

Allerthorpe

News



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half term at Allerthorpe School, we are delighted to share a snapshot of all that our learners have achieved.

It has been a vibrant period filled with rich learning opportunities, from celebrating cultural diversity and promoting wellbeing, to developing new skills through sport, careers experiences and enrichment activities.

Our learners have continued to show resilience, enthusiasm and growing independence, embracing every opportunity to learn and succeed. We are incredibly proud of their progress and would like to thank you, as always, for your ongoing support in helping our school community thrive.

The Allerthorpe Team

Our School Values: BRIGHT Futures!

- **Belonging:** Foster a sense of belonging where every learner feels valued and accepted.
 - **Respect:** Promote kindness and dignity throughout our school community.
 - **Inclusivity:** Celebrate diversity and ensure everyone's needs are met.
 - **Growth:** Show dedication to continuous growth and development.
- **Holistic Support (Help):** Address academic, emotional, and social needs with care.
- **Trust:** Build trust through transparent communication and safeguarding.

EDI Summer 1 Term

It has been a vibrant and meaningful start to Summer Term 1 at Allerthorpe School, with learners engaging in a range of activities that celebrate wellbeing, inclusivity, and community.

We marked Cultural Diversity Day, where children explored and celebrated a variety of cultures, helping to deepen understanding and appreciation of the world around them. During Mental Health Awareness Week, staff took part in the national "Wear It Green" initiative, encouraging everyone to reflect on the importance of looking after our mental wellbeing.

Our learning also included raising awareness for Deaf Awareness, helping pupils to understand different ways people communicate and the importance of inclusion and accessibility.

Finally, to support Walk to School Week, we completed our own in-school challenge, with pupils walking the average distance a secondary school student would travel each day. This was a fantastic way to promote physical activity and highlight the benefits of an active lifestyle.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and positive attitudes shown by all our learners this half term!

Summer 1 Term in PE

This term in PE has been a fantastic end to the year, with curriculum lessons in tennis and SEND sports capturing pupils' interest and enthusiasm. Their engagement has been excellent, and it has been great to see how quickly they have developed new skills, especially as many were trying these activities for the first time.

In our interest-led provision, bouldering has continued to be a real success, with lots of new pupils getting involved and showing impressive resilience and confidence.

We were also delighted to welcome a specialist rugby coach into school, giving pupils the opportunity to experience a new sport – they were a real credit to the school throughout.

A huge thank you to Dean for his excellent coaching over the last six weeks; we've loved having you and can't wait to welcome you back.

A special shoutout as well to Riley, who has begun his PE lead/coaching role – he has been a fantastic support in Year 7 lessons and has shown great commitment in his coaching theory sessions.

Safeguarding, Online Safety and Preparing Young People

At Allerthorpe School, as in many schools, we are contacted each week by concerned parents and carers about the use of group messaging apps and how our learners engage with them. You may also have seen increasing media coverage highlighting how smartphones and online platforms can pose risks to the wellbeing and safety of young people—particularly for those who may not yet have the social understanding needed to navigate group chats appropriately.

Recently, there has been significant public discussion about whether social media should be restricted for children under the age of 16, following similar action taken in Australia. These conversations have centred on protecting young people from:

- Exposure to harmful content (including violence, criminal activity, and inappropriate imagery)
- Cyberbullying
- Negative impacts on mental health and wellbeing

Although the UK has decided not to introduce a full ban on social media for under-16s at this time, the debate has highlighted the need for stronger safeguards and clearer expectations. As a result, new measures and restrictions are expected to be introduced over the coming year. Some companies, including Meta, have already started implementing changes, and there have been calls from policymakers for further action, with recognition that “the status quo cannot continue”.

What We Are Doing in School

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, Allerthorpe School recently welcomed PCSO Simon Palmer, who spoke to some learners about the legal implications of online behaviour. His sessions focused on helping learners understand:

- What constitutes harassment
- The importance of respectful communication online
- How to recognise when online behaviour crosses the line

Harassment is defined as repeated and unwanted contact, which can occur through messages, social media, or in person. Learners were made aware that continuing to send messages or threats after being asked to stop is a serious matter.

Simon also explained the possible consequences of such behaviour, which can include:

- Fines
- Restraining orders
- Community orders
- In serious or persistent cases, imprisonment

Importantly, he also provided practical advice on how learners can keep themselves safe when using online platforms and mobile devices.

Supporting Families

We recognise that keeping young people safe online is a shared responsibility between school and home. To support this, PCSO Simon Palmer will be delivering a parent workshop next half term. This session will provide guidance on:

- Understanding popular apps and online behaviours
- Setting appropriate boundaries
- Supporting children in making safe choices online

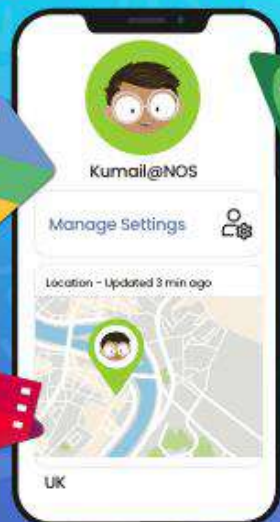
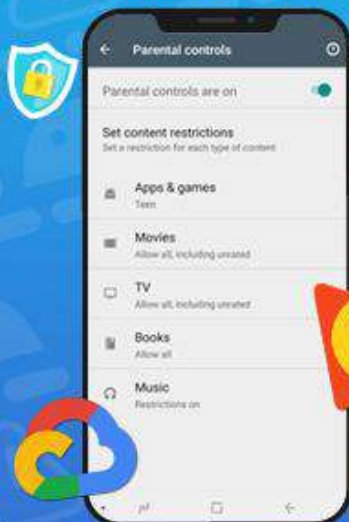
Further details will be shared with families soon—please look out for information coming home.

Together, we can continue to support our learners in developing the knowledge, confidence and resilience they need to stay safe in an increasingly digital world.

Below are guides to help parents and carers protect and monitor their children's devices.

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going onto Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authentications relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those, too.



How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases):

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
- 5 Toggle 'Parental controls are off' to 'Parental controls are on'
- 6 Create a PIN and tap OK
- 7 Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
- 8 Tap Apps & Games
- 9 Set the age limit you wish to set (18+)
- 10 Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Tap Auto-Update Apps
- 5 Select 'Don't auto-update apps' and then tap Done

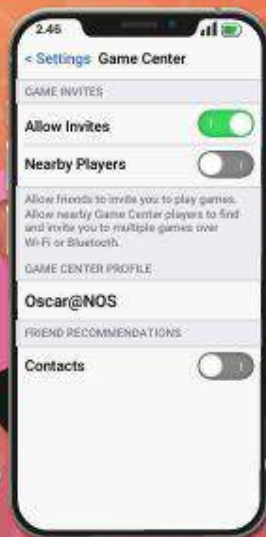
Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

- 1 Open Google Play Family Link for parents
- 2 Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
- 3 Select your child's account
- 4 Tap Manage
- 5 Tap Controls on Google Play
- 6 Tap Apps & Games
- 7 Select the age limit you wish to set (18+)



How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)



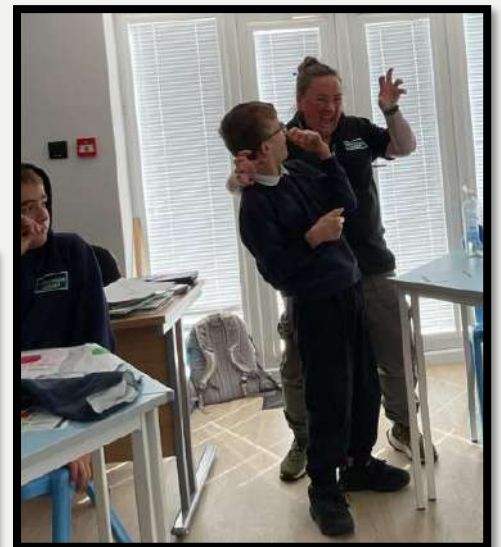
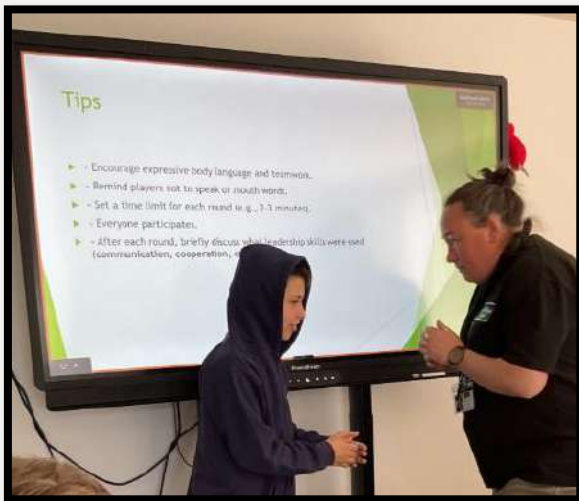
Careers at Allerthorpe: Highlights from This Half Term

✿ Developing Communication Skills – KS3

Our KS3 learners have been focusing on leadership and communication through fun activities such as charades.

This has helped them to:

- Develop non-verbal communication skills
- Build confidence and teamwork
- Strengthen problem-solving skills
- These are essential skills for both everyday life and future careers.



🏛️ Work Experience at Harewood House – Year 10

Year 10 learners completed a two-day work experience placement at Harewood House.

Day One:

Working alongside the house team, learners carefully cleaned historical artefacts.

Day Two:

Learners supported the preservation of delicate library books—some dating back to the 1400s. This required patience, precision, and respect for history. Learners even discovered beautiful illustrations by the aide to Queen Mary.

Alongside this, learners enjoyed exploring the grounds, taking the opportunity to capture the stunning scenery through photographs for their school course as preparations were underway for the *House in Bloom* event.



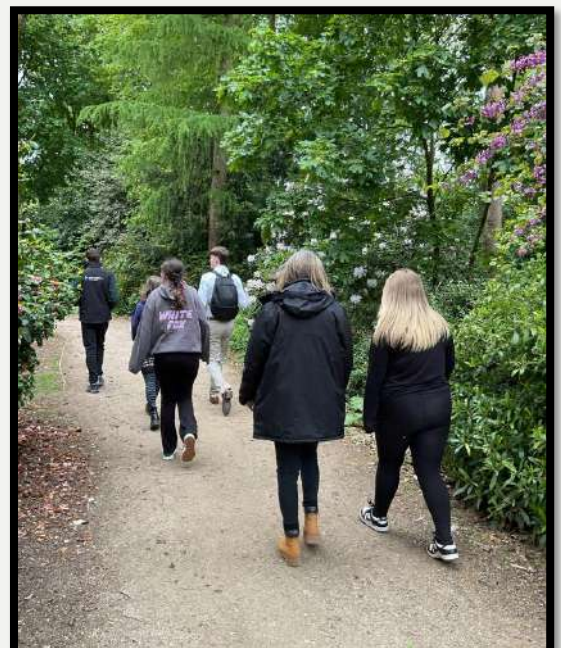
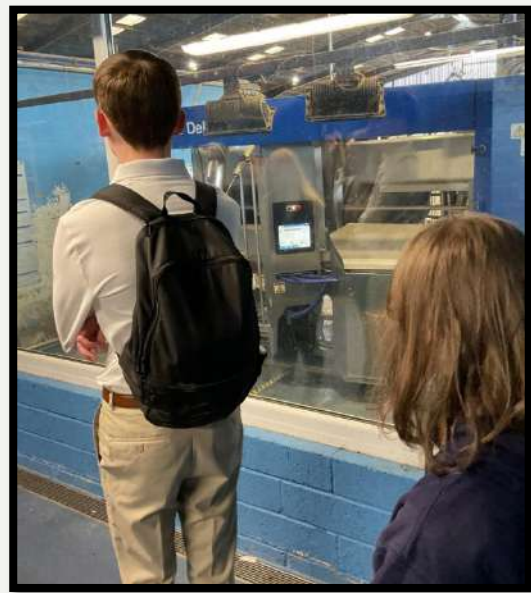
College Visit – Askham Bryan College (Years 9 & 10)

Learners visited Askham Bryan College, gaining a real insight into post-16 opportunities.

During the visit, they:

- Toured the campus and facilities
- Learned about courses, placements and accommodation
- Spoke with the admissions team about student life

A highlight for many was seeing the animals and wildlife, as well as the robotic milking machine—although one cow wasn't quite ready to cooperate!



🎓 Year 9 Subject Pathways Options Afternoon

Year 9 learners, alongside parents and carers, attended our Subject Pathways Options afternoon.

This event supported learners to:

- Understand the qualifications available at KS4
- Explore subject choices and future goals
- Ask questions and begin planning ahead

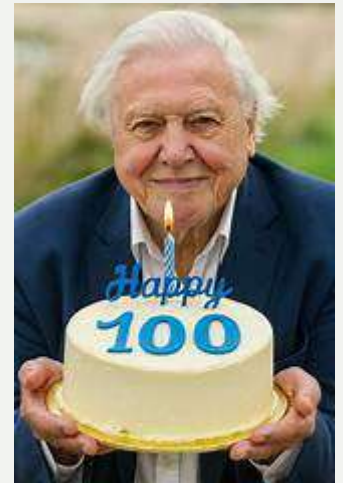
This is an important step in helping learners make informed decisions about their future.



Sustainability

For sustainability this half term, we have focused on World Earth Day and David Attenborough's 100th Birthday.

For World Earth Day on 22nd April, some of our KS3 learners explored the CBBC live lesson with Megan McCubbin and Hacker T Dog. We explored what is causing global warming and then what everyday choices can reduce its impact. Our older learners explore some more in-depth discussions utilising The Economist Foundations' online resources.



Everyone at school found out more information about the life of David Attenborough and how he has supported wildlife conservation around the globe. Additionally, we watched clips of 'Life on Earth' to realise the extent of his work.

Everyone has continued on our recycling paper campaign to great success.

Other News:

As Allerthorpe is still in its growth period, we have been busy recruiting. We will be welcoming some new staff to the Allerthorpe family over the next few months. Starting with Beth, who joined us a few weeks ago and is working in Tim's class. She has already made a fantastic impact in school and will be responsible for our KS3 ELSA therapy from September 2026.

Jennifer will be joining us in June and will be part of the Year 10 class team. Jen is a very experienced Teaching Assistant, and we are once again very happy to welcome her to the Allerthorpe team.

We have recently recruited a new teacher for September who specialises in Computers and ICT. Sam is a fantastic addition to the Allerthorpe family, and he will be leading the IT in school and teaching the ICT courses for Ks4.

Elizabeth is also joining us in September as a part-time teacher of Maths and Science. Liz is an experienced SEND teacher who has been working with SEND children in reaching GCSEs in maths and other subject areas.

A few other changes:

We have more amazing news: a new member of the Office team, Louise, is starting in the next few weeks. Louise is an experienced office manager and admin assistant who we will be welcoming into the Allerthorpe family. She will be a new voice on our phones and will be another port of call for any queries or questions.

We also have the delight of welcoming Clair for a few months into the Allerthorpe School office. Clair will be training with us until the new Meadow School in Carlton opens in September.

Announcements:

As you are all aware, I will be leaving Allerthorpe School and moving to Meadow School in Carlton for the September 2026 opening.

In the meantime, I have great pleasure in announcing that *Jenny Walker*, our current Assistant Principal, will be stepping up to lead our amazing school into its 3rd year.



***Pauline Armitage-Evans* will also be stepping up to the role of Assistant Principal to continue Jenny's fantastic work on curriculum and careers development.**



I know we all wish them every success and support them in the next chapter of school.

Main Dates for your diaries:

Return to school for learners is on **Monday, 1st June 2026**

Full Report sent home: **WC 29th June 2026**

Parents' Evenings: **1st July 2026 - 3pm-7pm**

Sports day and Farmers Market: **16th July 2026 - 1.30-3pm**

Year 8 and 9 HPV vaccinations: **8th June 2026** by NHS nurses

Year 6 Transitions Days: **Friday 26th June, Friday 3rd July, Friday 10th July**

Summer Celebration event: **21st July 2026**

Half day on Wednesday, 22nd July

Please watch out for school letters; we use email and paper letters.

DON'T FORGET TO FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Use parentcarer@allerthorpeschool.com to get in touch with us

