



ALTRINCHAM GRAMMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS



ON YOUR MARKS



THE SCHOOL VISION

FOR OVER 100 YEARS WE HAVE WORKED WITH OUR STUDENTS TO INNOVATE, TO LEAD, TO BE THE BEST.

A first class education is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children, and finding the right school for the aptitudes of your son as he approaches Secondary School age is particularly important. This booklet offers a taster of what Altrincham Grammar School for Boys embodies, our successes, our innovation and our vision.

The School is a success for many reasons but I would pick out two key features. The first of these is the quality of the relationships between staff, pupils and parents. We believe that a good education comes from all three working together. The second is the drive of the boys who attend this School, a drive to succeed both academically and as people. The School has always valued honesty, tolerance and respect for others, just as much as examination results, encouraging the boys to develop into well-rounded self-disciplined young men.

In recent years the pace of new building and refurbishment to established buildings has been remarkable. It is the ambition of the School to have facilities that match the quality of its pupils and teaching staff and I believe that the improvements made over the past decade get us close to that aim.

You will see for yourself as you walk the corridors or look through these pages that AGSB is one of a kind, as are the people who are fortunate enough to attend. I sincerely hope that your son will be amongst them.

Mr G. A. Wright
Head Master

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE 'THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN BRITAIN' ALTRINCHAM WAS THE NUMBER 1 PLACE TO LIVE FOR SCHOOLS AND AGSB IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY.

The Altrincham County High School for Boys, as it was originally called, was founded in 1912. It opened with only 57 pupils and three staff (a Head Master, a Deputy and one other!) Housed in the distinctively decorated red brick building which still forms the central block of the School, the south wing and the assembly hall were added in 1938 and the present Science block added in 1964. From the mid 1990s there has been considerable further development including the Stamford Hall (large dining hall), new classrooms, laboratories and a Sixth Form Centre. 2008 saw a major re-development of our sports facilities, and the most recent addition is a new state of the art Physics Centre.





KNOW YOUR SUBJECTS

WE OPEN STUDENTS' EYES TO A WORLD OF NEW IDEAS – SO THEY CAN OPEN THE EYES OF THE WORLD WITH THEIRS.

TEACHING

Academic excellence is developed through the quality of a school's teaching. Teaching methods combine effective traditional approaches with more innovative styles, which enrich pupils' learning. Our teachers adapt teaching methods according to what students respond to best, ensuring that they are kept motivated and interested. All teachers have excellent subject knowledge which they update regularly either through private reading or appropriate courses. The School refurbishment programme ensures that classrooms are well equipped to promote the best possible teaching and learning. Most importantly, however, are the excellent relationships between teachers and pupils which create a real sense of partnership in working towards shared goals.

LEARNING

One of our main aims is to develop a pupil's natural desire to learn. Students are taught to expand their knowledge beyond what they learn in the classroom and develop independent research and independent thinking. In years 7 - 9 all teachers encourage opportunities for personal research and practical experience. This is reinforced by lessons which explain different learning strategies and the ways in which some individuals may learn differently from others. As boys mature so these basic principles are revisited in more sophisticated ways. The maturity and self discipline of the majority of our students in their last year of GCSE and within the Sixth Form is testimony to the emphasis that we give to their learning experience.

WORKING TOGETHER

STUDENTS SHARE A RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH TEACHERS. AGSB BELIEVES IN OPEN DISCUSSION, AN OPEN MIND AND AN OPEN DOOR.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys is a large school, yet it has managed to retain the friendly, family atmosphere for which it is rightly renowned in the local area. There is a real sense of partnership and trust between teachers and pupils at the School, exemplified by the work of the imaginative and constructive Student Council.

The Form Tutor plays an essential part in this process. Specialist Form Tutors in Year 7 lay strong foundations, which are developed further up the School. Regular form periods provide opportunities to build up a working relationship with each boy and to maintain a close watch on his academic progress and general welfare. Heads of Year support Form

Tutors and have time to give attention to more complex academic, discipline or welfare casework.

School prefects, who play a central role in the day to day running of the School, duty staff, senior staff, the Deputy Head Master and Head Master are to be found about the School site at breaktimes and lunchtimes, keeping an eye on the wellbeing of pupils.

Peer mentors from Year 12 upwards work with younger pupils advising on academic or pastoral matters. Fortunately, bullying occurs only rarely but when it does arise it is soon identified and dealt with in a firm and fair way.



KEEP THE FAITH

AGSB ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO HAVE A MORAL AND SOCIAL SENSITIVITY AS WELL AS A RESPECT FOR ALL FAITHS.

Care for the needs of others, service above self, tolerance of other people's opinions, good manners and respect when speaking to other boys and to adults all matter very much within this school community.

Assemblies play a central role in the development of such values. Led by the Head Master they are broadly based on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues. They offer pupils the opportunity to reflect upon either issues of the day or issues of a more enduring nature. 'Thought for the Week' provides Form Tutors with a theme, usually based upon an assembly topic, to discuss and debate in form period.

All subjects offer pupils opportunities to reflect upon moral, social and spiritual issues whilst PSE/Citizenship lessons are of particular importance. Taught by a specialist team of experienced teachers they introduce pupils to the moral and social foundations of issues such as human sexuality, drugs in society, the UK political system and the world of economics and business.

CHARITABLE GIVING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

It is important to actively show and stand by what we believe. With the assistance of Heads of Year and Heads of School each year group is active in raising significant sums of money annually for local, national and global charities.

Pupils, especially many Sixth Formers, also involve themselves in a programme of community service which involves working in local primary schools and care homes for the elderly. In this way pupils of the School have become popular and respected within the local community for their commitment to service towards others.

OPEN DIALOGUE

A PUPIL'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON STRONG LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS.

Parents play a vital role in the success of the School in many ways. The Governing Body has six Parent Governors who offer a helpful perspective on strategic issues. Many parents work closely with Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Heads of School on pastoral matters involving their sons. Some parents are able to provide specialist advice or assistance to the School on professional or sporting matters.

Yet it is the Parents and Friends Association which attracts the involvement of the majority of parents. Founded in 1957 it has gone from strength to strength organising a wide range of social events which have provided significant amounts of funding to enrich all aspects of School life.



SUBJECT MATTER

AGSB OFFERS A SOLID FOUNDATION TO GIVE STUDENTS THE BEST POSSIBLE GROUNDING.

We offer a Grammar School curriculum which combines academic and technological disciplines. Each subject area recognises its part in developing broader qualities within the pupils they teach. There are six central qualities which the School curriculum aspires to develop:

- Analytical and critical thought
- The ability to work independently
- An appreciation of the culture and values which bind together a civilised society
- An ability to think creatively and imaginatively
- An understanding of the value and limits of technology
- Self confidence combined with humility

SUBJECTS

Mathematics
 English
 Science
 French
 German
 Spanish
 History
 Geography
 Design & Technology
 ICT
 Food Technology
 Art
 Music
 Religion & Philosophy

PE & Games
 PSE/Citizenship
 Classical Studies

Year 7: two foreign languages are studied; French-German, French-Spanish or German-Spanish.

Year 8: boys continue with language option or drop one to take either Latin or Chinese instead.

GCSE & A LEVEL

GCSE SUBJECTS

10 GCSEs are taken by all pupils in addition to the subjects available in Years 7 - 9.

Additional subjects include:

Economics
 Geology
 Business Studies
 Religion & Philosophy
 Physical Education
 Computer Science

And continuing with:
 Religion & Philosophy
 PSHE
 PE
 Games

n.b. From Year 8 all students study 'separate sciences' - Biology, Chemistry & Physics. The Dual Award is also offered at GCSE.

A LEVEL SUBJECTS

Four AS levels are studied plus Key Skills courses in Year 12 followed by 3 A2 Levels plus General Studies in Year 13, with the option to continue with the 4 same subjects to A2.

Art & Design	German
Biology	History
Business Studies	ICT
Chemistry	Latin
Computing	Mathematics
Design & Technology	Music
Economics	Philosophy
English Language and Literature	Physical Education
English Literature	Physics
French	Politics
Further Mathematics	Spanish
General Studies	+ a programme of subsidiary subjects in Year 13
Geography	
Geology	



THE BEST IN BOTH WORLDS

IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT WHAT THEY LEARN INSIDE THE CLASSROOM, IT IS HOW THEY USE AND EXPAND THIS INFORMATION ONCE THEY LEAVE IT.

HOME DEVELOPMENT

A serious and disciplined attitude towards homework is vital if boys are to keep up with the academic curriculum. During the first week of any academic year a homework schedule for each form below the Sixth Form is issued. Inevitably the work set and time spent on it will vary, but as a rough guide we would expect Year 7 pupils to spend about 40 minutes to an hour on homework each evening, increasing as they get older.

All pupils are issued with student planners in Years 7 – 11. The planner provides space for pupils to record details of homework and other reminders. These should be seen and signed weekly by parents and checked by Form Tutors.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Pupils' work is closely and regularly monitored and reported upon. Each year all pupils receive a full written report which details academic progress and recognises other contributions made to School life. Each term parents receive an update on progress through grades on effort and attainment in each subject.

Pupils whose attainment or effort is not up to expectations will be monitored more closely. The School has a number of systems designed to match different learning problems. Through working in partnership with parents almost all problems are resolved successfully.

Commendations for excellent work or excellent effort are also important. Pupils who try hard receive regular commendations and excellent work is praised through postcards sent home to parents.

JOIN THE CLUB

CLUBS AND GROUPS OPEN DOORS TO NEW SKILLS, NEW EXPERIENCES AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS.

LUNCHTIME AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Education should aim to develop a more rounded individual and the extensive range of extra-curricular activities provide lots of ways in which boys can develop their own particular interests.

An example of this is playing chess. There is a long established society at School going right back to 1912. AGSB produces teams at all levels which compete in the Manchester League. Like a lot of societies it is open every lunchtime.

Each year we produce a guide to the different societies on offer. The list includes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Amnesty International | Robotic Club |
| Christian Society | Scheme Film Club |
| Creative Writing Club | Science Club |
| Duke of Edinburgh Award | Vocal Society |
| Frisbee Club | Warhammer |
| Gardening Club | Website Design |
| Hindu Society | Young Enterprise |
| ICT | |
| Islamic Society | |
| Law Society | |
| Public Speaking & Debating | |



TALKING THE LANGUAGE

NEW LANGUAGES, NEW CULTURES, NEW TERRITORY AND WITH IT A NEW WAY OF THINKING.

LINKS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Our aim is to instill a global dimension into the teaching and learning of students and staff across all curriculum areas. AGSB pupils are global citizens and they will have the opportunity to live and work all over the world. Through the study of language boys gain intercultural understanding as well as valuable communication and language skills during their time at AGSB.

The School offers many fantastic opportunities to learn new languages. The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department is equipped with interactive whiteboards and two multi-media digitised language laboratories. The laboratories enable boys to practise their speaking and listening and to take part in interactive computer based language learning at their own pace. We deliver lessons in French, Spanish, Latin and Chinese.

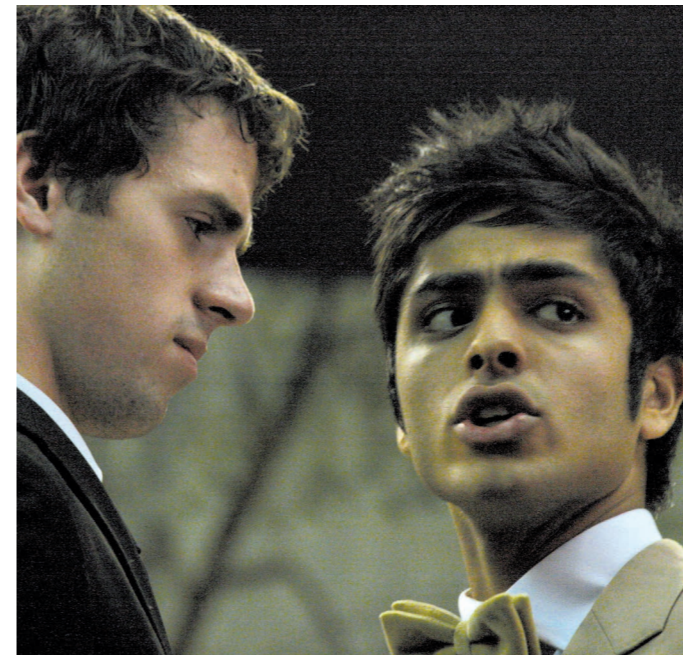
MFL exchanges take place annually with partner schools in France, Germany and Spain, during which boys experience different cultures at first hand and practise their language skills. Immersion Courses in China, Russia and the Middle East have taken intrepid boys and staff to far flung destinations, as have our links with the Apeejay schools in Delhi, India.

Our staff and students are involved in many international activities, including Amnesty International, the European Youth Parliament, British Council Immersion courses and summer camps in China.



Our commitment to languages also extends to parents and the local community through an extensive programme of evening classes. So, if you've ever scoffed at Ronaldo's grasp of English, Joey Barton's French or felt puzzled over Messi's Spanish, then delve into learning a language and become a master at flexing your Broca's area muscle. Before you know it, you could be tweeting in French, chanting in German, writing Chinese or singing in Spanish. The opportunities are endless!



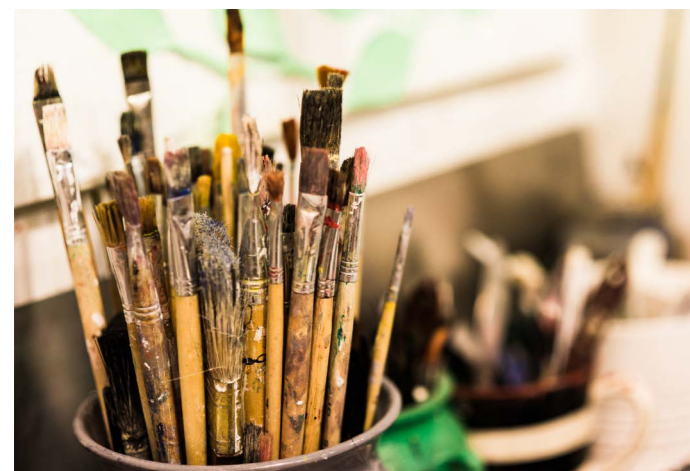


NATURAL FLAIR

FLAIR AND INNOVATION ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED WHETHER THEIR INSPIRATION COMES FROM MARLEY OR MOZART, MONET OR MONDRIAN.

ART AND DESIGN

Pupils who find pleasure in creative expression are encouraged to develop their interests in drawing, painting and three-dimensional work in the two modern Art Rooms. There are computer facilities in both rooms to facilitate imaginative and innovative design. The high quality results are on display throughout the School buildings.



MUSIC

Music has flourished for many years and there are excellent facilities. All students in Year 7 - 8 have an opportunity to learn a musical instrument in their music lessons. The Coleman Hall and the Stamford Hall are used for large-scale concerts and musicals and there are also large and small practice rooms. Music lessons are 'hands on' and very popular. A large number of visiting instrumental teachers provide specialist lessons to many pupils of all ages.

Music enriches the life of the whole community. An annual concert programme, with the emphasis upon wide participation across the age range, draws large audiences. Recitals from senior students give us an opportunity to marvel at the depth of musical talent within the School. The Choir, Barbershop group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Brass Band and String Orchestra also offer a splendid range of opportunity.

Our 'showcase' bands are the Senior Concert and Swing Bands, both of which have received national acclaim through success in competitions.

PLAYING AROUND

THERE IS ALWAYS SOME BIG DRAMA OR ANOTHER GOING ON.

In the Coleman Hall (named after a much respected former Deputy Head Master) Drama productions are a highlight of the School year. The main parts are often cast from the Sixth Form LAMDA group, which meets on Wednesday afternoons. Students who volunteer are trained by experienced film and TV actress Jennifer Hennessey in the main elements of voice

and movement before taking a challenging performance-based qualification. A Junior Drama group meets weekly and is the seedbed of acting talent. There are also joint productions with the Girls' School, a recent example being a memorable production of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'.





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

THE MORE YOU DISCOVER ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND YOU, THE MORE YOU DISCOVER ABOUT YOURSELF.

Every year AGSB offers trips near and far for cultural or scientific understanding and others which are simply for fun.

There are several day and residential visits to supplement the boys' studies as taking students away from the classroom can spark a new enthusiasm or further drive a pre-existing interest.

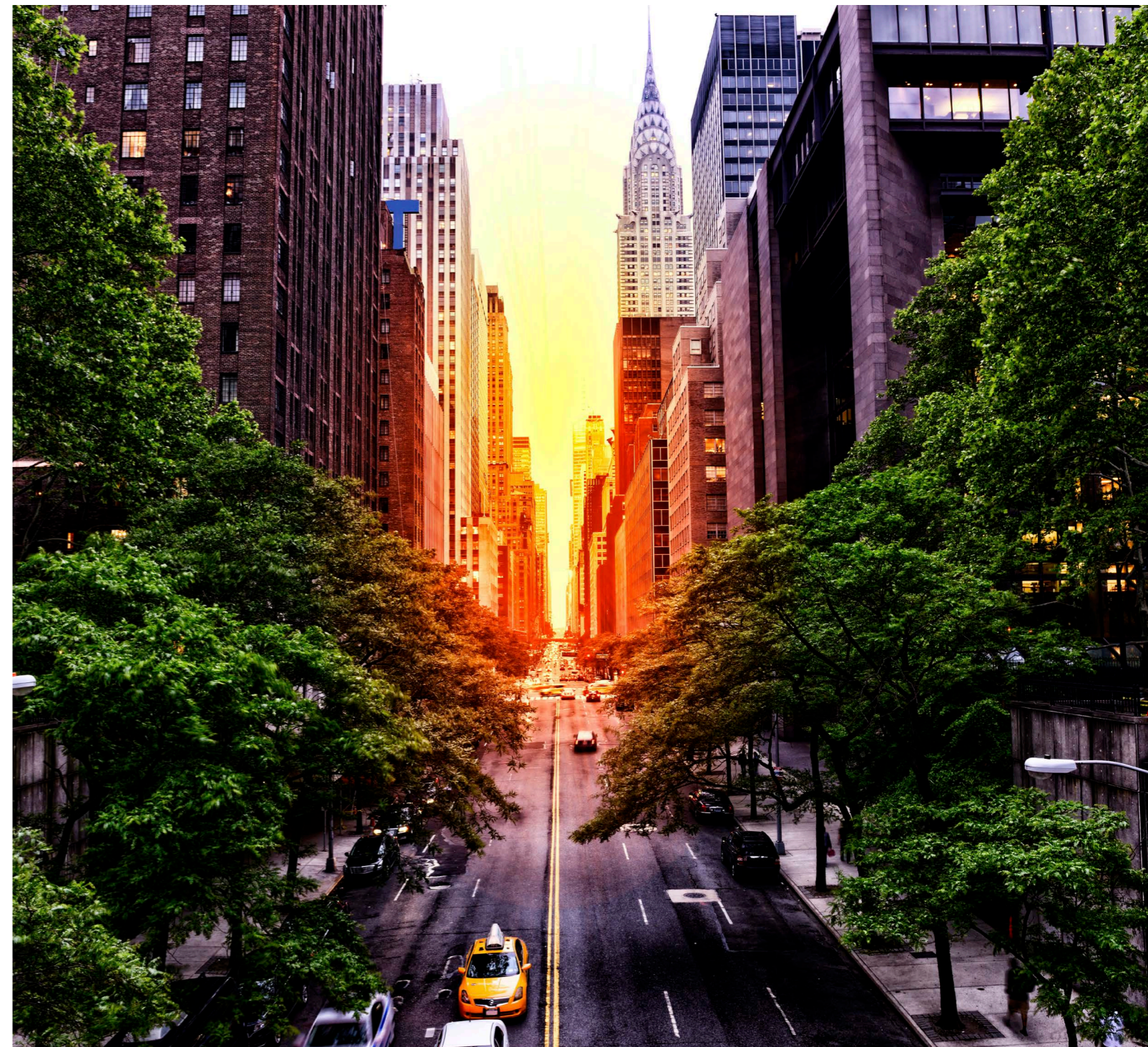
One annual favourite is the ever popular, and much enthused over, annual Spring term Ski Trip, which has been held, amongst other destinations, in Italy, France and America.

The biennial 'World Challenge' expedition is a more demanding expedition; recent destinations have included South Africa, Ecuador and Argentina. Students who have taken

part have had the experience of trekking out into some of the most beautiful, historically rich and challenging terrains. All who have taken part have thoroughly enjoyed the unique experience!

Every year there are excursions to Italy or Greece led by the Classics Department and an arts trip to the beautiful and architecturally rich city of Venice. There is also a historical outing to the First World War battlefields and the language department runs several trips to France, Germany and Spain to expand pupils' knowledge of the country, culture and the language.

Many of the above take place during Activities Week in July when the School timetable is suspended to allow for a wealth of extra-curricular enrichment.





THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

AGSB ARE REGULARLY IN THE TOP 10 UK BEST STATE SCHOOLS FOR SPORT

In a full range of sports AGSB are regularly featured in the top 10 of the best state schools for sport in the UK. Sporting opportunities have seen big changes in recent years. A £4 million investment brought about a radical transformation of our facilities. Now the School boasts, in addition to 16 acres of attractive playing fields, an Astroturf pitch, four tennis courts, two cricket wickets and a large sports complex including two sports halls and a large fitness gym.

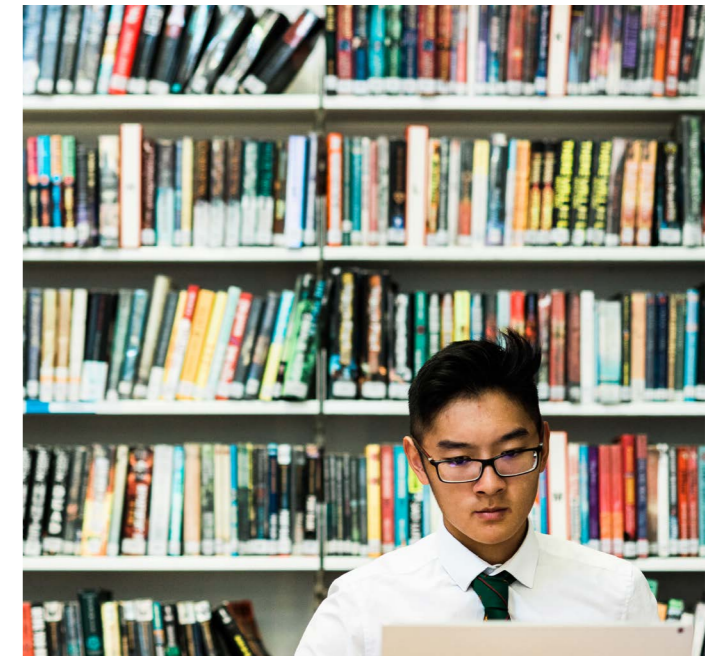
Team sports are very popular with both football and rugby being played in the autumn and spring term. There are hockey, cross-country, basketball and tennis teams and in the summer cricket and athletics become the major sports. Introducing boys to a wide range of sports helps them discover those they enjoy the most and keeps it interesting.

Standards are high with rugby, football, hockey, tennis, table tennis, cross country and basketball teams gaining success at local, regional and national level. Individually, the School has recently produced many national, regional and county players in a full range of sports.

The School has also welcomed visits from a number of star players who come along and offer pupils some sporting advice. These have included Jeremy Guscott, Freddie Flintoff and Bobby Charlton.

The new facilities have expanded opportunities for everyone. Not everyone enjoys team sports so there are clubs in sports including badminton, table tennis, fencing and fitness training. The sports centre is known as 'The Grammar' and remains open until 10 pm on weekdays and all weekend so that parents, boys and members of the local community can make use of the facilities.





FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW

THE SCHOOL'S GREAT SUCCESS IS A CREDIT TO THE BOYS IN ITS HISTORY WHO HAVE MADE IT SO. WE OWE IT TO THEM TO NOW BUILD AN EVEN BETTER FUTURE.

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS

On leaving the School students become part of a much larger body which has links on every continent. The Old Altrinchamians' Association keeps former pupils in touch with developments at the School. Many come back to visit at the time of the annual Old Boys Dinner in March each year. It is heartening for teachers to meet so many Old Altrinchamians who were deeply influenced by their time at the School and went on to become leaders in their professions in industry and commerce, politics or the Arts.

ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

Established in 1998 this Company, with charitable status, is charged with raising and holding money for the 'development' of the School's many large capital projects. Since 1998 over £500,000 has been raised and spent on capital developments including the Stamford Hall, new Classrooms for Mathematics, the new Sixth Form Centre, Sports Centre, Food & Nutrition Room and Physics Centre.

Parents and others are encouraged to contribute regularly via a Gift Aid donation.

BOOK UP YOUR IDEAS

A WELL STOCKED LIBRARY LEADS TO A WELL INFORMED MIND AND WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON EVER IMPROVING THE RESOURCES WE MAKE AVAILABLE.

Excellent teaching and learning need to be supported by a well-run and well-stocked library. A Librarian manages the Library supported by a team of pupils who are trained in running the library system. The Library is stocked with up-to-date books along with daily newspapers and weekly periodicals. Whilst the importance of reading academic texts cannot be emphasised enough, research can be supplemented by use of the internet. Across the whole School there are 500 networked computers for use by boys.

Library periods are offered in Year 7 in order to train pupils in the use of the Library and it is an extremely well-used resource across the School.



SCHOOL DATA

KEY FACTS YOU'LL WANT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSIONS

Parents are encouraged to visit the School to meet the Head Master, members of teaching staff and pupils. An Open Evening is scheduled every year in June. For the exact date please telephone the Admissions Officer on 0161 928 0858 or email trichardson@agsb.co.uk.

Applications for a place involve completing and returning an Application Form, which is available from the Admissions Officer. Entry to the School is normally at 11+ or 16+ although a small number of boys may enter at intermediate stages if a place becomes available. The Entrance Examination at 11+ is held in September and parents are notified if the qualifying mark has been achieved in October, before the deadline for completion of the local authority Preference Form. Due to the Government School Admission Policy, official notification of the offer of a place is made on 1st March of the year following the Entrance Examination.

An Open Evening for Sixth Form Admissions takes place in November of each academic year and applications are made by completing an application form available on that evening or from the Admissions Officer. Parents and students wishing to meet the Head of Sixth Form are asked to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Offers of places into the Sixth Form are made based on school reports and conditional upon the candidate acquiring a satisfactory number of GCSE grades. The details of all admission requirements and procedures are published in the School Admission Policy available from the Admissions Officer or the School website.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE

All pupils must be at School every day by 8.40 am. Pupils arriving after registration time must report immediately to the School Office. The School day ends at 3.25 pm.

Notification of the dates of School terms is provided well in advance in the termly 'Bulletin'. It is expected that every effort will be made to ensure that full attendance is maintained. Parents are very strongly requested not to take their children away on holiday during term time.

Parents are also requested to avoid, whenever possible, routine medical and dental appointments etc being scheduled during School time.

On the first day back at School after an absence due to sickness a pupil is required to provide his Form Tutor with a note from parents explaining the reasons for the absence. When a pupil is absent through illness which is likely to be in excess of three days, communication should be made to the School Office as soon as this is known. All absences from School, other than on account of illness, must have the prior agreement of the School. Parents are asked to make requests for such absences in writing to the Head Master well in advance.

The AGSB website: agsb.co.uk contains the recent termly Bulletin and Calendars, a history of AGSB, a copy of the School's Admission Policy, information from individual departments, the newsletter and much more.

SAFETY

We are committed to the safety of all children and staff at the School. All staff employed at the School have undergone a full DBS disclosure and a senior member of staff is trained in child protection procedures. All staff are given appropriate training in how to deal with any concerns. A Health and Safety Officer monitors day to day safety around the School.

CHARGING POLICY

In order to offer support for as many extra-curricular activities as possible and to help to defray the costs of the 'Pupil Planner', School magazine and the termly Bulletin the School finds it necessary to ask parents for a voluntary contribution to the 'School Fund' which finances these and many other activities. Parents are also requested to make a contribution each month towards the Altrincham Grammar School Developments (AGSD) capital fund.

Other trips and visits do take place from time to time and parents are asked for additional voluntary contributions to cover these. Full details of the School Policy on Charging are available at the School.

DISCIPLINE

In order to maintain a happy, caring and orderly community, the School reserves the right to use sanctions in accordance with the policy laid down in our published document on discipline. A grave view is taken of any misdemeanour committed in the town and on public transport. Equally we strive to safeguard good relations with our immediate neighbours around the School grounds. There is a system of detentions after School and Head Master's detention on a Saturday morning if required. Twenty-four hours notice will be given of any after-School detention.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

All clothing and games kits should be clearly named. Other personal property should also be clearly marked with the owner's name wherever possible. Pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing items of personal property to School. The School cannot accept liability for loss and damage to personal property and strongly recommends parents to insure pupils' property against such eventualities.

SCHOOL DRESS

School uniform for Years 7 – 11 is a tie and blazer in School colours, dark grey or black trousers, a plain white shirt, dark socks and black or brown shoes. School uniform may be obtained from Sportswear International by mail order or from Monkhouse Uniform Suppliers. The rule for dress in the Sixth Form is more flexible, students must wear a School tie, sensible jacket and trousers or suit, i.e. 'business dress.'



THE SCHOOL CODE

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

In 2018 Altrincham Grammar School for Boys was not only considered the highest performing school in Greater Manchester, but also gained the accolade of The Sunday Times 'Best State Secondary School in the North-West of England'.

Expectations and aspirations are high. The expectation for most pupils is to achieve As or Bs at A level. Most aspire to win a place at one of the best Universities.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND CAREERS ADVICE IN THE SIXTH FORM

At the end of Year 11 most students join the Sixth Form where they are joined by students who come from other Schools. Higher Education advice is offered by the Head of Sixth Form and a team of experienced teachers. In the Summer term there are evenings for Year 12 parents and students offering advice on Oxbridge entrance and more general higher education advice. In the Autumn term of Year 13 considerable time and effort are given by teachers to ensure that the quality of each student's UCAS application form is of the highest standard.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

**BEST STATE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL IN THE
NORTH-WEST 2018**

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