



AGS Weekly

Allerton Grange School Weekly Newsletter

Celebrating our KLAS curriculum:

The KLAS curriculum is unique to Allerton Grange and represents a student's day to day experience at our school.

K refers to our knowledge rich curriculum where our students are taught the most important powerful knowledge for each of the subjects they study.

L refers to literacy. Our curriculum is word rich. Students are taught a variety of new words and read widely.

A refers to our aspirational enrichment programme. Students have opportunities to take part in many experiences outside the classroom, through clubs, trips, assemblies, visiting speakers and PSHE.

S refers to service and leadership. Students develop these skills through the work they do in community projects and careers.



At Allerton Grange, we believe that our KLAS curriculum provides students with the knowledge, the vocabulary, the experiences, and the character, to secure places at world renowned universities and on elite training programmes, enabling them to make aspirational career choices. We regularly receive visits from other schools wanting to see our KLAS curriculum in operation.

This week – A focus on Literacy:

The ability to read and write is fundamental to a child being able to access the full curriculum.

At Allerton Grange, our literacy strategy aims to:

- Ensure students have the vocabulary to be able to access our ambitious curriculum and also function in the modern world.
- Ensure students have a love for reading. This supports students in developing a richer vocabulary and improves their writing.
- Ensure students can articulate their knowledge with confidence. If a student can speak it, they can write it; if they can write it, they are more likely to remember it.

Our literacy strategy has 3 strands:

1. Teaching vocabulary:

- Students are explicitly taught subject specific vocabulary as part of their curriculum. They are taught and tested on the spelling and the definition of key words.
- Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are taught and tested on the spelling and understanding of the most common academic vocabulary. Their assessments take place during form time every term.

2. Teaching reading – students at Allerton Grange are expected to read a lot:

- The Curriculum:** In every subject, high order texts are woven through the curriculum. Students are empowered to read and deepen their understanding of the knowledge rich curriculum.
- Tutor-led Reading - Drop Everything And Read:** Form time sessions include dedicated DEAR time, where form tutors read a set novel aloud to the students. Students actively engage, following along with their copies of the book, promoting both enjoyment and comprehension.
- Reading Fluency lessons:** In Year 7 and 8, students benefit from weekly reading sessions led by their English teacher. These sessions focus on enhancing reading fluency, with an emphasis on poetry recitation. This approach provides students with valuable support and modelling from their teacher, and the opportunity to practise reading aloud.
- Reading Platforms:** We've adopted Reading Plus for Year 7 and 8 students, a programme proven to refine reading skills and comprehension through regular practice. As students progress to Year 9, Sparx Reader is introduced. This is a platform designed to sustain and elevate reading skills into Key Stage 4 and beyond. With a selection of eBooks tailored to students' reading level, Sparx Reader encourages regular independent reading which plays a pivotal role in advancing vital literacy skills.

3. Developing oracy:

- This strand is being developed this year, ready for a full roll-out next year.
- The aim is for every student to have the confidence to be able to speak like a specialist scholar. Eg. speaking like a historian or speaking like a scientist.
- Students will also be given more opportunities through the enrichment programme to partake in activities associated with oracy eg. debating society and public speaking competitions.

Drop Everything and Read – our students are currently reading:

Year 7 - *The Girl of Ink and Stars*

Year 8 - *They will start The Dark Lady next week*

Year 9 - *Noughts and Crosses*

Year 10 - *The Woman in Black*

Year 11 - *1984*

ClassCharts
Positive points: 15,000
Negative points: 1,700
89% positive points ratio

Mike Roper
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday 19 December - Year 7 Parent's Evening

CANCELLED - REARRANGED FOR THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

Wednesday 20 to Thursday 21 December - Drama Trip to London

**Friday 22 December - Last Day of Term:
Year 7, 8 & 9 leave at 11.45 am
Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 leave at 12:05 pm**

Sports Fixture Results

Cross Country:

At the weekend, our fantastic squad took part in the Leeds Cross Country trials.

- Ewan and Lucus were 1st and 2nd in Year 7 boys
- Ellie was 3rd in Year 8 girls
- Reuben just missed qualifying in a very tough race
- Isaac qualified in the senior boys.

The students all ran really well and it was a good afternoon of running, despite some terrible weather.

Thank you to Ms Raven for accompanying the students.

Festive Creations by Hospitality & Catering Students

This week, Year 10 made Chocolate Yule logs in GCSE Hospitality and Catering class.

The students had lots of fun while learning the skills of whisked sponges, buttercream and piping work along with finishing techniques.

Ms Gentry said: "Here are some of the fabulous end results which would deserve any Paul Hollywood handshake!"



Well done to Jessica, Lucy, Daisy, Kirsten and Rose (pictured) and to the rest of the students in the group.

Student Project in time for Christmas

Benjamin in Year 11 created an online Christmas card website <https://xmas-cards.co.uk/> last year where you can create digital cards for free. Ben has been working hard on improving his website even further in the past couple of months.

Using HTML, CSS and JavaScript code, he has created a website that designs Christmas cards that can then be sent electronically. He has built this website from the ground up, using a lot of technical expertise and a considerable amount of time.

Well done Ben!

Hot Chocolate Friday

At Hot Chocolate Friday on 15 December, with Mr Norrington (Associate Headteacher), students celebrated their achievements.

Congratulations this week to:

Jacob in Year 7 was nominated for DJing at the World of Music concert. He has been to practice the set every day at break and lunch.

Betty in Year 8 has had an incredibly positive first term in Year 8. Always doing the right thing and being a star student - thank you Betty!

Hamzah in Year 9 was nominated for always meeting deadlines and for doing really well in Maths, especially outside of school in his homework. He's a quiet student, who gets on and is committed to doing well. Well done Hamzah!

Lilia in Year 9 sang a perfect solo in front of 300 strangers in Pudsey. She showed outstanding courage, and gave an outstanding performance. Well done Lilia!

Frank in Year 11 was nominated by the Drama team as his performance in the Devised Practical Exam was absolutely superb. They were so impressed with the way he responded to feedback and developed his role.

Taslima in Year 13 was nominated for a presentation she gave. Year 13 students were asked to prepare and present on the different accounts of Shariah law. Taslima's delivery of the presentation was incredible! She is a very diligent student and a delight to teach.



World of Music

On Thursday evening, we were treated to a musical extravaganza at our annual World of Music Concert. There were performances from our Jazz Band, School of Rock, Choir, Samba Band, Junior Concert Band and Senior Concert Band, as well as a range of solo and group performances. Students also performed as the audience arrived, and during the interval. Thank you to all the performers, technical team and music ambassadors, as well as the fabulous Music Team.



"Thank you to you and the staff team at Allerton Grange for giving the students the opportunity to perform and watch live music. It was a great evening and no doubt involved a lot of hard work. We loved it!"
Year 8 Parent



Christmas Card Competition

Well done to all Year 7 students who took part in the Christmas Card Design Competition. There's a lovely display of all the entries in the Art corridor.



Sneaker Freaks Product Pitch Session

In their newly timetabled AGS Futures lessons, Year 10 have kicked off the year with a Sneaker Freaks project.

In September, the project was launched by a Senior Product Manager from New Balance, who briefed the students and presented about his career journey. A local gentleman from Roundhay, Michael has created and brought to market some of Adidas and New Balance's best-selling sports products.

Each session, students have heard from one of Michael's colleagues at New Balance about their role and their involvement in the product creation process. Students then spent the rest of each session designing a product (in this case a sports shoe), an advertising campaign and a product pitch.



This week, the winning groups from each Year 10 form pitched their product to two New Balance representatives.

Both the New Balance representatives and school staff were hugely impressed by the quality of the presentations, the amount of work and research that went into meeting the project brief and the way in which students pitched their idea.

The winning team will be announced in next week's Rewards Assembly, but all groups should be incredibly proud of what they achieved.

Attendance Matters

At Allerton Grange, our target is for all students to achieve 100% attendance and punctuality. The minimum expectation is for all students to have 97% attendance over the academic year. We appreciate the efforts of parents, carers and families to ensure that students are attending school every day, and on time.

All parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child/ren receive a suitable education for their age and aptitude. Research has shown that excellent attendance is key for ensuring positive outcomes for children and young people, and is vital to students being able to learn effectively and take an active part in school life.

As we approach the end of term, please keep in mind that every day at school is important. All students are expected to be in school until their finish time on Friday 22 December 2023.

Below is a reminder of what to do if your child is ill, is going to be late or has an appointment during the school day:

Illness

If your child is ill, you can check the NHS website to help you decide if they are too ill to attend school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>
If your child is absent, a parent/carer must contact school using ClassCharts before 8.30 am on each day of absence.

Lateness

If your child is going to be late to school, they need to have a note from their parent or carer explaining the reason why they are late. On arrival, the student must sign in at the Attendance Office and then go straight to their lesson. Persistent lateness will result in detention and/or isolation.

Appointments during the school day

Where possible, please make appointments for your child outside of school hours. If your child has an appointment during school time, this should be recorded on ClassCharts and they must take a note from their parent or carer to their Year Office to receive a green slip. At the time they need to leave school, the student must hand the slip into Main Reception, where they will receive a Police signing out slip. **Students should never leave school without permission.**

If you would like to talk to us about your child's attendance, or if you need support, please get in touch.

Food Bank Collection

We are excited to announce this year's winter food drive.

We are asking for those families who are able, to bring in as many cans and packets of dried and longlife food as possible, in order to help Leeds North and West Foodbank.

There are boxes in Year pods for students to fill with contributions.

We understand that not every student will be able to contribute, so we ask that you motivate your peers to help as much as they can.

The Year group that brings the most food in will receive a reward.

You have until the end of the term to bring in anything you are able.

Thanks!

Sixth Form Leadership Group



Useful items:

- Tinned fruit/vegetables/fish/meat/rice pudding/custard/tomatoes
- Long life fruit juice
- Soup
- Instant Mash
- Biscuits
- Rice
- Teabags
- Toilet rolls
- Also, used clean carrier bags

Extra-Curricular Activities Calendar

Term 1 – September - December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homework Club All Years - Library	Homework Club All Years - Library	Homework Club All Years - Library	Homework Club All Years - Library	Spectrum (LGBTQ+) Club All years – M003
Girls Basketball All years - Courts	Badminton All Years	Junior Concert Band Grade 1-3 Musicians - M001	Chess Club All Years – L029	Rubik's Cube Club All years - L026
Our House – Rehearsals All Years - Hall	Jazz Club Grade 2 or above musicians - M003	Senior Concert Band Grade 4-8 Musicians - M001	School of Rock All Years - M002	Our House – Rehearsals All Years - Hall
Samba Year 7, 8 and 9 (Lunchtimes)	Music Theory Musicians approaching Grade 5 - M002	Girls Rugby All Years	Choir All Years - Hall	Software development Club (WEEK B) KS4 and KS5 – I001
	Our House – Rehearsals All Years - Hall	Boys Basketball All Years	Netball Year 9	ALL YEARS KS3 KS4 KS5
	Girls Football Year 8, 9, 10 and 11	Netball Year 8	Netball Year 7	
	Year 7 Drama Club Hall	Year 8 and 9 Drama Club Hall	Girls Football Year 7	
	Boys Football Year 7	Boys Rugby KS3	Boys Football Year 8	
	Netball Year 10 and Year 11	Boys Football Year 9	Coding Club (WEEK A) KS3 - I002	
		Maths GCSE Drop-in KS4 – L035	Boys Football Year 10 and 11	
		Geography A-Level Drop-in KS5 – L022	EPQ Club KS5 – I001	
		Social Sciences Drop-in KS5 – L031	Social Sciences Drop-in KS5 – L031	



WHAT'S ON AFTER SCHOOL IN PE?

	ACTIVITY	WHERE	STAFF
MONDAY	Girls Basketball	Sports Hall	BCA
TUESDAY	All Years Badminton KS4 Fitness	Sports Hall Fitness Suite	SNO JGA
WEDNESDAY	Boys Basketball Y7 Fitness Y8/9 Trampolining Year 11 GCSE Revision	Sports Hall Fitness Suite Sports Hall L44	DTO JGA KAI BCA
THURSDAY	KS3 Table Tennis Year 8/9 Fitness Year 7 Trampolining	Sports Hall Fitness Suite Sports Hall	SNO JSM BCA & KAI

YOU MUST SIGN UP IF YOU WANT TO JOIN.

Sheets are outside the PE Office.

These clubs start the week beginning 27th November until February half term.

ALL CLUBS ARE FROM 3 - 4pm.

Please check with your child if they are staying for an after school club so you know what time they will be leaving school.

Thank you for your support.

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.

The School Day 2023-2024

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		After School Provisions/Detentions begin			1:20pm
					2:10pm
					3:00pm

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.

(Monday) Stage 3 - SLT Detentions – 3:05pm – 4:30pm (85 minutes)

(Tuesday - Friday)

Stage 1 Detentions – 3:05pm - 3:35pm (30 minutes) Stage

2 Detentions - 3:05pm – 4:00pm (55 minutes)

Isolation takes place between 9:00am-3pm/3.30pm/4.00pm (Depending on Behaviour)