

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

24th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

We are now three weeks in to the Autumn Term 2021 and a welcome sense of normality continues; the academic life of the School is in full swing and the resumption of co-curricular activities only serves to underline how precious it is to be fully operational once more. We do, however, remain extremely vigilant with regards to Covid. Many schools in the Manchester area have now already reached the number of Covid cases to trigger a first stage contingency response. Please can I remind you all to stay on top of the Lateral Flow Testing and to respond swiftly in the case of a positive outcome. We continue to work closely with Trafford Public Health who offer rapid and pragmatic advice when needed.

Further to the SchoolComms sent out earlier this week, you will be aware that the Government has opened up the opportunity for 12 to 15-year-olds to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Whilst we are still awaiting further information on this, it is important to emphasise that, while the School is the physical location for the vaccinations being offered to AGSB pupils, we are not responsible for running the programme, nor for administering the vaccinations (which is the remit of the Trafford Local Care Organisation). Government guidance for parents on COVID-19 vaccination programme for young people can be found here.

Next week we are looking forward to welcoming Parents and Carers from Year 7 and Year 8 for the AGSB PFA Welcome Evenings. We are fully aware that this will be the first visit to AGSB for many parents. Making a personal connection to a school is always important and this will also provide an excellent opportunity for parents to meet socially.

Music is alive once more at AGSB and it has been inspiring to listen to the various ensembles and choirs' practice during lunchtime. Last night I attended the Year 7 Outdoor Autumn concert which was a joy. Very well done to all involved and thank you to Mr Monument and his team for organising. Rehearsals for A Little Shop of Horrors are also going well. The company meets throughout each week and we cannot wait for the production which will take place on November 10th - 12th. We will let you know when tickets are on sale.

I have also been extremely pleased with the number of pupils representing the School in sport. We have taken part in some excellent block fixtures over the past few weeks and the majority of results have been favourable. I wish all those representing the School tomorrow in football (v St Bede's) and rugby (v Audenshaw) the best of fortune.

Finally, can I ask parents and carers to continue to send through any pupil achievements outside of School so that we can share the positive stories and celebrate success.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright Head Master



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Opening of the New AGSB Library



to hold the opening of the New Library last week.

The Library team were very pleased

Left are the Librarian students who did an incredible job of setting the library up.

Right is a photo of Oliver L (8GH) who was the proud winner of the library raffle held last week. Oliver won a flask kindly donated by Costa in Hale.



Mrs Mahony English Department

AGSB Jazz Band



The AGSB Jazz Band entertained the crowds recently at Tarporley's Big Weekend. Well done to all the boys involved.

Mr M Monument Director of Music

Year 13 House Public Speaking Competition

The Year 13 House Public Speaking took place last week and the motion was 'Every positive value has its price in negative terms . . . the genius of Einstein leads to Hiroshima'.

It was an excellent first competition hosted in the New Library and there was a fantastic turnout from students across the school. A rigorous contest was ultimately won by the opposition, consisting of Ben F



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and Wurdaan K (Stamford) and James L & Tom S (Bradbury). Stamford were awarded first place by virtue of Wurdaan's incisive and wide-ranging answers as Responder. The defeated proposition team consisted of Bilal M & Luka H (Massey) and Kiran Davies who kindly stepped in as a late replacement for Tatton. The judges felt Luka was particularly determined in the presentation of his arguments so Massey gained third place. Many thanks to all students who participated and to staff who came along to support the students.



Mr Croxton
Head of History & Politics

Chess Club



The Chess Club will be running a number of different events this year and would like to invite students to participate.

- Lunchtime Chess Club in N8 at 12.30pm-1.00pm on Tuesdays (Y7 only), Wednesdays and Thursdays
- AGSB Lichess online Chess tournaments 6.00pm-7.00pm on Thursdays (Week A).
- Inter-school Lichess Chess Battles 6.00pm-7.00pm on Fridays (Week B).
- Try-outs for the Chess team. We are intending to enter an online chess league as well as playing in over the board tournaments this year.
- Chess coaching by older students to help younger/inexperienced players.

Students - please complete this <u>FORM</u> if you would like to take part in any of these (except lunchtime chess which you simply need to turn up to). It is essential that Dr Sully is given your Lichess username if you wish to participate in any online event.

The first league match of the year this week resulted in a 2-5 to 3-5 loss to Tiffin School B team.

Dr Sully Chemistry Teacher

Tennis News



Joe S and Ronjay R (both in Year 9) recently took part in the Cheshire County Championships and won their match becoming the U14s Cheshire Doubles Champions 2021, well done to both boys.



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Sporting Successes

During the summer break, Harvey P (Y11), a member off the Altrincham Karate Academy (Nakashi) - a Centre of Excellence for Shukokai Karate - took part in the first black belt grading since lockdown restrictions were lifted.

Harvey was awarded his 2nd Dan Black Belt and impressed the judging panel with his performance and spirit. Well done Harvey.





Well done to Charlie B (8PS) who got 2nd place in the U13 mile race at Altrincham Athletics Club with a time of 5min 59secs this week. What a great achievement.

Year 13 Geology Fieldtrip to the Vale of Eden



After the year 12 Geology trip was abandoned, and the infamous Cyprus trip cancelled, last week, the Year 13's finally made their way to Kirkby Stephen, a quaint market village that lies at the head of the Eden valley. Whilst the location possibly wasn't as exciting as "Europe's Sunniest Island" the geology made up for the lack of heat.

We found ourselves trekking all over the North of England to places such as the Lake District, County Durham and even the Yorkshire Dales. We saw many fascinating geological features that included limestone and a rock that was formed roughly 420 million years ago when England and Wales were located under a shallow, tropical sea.





However, perhaps the best part of the trip was the visit to Shap Pink Quarry, a working quarry that is currently excavating a large granite pluton, a feature that used to be a large body of magma under the ground! We learnt all about how the quarry functions and where the products go, but most importantly it was a nice place to take a memoir of the trip back home.



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On behalf of the student body, I would like to thank Dr Stephen for organising the trip and Dr Iveson and Mr Giffen for taking us through the geology of the area. But also, Dr Squire and Mr Alsaadi for all the photography and support over the week!

Dan Turkington 13WY

AGSB MacMillan Coffee Morning



AGSB took part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday of this week. The Year 10 GCSE students baked some amazing cakes which were sold throughout the day, raising funds for the Macmillan Cancer organisation.

Thank you to Mrs King and Mrs Gordon who organised the event.











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AGSB Physics Concepts Society





The AGSB Physics Concepts Society (PCS) held their inaugural lecture this week. The PCS is run entirely by AGSB pupils for AGSB pupils. Congratulations to Mof on delivering an excellent presentation.

AGSB Year 7 Outdoor Music Concert

What a fantastic Outdoor Autumn Concert we had last night for Y7 Parents. The AGSB Swing Band, Concert Band and Year 7 Choir all performed to a full house! Thank you to Mr Monument and the Music Department for organising.











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New Build

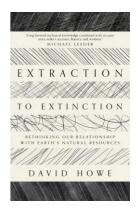


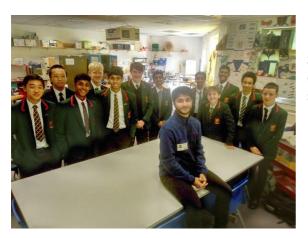
What a great photograph taken by Architect, Mr Simpson, of our new classrooms and Library in all their glory in the sunshine last week, it already feels like it has always been there!

Old Altrinchamians



Old Alt, David Howe has had a fascinating new book published entitled *'Extraction to Extinction'* and in it he pays tribute to Mr Roy Coleman who is now deceased but was Deputy Headteacher here at AGSB. Roy was a highly thought of Geology Teacher.





It was great to welcome back Old Altrinchamian, Shafae (now studying at Imperial College London) who delivered an excellent presentation to our GCSE Tech students this week.



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AGSB House Assemblies



Our House Assemblies begun again this week and it was good to see so many boys listening intently to their House Managers.

Here left, Mr Smith — Bradbury House Manager — reminded his House about the life of Altrincham born soldier, Captain Edward Bradbury VC.

Recent Sports Results

Football vs King's Chester

Year 7A	Lost 1-6
Year 7B	Won 5-4
Year 8A	Won 5-4
Year 8B	Won 15-0
Year 9	Won 3-2
Year 10	Won 9-0
3 rd XI	Won 8-1
2 nd XI	Won 4-2
1 st XI	Lost 2-4

Rugby vs Wilmslow High

Year 7A	Lost 20-25
Year 7B	Lost 40-60
Year 8	Won 40-35
Year 9	Won 35-10
Year 10	Lost 0-31
1 st XV	Won 62-5

Rugby vs AKS

Year 7	Won 45-20
Year 8	Won 15-5
Year 9	Won 35-20
U16	Won 38-0
1 st XV	Lost 0-38

Football vs Blue Coat School – Gtr M/C Cup (Y8)

4-4 full time Lost on pens 8-9

Under 16 Football v Thornleigh Salesian College Won 4-1

U15 Rugby vs Birkenhead NatWest Vase Lost 0-28



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Noticeboard for Parents

Own Clothes Day - Friday, 15th October 2021

Please note that on Friday, 15th October we are holding an Own Clothes Day in aid of Chad's Challenge (fundraising for The Christie). The suggested donation is £2 but please do give what you can.

Please can Parents refrain from delivering forgotten homework/PE kits/food tech ingredients etc to the School Reception. We cannot accept anything brought into School.

We are receiving a number of requests from parents to take pupils out of school to visit family member across the world. Pupils have already faced significant disruption to their education over the last 18 months. We will continue to expect full attendance from all pupils (if fit and well) throughout the School year.

Bowdon Church Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2022

Bowdon Church is now launching its Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for 2022 and there are places available for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Please note that places for young people who are disadvantaged are actively prioritised and there are bursaries available to help cover the costs. More information can be found HERE .

Important Information regarding 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.

To summarise:

- Please look at the instructions in the pack on how to perform testing
- Carry out testing every Monday and Thursday morning, preferably before breakfast is eaten
- Report the result to school and NHS via website
- If the result is positive please arrange for your child to have a <u>PCR test</u> and report this result to school using the <u>covid@agsb.co.uk</u> address.

Sodexo Information

Please can Parents be reminded to top up their son(s) Sodexo cards to prevent boys having to ask for an IOU every day. This is a time consuming exercise both for Sodexo and Reception staff. Boys also need to be reminded to take care not to lose their card as several lost cards are handed in every day.



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Making a Difference – Sports for All Fundraising Campaign



We are very excited to be in the early stages of a campaign to raise funds for Phase 1 of our long-term Development Plan which seeks significantly improve outdoor sporting facilities. We are currently setting up a

Campaign Office in the school and we need

volunteer admin support on a part-time basis. If you have a few hours a week to spare, please in the first instance contact the Head Master's PA Mrs Brickell — mbrickell@agsb.co.uk.

Forthcoming dates for September and October 2021

Tue - 28.09.2021	PFA Y7 Parents' Evening – 7pm
Wed – 29.09.2021	PFA Y8 Parents' Evening – 7pm
Tue - 05.10.2021	Whole School Photograph
Wed - 06.10.2021 to 08.10.2021	Y7 & Y8 Bushcraft Trip
Tue – 12.10.2021	Y11 Geology Field Trip Set 11A
Wed – 13.10.2021	Y11 Geology Field Trip Set 11B
Thu – 14.10.2021	Y11 Geology Field Trip Set 11D
Tue – 19.10.2021	Y7 Flu Vaccinations
Wed – 20.10.2021	GCSE Awards Evening – 7.30pm
Wed – 20.10.2021	School Closes at 12.30pm for Awards Evening
Thu - 21.10.2021	School Closes for October Half Term

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

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