'.

We heard music from Tchaikovsky, Christmas Carols and of course, Howard Blakes beautiful 'Walking in the air'.

Serena in 7ag7 said: "The atmosphere and music played by the orchestra was really nice and Christmassy and inspiring".



Rewards Assemblies

This week, students in all year groups took part in Rewards Assemblies.

Huge congratulations to everyone who was recognised for their achievements this term.

Each day, Music students performed in the assemblies:

- Monday (Year 7) it was the Brass Band (Leon, Oscar, Thaleia, Chloe & Alfie) and the Choir
- Tuesday (Year 8) it was the Year 8 Band (Xavier, Coraline, Amber & Louise) and DJ Jacob
- Wednesday (Year 9) it was the band Neon Penguins (Sam, Naveen, Josiah, Thomas & Charlie)
- Thursday it was Nicholas and the Brass Group
- Friday (Year 11) Jasmine and Sofia closed the week

Thank you to all of our musicians and each audience.



A group of KS3 students also received 'Golden Tickets' to attend a Film Reward afternoon on Wednesday.

Well done to everyone!

Bebras Competition Success

The results are in from this year's Bebras competition and we have had some great success.

Eleven students achieved gold standard which is the top 10% nationally for their age group.

Congratulations to:

Tom,	Yusuf,
Atticus,	Gideon,
Imogen,	Ollie,
Anaïs,	Jasper,
Elizabeth,	James,
Ming.	

They received their certificates at Rewards Assemblies this week.

Drama and Classics London Trip

Our very first Drama and Classics trip to London was an absolutely smashing experience for everyone involved.

After a smooth journey to the big smoke and an almost smooth check-in at our hotel, we had a slightly soggy, but twinkly lit walk through central London to Covent Garden. Pizza Hut was a hit although there were some interesting concoctions made at the self-serve drinks station! Then it was time for Hadestown, the smash hit musical of the stories of Hades and Persephone, and Orpheus and Eurydice. We were all absolutely blown away by the staging, the choreography, the music, all of it! Henry said: "it was great how they'd adapted it so that Hades was described as the rattlesnake instead of using one as a weapon." Noah enthused that "they'd taken the myths and expanded them into a new world". Year 11 Drama said nothing but they haven't stopped singing yet!

Thursday was an opportunity for Classics to explore the British Museum whilst Drama had a stage fighting workshop and a Q&A with one of the cast of Hadestown. Mrs SM was impressed with the mature questions asked as our students found out all about what life is like for a professional performer - we can definitely see this career path as an option for many of our students. On both activities, our students were curious and committed, embodying our AGS virtues.

We finished off our stint in London with the hilarious The Play That Goes Wrong. Euan said "it was absolutely brilliant" and we are inclined to agree with him.

Thank you to all our wonderful students for a fantastic trip - looking forward to planning more adventures with you soon!



English Reward Trip: A Christmas Carol Ms Halaka - Curriculum Leader for English

A group of students from Year 9 to Year 13 went to see Northern Ballet's spectacular production of 'A Christmas Carol' on Thursday evening as an end of term celebration.

We all loved the stunning visuals, incredible storytelling, and breathtaking dancing on display. We would highly recommend going to see the show over the holidays if you get the chance - it really is a special experience.



Free STARS Online Workshops for Parents and Professionals

STARS are running a series of free online parent/professional workshops linked to supporting neurodivergent children in the home.

Each workshop will be delivered via Teams from 9.45 to 11.15 am on each date.

Dates and topics:

08.11.2024	Sensory Support in the Home
06.12.2024	Identity and Diagnosis
10.01.2025	Visual Supports in the Home EY
10.01.2025	Keeping autistic children and young people safe online
07.02.2025	Visual Supports Secondary & Post 16
07.03.2025	Key life transitions
02.05.2025	Anxiety based avoidance
06.06.2025	A basic introduction to Intensive Interaction
04.07.2025	Puberty and sexuality

To book your place:

Parents: email starsteam@leeds.gov.uk stating your name, email address and workshops you would like to book.

Professionals: book via Leeds for Learning.

Contact: starsteam@leeds.gov.uk

Time for Young People, Leeds

This is a new service designed to deliver community-based early emotional and mental health support for children and young people in Leeds, with a particular focus on children and young people aged 11-25 who need support outside of school or NHS services settings.

This service is delivered by The Children's Society, a national charity with over 140 years of experience commissioned by NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (Leeds) and Leeds City Council. 'Time for Young People, Leeds' is available for children and young adults up to 18 years old, including care leavers and young people with special educational needs and disabilities up to age 25, as well as their parents and carers.

To access the service and to find out further information, please visit the website or phone 0113 517 8000.

<https://mindmate.org.uk/time-for-yp/>

Online Safety

Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, West Yorkshire Police and partners have launched a campaign to encourage parents to have conversations with their children about their online activity.

The online world can be a great place for young people, when enjoyed safely, but some criminals can use online games and social media to contact and exploit them.

The campaign "**Start the conversation**" encourages parents to have conversations with their children, to understand who they are talking to and interacting with online.

Talking to a child about what they do online, is as important as asking them where they are going when they go out with their friends.

Regular conversations about their online world could encourage children to talk to a trusted adult if something they have seen online made them feel uncomfortable or if someone is talking to them that they don't know.

For parents and carers:

Talk to your child about staying safe online

Most of us tend to think of our online and offline lives as separate, but children today are growing up with technology and the internet as a natural part of their lives. To them there isn't a separation. It's all just life. The internet is now part of the real world.

Talking to your child about what they do online is just as important as asking where they are going when they go out with their friends. It can be difficult starting the conversation with your child about their online activities. Technology keeps changing and you might find it overwhelming trying to keep up with it all, but you don't need to. You just need to take an interest in what apps and games your child is using. That's the best place to start.

Your child might not want to share anything with you at first, but keep trying.

Having honest and open conversations with your child and speaking to them regularly about what they are doing online, could be crucial in giving your child the confidence to tell you if they have seen something that makes them feel uncomfortable or may highlight someone who is wanting to cause harm.

See the [Start the conversation leaflet](#) for some helpful tips on how to start the conversation. Further guidance is available on the [LSCP website](#) as well as information on [how to set up parental control](#) on all the devices that your child uses.

**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		8:50am	
9:15am	1	1		9:15am	
10:05am	2	BREAK	10:05am	10:05am	
10:55am	BREAK	2		10:30am	
11:15am	3	3		10:50am	
12:05pm	4	LUNCH	12:05pm	11:15am	
12:55pm	LUNCH	4	12:30pm	12:05pm	
1:20pm	5	5		12:30pm	
2:10pm	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.