



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

A Grammar School with Academy Status
Head Master: Mr G. A. Wright MA (Hons) FRSA
Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, WA14 2RS

25th February 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that half-term went well for all involved. The term has resumed at pace and it is reassuring that Covid cases remain extremely low. You will have now received a letter from Mr Soulsby following the announcement by the Prime Minister of the removal of measures put in place as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we hope that we are moving out of the pandemic, vigilance remains important.

We are currently in the process of migrating to a new Management Information System (MIS), replacing SIMS with Arbor. As it is a cloud-based system, it will facilitate a number of functions under one cover, as well as saving the School money on a number of bolt-on software programmes. As with any change of MIS, there will be a few teething problems over the next few weeks so thank you in advance for your patience.

In assemblies this week I praised Year 11 and Year 13 students for the way they conducted themselves in the Trial Examinations. Early signs are very encouraging however, Trial Exams are exactly that, and should provide very useful information to help students prepare for the public examinations which are to take place in the summer.

I am pleased to report that the Whole School Council have returned to action. We have a Pupil Voice system at AGSB which allows every single member of the school to have their voice heard. The constitution of the School Council at AGSB is a multi-layered approach. First, we have form time discussions, where the Form Captains facilitate discussion to find out what are the pupils' priorities. Secondly the Form Captain leadership team sit as a year group and decide their year group's priorities. Finally, two democratically elected members of each year group attend a Whole School Council Meeting chaired by the 6th Form Senate. Discussions were excellent at every level of the process and were mainly focused around the need for additional water dispensers; yard space usage; a review of the one-way system; computer access in the new Library; a BYOD policy review; canteen queues for KS4 pupils; bag storage issues and ICT access.

Pastoral care remains at the top of our agenda and this year we have introduced Pastoral Support lunchtime sessions with your child's Head of Year. These sessions are designed to provide students with extra support in a variety of areas. If you feel that your child would welcome some extra support, please do contact the relevant Head of Year.

This week AGSB has been taking part in Altrincham Stand up to Cancer. Morning assemblies have raised awareness informing pupils on the sad reality of cancer - but also how the spread can be prevented with donations and support. AGSB has dedicated the week to fundraising for The Christie Hospice. Well done to Taiyyib, Sammy, Yaser and Haidar who have done an incredible job of raising awareness to this crucial subject.

Finally, in sport this week we endured some tough rugby fixtures vs St. Ambrose, however, congratulations to the Under 16 Hockey squad who are now Cheshire Champions and to our U18's who have progressed through Round 4 of the National Knockout with a great win against Worksop College.

I wish you and your families well for the weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G.A. Wright', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr G. A. Wright – Head Master



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Model United Nations 2022



Well done to the AGSB MUN Team who won Outstanding Delegation (OD) at MUNHIGH. This is the fourth time running that AGSB has won the OD this year (following on from MGS, Withington Girls and Cheadle Hulme). An amazing achievement and well done to all those who took part.

Philosophy & Ethics



This week, Year 8 had the chance to listen to a speaker from 'Humanists UK' to explain what Humanists believe about life, death, God and morality. We welcomed Mr Mike Battman, an old boy of the school, who led Year 8 in an enlightening session, which will help students in their Philosophy and Ethics lessons. At the end of each session, students had the chance to ask Mike any questions they had. Our speaker was met with a barrage of challenging questions about religion, life and ethics, demonstrating the high ability of our students. A big

thank you to 'Humanists UK' and to Mike Battman for teaching our Year 8 students about Humanism.

Mr A Sampson
Teacher of Philosophy



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AGSB Careers



Congratulations to the Year 13 Geology team who have made it through to the Finals of the Schools' Geology Challenge with an amazing project on Mount Nyiragongo. The Finals take place in London next month at The Geological Society.

Dr K Stephen
Head of Geology

Altrincham vs Cancer Event for The Christie



It was a pleasure to welcome Tony Collier to AGSB recently. Tony gave a brilliant talk on raising awareness of prostate cancer which kicked off our charitable fundraising campaign this week. You can read all about Tony's fantastic work [HERE](#).

This week our Sixth Form Students have been giving assemblies raising awareness on the sad reality of cancer followed by fundraising events throughout the week – sweet and cake sales – during break and lunch on the yard, ending with "Own Clothes" Day today. If you haven't already donated, you can do so via ParentPay.

At the close of business today, we have already raised a staggering **£1,700** for Own Clothes Day alone, thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

To find out more about the Altrincham vs Cancer campaign, please click on this [LINK HERE](#).

AGSB Fundraising



We recently were very pleased to receive a Certificate of Thanks from The Christie for our fantastic achievement of raising £914.32 for our AGSB Christmas Jumper Day. A very big thank you to all who donated.

Special thanks to Naom L in Year 13 for helping to arrange this event.



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History Enrichment Trip



Eighteen of AGSB's Year 9 students participated in what was a unique and informative experience, exploring Manchester's statues and monuments on Tuesday 8th February. The students, led by Mr Croxton and Mr Sampson (many thanks to them both), studied memorials that celebrated and reflected upon figures and events that helped pioneer Manchester into what it is today. This was in perhaps a more direct way, in addition to memorials for those

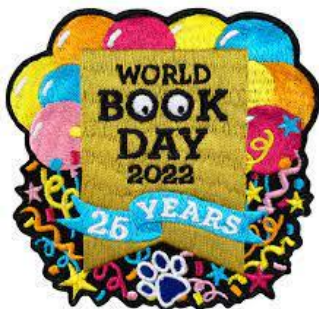
that may not have necessarily had a personal link to the city, but helped changed the lives of the people there. These included monuments erected both more historically and more recently.

We were privileged to see a great variety of memorials, amounting to ten in total, educated on each by the vast knowledge of Mr Croxton. Some examples included: the 'Victory Over Blindness' statue outside Piccadilly Train Station; the Emmaline Pankhurst statue, opposite the Central Library and the monument honouring those who lost their lives at St Peter's Field during the Peterloo Massacre.

As a result of this trip, we were able to gather a fuller picture of the City and its importance on a global scale in history. Again, thanks to both Mr. Croxton and Mr. Sampson for organising and leading this trip.

Marley Inegbu 9FB

World Book Day 2022



Next Thursday is **World Book Day** and the New Library will have several events running. The main ones are:

- Book Bonanza Quiz** - in the Library on Thursday lunchtime - prizes available.
- Book vouchers** - be distributed by Form Tutors. Masked Reader Competition. Ask Me What I'm Reading Competition
- Book in a Box** – this is a competition for the students to create a mini world of their favourite novel.

Winners will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Mrs C Mahony
English Department & Library Co-Ordinator



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AGSB Islamic Society



In 2016, the AGSB Islamic Society ran its first **Unity Through Charity Campaign** to raise money for Syrians in need. The campaign was a huge success, raising more than five times the initial target and uniting the whole School Community in the process. As part of the project, an **Asian Food Sale** was organised where Arab & Indian foods in particular were sold by the ISOC to staff and students. Since then, the food sale has been run every year (except in 2021 due to Covid). Each year we have striven to improve the menu and make necessary changes to the sale to help raise more money for those in need. In doing so, we have also raised awareness of several different global causes and conflicts from the civil war in Yemen to the refugee crisis in Bangladesh.

This year, we are partnering with **Salam Charity** to help fund the construction of deep water wells in Pakistan. For some, the concept of a tap is unimaginable, to have clean water ready on demand for all desires and needs. We want to make this dream a reality through our fundraising this year. Beyond this, we also intend on donating some of the money raised towards the cardiac surgeries of children in particular, who have developed or inherited heart problems due to malnutrition and/or poor drinking water quality.

School Assemblies will take place all next week to raise awareness of the situation and there will be an Own Clothes Day on Friday 11th March to raise further funds.

Taste of Asian Food

This Year, the Asian Food Sale 2022 will take place on: Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th March 2022

- **Card Readers** - We are able to accept contactless card payments which includes Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, Google Pay & Android Pay.
- **SIGNIFICANTLY Reduced Prices** - We have kept the price down so that everything is affordable yet we will still be able to raise enough to help those in need.
- **Meal Deals** – This year we are introducing **Meal Deals** and the best part is - they only cost £4!! Each Meal Deal will include a main, a drink and a snack or a dessert.
- **Own Clothes Day on Friday, 11th March** – voluntary donations are requested through ParentPay.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at agsbisoc@hotmail.com.

As always, many thanks for your support!

Sohail Sheikh 13WK



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AGSB Music Department



Thank you to Mr Monument, our Director of Music, and the Music Department for putting on a fantastic Piano Recital Evening this week. There were some great performances from our students who played beautifully. Thank you to all those Parents and Carers who attended.



Congratulations

Well done to both Elliot Wood and Joel Patel (Year 10) for being selected for the Sale Sharks DDP.

Congratulations to Noah K (Year 10) who has been invited by the Manchester Storm Academy to join them in their training at Altrincham Ice Rink which will hopefully lead to bigger things.

Well done to Alex V (Year 10) who has been selected to attend a three day National Swimming Camp at the University of Birmingham at the end of February. Good luck Alex.

Congratulations to Aaron A, Bruce B, Tom D and Yusef David Y (all Year 12) who have reached the Final of the IEA Budget Challenge which will take place at the University of Buckingham in March. They will be presenting their budgets to the judges and other teams.

Ritangle Maths Challenge



Congratulations to SD from Y13 who was awarded a Distinction and medal for being in the Top 100 in the National UK Maths Challenge. Also, to MJ & SS who received their Ritangle 2021 winners' trophy on Wednesday. Well done.





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AGSB Sports Report



(Right) The AGSB U18 Hockey team have progressed through round 4 of the National Knockout Tournament with a great win against Worksop College 3-2. They will play Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield in the next round.



(Left) The AGSB U16 Hockey team were recently crowned Cheshire Champions with a 1-0 win against King's Chester in the final.

Well done to all those who played and took part.



(Right) Well done to Charlie H (Y7) who recently represented Trafford and came 9th overall in the Greater Manchester cross country run.



(Above) Congratulations to Taha D in Year 7 who recently won the Cheshire Squash Grand Prix, Division 4, great achievement!



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AGSB Inclusion

AGSB offers a weekly virtual SEND Clinic on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. If you have any concerns about existing or possible special educational needs, please, email me at acathcart@agsb.co.uk to arrange an appointment. If the Clinic hours do not suit, we can of course arrange an alternative time.

**Free
School
Meals** 
Are you entitled?

If you think your son may be eligible for means-tested Free School Meals, you can apply through Trafford Council by visiting the following [WEBSITE](#). We will be notified by Trafford if your application is successful and we will also receive additional Pupil Premium funding to support your son's

learning.

If your son already receives Pupil Premium and requires any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cathcart at acathcart@agsb.co.uk.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

Ms A Cathcart
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco



Exam Invigilators Required



We are looking to put together a voluntary invigilation team for the 2022 exam season and wonder if there are any Parents or Carers out there who could spare the time to assist us with this.

A morning invigilation session will normally be between 9.00am and 11.00am and an afternoon session between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and volunteers will only be asked to invigilate for part of this time. The commitment we are seeking is for several sessions during May and June, however even a few sessions would be a most valuable

contribution. Those interested will be asked to assist with invigilation in the Coleman Hall or other exam rooms where there will always be a senior experienced invigilator present.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Lavin in the Exams Office at alavin@agsb.co.uk. There will be information events organised in the very near future where we can talk to you about what invigilation is all about and where you will be able to ask any questions. Thank you in advance for any contribution you may feel able to make.



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Forthcoming dates for February and March 2022

28.02.2022	Y8 HPV Vaccinations
03.03.2022	Y9 Parents' Evening
04.03.2022	Old Alts' Annual Dinner
07.03.2022	PFA Meeting - 7pm
10.03.2022	Session Orchestra – 7pm
14.03.2022	Y9 Options Deadline
23.03.2022	Spring Concert – 7pm
24.03.2022	Y12 Parents' Evening – 7pm
25.03.2022	Whole School Photograph
29.03.2022 – 08.04.2022	Y10 Exams

Great Shot



Another great photograph taken by one of our Site Assistants, Phil Hadwen, whilst he was locking the School up one night last week.

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS.
Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

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