



# 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

8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we look forward to work experience and activities week, it serves as a reminder that term is starting to draw to a close. However, there is still a great deal going on!

Our Music programme returned last Friday with a magnificent Summer Concert. We look forward with eager anticipation to the Year 7 and Year 8 Showcase Concert on Tuesday.

This week we enjoyed the first full House Sports Day since 2019, with lots of pupils representing their Houses in keenly contested athletic competition. The Sports Department dealt brilliantly with the complex organisation of the event (and the weather!), which was a great success. As I write, the Senior Boys' Tennis team are representing the school at the National Schools Finals in Nottingham – to be in the top 14 tennis schools in the country is some achievement.

For the second year running, AGSB made it through to the Esports Schools National Finals in Nottingham last weekend. We won the League of Legends National Title with an amazing 2-1 victory over Exeter College. Sadly, our Overwatch team went down 3-2 in the final. Well done to the students and thank you to the Head of Esports, Mr Cummins, for supervising over the weekend.

Over the last two weeks pupils have also enjoyed academic success in Biology Olympiads, Maths Challenge and MFL Spelling Bee.

As we prepare to say farewell to our leaving pupils, we have also been looking ahead to new beginnings. On Wednesday evening, it was a pleasure to welcome parents of incoming Year 7 pupils for an information evening. Yesterday, their children were in school enjoying a Transition Day. Pupils met their Tutors and Tutor groups, experienced taster lessons in Math, Science and PE and took part in activities run by the Sports Department.

## **VALETE**

As ever, at this time of year we have a number of staff leaving AGSB:

**Dr Kevin Stephen** joined AGSB in 1996 to lead the small but well-established Geology Department. Under his leadership the Department grew in both numbers and stature. This eventually led to the introduction of Geology at GCSE level. Exam results at both GCSE and A level have been consistently excellent but the enduring legacy that Kevin leaves behind is in the countless number of students which have been enthused over the years to study Geology at University and carve out careers in the Earth Science world. There are very few students who have left his lesson without having a deep appreciation of this Science and a great affection for all things igneous.

**Mrs Emma King** joined AGSB in 2016 and has been an outstanding subject lead for the Food and Nutrition Department. The Department has gone from strength to strength under her leadership and the standard of cookery amongst her pupils has been exceptional. We wish all the very best to Emma and her family as they relocate to North Wales.

**Dr Jane Stedman** joined AGSB in 2017 and has been an integral member of the English Department and has also played a key role in Oxbridge preparation process. She has secured a well-deserved promotion to Head of KS4 & 5 English at Altrincham College. We wish her well in this exciting new role.



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**Mr Elliot Sheridan** joined AGSB in 2019. An excellent new entrant to the profession, Elliot has taught PE to GCSE, has supported the football programme and has excelled as Head of Cricket. Elliot has been lured overseas and commences a new post at Bangkok Prep International School in September.

**Tom Walsh** has worked in a one-year post of Graduate Assistant within Sport. Tom has been a great asset to the PE department but now looks forward to an apprenticeship with accountancy firm PWC.

As this is the final Newsletter of the year, I would like to thank you for your support of the School over this past year and to wish you a very happy and enjoyable summer.

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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## House Points Award Trip to the Cinema



Congratulations to those students who accumulated the most House Points this year. They were rewarded with a trip to the Cinema last week. They thoroughly enjoyed watching Jurassic World Dominion!

*Ms E Chapman*  
*Head of Year 11*

## Geography Trip to Blencathra



In the early hours of Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, our Year 12 class began its long-anticipated journey to FSC Blencathra for our 3 days of fieldwork, which would prove vital to our NEA coursework as well as extending our first-hand experiences of geographical processes. Our first day on the itinerary revolved around the water cycle, in which we investigated how the level of flood risk differs from different types of woodland, amongst other enquiries. Conveniently, the centre was surrounded by varying woodlands, so we could conduct our fieldwork whilst being in touching distance from the canteen! After our dinner, we consolidated what we did in the day through an interactive session, led by our instructor - Sam - who guided us in how we can visually represent our results for our NEA projects.



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On the second day, our activities surrounded the topic of glaciation, in which we travelled a short distance to Keswick - a market town just south-west of where we stayed. From here, we made the trek towards Easedale Tarn, a stunning landform formed as a result of the glacial era. To what I believed was impossible to find in the Lake District, we were welcomed by scorching weather, which made the day's experience much more appealing. Along the way, we conducted insightful investigations, such as how the orientation of landforms can indicate the direction of flow of the huge body of ice, which once shaped the valley we walked along. After an ice cream, which was eyed up by many along the way, we made our way back to the centre. As soon as our final session for the day finished, we played a whole-class football match at the centre, which was a particular favourite, as well as table tennis round-robins in the games room.

On the final day, our activities followed the topic of the carbon cycle, which is especially topical with regards to the ongoing climate crisis. The day consisted of a journey to Borrowdale Valley, where we investigated the most suitable stores of carbon, via measuring soil depth and tree density. Unfortunately, the weather was far from kind to us but we pushed on to ensure our fieldwork was complete. After trudging through peat bogs (which are a lot deeper than they seem at first), we returned to the coach to mark the end of our trip. All in all, the trip was very rewarding as it allowed us to enhance our scope of geography through seeing the impact of processes, learnt in the classroom, in a practical sense. This trip would not have been possible without the extensive efforts made by the Geography department to organise it. More specifically, we are very thankful for Sam leading the way for our activities, and for Mr Bromley and Mr Williams for putting up with us for three days!

Joe Manson 12DV

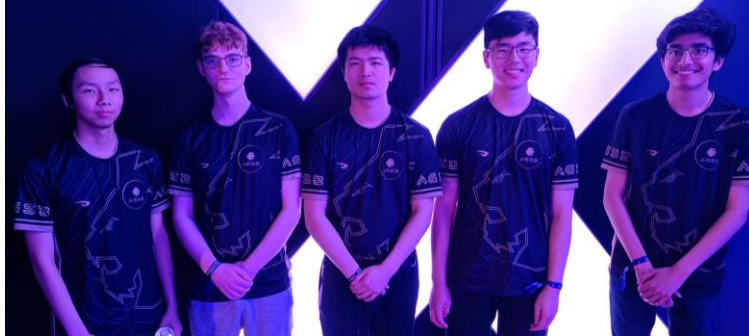




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## AGSB Esports



After a hard-fought season, AGBS Esports once again travelled over to Nottingham to compete in the National Finals of the British Esports Association Championships. This year we were represented by our Overwatch team in the Division 2 Final and our League of Legends team in the Division 1 Final.

In what has been described as the “game of the tournament”, our Overwatch team agonisingly lost in sudden death to a very strong Farnborough 6<sup>th</sup> Form team. This was watched by a packed house at Confetti X, a £5 million pound purpose built Esports complex, and the atmosphere and experience is one that will live long in the memory for the team.

Our League of Legends team on the other hand were victorious, 2-1 against an incredible Exeter College team and have been crowned the best school/college League of Legends team in the whole country! I am immensely proud of both teams for how they performed and represented the school, and we are now the most successful high school in the British Esports Association's history! It is truly amazing how well we do every year when we are up against mainly 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges that have vastly more resources and thousands of students to choose from. A full review of our year will follow, but exciting times ahead thanks to our new sponsors Hopewiser, who have enabled us to increase provision from September and grow our esports organisation.

Overwatch squad: Surjo D Y11; Sebastian H Y11; Ben C Y13; Jacob Y13; Harry K Y11; Nic H Y12; Arun P Y11  
Vikash J Y11

League of Legends team: Will M Y13; Taimor A Y12; Josh C Y12; Dongnan S Y13; Will G Y13 and Alex R Y12.

*Mr R Cummins*  
*Maths Teacher*

## National Translation Bee Competition



On Friday, 1st July, myself and Aadith M (8WL) travelled to the University of Cambridge to compete in the Routes into Languages National Translation Bee. We were part of the final 57 out of 12,288 contestants. I took part in the Spanish competition and Aadith took part in the German competition.

There were 20 students taking part for each language, Spanish, French and German, competing to see who could translate as many English sentences as they could into their appropriate language. The first round was the semi-finals, and the top four candidates of the semi-finals would progress into the grand



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finals. Unfortunately, I was not selected for the grand finals as I lost a sudden death tiebreaker to a candidate from North Halifax.

It was an incredible experience to visit Cambridge University and I had a wonderful time. Thank you to Mrs Blakeley and Miss Farrelly for helping us practice and for taking us.

Sumedh S (8GA)

## The Shine Awards 2022



Congratulations to The Publications Committee for scooping 4 awards at the annual Shine Awards. The Easter edition of The Word can be found here: - <https://www.agsb.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=183&type=pdf>

## Music Department



The Music Department put on a tremendous Summer Concert last week in the Coleman Hall. It was great to see so much talent on display. Thanks to Mr Monument and his team for organising and to those Parents and Carers who attended on the night.



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## Model United Nations

Congratulations to the AGSB MUN team who won "Outstanding Delegation" at the Withington School MUN Conference last week.



## Enterprise Day



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, all Year 10 students took part in collapsed timetabled day. They worked in groups of 10 to fulfil a number of industry level teambuilding activities in the morning session. After this they created their own brand identify and were set the task of developing a 'dual purpose product'.

Students worked extremely hard and collaboratively with each other. Amongst many activities during the afternoon students had to raise finance for their promotional mix, develop a detailed and persuasive pitch, as well as creating a prototype and advertisement for their idea. This day provided an opportunity for students to develop many transferable skills such as decision making, problem solving, communication and presentation skills, which I'm sure will come in handy during next week's Work Experience week. Well done Year 10 and I hope you got a lot out of the day. Congratulations to the overall winners, team 14 - "Chair for the Air".

*Mrs C Newton*  
*Head of Business Studies & Economics*



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## Performing Shakespeare



On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> June we travelled down to The Globe Theatre in London for the ESU Performing Shakespeare National Final. After a two-year Covid break, the entry standard this year was fierce! Year 9 students Tosin A (9MK) and Seb W (9FB) absolutely held their own against stiff competition, performing a creative, mature and bold adaptation of Demetrius and Helena's Act 2 Scene 1 dialogue from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We could not be more proud of them for making it through to the National Final - a monumental achievement!

*Miss C Clark*  
*English Department*





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## British Biology Olympiad 2022



Congratulations to the 25 Year 12 students who participated in this year's Intermediate Biology Olympiad. 16 out of the 25 students achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold award.

## AGSB Careers

The latest Careers Newsletter is now available to read here.



### AGSB Futures - A Careers Newsletter. Edition 15

The school has become noticeably quieter over the past week or so as exam season has drawn to a close and the Year 11's and 13's are hopefully starting to enjoy the long summer ahead of the...

[Go to this Sway](#)

## HM Commendation

Well done to William M (7PG) who receives a Head Master's Commendation for being an outstanding member of the Form, always following the School rules. Miss Pickering says he always contributes positively to Form time discussions and Thought For the Week.



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## Sporting Successes



Well done to Harry S and Rory H who have both been selected to play for the UK Lions Hockey Squad this year. They both recently had an excellent weekend of hockey representing Tensworth (North West) competing against other regions in the UK.

This is a fantastic achievement for them both.

Very well done to Jamie R (12SA) who, as well as achieving a Bronze medal at the North West Regional Swimming Championships in the Open Age category, Jamie has also qualified to compete at the British Summer Championships in Sheffield in July for the 200m Butterfly. Only top ranked swimmers are invited so this is a big achievement. Good luck Jamie.



Valentine F (8GA) recently took part in the Derby Moor Invitation Doubles Tournament for Rugby Fives, at Derby Moor Academy.

Despite the age difference compared with the rest of the field, Val and his partner put up a valiant fight against a strong first matchup but were knocked out in the first round. They then competed for the 'Plate' competition against everyone else who was knocked out in the first and second round. Once they got into rhythm and began to understand one another, teamwork between Val & Kristians flourished with amazing results that they won the Plate tournament, with the final match scoring 11-4, 11-2.

## AGSB Sports Report

### Tennis



Congratulations to the Senior Tennis squad who, for the second year running, made it to the LTA National Tennis Finals, taking place over three days at the Nottingham Tennis Centre.



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## Sports Day July 2022



What a fantastic two days of sport we had this week! Even the weather on the Tuesday morning couldn't dampen the spirits of those who were competing. A very big well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to winners – Massey House – for scoring most points overall.



The students pictured left are the "record breakers" for the track events.



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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](mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk) to arrange an appointment. If the Clinic hours do not suit, we can of course arrange an alternative time.



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](mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk).

More information can be found [HERE](#)

Ms A Cathcart  
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

## The Big PFA Summer Raffle



Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Big PFA Summer Raffle – tickets can be bought by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!

Yours sincerely

The PFA Team

### HOW THE RAFFLE WORKS



For £3 you will get one entry into each of the 12 draws. That's 12 chances to win. More tickets equals more chances to win.



You choose where your money goes. Select your PTA at checkout to make sure the money from your tickets goes straight to your PTA.



Three draws will run daily from 18th July to 21st July 2022. We'll announce the winning numbers on the site and we'll also let you know if you win via email.



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## Sad News

We are sorry to announce that former Deputy Head, Roger Cleland, has recently passed away. Roger's funeral will take place on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm at Altrincham Crematorium.

## Forthcoming dates for July 2022

11.07.2022 – 15.07.2022	Y10 & Y12 Work Experience
12.07.2022	Y7 & Y8 Showcase Music Concert 6.30pm In the Quad
13.07.2022 – 15.07.2022	Years 7 to 9 Activities Day
14.07.2022 – 17.07.2022	Music Trip to London
19.07.2022	School Breaks for Summer 12.20pm

## Noticeboard for Parents

### Whole School Photograph

Reminder for Parents – if you ordered a Whole School Photograph and have not yet collected this, please ensure that you do so before the end of term as otherwise you will have to wait until September. If you have any queries, please email Mrs Jolly on [agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk](mailto:agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk).

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