



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

2nd December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Last week belonged to the AGSB production of 'Les Misérables'. The adaptation of Victor Hugo's 1862 novel was delivered across four nights to ecstatic audiences. The cast consisted of AGSB students from Years 8 to 13 and was complemented by a number of students from AGGS, Sale GS and Loreto GS. It was a production that would have been well received in any professional Theatre. Thanks go to all members of the fabulous cast and to the excellent the back-stage crew. Thank you also to Director – Mrs Jarratt, Producer – Miss Clark and Musical Director – Mr Monument for all their efforts in making the production such a success.

This week we have welcomed two external speakers into School. On Tuesday, the Yousef Makki Foundation delivered a powerful presentation about the dangers of carrying knives and the life changing effects it has on victims' families. Yousef, a talented student at the Manchester Grammar School, was just 17 years old when he was fatally stabbed in Hale Barns in 2019. The charity, led by his sister Jade, provide educational hardship funds for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

On Wednesday, it was a great pleasure to welcome award-winning personal development entrepreneur, coach and public speaker - Simon Alexander Ong. Simon delivered an inspirational talk to four Year Groups about the importance of self-belief how to work sustainably to reach your 'biggest goals'. Many thanks to the AGSB PFA for funding this excellent talk.

AGSB Chess goes from strength to strength. Last night the 'B' team won their qualification event and are through to the North West Regional knockouts, alongside the 'A' team. This is the first year that AGSB has ever had two competitive Chess teams and for both teams to make it through to the Regionals is fantastic.

In sport, the 1st XI football side remain unbeaten, and a number of age groups continue to make good progress in both the Manchester and Trafford Cups. Well done to our U13, U16 & U18 Table Tennis teams, all of whom were crowned Greater Manchester Champions earlier this week and it is great to see Basketball return with convincing wins for the Under 14's and 16's against North Cestrian. Next week I wish the best of luck to our Senior indoor Hockey squad who are playing for a spot in the National Finals and special mention to the two teams through to National Cross-Country Finals which take place on Saturday.

The Christmas decorations are now up across School and we are greatly looking forward to the amazing PFA Christmas Fair on Sunday 4th December. The AGSB PFA do an amazing job raising vital funds for the School - I hope to see many families at the event on Sunday.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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Les Misérables



Just Wow! Words cannot express how proud we are of the incredible Cast & Crew who took part in the Production. The curtain may have fallen but the memories will take a lot longer to fade. The professionalism and energy of everyone was absolutely amazing and we all agree it was a huge success. Many thanks to Mr Monument, Mrs Jarratt and Miss Clark for all their hard work in preparing for the four nights and thanks also to the cast and crew, in front and backstage and to all those parents and carers and family who came to watch!



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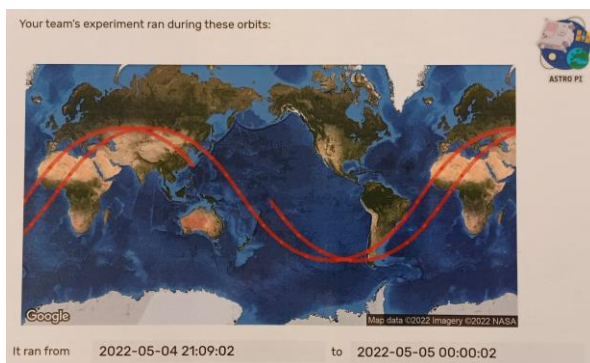
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Pupils on the International Space Station (Well, almost)!!

In May of this year, two teams of AGSB pupils - the 'PiHeads' and team 'Graviton', had their experiments run on the International Space Station!

Below you can see their Certificate which shows the date and times that their experiments ran for as well as the position of the ISS above the Earth's surface as their code ran in orbit. As well as being involved in something so amazing they are all recipients of the prestigious and rarely awarded AGSB science award!



We received fantastic news from the AstroPi team last when we learned that two of this year's teams, DrPi and LosPolos have also progressed through Phase 1 and have now been asked to complete their coding for consideration to run on the ISS. A brand new Raspberry Pi with cameras and filters among the accessories has been awarded to our teams by the AstroPi organisers for their efforts to enable this design phase. Here's hoping one or both teams can replicate last year's success and get their experiments into orbit!



*Mr S Squire
Head of Science*



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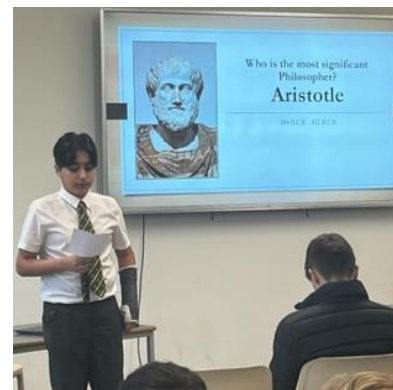
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Sir Rhys Davies School Mock Trial Competition



Well done to our Year 12 students who took part in the Sir Rhys Davies School Mock Trial Competition at Manchester Crown Court last weekend. There were 12 teams from local independent and Grammar Schools who played the role of Barristers, witnesses and Court Officials.

Philosophy/Politics House Competition



The final round of the Philosophy/Politics House Competition saw Alan S from Tatton arguing that Aristotle should hold the title of most significant Philosopher of all time. We also had Krish C from Bradbury arguing that Albert Camus was the most significant Philosopher of all time.

After two fascinating presentations, the judges deemed that the overall winner of the Philosophy/Politics House Competition was Krish with his very persuasive interpretation of Camus's lasting influence. Well done to Krish on being the first ever winner of this competition.

Thanks to our wonderful participants and all who came to watch. A big thank you also goes to our judges, Mr Haines, Mr Croxton, Mr Perkins and Mr Lowe.

Mr A Sampson
PSHE Dept



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Guest Speaker – Yousef Makki Foundation



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YOUSEF MAKKI FOUNDATION

Future Chef Competition



On Friday of last week, Owais B (10MK) and Harry C (10AS) travelled to the Manchester College in Harpurhey to compete in the local Final of the Future Chef Competition.

Both boys had previously competed in the GCSE Food School heats and having produced excellent highly skilled dishes, won, which meant they went through to the Local Final. The dishes were well planned to meet the given brief which was to cook two dishes of food for £5

Owais and Harry had the nerve-wracking setting of cooking in a catering kitchen, being over looked by five Professional Chefs, asking questions and judging them as they cooked. They both held their cool and presented dishes that the Chefs said they would be happy to present in their restaurants. They were all offered jobs in the professional kitchens as their standards were so high!

They just missed out on the top spot, but were told they were top 3! Congratulations Owais and Harry - you were amazing!

Mrs V Gordon
Food & Nutrition





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Guest Speaker – Simon Alexander Ong



It was a pleasure to welcome award-winning life Coach, Simon Alexander Ong into School this week.



Simon delivered an inspirational talk to four Year Groups about how to work sustainably to reach your 'biggest goals'. Many thanks to the AGSB PFA for funding this excellent talk.

Ukrainian Guest Speaker



Last week we welcomed Zainul Sachak, Dr. Ruhullah Haji and Anna Britton from Manchester Gymkhana, who came in to talk to Year 12 on Ukrainian life, history and culture. The main speaker, Dr Haji, was a cardiologist in Ukraine at the start of the invasion. Dr Haji was able to tell Year 12 what life was like in Ukraine prior to the war and answer questions on the country he once called home.

Ultimately, he left the students with a powerful message that anyone can invoke change and that no one is powerless to help. Thank you to Manchester Gymkhana for speaking to Year 12 and teaching them about a country that is so much more than merely a war.

*Mr A Sampson
Philosophy/Sixth Form
Enrichment/ACE Co-
Ordinator*





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Congratulations

Well done to Edward H (10JM) who was recently awarded a distinction in his Grade 6 clarinet exam, great achievement!

Sporting Successes



Well done to Aayush G (7LR) who plays cricket for Urmston Cricket Club and who has won two separate awards for his outstanding performances in last season's Under 11's matches. He won both the best bowler of the season and the best performance in a match, great achievement!

Congratulations to Josh C (9GA) who currently plays football for Burnley Academy and had trials for England this week. We wish him all the very best.

Very well done to Omi D (7LR) who participated in the U13 Yorkshire Badminton England Tournament and won Gold in the Doubles category as well as winning Silver in the Singles category. Omi also won Gold in the Doubles category for the U13 Northumberland Badminton England Tournament.



Sports Report

SPORTS REPORT

It has been a big week for AGSB Sport. Three age groups into the Football County Cup Quarter Finals. 1st XI football in the fifth round; National Cup U18 indoor Hockey into the Regionals; U14s into the Final of the County Cup Hockey; U13, 16 and 18 GM Table Tennis Championships and two teams through to the National Cross Country Final!





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House Gingerbread House Competition

This year we will be running a House competition to see who in the School can create the best Gingerbread house/building! The competition is open to all staff and pupils and the winners will win lots of House points and a prize! The competition rules are as follows:

1. The complete structure of the house must be edible, including decorations.
2. It must be fully transportable into school
3. Photographs of the person making must be submitted by email (to prove you have made it!)



Judging criteria

- Decoration techniques used
- Aesthetic appeal
- Structure composition
- Complexity of design

Please note that age range will be taken into consideration for pupils. Please take your Houses to the Food Tech Room by **Monday 12th December**. Happy baking!!

Mrs V Gordon
Food & Nutrition

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



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Forthcoming dates for December 2022

Sun 04.12.2022	PFA Christmas Fair – 12 noon to 3pm
Mon 05.12.2022 – Fri 16.12.2022	Year 11 Trial Exams
Mon 05.12.2022	Geology Lecture by Prof Phil Manning – 7pm
Tue 06.12.2022	An Evening with Alex Bescoby – 7pm
Thu 08.12.2022	Year 13 Parents' Evening – Online
Fri 09.12.2022	Chad's Challenge Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 14.12.2022	School Christmas Lunch
Fri 16.12.2022	School Church Services at St Mary's Bowdon
	School Closes at 12.20pm for Christmas Holidays

Annual PFA Christmas Fair – Sunday, 4th December 2022 between 12 noon and 3pm – All Welcome!

We are very excited that we are only a few days away from our Annual PFA Christmas Fair here in School and look forward to welcoming many of you on Sunday!

There will be the usual mix of local small businesses and the AGSB community selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas, fun activities and delicious food. There will also be gastronomic home-cooked delights again from the amazing **AGSB Asian Food Stall**, the infamous **Pie & Pint Stall**, locally brewed beer from multi-award winning traditional Real Ale suppliers - **Dunham Massey Brewing Company**and of course, our fabulous Chocolate and Bottle Tombola.

We also have **Made At Home** stalls, a **Second Hand Uniform** stall, a **Second Hand Book** stall as well as our infamous **Tombolas!**

THE BIG PTA CASH DRAW
Parentkind

Bring a little sparkle and festive cheer this year!

WIN UP TO £5,000
£3 ticket enters you in all 6 draws

- Raise cash for your PTA
- Tickets cost just £3
- 6 chances to win up to £5,000
- Good luck and we hope you enjoy taking part!

Help raise funds
6 chances to win

To buy tickets, visit: [bigptaraffle.co.uk](https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk)
and search for: Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Don't delay - buy your tickets today!

It is illegal for anyone under 18 years of age to purchase or sell raffle tickets. Anyone under 18 years of age who buys a ticket for the PTA Cash Draw will immediately forfeit the right to any prize. Closing date: 14th December 2022. In relation to a home of gambling, if you think you may have a problem with gambling, contact the National Gambling Helpline confidentially on 0800 800213. Alternatively, visit the Gamble Aware website at www.gambleaware.org, or the Gamblers' website at www.gamblers.co.uk.

The Big PTA Raffle

We are also happy to announce our *Parentkind* 'The Big PTA Raffle' where you have **6 chances to win up to £5,000**. Tickets are only £3 each and for every ticket bought, you get 6 chances to win up to £5,000! *

At the same time AGSB PFA will receive 50% from every ticket sold! This is a fantastic way to bring Parents and Carers and the wider community together, whilst raising money for the School.

<https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/altrincham-grammar-school-for-boys-wa14/>.

The closing date is the 14th December, so please buy your tickets TODAY!

PFA Annual Christmas Photo Promo



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Our annual Christmas Photo Promo is now on offer which is available to everyone and you can buy as many gift vouchers as you want which makes lovely gifts for families and friends. This offer involves a one hour photoshoot at Neil Barrett's photographic studio in Timperley and a beautiful framed 8 x 10 portrait.

The cost is £20 for a £120 portrait package! Please click on this link - <https://www.neilbarrettphotography.co.uk/agsb> and use **Promo Code: AGSB!**

Please book to get your photoshoot by the 10th December 2022 to receive it for Christmas!

Please share this fantastic offer with all the classes, your friends and family.

Noticeboard for Parents

St Mary's Church Bowdon

As we have done for many, many years, the whole School (with the exception of Year 11 students who finish their Trial Exams that day) will attend the annual Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Bowdon although this year there will be two Services due to the sheer number of students.

As a result of having two Services, different Year Groups will be either be dismissed from the Church or School, depending on which Service they will be attending. Further information regarding this is to follow.

If you would prefer your son not to attend, please email our Attendance Administrator, Mrs Jolly to ajolly@agsb.co.uk by the **end of School on Friday 9th December**. This is so that we can make the necessary arrangements to ensure your son is looked after during the morning in School.

- **Please note: if a signed letter is not received by School by the 9th December, your son will be required to attend the service.**

Parents should also be advised that there will obviously not be the normal School buses on that day.

Date for your Diary



On the 6th December we are holding an evening in the Coleman Hall with Old Alt, Alex Bescoby, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer and presenter with a love of history, travel and storytelling. This is a community event and is open to all. To purchase tickets, please click on this [LINK](#).

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS.
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