

Achieve and Learn Trust Newsletter

Issue Three: July 2026



Welcome to the SUMMER edition of our Trust newsletter!

The latest from the Achieve and Learn Trust! A trust of 250 staff and 2000 students all working together to ensure the best educational provision!



Our schools have now broken up for the summer with our hard-working students and staff looking forward to a relaxing time – let's hope the sun keeps shining! I am proud of the steps taken by our schools to ensure student wellbeing through these long holidays and also positive about the significant support that has been put in place to ensure exam success in 2026.

Since my last newsletter, our Trust has supported two Ofsted Monitoring Visits at Reddish Vale High School, the second of which became a full Section 5 on day two with great outcomes for the school (report yet to be published), and a full Section 5 at Altrincham College where all areas were graded 'strong' or 'expected'!

[Inspection Report](#)

Of AC, Ofsted said:

"Staff identify pupils' needs early. They are knowledgeable about what each pupil requires. Staff act quickly so that barriers to learning and wellbeing are reduced."

"Leaders keep pupils' best interests at the centre of their decisions. They maintain high aspirations for all pupils, including those in the post-16 provision. Leaders model the care and respect that they expect pupils to show. Their determined work helps pupils to secure successful next steps."

All of these inspections were conducted fairly, but were by necessity, a huge team effort in pulling together the information needed and rearranging logistics over the two days. At times it was difficult for senior leaders to attend meetings with

Inspectors whilst having to find staff to cover their duties or lessons...when others were also in meetings or in lessons!

Having said that, Inspectors were willing to consider and discuss all evidence thoroughly, right up to the last minute. They were also regularly checking on everyone's wellbeing and were genuinely open to feedback on this.

As we take stock of all we have achieved this year across the Trust, it's worth remembering that things don't slow down towards the end of term! The Department for Education has only recently rolled out policies for implementation from September, and staff are working furiously to ensure everything is in place for students in a timely and precise manner. These include **statutory phone bans, caps on branded uniform items, new RSHE content, updated safeguarding requirements, enrichment benchmarks**, and **expanded free breakfast clubs**, among others. An extensive survey for CEOs was requested on Monday for completion within a week.

I am not alone when I say that this not a good approach by the DfE and it seems we must face this situation every year. I urge the DfE to stagger these more efficiently across the preceding year to support the wellbeing and workload of everyone at school and Trust level.

Quality Mark for our Trust: [White Ribbon UK](#)

This term we achieved White Ribbon Accreditation for all schools in the Trust, ensuring that going forwards, the Trust Central Team and Headteachers act as Champions across our schools. White Ribbon Accreditation is a commitment made by workplaces to work towards transformational culture change in their staff culture, systems and communities. We are proud to say that we will be:

- Making change visible inside and outside of our organisation by communicating to our workforce and community that we are committed to positive change and inclusive workplaces where everyone feels that they belong.
- Taking a holistic and positive approach to bringing about gender equality and ending men's violence against women.
- Demonstrating our ongoing and sustained commitment to preventing men's violence against women by making changes in the way priorities are determined across your organisation through our communications, HR policies, employee development, training, and overall organisational culture.
- Upskilling staff to become a community of changemakers with the understanding and strategies to make a difference.

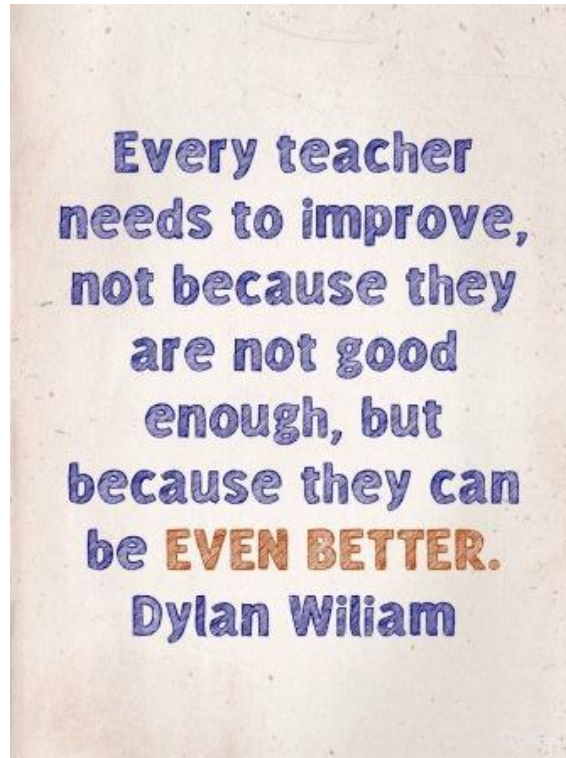
*You too can take part. Why not start with White Ribbon Day: **25 November 2026?***

[Learn about White Ribbon Day — White Ribbon UK](#)



Our Trust values reflected in our schools

Ambition



Trust and individual school training programmes are wide-ranging and of high quality. Training is on offer to all staff and, unlike the quote above, this does not solely apply to teachers! NPQs have been completed and support staff have completed NVQs and individual courses under their areas of responsibility. The Trust Central Team has worked closely with Headteachers and middle leaders (teaching and support) to help them drive forward improvement through collaboration across schools, whilst keeping true to Achieve and Learn's core vision and values.

This term we've seen:

- Outstanding teaching and learning initiatives across the Trust, such as bespoke intervention leading to 'strong' outcomes at KS5
- New curriculum projects designed to improve student engagement.
- Increased opportunities for professional development and collaboration including professional coaching for each Headteacher.

Foci next term:

1. Deepening our knowledge and understanding of KS2 to Strengthening curriculum innovation especially at KS3 through work with Mary Myatt and building on her publication "The Ambitious Years"

2. Sharing best practice between schools in all areas, including Site Management, School Business Management and KS3 assessment.
3. Supporting leadership development at all levels through our “Aspiring Leaders”, “Leading from the Middle Up” and individual professional coaching for senior leaders.

Belief

Our Trust was successful again this year in securing **Condition Improvement Funding** from the DfE. Both our schools will receive thousands of pounds to replace roofs and to update heating and electrics; we are delighted to be benefitting from this, especially in light of the cancellation of the expansion of Altrincham College, leaving much maintenance work to be undertaken to make good buildings that we due to be demolished. At Reddish Vale, this funding is a major boost and will ensure buildings remain fit for purpose as the school accommodates more and more extra-curricular activities for students and the wider community.

Trust success in securing CIF, made the Press:

[Altrincham College 'delighted' to secure government funding | Messenger Newspapers](#)

Foci next term:

1. Raising aspirations through the refinement of an ambitious KS3 curriculum which in turn improves our KS4 curriculums.
2. Raising the bar at KS5 to continue the upward trajectory of student outcomes to 'exceptional' performance.
3. Maintaining engagement with DfE rollout of the White Paper to ensure strategies are workable, well-resourced and targeted correctly.



Inclusion

Every child, every colleague, every opportunity!

Creating inclusive schools remains central to our work. This year, Altrincham College celebrated its 60th birthday and students and staff celebrated with a Festival on the Field "AC60" at the end of term. Staff were, of course in fancy dress, with our young people enjoying bouncy castles and other inflatables, face painting and henna, live music from a variety of bands and lots to spend pocket money on!



Activities were student-led: students doing their bit for other students and staff. A commemorative poem was written and performed by Chloe and music was written by Sarthak. You can hear this on both the school and Trust websites. Special thanks to Mrs Mrozinski for supporting this and especially to Miss Diffley for having the creativity to this up an event like this!

Foci next term:

1. Central Team engagement at LA level re: SEND reforms and deliverability
2. Central Team engagement at LA level re: Safeguarding and attendance best practice and work with external organisations
3. Refinement of adaptive classroom practice for all abilities.

Community

We are "Better, Together"!

The Student Council at Reddish Vale High School is made up of 26 students who applied for the role of School Councillor. They meet once a term to discuss key information and look at ways to improve the school. This academic year, the students have gathered Pupil Voice via Form Representatives about Attendance Rewards and Extra Curricular Clubs. This resulted in a change from the annual Alton Towers trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Gulliver's World instead as the Attendance Reward Trip, and also saw the introduction of a Pickleball Club, Glitz Cheer Club and a Sign Language Club to enhance the enrichment offer! The Student Council are also working on a recycling project as part of the Trust sustainability drive, and have been collecting water bottles to make a sculpture and a Reddish Vale logo out of the bottle tops.

This term, a group of Student Council members attended the annual **Stockport Youth Council Summit** at the Town Hall where pupils debated improvements to travel, safe spaces and accessibility in the Council Chambers just as borough councillors do!

Special thanks to Mr Woan for ensuring our young people make a difference to their school and their community!



Foci next term:

1. Joint Student Council meeting across the Trust: 10 December 2026 to look at the use of images on Trust and school websites. To debate: deep fakes, AI pros and cons, how should our websites look and feel?
2. How our efforts in Sustainability help our community outside of the school boundaries.
3. Raising more funds for our student-chosen Trust charity: Manchester Mind through creative and fun activities!
4. Headteacher Community Outreach Programme
5. Trust Governance Away Day: Governor-led agenda and Trust-wide involvement.

Aspiration

Our Trust Strategic Plan is deliberately challenging; raising the bar for all involved in implementing it, monitoring it and reviewing impact.

[download.asp](#)

I believe there is much good practice across the Trust, with live action research taking place. I think we could be better at sharing the outcomes of this research more widely and we will be looking to develop this over the coming year. Our Plan details 'at least two school improvements per year as a result. Impact is being seen at Reddish Vale, where student attendance has improved for all groups by at least 1% on last year and staff retention is at an all-time high. At Altrincham, disadvantaged groups are both supported and challenged to improve outcomes with specific focus on PPSEND (double disadvantage) and PPmore able students.

And finally, please see attached Appendix A which is our Trust CPD Programme for 2026-2027.

We are now able to offer places to external colleagues for a very small fee. Please take a look – we do have some high profile names leading for us – and if you are not in our Trust, please email ceo@achieveandlearntrust.com to reserve your place! All CPD is free to staff in AALT.

On behalf of our Trust, may I wish you and your families a relaxing Summer.

Thank you to all staff and parents/carers for your ongoing support of our young people and our Trust!

We return on **TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026** ready for hard work but also with many exciting opportunities to be even better!

Kind regards

Kim Earle

CEO, Achieve and Learn Trust

