



AGS Weekly

Allerton Grange School Weekly Newsletter

A review of the year – Masks, Freezing Classrooms, Absences and Heat Waves

Despite this academic year being the first in 3 years where schools across the country have remained open all year – the shadow of COVID welcomed us as we returned to Allerton Grange in September.

We opened, in the Autumn, with everyone having to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas. Having face coverings as a piece of essential equipment and checking face coverings at the gate each morning became the norm. Allerton Grange stayed fully open educating it's community.

Winter arrived with classroom windows and doors having to remain open for ventilation. Students and staff were shivering as a result of the cold blasts of wind ripping through the building. Allerton Grange stayed fully open educating it's community.

Soon came Spring with the arrival of new COVID variants and staff absences reached record highs. Trips, events and sporting fixtures were cancelled to keep staff in school. Allerton Grange stayed fully open educating it's community.

We have finished the year in Summer with the hottest heatwave on record. Staffing of water fountains, the wearing of PE kit and the relaxation of staff dress code became the order of the day and yet Allerton Grange stayed fully open educating it's community.

So in the final newsletter of the year I want to pay tribute to the Allerton Grange community (students, staff, parents and governors) – thank you for your resilience and commitment this year. You have enabled Allerton Grange to remain fully open all year and to do what it does best – educate our local community.

Staff leaving:

As always at the end of a year we say goodbye and good luck to members of staff who are moving on to new adventures. This year we say goodbye to:

Staff Member	Position	Years of Service Allerton Grange	Leaving to go to:
Miss Tan	Technician	3	Become a carer in the community
Miss Bloomfield	Teacher of History	15	Promotion to a school much nearer home
Mr Tarbotton	Teacher of PE	3	To go travelling around South America
Mrs Close	Finance Officer	15	Retirement
Miss Gillespie	Teacher of Music	6	Promotion to Subject co-ordinator
Miss Gladwin	Teacher of Science	5	Promotion to Lead teacher of science
Miss Khendria	Teacher of Maths	5	Moving to Dubai to teach
Miss Shaw	CL English & Literacy	6	Promotion to Assistant Headteacher
Mr Smith	Teacher of IT/Computing	6	Curriculum Leader of Computing
Miss Sorkin	TA	4	Training to become a teacher
Mrs Sutton	School librarian	6	Retirement
Miss Child	TA	1	Training to become a teacher

Have a wonderful and safe summer holiday everyone. See you in September.

Mike Roper - Headteacher

Information for September - Year 7 students

- On Tuesday 6th, please use the Talbot Avenue entrance, staff will guide you to the Year 7 entrance located near the Science/English pods. There will be lots of staff out on duty, to direct you into your Form Rooms.
- Lunch will be provided on Tuesday 6th, alternatively you can bring a packed lunch
- Parents - please ensure your child comes with sufficient funds to pay for their school meals in the first week.

Arrangements for the first week back

- Monday 5th September – staff training day. School closed to students.
- Tuesday 6th September – Year 7 only plus Year 12 enrolment.
- Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th September – all students attend. (except Year 12)
- Friday 9th September – all students, including Year 12 attend.

Remember students are expected to be at school for 08:45 every morning. School gates open from 08:25 with access to the building from 08:30.

PODS

- Year 7 - English
- Year 8 - MFL
- Year 9 - Humanities
- Year 10 - Maths
- Year 11 - ICT

ENTRANCES

- Year 7 - English/Science bridge
- Year 8 - Lower corridor doors (between MFL and technology)
- Years 9 and 10 - Main attendance doors
- Year 11 - Technology door

Maths Puzzler

Year 7 have faced down the ultimate challenge with a range of tricky puzzles to solve. Students worked in teams using some creative and flexible thinking to find solutions to a variety of problems. Determination and resilience could be clearly seen as different attempts were made, then adjusted, until finally the problems were all defeated. An enjoyable morning was had by all. Thank you to Ms Kuraz for organising this.



School Meals - Price Changes

We have received confirmation of meal price increases for the new school year. All items will be increasing in price by approximately 8%. Full menus will be posted on the school website. The cost of a "meal deal" will be £2.78, which is the value of a free school meal.

Visit from Cambridge University

As part of our Aim Higher Programme, Selwyn College, Cambridge visited AGS to work with students in Year 7, 9, 10 and 12. For most students, it was an introduction to Cambridge and what studying there could offer them. Year 12 focused on how important super-curricular activities are and the difference this can make to them personally. They were highly enjoyable sessions and students appreciated learning more about study at Cambridge



Sports Fixtures

Whilst there were no competitive matches in the final week of term, Mr Tarbotton's cricket testimonial took place to celebrate the end of his time at AGS. The Year 9 cricket team (featuring Mr Tarbotton) beat a Year 10 cricket team (with Mr Fisk and Mr Noutch) by 37 runs. Highlights included Mr Tarbotton hitting Mr Fisk for two fours and two sixes, Mr Fisk scoring a world class 50 and Mr Noutch getting caught off the bowling of Year 9 student Samir.

Talk the Talk

Speaking and presenting information in public can feel like a very daunting task but it is essential that our students know how to speak with confidence and authority. Talk the Talk visited school to work with Year 9, building confidence with students' oracy skills and supporting them to develop their presentation skills in a very supportive atmosphere. All students gave a presentation to the group and were thrilled at how much more confident they felt after the workshop.



Music Tour to Edinburgh

This week our Music tour escaped the high temperatures of Leeds for the cooler climes of Edinburgh. The highlight of the trip was our concert at Ross Bandstand in Princes Street Gardens, performing under the shadow of the castle. Lots of famous Edinburgh landmarks were visited on our walking tour of the city and Portobello Beach was the perfect place to enjoy the sunshine. After adventure golf, the Mercat Ghost Tour and even more concerts, staff and students returned to school with many happy memories of a wonderful experience.



Wellbeing Support over the Summer

Online Advice and Tips

MindMate - emotional wellbeing and mental health information and advice. It includes guided audio sounds for breathing techniques and mindfulness.

<https://www.mindmate.org.uk/>

If you are over 13, you can refer yourself via the **MindMate SPA** which will help you find the right support for you. <https://self-referral.mindmate.org.uk/>
0300 555 0324

The Mix - lots of online guides to help support with mental health, drugs and alcohol, sex and relationships, housing, money, studies and your body. You can also access talking support via their helpline, 1:1 chat service, crisis messenger, or telephone and webchat counselling.

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/get-support/speak-to-our-team/the-mix-counselling-service>

0808 808 4994 open 4 pm - 11 pm every day

Young Minds - useful advice to help you understand your feelings and find support

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Teen connect: 0808 800 1212

Text: 0771 566 1559

<https://www.lslcs.org.uk/services/connect-helpline/teen-connect/>

Leeds Survivor Led Crisis Service » Teen Connect - LSLCS

By post: Dial House, 12 Chapel Street Halton, Leeds LS15 7RW. By phone: 0113 260 9328.

By email: survivor.led@lslcs.org.uk

www.lslcs.org.uk

Childline: 0800 1111

Speak to a counsellor 1-2-1: <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>

The Market Place – A drop-in centre for young people offering advice and counselling on a range of subjects affecting young people (themarketplaceleeds.org.uk)

Kooth - offers online mental health support for young people.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://teenagehelpline.org.uk/>

Apps

Calm-Harm - helps young people aged 11-25 to resist or manage the urge to self-harm.

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>

Headspace - offers articles, meditation, sleep, stress and tools to help you change habits to support mental wellbeing.

<https://www.headspace.com>

In Hand - helps you to focus in moments of stress or low mood. <http://www.inhand.org.uk/#>

Food Banks:

[There is support available from local food banks](#)

[Leeds Food Aid Network](#)

[Citizens Advice - Using a Food Bank](#)

[Leeds North and West Food Bank](#)

[Trussell Trust](#)

[For those that live in Roundhay, St Edmunds Church collect food near the end/just over best from the local Co-ops and every Tuesday/Wednesday are at the church and make up food parcels. There is often a mix of bread/veg/fruit/meat and pastries.](#)



Leeds CAMHS Crisis Helpline

Are you a parent worried about your child?

Do you know a young person struggling to cope?

Are you unsure about how to help them and need some guidance and advice?

The NHS in Leeds operates a freephone helpline for under 18s between 8am and 8pm every day, providing young people, and their families or carers, advice, support, someone to listen, or signposting, as appropriate, regardless of the circumstance.

You will be put through to a skilled crisis advisor who will listen and talk through concerns, support and will provide practical advice on what to do next. The team offers in-the-moment support and efficient response for anyone up to the age of 18 during moments of distress, ensuring that immediate access to help will be provided if necessary.

Leeds CAMHS Crisis Call Helpline is open 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

You can call us for free on 0800 953 0505.

Leeds Waterfront Festival 2022

Leeds Autism Services have teamed up with Canal and River Trust to host this year's accessible version of the Leeds Waterfront Festival. The event is specially designed to be autism, neurodiverse and learning disability friendly. See more at: <https://www.leedsautism.org.uk/event/leeds-waterfront-festival-2022-autism-neurodiverse-friendly-event>