



Aspire, Grow, Succeed

Beyond the Curriculum



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Aspirational
Enrichment



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BACINO
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Introduction

Starting secondary school is an ideal opportunity to try new things and make new friends. Where better to start than choosing from our wide menu of exciting enrichment activities?

Our aspirational enrichment programme is a critical cornerstone of life at Allerton Grange. Education and growth isn't just limited to classrooms. Recently, Allerton Grange students have experienced:

- over 100 educational trips to places like museums, local and national universities, the theatre, concerts and sporting events.
- over 100 visitors to school including KPMG, Burberry, DAC Beachcroft Law, universities, Leeds Rhinos, Leeds United, BBC Bitesize, the Power of Muzik and Dr Sam Gregson (Hadron Collider scientist)
- regional and national competitions such as the Royal Horticultural Society, Words in the City poetry slam, Plastics Challenge, UKMT Team Maths challenge.

The expectation is that every Allerton Grange student participates in our extra-curricular and enrichment programme in order to widen their experiences, develop their talents and grow as a person.



Drama

Our drama department is a constant hive of activity with plenty of opportunities for students to take part in productions, whether that is by performing on stage, learning how to be a technician responsible for lighting and sound, or even supporting backstage with costuming and make-up. Students are also able to write pieces for performance and get involved with directing.

At least 6 performances occur each year including a full Shakespeare production and a summer musical, which is always the highlight of the school year. Key Stage 3 students have the opportunity to showcase their own piece of drama each year, which is always very well attended. The senior production is a collaboration with the School of Performance and Cultural Industry at the University of Leeds and has produced some stunning pieces of drama over the years.

Performance skills are enhanced through working with a range of professionals and theatre companies, such as the Paper Birds and Manic Chord Theatre. We also have a variety of alumni who visit us to carry out acting workshops, most recently Jed Berry – who can currently be seen in the West End performing in The Book of Mormon.

There are countless opportunities to go and watch drama locally and nationally. Recent theatre trips have included 'The Wizard of Oz' at Leeds Playhouse and 'Ubu' by Kneehigh Theatre Company.



Music

We are incredibly proud of the quality and diversity of music at Allerton Grange. Our performance schedule is always busy with no fewer than 6 major concerts and musicals each year, involving a wide range of musicians in all year groups. It is no surprise that we have been awarded the prestigious Leeds Music Education Partnership Music Champion school status.

As a school, we value music as an important skill, so we subsidise the cost of instrumental lessons to make this affordable. Consequently, many students at Allerton Grange choose to take up an instrument and achieve graded music qualifications. Our visiting instrumental teachers cover traditional instruments, such as brass, strings, woodwind, piano and voice; they also provide lessons in very popular instruments like drums, guitar, dhol, steel pans and keyboards.

Our vibrant music department is always a busy place to be. There are a variety of bands and choirs rehearsing and performing regularly, including Rock Band, Steel Band, Samba Band, String Group, Wind Band, Brass Band and Pop Choir. Students frequently form their own bands.

The annual Battle of the Bands is much-anticipated; students frequently perform their own compositions and competition is fierce. The finalists get to record their tracks in a professional recording studio, which creates a real buzz around school.

Our musicians perform regularly in the community both locally and internationally. Each July, our musicians tour somewhere in Europe; last year they serenaded Lake Garda.

During 2020, COVID-19 didn't stop the Music Team from putting on performances and virtual concerts.



Sport

Sport is an important part of life at Allerton Grange; our fantastic facilities mean that we can compete at the highest levels as well as offering recreational sports clubs and the use of our superb fitness suite to all students.

We work regularly with professional clubs and are lucky enough to have players delivering some training sessions as well as aspirational talks. We have good connections with Leeds Rhinos, and Leeds United, amongst others.

Competition is taken seriously; we field teams in rugby, football, netball, cricket, rounders and athletics and are delighted with the excellent results our students achieve. In the 2019-20 season, before it was cut short:

- Year 7 and 8 A Netball teams were unbeaten
- Year 10 Football team was still in the cup
- KS3 boys A team finished second in their league
- Year 7 Football team was unbeaten
- Year 7 Rugby team reached the finals of the Hunslet Plate

More than this, we are incredibly proud of our students working so well as a team and their sportsmanship both on and off the field.

The variety of sports on offer at Allerton Grange is vast. Racquet sports sessions, especially badminton and tennis, are in high demand, as are trampolining, table tennis, basketball, dance and becoming proficient on our climbing wall.

Outside of school, we have students successfully competing at county level in sports like rugby, tennis, gymnastics and swimming and also for England and Team GB. One student won gold in the World Shotokan Karate Championships for his age group and was awarded Leeds Young Sportsman of the Year.

Our P.E. staff also organise trips to sporting events in this country and overseas. Recently, Allerton Grange students enjoyed Wimbledon, our netballers attended the Netball World Cup in Liverpool and PGL Netball residential in Shropshire, and Years 7, 8 and 9 Football teams attended a Premier League football residential.



Art and Photography

We have many enrichment opportunities for students to explore their creativity in art and photography, beginning with 3 'drop in' sessions after school where students can develop their own interests and skills in both art and digital photography with specialist staff support.

Periodically, we have artists in residence and their masterclasses have produced stunning results and been displayed at Leeds University. Si Smith has also visited this year and worked on Lino Printing with a range of students.

The art department works closely with Leeds University and Leeds Arts University. There are opportunities to attend development workshops on site at the Arts University in the holidays, photography workshops and drawing classes.

We make the most of living in Leeds, exploring city architecture and working with local artists. However, we also travel further afield, enjoying recent trips to the Tate in both London and Liverpool.

At the end of each year, we celebrate the artistic achievements of our students in a fantastic exhibition open to the public.



Design & Technology

Many students enjoy enrichment opportunities in Technology. A textiles club specifically for Key Stage 3 runs every week, as do 'drop in' sessions for students working on their own projects in textiles, product design and food. With our state-of-the-art equipment, including CAD/CAM and laser cutting, professional results can be achieved. In addition, the Green Power Group meets weekly, designing and making environmentally friendly vehicles.

Our work with the Crafts Council and local textile artists is expanding. Recently we have participated in a large scale textiles project in Key Stage 3, exploring different ways of using wool and fabric for different effects. We also collaborate with Leeds University's Faculty of Engineering; we visit them on site and enjoy hands-on workshops covering different aspects of engineering.

Specialist workshops are also planned in each year. The 3D clay workshops are always popular, and students thoroughly enjoyed the trip to the Manchester Craft and Design Centre.

Alongside Art, our technology creations by Key Stage 4 and 5 students are displayed in a public exhibition at the end of each summer term.



Other Clubs

Students are able to choose from a wide menu of other clubs and societies each week; the extra-curricular options at Allerton Grange mean that there is something for everyone.

Clubs include:

- Badminton club
- Y7 & 8 Science club
- Table tennis
- Basketball
- Hairdressing club
- Grade 5 music theory
- Cooking club
- Spectrum (LGBT+)
- Book Club
- Coding club
- Chess & gaming club
- Debating club
- Robotics club
- Eco club
- Mental health group
- Running training club
- Space programme club
- Goalkeeping skills club
- British Sign Language club
- Tchoukball club
- Cybersecurity club
- Computer club
- Upcycling
- Gardening
- Backstage club
- Podcasts club
- Pizz making club
- Boxing
- Healthcare club

Homework club is available for an hour after school every day in our superb library. Year 7 have additional daily homework support available with Miss Altaf, their Welfare and Progress Manager, or the SEND Hub is available.



Academic Opportunities

Students invariably want to pursue additional academic opportunities in their own time. Some GCSE courses are offered as an additional qualification outside curriculum time to enable students to widen their knowledge even further.

In order to support learning and progress, all curriculum areas offer extra sessions after school, ranging from small group intervention work to revision classes.

University and employer links

We have exceptionally good links with local universities and colleges including the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity, Bradford University and Huddersfield University. A bespoke Oxbridge and Russell Group programme actively supports our students to aim high and gives them opportunities to familiarise themselves with these institutions and be mentored by them.

Right from Year 7, students experience hands-on workshops at universities in different subject areas and fields, including the sciences, engineering and health. As students get older, opportunities exist to experience student life through university residentials and learn more about university and apprenticeship pathways, so they can be supported to make informed decisions about their futures.

Visiting speakers are a regular occurrence. Lecturers and post-graduate university students enhance our curriculum, as do an ever-widening group of employers and alumni. KPMG, the BBC and DAC Beachcroft Law firm are some examples of professionals who recently inspired our students. We intend to extend this work to include workplace visits in the coming academic year.

Enrichment trips

Education is more than just learning in the classroom. We have a wealth of enriching opportunities on our doorstep and in the world beyond Leeds.

In the past year, students have visited places such as:

- Bradley Woods
- Magna Science Museum
- The Houses of Parliament
- Windermere
- Lake Garda
- Wimbledon
- Seville
- Lightwater Valley
- Filey
- Liverpool
- Paris
- University of Leeds
- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge
- The British Museum
- National Space Centre



Duke of Edinburgh

This programme is real adventure. Every year, we have students doing this award scheme at Bronze (Year 9), Silver (Year 10), and Gold (Year 12). A significant number of students opt to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award each year, and we are delighted to see so many growing through the different levels and finally being awarded Gold at Buckingham Palace or Holyrood.

The scheme supports students to develop their confidence with a range of skills, appealing to employers, colleges and universities. Not only this, but participating in D of E makes a difference to other people's lives and our community.



Leadership

All students have the potential to become a leader. At Allerton Grange, we offer plenty of opportunities for students to develop these critical life skills and grow as a person. Examples of leadership roles include:

- Community ambassadors
- Sports leaders
- Well-being ambassadors
- Attendance ambassadors
- Lead Learners
- Reading mentors
- Subject ambassadors
- Student Librarians
- Student council







Please visit our website at www.allertongrange.com, follow us on **Facebook** or **Twitter**, or come and visit us to see our full range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities.