



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

17th March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

This week it has been great to welcome staff and students from Colegi Sagrada School in Barcelona as part of our Spanish Exchange experience. Our visitors have been staying with their AGSB host families and have taken on cultural trips to Manchester, Liverpool and Chester. Last week, the Government declared their intention to award a £15m contract to tackle the systemic decline in the number of pupils in England taking foreign languages at GCSE and A-level. At AGSB, we are preparing our students for work in a global society and are currently one of the few state funded schools who offer a choice of five languages.

Last week, best-selling author Martin Griffin from the VESPA Academy delivered inspirational presentations to Y11, Y13 and Parents and Carers. He focused on attitudes to learning, tried and tested revision strategies and how to establish and sustain positive learning mind-sets at Key Stage 4 and 5. I hope that the students will 'latch on' to many of these strategies as we approach the exam season.

It has been a busy fortnight for the Music Department. Last week we enjoyed an exceptional Spring Concert and it was a delight to observe such a wide range of age groups performing so well. This week, AGSB Choirs and Bands are performing at the Music for Youth event in Birmingham and on Tuesday we held our inaugural Battle of the Bands event which was followed by the House Talent show. All students who performed on Tuesday afternoon did themselves proud.

In Design & Technology, many congratulations to Daniel, Harris, Manthan and Emmanuel from Y11 who have negotiated the initial stages of the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship via a rigorous Aptitude Test and Personal Statement process. I wish them the best of luck when they are called for interview.

On the pastoral front, I am delighted to report that we currently have 23 trained Y12 Peer Mentors working with a number of our younger pupils. Navigating life through the teenage years is a complex process and recent research has shown that Peer Mentoring is a highly effective intervention for mental health support in schools. Indeed, a recent study by the University of Sussex found that Peer Mentors had a positive impact on the mental health of both the mentors and the mentees, with benefits including improved self-esteem, increased empathy, and reduced anxiety levels.

In sport, we are enjoying continued success in rugby 7's, football, tennis and hockey. Congratulations to the 1st VII Rugby team who won the County Shield. Football teams across all age groups are making good progress in the GM and Trafford Cups. In hockey, the Under 16's and 1st XI are still going strong in the National competitions and well done to the 1st tennis squad of Mike, Nic, Dan and Charlie who represented the school at the Y11-13 tennis Regional Finals in Sunderland on Thursday. They performed amazingly well and came 3rd in the North of England.

I wish the best of fortune to Y10 as they embark on their internal exams next week. I also wish the best of luck to the students who are travelling to London to represent the School in the IEA Budget Challenge Finals in Westminster and the Geology Schools Challenge final which take place at the Royal Geological Society.



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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master

Year 8 Translation Bee



On Wednesday 8th March, the Modern Foreign Languages Department held the School finals of the Year 8 Translation Bee. This National competition created by Routes into Languages sees students translating as many sentences as possible in one minute, ensuring correct grammar and accurate pronunciation.

We are very pleased to announce the winners who will represent the AGSB at the Regional finals: Ivor and Ans for French, Soham and Sarthak for



German and Mekyle and Asadulla for Spanish. They delivered high standard performances, fruit of their hard work and dedication. We wish them all the best for the next stage.

Mrs F Blakeley
MFL Department

LGBTQ+ House Competition



The T-Shirt must be LGBTQ+ based

Well done to everyone who submitted entries and to Sidd V from 9CO who won the competition and will be producing a t-shirt from his design in the Art Department. Sidd's entry shows the Avatar Korra waterbending, but instead of bending water, she is

bending the LGBTQ+ rainbow flag. The t-shirt will be on display shortly in the reception area of school. The judging panel also selected the following entries as runners up; Oliver C, Yeswin M and Aarush B.





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Mrs S Chancellor & The LGBTQ+ Society

UKMT Intermediate Maths' Challenge



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Congratulations to the 25 students in Years 9 to 11 who are through to the next round of the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. A special shout out to Dan W-L, Alex Y, Rohan M and Johnny Mc who were all selected to compete in the Olympiads for their Year Group! Well done and good luck for next week!

Miss J McCourt
Maths Department



Year 11 House Debating Competition



The Year 11 House Debating competition was held last week and the motion was 'THBT: Private schools are a force for good'. It was a wide-ranging and well-informed debate in front of a packed audience in the New Library.

A close contest was ultimately won by the proposition, consisting of Isaac J & Daniel A (Stamford) and Ben Cl & John F (Bradbury). Bradbury was awarded first place by virtue of John's direct and measured contributions to the floor debate. The defeated opposition team consisted of Likhith B & Shahan S



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(Massey) and Manthan D & Noel A (Tatton). 'Star Performer' for the opposition was Manthan D for his carefully considered and perceptive contributions in the floor debate which meant Tatton claimed third place.

Thanks to Ms Clark, Sammy B (Y13) and Tom R (Y12) for judging and to all other staff who came along to support the students. Turnout from across the year groups was fantastic!

Mr N Croxton
Head of History/Politics

Model United Nations

Model United Nations, commonly known as MUN, is a simulation of the United Nations where students act as delegates from different countries to debate, discuss, and resolve global issues. MUN aims to provide students with an opportunity to learn about international relations, diplomacy, and the workings of the United Nations.



Participants research their assigned country's foreign policies, prepare speeches, negotiate with other delegates, and collaborate to draft resolutions that address real-world problems.

Engaging in MUN has numerous benefits. Firstly, it develops crucial skills such as public speaking, negotiation, and critical thinking, which are highly valued in academic and professional settings. Secondly, it provides a platform for participants to learn about global issues and international relations, fostering greater awareness and understanding of the world around us. Additionally, MUN encourages teamwork and collaboration as participants must work together to draft resolutions and negotiate with other countries to reach a consensus. Finally, it offers opportunities for participants to expand their social networks, make new friends, and develop their leadership abilities.



At MUN (Model United Nations) we run an in-school session every Tuesdays in E7 for Years 10 to 13 to practice and teach MUN as well as decide who we will select for our delegations. We are planning to introduce another session for Years 7 to 9. Throughout the academic year we participate in 5 inter-school Conferences where we take a number of our best delegates to compete and carry out what we practice on a Tuesday session. Whilst it may seem like a big step up from the in-school sessions it's a brilliant opportunity to not only practice your MUN skills but also to represent the School and make new friendships with people you may never have met outside of MUN. The new leadership team wants to continue the enormous success of the previous year at external Conferences, but we also want to overhaul how MUN runs in school and create more opportunities inside the School as

well as for younger years which previously never had the chance to take part in MUN. We plan to run the first ever Conference here at AGSB which will provide a variety of new opportunities for a range of people with different skillsets not just traditional MUN or debating.



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Pictured above is the newly elected leadership team and we're sure that Alex, Hugo, Raphael and Will, will do a great job in enhancing MUN even further at AGSB.

The MUN Leadership Team

AGSB Gardening Club



To celebrate the start of Spring and The RHS Big Seed Sow, AGSB's Gardening Club 'GROW' is holding our very first **AGSB Seed Swap event in C7 on Monday 27th March** 🌱.

We'd really appreciate it if you could dig out your unopened old or unwanted packets of seeds at home.

Students can, either bring them into school next week to donate for the swap or come along to the event with their seeds on the day. It's free to swap or 50p to buy any spare packets that we may have. There is a box at reception for any donations.

All of the 'GROW' Team will be on hand to help with any questions, to help you get growing this Spring or just to have a chat about plants!

We look forward to seeing students on the day and they are always free to come along to our Gardening Club 'GROW' each Monday lunchtime in the school garden behind Music.

Many thanks & happy growing!

Miss Jackson and the 'GROW' Team 🥕 🍅 🌻

AGSB Chess



Last Friday was the final round of the 2022/23 Ivan Gromov National Schools Chess League. Once again, we had two teams in action. Our A team drew against Cheadle Hulme A, 3-3, and our B team won against Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School A 4.5-1.5.

To view the final rankings for the league, please click [here](#).

Dr V Sully



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AGSB Asian Food Sale

Many thanks to the AGSB ISOC Group for organising and delivering two outstanding lunch sessions as part of our Annual Asian Food Sale. A huge logistical operation that has been handled extremely well. All proceeds go to the Turkey Earthquake Appeal.



The Head Master is pictured with Ahmad A (13RD), Mansoor S (13RD) and Tameem W (13BK) receiving a box of chocolates as a thank you for allowing the Food Sale to go ahead and for allowing "Own Clothes" Day today which is also in support of the Earthquake Appeal. Don't forget, you can donate to Own Clothes Day via ParentPay online.

**TURKEY - SYRIA
EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**

AGSB Culture Day



It was great to see so many pupils in their national dress for Culture Day last week following a week of Assemblies centred around inclusion, respect, anti-racism and anti-semitism.



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Spring Concert

Well done to everyone involved in the Spring Concert last week, the Bands and Choirs were amazing!



Y13 Geology Field Trip to Cyprus



Last week Mr Parker, Mr Giffen and Doc Rock (Dr Stephen) took the Year 13 Geologists on the annual field trip to Cyprus. It was great to reinstate this iconic trip after a hiatus due to Covid. It had been 20 years since Mr Parker first visited Cyprus with Doc Rock and it seemed fitting for the Doc to show him round again giving a new teacher's perspective.

Cyprus has a unique geological history and the students explored its beaches making in-depth sedimentological, metamorphic and structural observations. We headed to the north of the island, close to the Turkish border to make conclusions about the vast mineral wealth that Cyprus once has, this even



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included a trip to an old gold mine, sadly for the boys no new deposits were found. We also ventured high up into the Troodos Mountains to examine the ophiolite sequence, which was formed deep on the ocean floor, travelling higher we even managed to enter mantle rocks, a rare experience for any geologist.

We were treated to beautiful fieldwork conditions, bright sunshine, 20 degree heat and a lovely coastal breeze, although we did get a taste of home with some snow up in the mountains. It was an excellent week, and plans are already going ahead for next year's visit. To see more photos please take a look at the Geology Department Twitter page (@AGSB_Geology).



Mr M Parker
Head of Geology

Battle of the Bands & AGSB's Got Talent



Our inaugural Battle of the Bands and AGSB's Got Talent was a huge success on Monday of this week!



Well done to everyone who participated and congratulations to The Guest List and Cai who were our winners this year. Thank you also to those Parents and Carers who came along to watch.



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AGSB Inclusion

AGSB offers a weekly virtual SEND Clinic on Thursday 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.



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



AGSB Sports

Football

AGSB Football teams are having a brilliant season and progressing well in both the area cup and the county cup. All age groups are still in at least one competition, with many more games coming up before and after Easter.



Please find below the updates:

U12's are into the Quarter Final of the Trafford Cup

U13's are into the Quarter Final of the Trafford Cup & Semi Final of the Greater Manchester Cup

U14's are into the Quarter Final of the Trafford Cup

U15's are into the Semi Final of the Greater Manchester Plate

U16's are into the Semi Final of both the Trafford & Greater Manchester Cup

U18's are into the Final of the Greater Manchester Cup.





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Rugby



A great day of 7's in the snow last week topped off with the U18's winning the County Shield! Well done to all involved.

Tennis

Mike C (13MG), Nic H (13CU), Dan K (11RW) and Charlie M (13MG) all represented the school at the Year 11 to 13 Team Tennis Regional Finals in Sunderland on Thursday this week. They performed amazingly well and came 3rd in the North of England. They narrowly missed out on the 1st and 2nd playoffs with the first match going to a shootout.

Sporting Achievements



Congratulations to Leo B (10JM) who was selected for the Greater Manchester U15 Hockey team for the North West Area Finals on the 12th March. The team won the tournament and go on to compete in the National Finals in May.

AGSB PFA



To all Parents and Carers of students at AGSB, we are just letting you know that Altrincham Grammar School for Boys "Parents & Friends Association", are registered with Easyfundraising, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Please remember to use Easyfundraising every time you shop online. These include all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Your Flight, Your Holiday, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, uSwitch and many more!

This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started! You can find our Easyfundraising page [HERE](#).

Thank you!

AGSB PFA



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Noticeboard for Parents



To all those Parents and Carers who donated items of clothing etc for children who are asylum seekers in the local area, we would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has kindly supported such an amazing cause, we were overwhelmed by your kindness.

Forthcoming dates for March and April 2023

Mon 20.03.2023	Y11 English Exam
Tue 21.03.2023 – Fri 31.03.2023	Y10 Exams
Thurs 23.03.2023	Geology School's Challenge Final in London
Thurs 23.03.2023	Y12 Parents' Evening
Mon 27.03.2023	Spelling Bee Regional Final at Liverpool University
Tue 28.03.2023	Y7 Study Skills Sessions
Wed 29.03.2023 – Fri 31.03.2023	Y7 PGL Adventure Trip to Yorkshire
Wed 29.03.2023	Senior Sports Awards Evening
Mon 03.04.2023 – Fri 14.04.2023	School Closed for the Easter Holidays
Mon 17.04.2023	School Re-Opens for the Summer Term
Tue 18.04.2023 – 28.04.2023	Year 12 Exams

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