



Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers

It is wonderful to write as we return from the February half term break. After a very busy start to 2026 we look forward to an action packed half term full of opportunities and exciting events as **we hope for improved weather and lighter and brighter days**. This newsletter aims to include news from the last half term, celebrating the children's achievements along with important updates and reminders. Please take the time to share this newsletter as a family and to discuss life at AMS with your child.

Water, Water Everywhere ... Thank you to all of our families for your support throughout a period of unprecedented wet weather. Whilst it is not unusual for AMS to face challenges as the River Allen rises, your support and flexibility helped us to manage the poor weather, road closures and some difficult decisions around access to our site, whilst also striving to focus on our core purpose. As you can see below, **water levels reached a record high on 30th January** when the difficult decision to close our school early had to be taken. Particular thanks to our site and admin teams for their hard work throughout this period.

1.11m Water reaches the highest level recorded at this measuring station (30 January 2026)



Staffing update - In the next week or two **Miss Ashby will begin maternity leave**. We wish Miss Ashby all the very best at this exciting time and look forward to providing the children with an update soon.

School Shoes - Thank you to all of the families who have taken steps to **support our school shoe policy** as we have launched our shoe shop this term. A reminder that **children are not permitted to wear branded trainers** to school. If your child does attend school wearing Nike, Adidas or any other branded footwear they will be **expected to use our shoe shop** before collecting their trainers as the school day ends. **Families are asked to replace trainers** as soon as possible. A reminder that this expectation has been in place since September 2023.

Mobile Phones - Our school mobile phone policy permits children to bring a mobile phone onto our school site before handing it in to class phone boxes each day. **We expect mobile phones to be turned off before entering our school site and not to be turned on until children have left our premises**. If phones are turned on or used on our school site they will be confiscated and an after school detention will be issued. Please reinforce these expectations with your child.

Thank you for attending Parent evenings in recent weeks and we hope that Year 6 a families found our **SATs evening** helpful. In the coming weeks Year 8 children will take part in their London Residential visit and Year 7 will head to Paulton's Park to enjoy a forces workshop.

The big ask @AMS - Last half term senior staff completed **pupil interviews following our Big Ask @AMS pupil survey** that we completed shortly before Christmas. These interviews alongside the survey data will help us to act upon pupil views and opinions moving forward. A few highlights from this survey can be found throughout this newsletter.

Kind regards
Mr M. Legge - Headteacher



In this newsletter you can find: Key dates and term dates, links to policies along with updates on news and events from the school year so far.



Our School Values – Apsire@AMS

Our school's values underpin much of the work that we do in school and we regularly discuss these with the children making links to their learning journey with us at Allenbourn Middle. Our aim is to focus upon the three key areas of: **Academic Excellence**, **All Inclusive** and **Responsible Individuals** as we **aspire together @AMS**.

01 Academic Excellence
Seeking new knowledge and skills. Learning to problem solve, make decisions and be courageous.

02 All Inclusive
Valuing diversity, tolerance and the views of others. Growing in self belief in a nurturing environment.

03 Responsible Individuals
Developing value and responsibility within our community. Understanding the importance of keeping healthy and safe.

2024 – 2027
Rights Respecting Schools
UNITED KINGDOM
unicef
Silver Rights Aware

Did you know? We are eligible to be assessed for Gold RRS status in the Summer Term

Child Protection

Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead** with responsibility for Child Protection is:
Mr L. Smith (pictured right)



The Academy Committee member with responsibility for Child Protection is:
Mr K. Jess.

Our Designated Teacher with responsibility for Looked after Children is:
Mr L. Smith.



Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads with responsibility for Child Protection are:

Mr M. Legge, **Mrs P. Skipp** (pictured), **Mr R. Wright**, **Mr A. Stroud**, **Mr C. Daw**, **Mr C. Hickson** and **Mrs Burley**.

Did you know?

School Improvement work – Many thanks to our site team who have carried out repairs and painting across the half term break to ensure that our school remains tidy and well cared for.



Please take real care when using **East Borough**. A number of families are parking dangerously and on **double yellow lines**, whilst a number of vehicles continue to **drive the wrong way** down this road. Please ensure that you always drive at a **safe speed**. We will be **remarking the double yellow lines on the road accessing our site** in the coming weeks.

Special Recognition Award

Our Special Recognition award is given each week in our whole school assembly to recognise achievements across our school community both inside and outside of school. Please keep sending your recommendations to the school office. We love to hear about the children's successes!

Eliza in Year 7 - Congratulations Eliza for finishing **4th in the County Cross Country Championships**.

Congratulations to our pupils who performed so fantastically in Queen Elizabeth's production of Legally Blonde. We are so very grateful to our colleagues at QES for providing our children with this amazing opportunity: Charlotte, Mia, Megan, Darcey, Tia, Eliana, Poppy, Ellie, Jasmine, Alice, Caspian, Ruaridh, Emma and Olivia.



We were delighted to **receive National Attendance awards** shortly before half term **recognising our children's impressive attendance throughout the Autumn Term**. Whilst attendance has dipped since Christmas we have seen **signs of improvement in recent weeks** and we look forward to achieving further recognition in the coming months.



The Essential AMS Pupil Equipment List

Please ensure that your child attends school with the correct equipment each day.

Below is a quick reminder of the items that they need for each day:

A handwriting pen with blue ink (including a spare),
a pencil case, a pencil, a pencil sharpener,
a clear plastic 30cm ruler, an eraser, a glue stick,
a board pen, a set of colouring pencils,
a purple, pink and green biro and a highlighter.



You can purchase essential equipment packs via the Arbor shop for £4.00



The Big Ask @AMS – Pupil Survey

- **9 out of 10** children report that they **feel safe when at school**



Wimborne School Honored at Houses of Parliament with Prestigious International Award

Allenbourn Middle School has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award, recognising its exceptional commitment to bringing a global perspective into the classroom.

The 2026 award ceremony took place at the Houses of Parliament on Monday, 2 February, attended by Members of Parliament and educational leaders from across the UK. The award celebrates schools that go above and beyond in equipping young people with the cultural understanding and language skills necessary for a globalized world.

Allenbourn's international curriculum is highlighted by its long-standing partnership with the Felix Buhot School in Valognes, Normandy. In 2025, the school hosted a visit from their French counterparts, allowing Year 8 pupils to meet their long-term pen pals in person for the first time.

Madame Diment, Lead French Teacher at Allenbourn, who has championed these links for 11 years, said: *"These partnerships allow pupils to practice their language skills in a practical, fun, and meaningful way. It sparks a genuine curiosity about other cultures; our students become eager to learn more simply because they want to communicate and connect with their peers abroad."* The school's global outreach extends beyond linguistics. Key initiatives include a popular Fair Trade fashion show, organized by Head of Geography Roger Trim, and specialized English modules exploring identity and bilingualism through poetry.

Mark Legge, Headteacher at Allenbourn Middle School, said: *'We are immensely proud to receive this recognition, which reflects the hard work of our staff and the enthusiasm of our students. At Allenbourn, we believe that understanding our place in the wider world is vital. This award validates our mission to foster curious, empathetic, and globally-minded citizens who are ready for the challenges of the future.'* Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, added: *"The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms."*



The Big Ask @AMS – Pupil Survey

- **9 out of 10** children have **attended a club** whilst at AMS
- **1 in 3** children have **learnt a musical instrument**
- **9 out of 10** children would **recommend their school to a friend** moving to the area



Greek Day for Year 5

During Greek day, we took part in a variety of fun activities. These included a drama session with Mr Balmer, an Ancient Greek day art activity with Mrs Henstridge, a fun philosophy lesson with Mr Miller, wreath making with Miss Ashby and a mini Olympics (with sports activities from the Greeks) with Mr Balmer and Mr Wright.

When we arrived at school, all of the teachers were dressed in Greek costumes. Pearly white dresses and gleaming gold wreaths filled the classroom; everybody looked so Greek! In the morning, before our first Greek session, we read a Greek myth, called The Trojan Horse.

For the drama session, we re-enacted the myth of Theseus and The Minotaur in small groups. With the wreath making, we had a strip of green paper to fit around our head with gold and green paper of different shades. For philosophy, we debated different statements and questioned each-others opinions. In the art session, we made a Greek hoplite soldier out of paper plates, and in the Olympics we watched other members of year 5 take part in a running race, and a throwing competition.

Our year 5 Ancient Greek day was really enjoyable and we look forward to another day like this!

Written by Rose - Year 5



Our Shoe Shop - Shoes borrowed by 9:00am - Leave your trainers in the numbered shoe box - Returned at 3:10pm - Clean and cared for - 20p per day after 2 week loan - **Compulsory**

Did you Know?

Our very own **Mrs Hazell** will be running the **London Marathon** in April. She will be **raising funds for Tommy's the baby charity** who raise awareness about baby loss. You can support Mrs Hazell and this valuable charity by following this link:

[Mrs Hazell London Marathon Donations](#)





Did you Know?

Children can use our **Pupil Worry Button** that can be found on our school website (see above). This provides all of our children with the opportunity to share a concern with a Designated Safeguarding Lead to enable staff to best support your child. Children in Years 5 and 6 also have a Worry Monster in their classroom that they can add notes to for their teacher. The children are regularly reminded about this in our whole school assemblies.

Important Mobile phone reminder:

Pupils are required to **turn their mobile phone off as they enter our school each day** and these **must be handed in** and **secured in their class phone box** for the day. Any pupil found with their mobile phone turned on or in their possession during the school day will be issued with an after school detention.

Behaviour Expectations @AMS

We continue to **teach our children how to conduct themselves** as they grow to be articulate and responsible young people. We value our partnership with home and all of our families' support to ensure that we work together to reinforce our behaviour expectations. This will ensure that our school is the very best environment for our children to learn and grow in. Please take time to review these expectations with your child from time to time. A link to our behaviour procedures is available below (and on our school website) for you to review together.

[AMS Behaviour Guidance Trust Behaviour Policy](#)

Expectations	At All Times	In Classrooms	Playground	Lunchtime	Toilet
We are here to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the learning Be prepared for your next lesson Put your equipment away safely so it is ready to use again when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive on time for lessons Enter rooms quietly Have the necessary equipment Leave the room tidy Respond appropriately to adult instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep to your specified areas Play attention and follow adult instructions Respond to signals that social time has ended Return to lessons quickly and quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk to tables Stay seated at tables while eating Queue quietly and respectfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit only at break times where possible Spend as much time in the classroom as possible
We are respectful and polite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show courtesy to all Be aware of your surroundings Offer help where you can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to questions politely Use appropriate voice register Use inclusive and non-discriminatory language Raise your hand for attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space to everyone calmly and fairly Use inclusive and non-discriminatory language Be welcoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow adult directions Visit for your turn Respect the privacy of others Do not damage the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put rubbish in bins Flush the toilet Respect the privacy of others Do not damage the facilities
We make the right choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash a cloth Give your best Attend regularly Be punctual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at who is speaking Do not distract others Respond appropriately to feedback Attempt all tasks to the best of your ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play fairly Be tolerant of others Follow game rules Enjoy your social time Take the opportunity to be physically active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate voice volume Do not shout Check you have what you need before sitting down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go, flush, wash and leave Return to class promptly

Did you know?

You can now make a voluntary donation to school funds when you visit the shop in the Arbor App. There is no expectation or any family to make a donation. All contributions will be **6** used to support trips and visits across the school year.



BIG REWARDS

Each week throughout the academic year we will be **rewarding children** for reaching attendance milestones or for making real progress to secure improved attendance at school. **Donut Friday has been a real success** and each week in assembly we will explain to the children how our **weekly challenge** will work. We **plan to catch as many children as possible working hard on their attendance** throughout the year.



Our **children have been working hard to improve our whole school attendance figure** throughout the academic year. Each week in assembly we discuss our progress and seek to celebrate our progress in this area together. Having met our Spring half termly attendance target (just!) we invited all children to take part in a non uniform day on Friday 13th February. This saw the half term end with **our best attendance across the final two weeks.**

Despite taking real strides to improve our whole school attendance figure it has been **a challenge to maintain our high standards in recent weeks.** It remains very important that families work to support strong attendance at school for all of our children. We have also **noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late for school each day.** Many of these children travel to school by car and we therefore ask that families take steps to ensure that their children arrive on time each day both to ensure that they can settle quickly into the school day whilst also avoiding receiving a late mark rather than a present mark at morning registration.

Attendance Matters and reporting your child's absence

[Allenbourn Middle School - Website Attendance page link](#)

Our whole school attendance figures continue to improve steadily and pupils' attendance at Allenbourn Middle is above the National averages.

Thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support. We remain keen to see further required improvement. It is **vitaly important that children are in school as often as possible.**

We ask for your support **ensuring that your child attends school everyday** unless there is a very clear reason for absence.

Please review the link on our school website on how to report your child's absence.



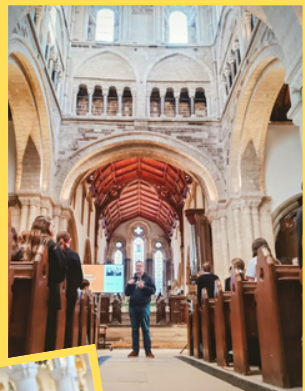
Exciting news! We're thrilled to announce that we have received the Equal Access Award from Barclays Football which recognises our commitment to providing equal opportunities for girls in football.

A huge thank you to our wonderful PE department and everyone who supports and participates.





Our AMS Choir performing at Wimborne Minster



Our school choir enjoyed the opportunity to take part in rehearsals for their performance with the **Armonico Consort** alongside children from St Michael's Middle School. **Christopher Monks, the Director of Armonico Consort** was very complimentary of the children and the work that they had done already. He is very excited about what we will be able to achieve at the **concert that will take place on Thursday 5th March 2026**. Our **particular thanks go to Revd Heather Waldsax and Mrs Moskova** for arranging and supporting this special event for the children.

The Big Ask @AMS – Pupil Survey Results

- **9 out of 10** children report that they **feel safe when at school**
- **92%** of children agree that **routines and expectations** in place help everyone to know how to behave at AMS
- **87%** of children report that their school provides **opportunities for them to learn about how to look after their emotional and mental health** (with 10% neither agreeing or disagreeing)
- **95%** report that our **school encourages** them to **respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally**
- **9 out of 10** children **know our three school values**
- **95%** of our children know that **our school is a Rights Respecting School** and **understand why this is important**
- **95%** of children report that they **know who they would speak to if they needed help**

THE BIG ASK @AMS PUPIL SURVEY



Did You Know? Places for September 2026 in Year 5 are filling fast and we have significantly more applications currently than we have had at this point in recent years.



Sports Update

Silver Medal Success for Year 8 Netball

Huge **congratulations to our Year 8 netball teams** who have represented Allenbourn brilliantly in the PEDSSA league. Over three weeks of round-robin fixtures against local middle and upper schools, both teams showed fantastic effort, determination and teamwork.

Highlights included the B team battling back to earn a hard-fought draw against a very tough side and the A team securing two wins and a draw in the final week to keep their medal hopes alive.

Special mentions to Maisie, Tia and Hattie for their superb, consistent shooting throughout the competition

Silver medalists is a fantastic achievement – the girls have worked hard, improved so much and truly deserve this success. Well done, team!



Congratulations to Eliza and Harry on their fantastic performances at the **South West Cross-Country Championships**. Despite a wet, muddy and slippery course, both pupils ran brilliantly and gave their all. Being **selected to wear the green Dorset vest is a real honour**, and they represented both their county and the school with pride.

Special congratulations to Eliza, who finished 4th Dorset girl and helped the team secure an impressive 5th place overall

Did you know? **E-Praise – Attendance Points – Every week!**

Each week children with **100% attendance** will be awarded **25 bonus points** to spend on **E-Praise rewards**. That is an **extra 250 points** for every 10 weeks with **100% attendance** at school. Every lesson the children attend earns them a point to spend on E-Praise.



Product Design @AMS

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding creativity, technical skill, and imagination shown by pupils in Product Design during the Autumn Term.

Year 5 - ducks and puzzles.

Year 7 - stands with laser-cut designs

Year 8 - metal insects and plants.

Well done to our amazing pupils!



Sparx – Year 7 and 8 Homework

Sparx Maths

Homework completion

215/₂₂₃

students completed (96%)

Work done over the week:

119 hours

of learning

Total this year: 2827 hours

Sparx Reader

Homework completion

202/₂₂₄

students completed (90%)

Work done over the week:

39 books

finished

Total this year: 1292 books

Sparx Science

Homework completion

221/₂₂₄

students completed (99%)

Work done over the week:

81 hours

of learning

Total this year: 2386 hours

Our **Year 7 and 8** children continue to **work incredibly hard** to complete their **Sparx homework**. The tables above highlight the children's excellent progress in the week before the half term. They **consistently achieve above 90% completion** ensuring an impressive total hours of learning.



E-Praise Reward Shop - It has been fantastic to see our children making such great use of the **E-Praise App to spend their House Points**. Please log in alongside your child (They know how to do this) to chat about the information they can see and to encourage them to use their House Points this term. Last term children used these points to earn non uniform days, to attend workshops or to visit Costa Coffee.



Ecoteam update - Spring term

The Ecoteam started up at the start of January. The team consists mainly of Year 6 and we have been looking at initiatives that we can bring to the school to improve our environmental awareness. We have been busy completing an environmental audit of the school that identifies strengths and weaknesses. This is part of our goal, to achieve a Green Flag award by the end of this academic year.

We have decided to focus our initiatives on improving the school's biodiversity, waste and our energy use.

Over the rest of the year the team supported by Mrs James will help to come up with campaigns and projects that will help to improve these areas around school.

Looking to make a real difference in our school environment? Join the Eco-Team every Friday lunchtime in the library! We are thrilled to announce that we have officially completed Stage One of our Green Flag Application, but we need your help to reach the finish line. Our team has already planned some exciting new initiatives to make our campus more sustainable, and we are looking for passionate new members to help bring these ideas to life. Whether you're full of green ideas or just want to help out, come along this Friday—together, we can secure that Green Flag for our school.

Blake 6J



Our Year 7 pupils have enjoyed receiving their **pen pal letters** in recent weeks and they practice their skills, make new friends and learn about life in France.



Caterlink - The Canteen - Payments now on Arbor

A reminder that we have completed the switch over of payments for our school kitchen to Arbor. This will now work in the same way as all other Arbor payments





IMPORTANT: Please ensure that children do not bring nut or sesame seed based products into school. This includes Nutella spread. Please also ensure that children have a healthy snack for break time each day and remind them of the importance of reducing packaging and keeping our school tidy.

Pupil Safety and Conduct in our Community

We regularly talk with the children about the importance of travelling to and from school safely. Please discuss the following with your children regularly to ensure their safety.

- **Behaviour should be of a high standard at all times.**
- Pupils should not use mobile phones whilst walking to school, particularly when crossing roads.
- Pupils must remain on pavements at all times and walk with care and consideration for others.
- Pupils using scooters or bikes should take care around other road users and those on pavements.
- **Helmets should be worn on bicycles and scooters.**

Did you know?

Allenbourn Middle School currently holds the **highest level of School Games Award**.

We are a **Platinum** Award school, This status is awarded to schools who have consistently maintained the Gold Award status for four consecutive years.

Communication with Home

Don't forget to sign up to the Arbor App

We continue to work hard to develop strong links with our families ensuring that you receive regular and timely information about school life.

Currently more than **99% of families have signed up**. If you have not completed this process yet please email the school office.



Use of our school car park

Please can parents ensure that they drive with real care and park responsibly in designated bays when using our school car park. Cars must not obstruct the bus parking area at the start or end of each day. Our car park operates a one way system and we expect all families to support this at all times.



Peripatetic Music lessons Many children benefit from peripatetic music lessons through the school year. These are offered to all children across a variety of instruments. Please speak with Mrs Moskova or click on the following link [CLICK HERE](#) if you would like more details.

Arriving at school each day - Your support is needed.

Allenbourn Middle School opens at 8:30am, with registration taking place for all pupils at 8:40am. Whilst we are keen to encourage excellent punctuality, can we please ask for your support in ensuring your child **does not arrive at school too early in the morning**. Duty staff are not in place until 8:30am when the school officially opens. **Prior to 8:30am the playground and other external facilities are not monitored by staff**. Should you require morning child care, our breakfast club provision starts from 7.45am and is currently able to be booked on Arbor.

Extra Time @ AMS - Book now for Spring 2026!

Extra-time @AMS continues to go from strength to strength and it is great to see this additional provision being used by more and more of our families.

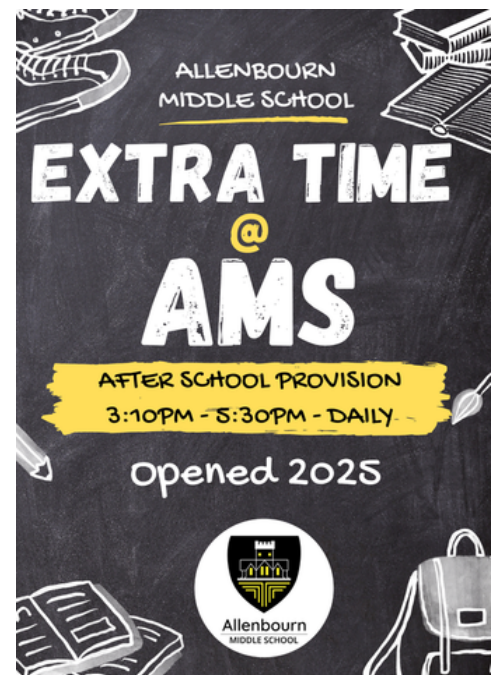
Mrs Fielder leads our programme of activities and we are keen to see more families making use of this provision.

Extra-time@AMS runs between 3:10pm and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday during term time, excluding training days. Children do not have to attend every evening and families may wish to attend for one or two evenings each week.

Each evening children will have the opportunity to complete homework and learning tasks whilst also attending other school clubs and interventions. Children will have a snack and drink break together at approximately 4:15pm.

Children will then complete games and arts and crafts until collection. **Places cost £8 per session.**

Places can be booked on Arbor a week in advance or by contacting the school office for last minute bookings.



IMPORTANT: Essential uniform reminders School Uniform at AMS

- **Children are not permitted to wear branded trainers to school.** This change was made for September 2023.
- Skirts must be pleated and should be no more than two or three centimetres above the knee.
- Children are not permitted to wear make-up or jewellery to school.



Key Dates

Spring Term 2026

Children return to School
Year 8 London Residential Visit
Year 7 Paultons Park Trip
Last day of Spring Term

Tuesday 24th February 2026
Monday 16th March 2026
Friday 27th March 2026
Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Staff Training Day
Children return to School
Bank Holiday
Year 6 Marwell Zoo Trip
Bournemouth University Visit
Half Term
Sports Days

Transfer Day
Year 5 Ancient Technology Centre Trips
Last day of Summer Term

Monday 13th April 2026
Tuesday 14th April 2026
Monday 4th May 2026
Friday 15th May 2026
Wednesday 20th May 2026
Monday 25th May 2026
Thursday 18th and
Friday 19th June 2026
Friday 26th June 2026
8th, 10th, 13th & 14th July 2026
Wednesday 22nd July 2026



[You can find our term dates for 2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027 on our school website by following this link:](#)

[Term Dates](#)

Careers @ AMS

Careers is fast becoming a driving force in curriculum delivery and an end target for all. At Key Stage 3, the children will have a session each week as detailed in our Careers overview that can be viewed on our website.

Year 7 start by reflecting on why education is important, whilst Year 8 begin to consider who is in their network. Both staff and children agree on one thing that has the most impact on careers and that is parents. The most powerful visitors we have had to our schools in the past few years have been when parents have come to share their career journey and children become aware of the wider working world.

If you feel that you could spare 20 minutes to come and talk to Year 7 & 8 about your career, please could you contact Mr Pressling at mpressling@allenbournmiddle.org in the first instance. It doesn't matter what you do for a living, you could inspire a child to consider a career they have never thought of.

