



AGS Weekly

Allerton Grange School Weekly Newsletter

Merry Christmas to the whole Allerton Grange community:

This has been a very long and tiring term for students and staff. I want to thank all our community for their support and dedication this term. Thank you to our families for ensuring our students arrive on time, in full uniform and fully equipped ready to learn. Thank you to our staff for ensuring every one of our students receives the best possible education. Thank you to our students for engaging so positively in their learning every day. I hope every family gets the opportunity over the Christmas holiday to rest and relax.

At the end of every term, it is always difficult to say thank you and goodbye to staff. This term we say thank you and farewell to:

Miss Young:

- Miss Young joined AGS as an NQT back in 2004.
- She progressed through the science department and became Curriculum Leader in 2011.
- Miss Young has led one of the largest teams in the school for the past 12 years and is now moving on to pastures new.
- Thank you to Miss Young for all the contributions she made to AGS and in particular to the work she gave to the role of Associate Senior Leader in 2021.
- We wish her all the very best.

Miss Williams:

- Miss Williams has been at AGS for 20 years.
- She was appointed to PSHE co-ordinator in 2005.
- Curriculum leader for Geography for 12 years.
- Miss Williams is moving to Beckfoot School in Bingley.
- Thank you to Miss Williams for all the contributions she has made to AGS and in particular to the work she gave to the Extended Leadership Group in 2022.
- We wish her all the very best.

Miss Smith:

- Miss Smith joined AGS in 2007 as a teaching assistant. She worked hard to become a qualified teacher in 2009.
- Miss Smith has made huge contributions to the PE department and across the school.
- She led the work of the School Council for a number of years.
- She leaves AGS to become Head of PE at Brigshaw School.
- We thank Miss Smith for everything she has given to AGS and wish her well in her new role.

Mr Gracey:

- Mr Gracey joined AGS 15 years ago as a teaching assistant.
- He has held a number of roles at Allerton Grange including cover supervisor, HLTA, and, since 2015, Progress and Welfare Manager.
- He is moving to Prince Henry's in Otley as a Head of Year.
- We thank Mr Gracey for all his contributions to AGS and wish him well in his new role.

Mrs Byrom:

- Our wonderful Office Manager has worked at AGS for 8 years.
- Mrs Byrom has led the front office team for the past year and done a great job.
- She is moving to take on a similar role at Leeds University.
- We thank her for all her contributions to AGS and wish her well in her new role.

Finally, a reminder that all students return to school on Monday 8 January 2024 at 8:25 am. Registration is taken at 8:30am.

Best wishes to you all,
Mike Roper
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 8 January 2024
First Day of Term

Wednesday 10 January
Certificate collection for
ex-Year 11 & Year 13
students, 3.15 - 4.30 pm

Thursday 11 January
Year 10 Parents' Evening
(online) 4.30 - 7.30 pm

Message from 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.

In September, Mike Roper and I presented the School Development Plan and priorities for the current academic year which included "Conduct a full due diligence investigation into prospective Multi Academy Trust partners. Preparing the way for a seamless academisation transition for September 2025" to parents/carers. We have taken your feedback very seriously and are taking our time to make the right and only decision for Allerton Grange School and will keep you updated next term.

All Governors have completed the annual Safeguarding and Child Protection training online course to ensure that we are all fully compliant during our frequent visits and meetings in school.

Dan Carver, Jo Travis and myself met with the school's LEA improvement advisor to review and agree the headteacher's performance management for 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively. 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'.

In addition to my weekly meetings with Mr Roper and Governing Board meetings, I have met with the Safeguarding team, Director of KS5, Deputy Headteacher Quality of Education and Curriculum Leader for Maths, all of which have been extremely positive and showcase 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. Jo Travis has met with the Curriculum Leader for MFL, KS4 Director and Assistant Headteacher for SEND, and Steph Nyirenda has met with Louise Mills, Careers. 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.

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 2023!

Wishing you all seasons' greetings from the Governing Body and a Happy 2024.

Barbara Trayer
Chair of the Board of Governors

Students in the local community

We've received some lovely, positive feedback about two of our Year 9 students:

I'm writing to provide some feedback on your pupils, Neath and Leo, who performed last weekend in the Wizard of Oz Pantomime at St. Stephens Church in Moortown West.

They were a credit to themselves in the way they have committed to their roles, learnt their lines and performed on the stage. It's not easy stepping up on a stage in front of 100 people for 3 nights, but they put in performances that brought joy and cheer to the community and we would just like to share our thanks for their involvement and their support for the Moortown West Community Association Charity.

Christmas is a time for giving, and these pupils given us something truly precious and put smiles on many faces this year. We are so proud of them and we wanted to share this feedback with you.

Kind regards,

Gareth Poole
Chair, Moortown West Community Association

Team Drama (Ms Spencer-Matthews and Mr Hansen) also said the students are fantastic to work with on school shows.

Well done to both of you, you should be very proud!

Sports Fixture Results

Basketball:

Our **Year 10 and 11, KS4 Basketball team** have won all their matches against Carr Manor, Roundhay and Bishop Young, and remain unbeaten this year.

Rugby:

The **Year 9 boys' Rugby team** beat Ryburn 32-0 in the first round of the Yorkshire Cup. Unfortunately, they lost later in the week to Sirius Academy West, Hull.

However, four members of the team, Stan, James, Billy and Daniel, have been invited by Bradford Bulls to four talent development training sessions at Tong Leadership Academy.

Well done boys!

Thank you to the PE Team for supporting our students to take part in competitive fixtures and have these experiences.

Hot Chocolate Friday

At Hot Chocolate Friday on 22 December, with Mr Norrington (Associate Headteacher), students celebrated their achievements.

Congratulations this week to:

Jaya in Year 7 for designing the winning anti-bullying badge.

Solomon in Year 8 was nominated for being new to school this year and having a very positive start. He has made friends and is always polite and friendly - a good addition to Year 8!

Neath and Leo in Year 9 were nominated because of their involvement in the Wizard of Oz pantomime at St Stephens Church, Moortown, and the Moortown West Community Association Charity (see story on previous page for more details).

Saira in Year 11 was recognised for the incredible improvement in her behaviour. Well done!



Maths Superstars

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 Alex (9ag4), Melissa (9ag3), Nur Al Din (10ag7), Amelia (8ag1) and Ethan (7ag7). These students have completed lots of additional tasks in addition to their homework.

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



Rewards Assemblies

This week, students from **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11** took part in Rewards Assemblies.

Students were recognised for their achievements and awards included: Form of the Term, Student of the Term, Subject Stars of the Term. Students were also rewarded for showing Respect and Kindness to others, and for having excellent Attendance.





Year 13 Progression Module Success

Congratulations to the Year 13 students who successfully completed the Progression Module with Leeds Beckett University:

Lois,
Kabeer,
Sara,
Laiba,

Redyar,
Haleema,
Sidra,
Qasim.

They attended a celebration ceremony at Leeds Beckett on Wednesday 13 December.

This is a great achievement as successful completion of the Progression Module gives students 12 UCAS points which are recognised by Leeds Beckett University and the University of Huddersfield. Well done to all!



DAHIT Panto Trip

Last week, DAHIT students and staff went on a trip to see Cinderella at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford.

It was a fun-packed afternoon and everyone enjoyed the show (Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did!).

Thank you to everyone who made the trip possible, especially to Gordon for driving the minibus.



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been working hard this term with Ms Williams and Mr Wall on anti-bullying initiatives such as Odd Socks Day.

One of our ambassadors, Jaya (7ag9), has designed an Anti-Bullying Ambassador badge.



The badge promotes the message of "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" and will be used within school to remind students of the importance of kindness, respect and friendship.

Recognising Outstanding Reading

Inspired by the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokaflod, a celebration known as the 'book flood,' we're delighted to acknowledge 10 outstanding students from Year 7 to Year 11 for their exceptional reading enthusiasm this term.

Each of these students has been gifted a book as a token of appreciation, aiming to celebrate and further encourage their love for reading.

We look forward to even more stories and worlds being explored in the coming year!

Ms Taylor, Teacher of English and DEAR Lead



Drama Trip to London - Absolute Theatre Heaven!

This week Team Drama have been on the trip of dreams for our performance loving KS4 and 5 students.

Starting off with some sightseeing and Christmas shopping before an epic pizza feast, we then travelled across the river to The National Theatre to see The Witches which Mr Hansen described as 'Bonkers Good'. The level of skill on display from the cast and creatives was incredible to see on the world famous Olivier Theatre stage.

Fast forward to Thursday morning and it was full speed ahead to our West End 101 Workshop. Our professional actor that lead the session looked familiar and we were thrilled to learn that we have actually studied her work in Small Island - even better, she was from West Yorkshire and gave our students an honest insight into the industry and the life of an actor. Our big takeaway - you've got to be gutsy as you've got nothing to lose!

After another opportunity to sightsee around Covent Garden and grab some lunch, it was time to time travel for Back to the Future at the Adelphi Theatre. This was technical theatre at its absolute finest alongside a first-rate cast and ridiculously good music. As we sat on the coach back, the students were absolutely raving about the car, the lighting, the projections, which actually did the unthinkable - rendered Mrs Spencer-Matthews speechless!

Finally, we'd like families to know that our students were an absolute joy for the entire trip - they couldn't be more kind, funny and wonderful to travel with!



World of Music 2023

Review by Ayesha (8ag10)

To start off this year's highly anticipated and lively World of Music concert, we had the Jazz Band play 'Simple Silver Surfer' by Jamie Branch followed by their performance of 'Sun Dream' orchestrated by Mr Duff.



School of Rock was up next to execute their songs, 'Whiskey In The Jar' and 'Jingle Bell Rock.' Our first soloist of the evening was Izzy Scott and her production of 'Cup Song.' We then had another impressive band, the Neon Penguins, who sang 'Sweet Child Of Mine' led by the lead singer, Josiah. Following after, was an incredibly theatrical and alive performance of 'You'll be back' from the play 'Hamilton' sung by Oliver Chambers.

'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' sung by Mary Taylor started to get the festivity going which was enhanced by the next performance of a winter classic 'Let It Go' by Freya Hunter. Right before the second act of the night, the choir sang 'O Holy Night' and 'All I Want For Christmas', a cheerful finish for a short interval.

During the interval we had some music played by the DJ Jacob Pemberton.

The second half of the concert kicked off with Samba and their own creative composition. Then we had Frank and His Pals' act of 'It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas' and to keep the high-spirits going, we had 'White Christmas' by Daniel and Imaan.

We then had Rebecca on the piano and Elan on the drums playing 'Golden Hour' by JVKE. Then we had Yacht Club sing and play 'Burn' by Jorja Smith. Freya Allen then performed 'Somewhere Only We Know' as a soloist.

Then to end the night, we had the Junior Concert band and the Senior concert band. First the junior concert band per 'All I Want For Xmas' and 'Friend Like Me.' Our penultimate performance was 'Merry Xmas Everybody' and to conclude the night we had 'Fantastic For Christmas.'

A lot of parents, students and teachers came to support their friends, family or for fun as this was a very exuberant night and you should definitely come to the next one if there is one!



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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for the Leeds North and West Foodbank.

***Thank you so much
for your support!***
Sixth Form Leadership Group



All donations were delivered to the Foodbank earlier on today, in time for Christmas.

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		Timetable B		Timetable C	
Years 10/11/12/13		Years 8/9		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	2	10:05am
10:55am	BREAK	2		BREAK	10:30am
11:15am	3			2	10:50am
12:05pm	4	LUNCH	12:05pm	3	11:15am
12:55pm	LUNCH	4	12:30pm	4	12:05pm
1:20pm	5			LUNCH	12:30pm
2:10pm	6			4	12:55pm
				5	1:20pm
				6	2:10pm
3:00pm		After School Provisions/Detentions begin			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.

(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)