



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

12th November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I trust that you had a break during half term. The School was certainly ready for a break but it is, as ever, super to see the students and staff back. The half term 'circuit break' seems to have had a positive impact regarding Covid and hopefully, the lower number of cases in school this week is a trend which will continue through to Christmas. We must not, however, be complacent and we continue to impress on the school community the importance of wearing face coverings in communal areas and taking an LFD Test twice per week.

Last week was a busy one for our 'early applicants' in Year 13 who have completed various entrance exams for subjects ranging from Law, to English and Medicine. Pupils have sat exams which will help determine their applications to Oxbridge and other prestigious universities and courses. We look forward to seeing how many proceed to interview.

This week has belonged to '*A Little Shop of Horrors*'. The play has been delivered across three nights to ecstatic audiences. The cast consisting of students, from Years 8 to 13, performed exceptionally with displays of drama matching that of a professional theatre company. A parent who emailed me last night summed up matters very well saying: "*The show was fantastic; the cast are so talented and the lead actors were outstanding. I felt like I was watching a professional show. Mr Monument and all the cast are superstars and a credit to you and the School.*" We look forward to the next School Production with eager anticipation.

In sport it has been a week of near misses in both Rugby and Football. The 1st XV were cruelly sent out of the National School's Cup losing in the final minutes to Cheadle Hulme School. Similarly, the 1st XI Football side lost 1-0 to Canon Slade School in the Manchester Cup. Well done, however, to the 1st XI Hockey team who came back from 0-2 to draw 2-2 against Cheadle Hulme School. In all fixtures this week, the commitment and conduct of our students on the pitch has been exemplary.

Yesterday, it was an honour to welcome Lt Colonel Ian Comber - Royal Artillery, to AGSB. Lt Colonel Comber delivered a powerful and emotive address to the School community on the meaning of Remembrance, and the importance of living a values-based life.

Next week we are holding our on-line 6th Form Open Evening and are looking forward to two nights of Diwali celebrations in the Coleman Hall.

We have Rugby and Football fixtures against MGS and Cheadle Hulme School tomorrow. I look forward to seeing you on the touchline.

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright
Head Master



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AGSB Philosophy & Ethics Society

Last week's meeting of the AGSB Philosophy Society considered the ethical issue of animal rights, with a focus on whether animals are morally different enough from human beings to justify killing them for food. This thought-provoking session was led superbly by the Head Prefect Adham Saeid. His presentation helped to identify and highlight key issues and questions relevant to the whole area of discussion, such as:

- What makes human beings different from animals?
- Are the lives of less intelligent creatures of lesser value than those of greater intelligence?
- If the answer to the previous question is yes, does this mean that it is acceptable to kill them?
- What implications does this have for human beings who are less intelligent than others?
- If we don't agree with eating people (cannibalism) who are also animals, why should we think it is acceptable to eat other specific types of animal, such as pigs?



This week we had a discussion led by Gaurav B on a thorny metaphysical issue - what gives an object or person its identity? The main focus was on the example of the Ship of Theseus - a seafaring vessel whose planks and instruments are gradually replaced until none of the 'original' materials remain- is this ship the same one we started with?

More ideas were elucidated when we consider the idea that the broken planks could be reformed as if they were being built anew again? Would that ship still be the original ship or could we have two boats produced by only one in the beginning?

The discussion brought much insight into the way we consider objects and whether they truly have one unified identity, making us ask:

- Does a being or object have an innate essence?
- What is the factor or factors that group one set of physical objects as a unified 'object' like a ship?
- Is identity a matter of memory or experience, or is it a matter of how a being/object is held referentially by the members of a society?
- Are we the same individuals that we were 10 years, 1 year or even 1 day ago?

We had a broad range of Year Groups attending and contributing and a great participation from staff members.

Thomas Coates 12MG



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Anti-Racism



Last week, AGSB pupils participated in further training as part of our journey to become an anti-racist school. Thank you to Dr Hebden and Mrs Chapman for running these events.

11CO Timetable Fundraiser



Pupils in 11CO have been working hard creating laminated version of timetables for staff and Y11 forms. Alex V and his team have been working steadily on the project since the beginning of term, raising money for the National Youth Theatre in memory of Lucia Oram. They raised a total of £115 through generous donations from pupils and staff. Many thanks to all involved.

Mrs Chancellor
Maths Department

Geology Fieldtrip to the Peak District

Recently, all three GCSE Geology groups in Year 11 were presented with the much-expected opportunity for a field trip, putting all the learning over the past year into practical use. Doc Rock and Mr Giffen chaperoned us at two different locations around the Peak District.

At the first location - Ecton, we were told to draw a field sketch of a huge antiform, then take measurements of the dip direction of bedding planes on either side of the axial plane trace. The data we collected would then be used to deduce the direction of compressive stress that caused the folding.

At the second location, Park Hall County, we analysed the sedimentary structures at Hume Quarry to figure out the environment of deposition. This involved an initial sketch as before, and then we also took a closer look at a layer in the sedimentary sequence and described the texture of the rock, leading us to





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the conclusion that Hume Quarry was formed by a flash flood river, or a wadi as it's known in the Middle East.

I would like to thank Doc Rock and Mr Giffen on behalf of all the Geology classes for providing a great insight into how geology can be used in the field, and for their continued perseverance as they teach us, especially through the pandemic.

Ibrahim Jamal (11ST)



AGSB Islamic Society



A fantastic talk was delivered this week from Islamic Relief to the AGBS Islamic Society on doing charity work and the sense of purpose, inner peace and happiness it gives us - 'the value of one life is equal to the value of all mankind in the eyes of Allah'.

Year 10 House Public Speaking Competition

The Year 10 House Public Speaking Competition was held today and the motion was 'Artificial Intelligence can create art'. Despite the fire alarm, participants were very composed and produced a great competition which was again well-supported by staff and students in the New Library. It was won by the Opposition, consisting of Daniel A & late replacement Isaac J (Stamford) and Dom H & Abhinav G (Bradbury). Bradbury was awarded first place by virtue of Dom's highly accomplished opening remarks. The defeated proposition team consisted of Manthan D & Thomas H (Tatton) and Dylan P & Likhith B (Massey). The judges felt that Thomas was particularly effective as Questioner so Tatton gained third place. Many thanks to Mr Davies, Ms Clark and Mr Carr for judging the competition, Ms Marson & Ms Mahony for hosting and to all other staff and students who came along to support the participants.

Mr N Croxton
Head of History & Politics



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AGSB Sport

Well done to the AGSB 1st XI Hockey squad who move on to the next round of the Cheshire Cup after a great performance versus King's Chester



Great result for the Year 7 Football team last week who won a very hard match against Trinity High by 2-0 in the Greater Manchester Cup. Both teams were excellent.

Well done to the AGSB Tennis team who came second last week in the regional finals in Sunderland. They have done the School proud.





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There were some excellent performances by the AGSB Rugby and Football teams recently against St Anselm's College and Manchester Grammar School.

The AGSB 1st XV played in the third round against Cheadle Hulme School this week in the Under 18s National Cup. It could have gone either way but well done to Cheadle Hulme for grasping victory in the final minutes.



Sporting Successes



(Left) Very well done to Luke C (12HP) and his Sale Harriers team for winning a Bronze Medal in the U17 boys' race at the Northern Athletics Cross Country Relay Championships in Sheffield recently.

(Right) Congratulations to James C (7HI), member of Hale Karate Club, who successfully passed his 1st Dan black belt grading for Shotokan karate, under the instruction of ex-AGSB Alex Cockx recently.





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Well done to Alex V (11CO) who recently competed in the Regional Swimming Finals and finished first, taking Gold in his age group in the 1500m freestyle race. Alex also took Bronze in the 200m freestyle and bronze in the 400m freestyle in the U16 age group. Alex has qualified for the Winter Nationals and will compete in Sheffield in December. Following his achievements, Alex has been selected for a National Swimming Camp Phase 2 which will take place at the University of Birmingham.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life. Timperley Duke of Edinburgh Award Centre will be holding a webinar launch event for their 2022 season on **Sunday 14th November at 5pm**.

- A life-changing experience
- A fun time with friends.
- An opportunity to discover new interests and talents.
- A tool to develop essential skills for life and work.
- A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

To register for their launch event and apply for a place at Bronze, Silver or Gold, just go to: <https://dofetimperley.org.uk/sign-up-for-2022-season/>.

House Shout

On **Wednesday, 1st December**, AGSB will host one of the highlights of the House Calendar - The House Shout.

Each House will give three performances: An Instrumental Ensemble, a Choral Harmony and a Vocal Unison.

The pupils have been rehearsing hard and we have enlisted a professional judging panel to decide which House is the winner. We would love as many parents as possible to join us for a fantastic evening of Music, Fun and Competition.

Information on tickets for this event will be shared via SchoolComms early next week. We will initially be limiting the tickets to 150 on a 'first come first served' basis. Keep your eyes peeled. We hope to see you there!

Mr Soulsby
Assistant Head

AGSB presents:
HOUSE SHOUT
7pm 1st December
Limited tickets available!
Book now at:
www.eventbrite.co.uk

A suggested £5 cash voluntary contribution on the evening would be appreciated to help fund future events.

Proudly sponsored by:
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House Pumpkin Competition

House Pumpkin Competition Winners



'Mona Lisa' 1503 by Leonardo Da Vinci



Ethan Clarke
Stamford
Year 7



'Le Lagon' 1941 by Henri Matisse

Reese Sather-Berrisford
Stamford
Year 12



House Pumpkin Competition Runner-Up



Day of the Dead Skull – Mexican Culture

Jacob Lamon Johnson
Massey
Year 7



We had some fabulous entries for the House Pumpkin Competition and there were three very worthy winners.



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Year 9 Geography Field Trip to Salford Quays



Year 9 enjoyed a successful trip to Media City in Salford on Monday and Tuesday this week. Their aim was to collect primary data to help them with their upcoming assessment. They conducted environmental quality surveys and identified evidence of both the successes and drawbacks of regeneration in the Quays area. Students will then use the data back in class to conclude whether or not the regeneration in the Quays has been a success. The students enjoyed the opportunity to go out in the field and physically see what they have been learning about in lessons right in front of them. We look forward to reading their conclusions in the coming weeks!

Mr Williams
Geography Department





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Ignition Hackathon



Four students went along to the in-person hackathon event at Salford University to mark COP26 in Glasgow, where World Leaders and representatives from almost every country on earth will join together this November to reach an agreement on how to tackle climate change. This event, like COP26, will be an opportunity to drill down into the details of practical actions we can take to transform our communities by learning, collaborating, and sharing ideas. Ideas from the event will be exhibited in a show at RHS Bridgewater in 2022.

Daniel T with Fazeed K, (Y13) lead the team which also included Aniket S and Varun B in Y12.

As usual the boys excelled themselves by taking first place in the quiz at the start.

They then went on to plan a project for helping a Manchester achieve its Climate target.

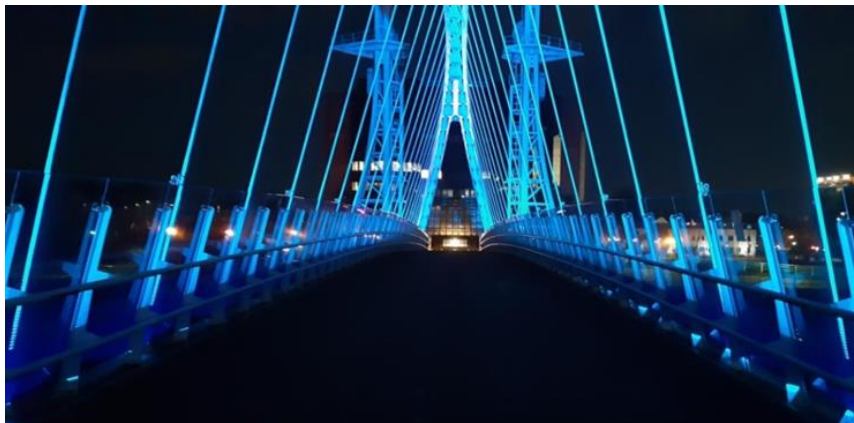
Ms Blaize
Biology Department

House Photography Competition

The results are in from the judging panel which included the House Sponsors, the Head Master and several other people associated with the School.

There were an amazing **249** entries for this competition from all Year Groups of the School, including staff.

The Winning photographs are as follows. In 1st place, we have Aayan A (11KD) (below) representing Tatton House.





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2nd Place (right) goes to Pratham M (7RN) representing Bradbury House.



3rd place (left) goes to Caleb C (11CO) representing Massey House

Overall standings for all entries and participants are as follows:



House	Position
Bradbury	1st
Tatton	2nd
Stamford	3rd
Massey	4th



The winning entry from AGSB staff is pictured here left from Ms Blaize, she retains her title from last year!

Well done to all who took part.

Mr Smith
Technology Department



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AGSB PFA – Auction 2021 & Curry and Quiz Night



HOSPITALITY PRIZE TABLE OF 4 AT ALTRINCHAM FC

- Table of 4 in the Sponsors Lounge
- Two Course Pre-Match Meal
- Complimentary Alcoholic Drinks
- Pre-Match Talk from Manager
- Complimentary Soft Drinks
- Photo Opportunity

SEE FIXTURES AT WWW.ALTRINCHAMFC.COM

TO BE REDEEMED AT A HOME FIXTURE DURING SEASON 21/22.
SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF REDEMPTION

Thank you to all parents and Carers who are continuing to get involved in The Great Big Altrincham AGSB Auction 2021. The PFA have received huge support from businesses in Trafford and the community. We have also now been contacted by San Mackenzie of Altrincham FC to offer support to our Mental Health programs and The Teenage Cancer Trust. They have donated a table for four in their hospitality suite on a match day to include a two-course dinner and drinks as well as a football signed by the team.

This will be listed on The Great Big Altrincham Auction later today so please share the link and join in - <https://auctionofpromises.com/AGSB2021>.

There are some great promises from the School as well. For the 'Get Out of Uniform Day Pass for One Form' - Promise no. 26, the Head Master has promised to give the Form that raises the most funds for this prize, bonus House Points for each pupil. So, may the best bidding Form win.

We are delighted to announce the famous AGSB Curry and Quiz Night will be returning on **Wednesday 24th November 2021**.

This year we have a new Quiz Master, Basil Le Roux, who will be challenging your brain with some varied rounds involving some rather tricky questions! Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

As usual, we will have a paid-for bar available selling a range of alcohol and soft drinks.

Tickets can be purchased via ParentPay and are priced at £15 per adult and £10 per child.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there on the 24th November!

Thank you.

AGSB PFA

PFA PRESENTS

CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT
24TH NOVEMBER 2021
WEDNESDAY
DOORS OPEN 7PM

Adults : £15.00
Secondary school : £10.00
Please pay via parentpay

TO SUPPORT
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME & SCHOOL MINI BUS
AIMING TO RAISE
£15k

Delecious food served by **This & That**

We need your support!

Contact us at : pfaagsb@gmail.com



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Sport for All 'Making a Difference' Campaign

Next week we are holding the first campaign reception at the home of parents. Over the coming weeks, every parent will be invited to a reception to hear about our exciting plans for outdoor sporting activities and have the opportunity to ask questions. I do hope you will come along when your invitation arrives!

We are still looking for volunteers who can give some time in the campaign office to help. If you have a couple of hours spare do get in touch with the campaign office at campaign@agsb.co.uk.



Reminder - Lateral Flow Testing at Home

Please remind your son(s) to continue with Lateral Flow Device Testing twice weekly on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** morning. This is particularly important at the moment as we are trying to prevent another COVID surge at AGSB.

Mr M Soulsby
Assistant Head – Development

Noticeboard for Parents

Friday 19th November - we are having an 'Own Clothes Day' to raise money for the people of Afghanistan as winter approaches and so does the famine. A SchoolComms will be sent out to Parents and Carers early next week with further information.



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Vacancy for a Proof-reader with the AGSB Publications Committee



If you are the type of person who noticed that reeder was spelt wrong and proof-reader should be like this, then we are exactly the type of person we are looking for. After ten years of dedicated service Anthony McBurney has given up his role as proof-reader. The Publications Committee would like to thank Tony for all his hard over the years. If you are interested in working alongside the group you would need to have knowledge of Office 365 and SharePoint along with excellent proof-reading skills. you would work alongside Mr Williams and the assistant editors in

producing three termly editions of The Word and one Annual Review, our end of year school magazine. If you are willing to help, please contact Mr Williams on Awilliams@agsb.co.uk outlining any previous experience you may have.

AGSB Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening

ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS



Apply for a place in an academic Sixth Form which offers:

- Consistently outstanding exam results
- A strong record of successful applications to 'Oxbridge' and other leading universities
- An impressive record of applications to Arts, Humanities, Medicine, Dentistry and Engineering courses
- Experienced guidance and pastoral support
- A wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities
- Purpose built 6th Form Centre
- Excellent sports facilities
- Fee free education
- Close links to bus, rail, metro station and motorway



Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening

Available from 9th November 2021

Apply online now at : www.agsb.co.uk

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Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS. Tel: 0161 928 0858
email: admin@agsb.co.uk website: www.agsb.co.uk

AGSB are holding a virtual Sixth Form Open Evening from Tuesday, 9th November. Apply for a place in an academic Sixth Form online now at: www.agsb.co.uk.

Forthcoming dates for November & December 2021

Wed 17.11.2021

6th Form Open Evening Online

Wed 17.11.2021 and Thu 18.11.2021

Diwali Event 7pm to 10pm

Fri 19.11.2021

Own Clothes Day in aid of Afghanistan

Wed 24.11.2021

PFA Curry & Quiz Night 7pm

Thu 25.11.2021

Y13 Parents' Evening

Fri 27.11.2021

National Concert Band Festival



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Wed 01.12.2021	House Shout Singing Competition - 7pm
Thu 02.12.2021	Y7 Parents' Evening
Fri 03.12.2021	PFA Own Clothes' Day – Bring a bottle/chocolates
Sun 05.12.2021	PFA Christmas Fair - 12 noon to 3pm
Wed 08.12.2021 – 21.12.2021	Y11 Exams
Thu 16.12.2021	School Christmas Lunch
Tue 21.12.2021	School Carol Service for some Year Groups, St Mary's Church Bowdon
Tue 21.12.2021	School Closes for Christmas Holidays



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