

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

14th October 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Last Thursday, we held the Year 7 Parents and Carers Curriculum evening which was very well attended. The aim of this event was to give parents some advice and information about the transition their children will make towards a more independent way of learning. It also highlighted the breadth of the AGSB curriculum with presentations from subject leaders covering English, Maths, Science, Humanities and the Creative subjects.

This week in assemblies and Thought for the Week, we have celebrated Black History Month. As an Antiracist School, we continually strive to create an environment where all students feel safe and welcomed, and we continue to support students and staff in identifying the many forms of prejudice and racism that exists and the strategies to help support them in challenging these. I would like to thank the amazing AGSB Anti-racist Ambassadors (supported by Dr Hepden and Ms Pickering) for delivering an excellent series of assemblies.

Over the past fortnight, I have visited some amazing talks, presentations and debates all of which have been student led. We have had highly sophisticated debates on the notion of 'Non-Fungible Tokens are the future of Art' and 'The existence of God'; philosophy presentations on 'Who is the most significant Philosopher?' and 'Are we all implicitly evil?'. Yesterday I listened to an excellent A level History talk on the Falklands War.

Last night I visited AGGS for the Utsav 2022 evening. Utsav is a multi-cultural series of performances spanning over two evenings. The event was coordinated by the AGSB Hindu, Sikh and Jain society in collaboration with the AGGS and Sale Grammar School Hindu Societies. It was an amazing evening with outstanding performances, lovely food and a good deal of money raised for a number of charities. Many thanks to Soham and his team for organising this excellent event.

It is easy to forget that it is not all that long ago that COVID was preventing any school trips, so we are delighted that they are back in the calendar. This week, our Year 11 Geologists have been completing fieldwork in Anglesey and on Sunday, Year 9 rugby players head to Holland for a six-day tour.

We have enjoyed an excellent six weeks of AGSB sport, a full report can be found overleaf.

Over the past month the four Houses have been rehearsing for the House Shout which takes place in the Coleman Hall at 7pm on Tuesday. It promises to be another excellent evening of music and fun. For tickets please refer to the Eventbrite link overleaf.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright Head Master



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## **Y12 House Speaking Competition**



The Year 12 House Public Speaking was held last week and the motion was 'Non-Fungible Tokens are the future of Art'. The motion concerns digital forms of art which can traded and whose value can vary. It was an excellent competition and there was again a great turnout from staff and students across the school in the New Library. An extremely close contest was ultimately won by the proposition, consisting of Tom R & Jacob R (Stamford) and Will C & Aayan A (Tatton). Both Jacob, as Opening Speaker, and Tom, as Responder, put outstanding in

performances, which gave Stamford first place. The defeated proposition team consisted of Nisala G & Harry R (Massey) and Krish C & Hugo S-F (Bradbury). The judges were very impressed with Krish as Opening Speaker so Bradbury gained third place. Many thanks to Ms Clark, Mr Carr & Ben B-J (Y13) for judging the competition, Ms Mahony and Ms Marson for hosting and to all other staff who came along to support the students.

Mr N Croxton Head of History & Politics

# **Model United Nations**

Congratulations to all those who took part in the recent Model United Nations Conference at Cheadle Hulme School. For the second year running, our students took Outstanding Delegation, so well done to all!





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# **Design & Technology**



If you are thinking about applying for a 2023 Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, this webinar is for you.

Aimed at students in Year 11, this webinar will give you a real insight into all things Arkwright, to help you prepare for the 2023 Scholarship applications and selection process.

We will have a panel of experts on hand to talk through the Scholarship programme in more detail, how students can get involved, and the support available to both teachers and applicants. You will also have the opportunity to submit your own questions to the panel via a live Q&A chat.

Parents are also welcome to attend if they wish. This link has been emailed out to Year 11 so that you can easily book a place on this event via this <u>LINK</u>

I will be running a follow up event after this with the next steps.

Mr R Baker Head of D&T

## **AGSB Philosophy & Ethics**



The first round of the Philosophy/Politics House Competition got off to a great start with Christopher B and Samuel L from Stamford arguing that Michael Dunlop Young should hold the title of most significant Philosopher of all time. We also had Harry R (Massey) arguing, with Harvey W, that Martin Luther was the most significant Philosopher of all time.

The winner of this round was Harry R (12NW), with his convincing comments on the reach of Luther's influence.



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After half term, we will be hosting the second round, in which Bradbury and Tatton will battle it out. There is still time to enter the competition for these Houses.

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

Mr Sampson Philosophy Dept

## **Smoking and Vaping**



At AGSB, Students are not allowed to Smoke or Vape inside or outside the School. Smoking is a health and safety risk and is particularly serious in-House as it exposes others to passive smoking. Smoking and Vaping in public buildings within the UK is illegal and carries a fine.

The Department for Health and Social Care have requested that schools ensure their policies on Vaping are "robust".

To that end, any students caught Vaping inside School will be given a fixed term suspension. If you have concerns that your son is vaping please ensure that you make him aware of this sanction.

Government guidance also allows authorised school staff to search pupils, even without their consent, where they have "reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item". We will continue to do random searches and if we find banned items [such as vapes], we will issue strong sanctions. This includes any item banned under School rules.

If you believe that your son has an issue or is addicted in any way to vaping, please do come forward. We can offer support.

Mr E Hall Deputy Head (Pastoral)

# AGSB Chess

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The AGSB Chess team recently entered round 1 of this year's Ivan Gromov league. This is the second year of the league and it is now much bigger than last year with even more schools lined up to join.

Well done to the A Team who won 3.5 to 2.5 against Tonbridge School last night. The B Team unfortunately lost 4 to 2 against Eton College. Well done to all who took part.

Dr V Sully Chemistry Dept



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## **Sporting Successes**



(Left) Joseph S (8CD) has recently been awarded the grade of 7th KYU in Karate.

(Right) Aryan D (7UN) was awarded the Best Bowler award for the U11 Cheshire County team and also the Best Bowler for his local Timperley Cricket team this year.



Oscar P (9CO) and Harvey P (12WY) represented Altrincham
Karate Club at the Manchester Open Karate Championships recently, attended
by competitors from all over England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Oscar (left) was a key member of the age 13-14 boys' sparring team. He kept a focused mind, targeted fighting, and with the spirit of karate he helped his team to win silver.

Harvey (right) joined the men's' adult sparring team and through some challenging fights and true resistance, he helped his team secure bronze.



(Left) Edward H (10JM) played for the U17 Cheshire County Badminton team against Cumbria and Cheshire who were victorious!





(Left) Congratulations to Ted G (13BK) who has been appointed 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football Captain and to Jamie R (13SQ) (Right) who has been appointed 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Captain for 2022-23. Both sides have made a great start to the season. Good luck in the coming weeks.





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# Y7 Drama @ AGSB



In Drama this week, Year 7 have spent time completing their first assessments - storytelling through movement and mime. This is 7OL showcasing some great skills in gesture, stance and expression.

Ms C Clark
English Dept & Drama Co-Ordinator

## **Year 11 Geology Fieldtrip to Anglesey**



Our Year 11 Geologists have had a great fieldtrip to Anglesey this week which involved basic mapping skills and perfecting field sketching.

Mr M Parker Head of Geology

## **House Photography Competition**

Reminder that the House Photography Competition closes on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. Photographs must be based on the theme beginning with the letter "S". **Students can submit their image HERE.** 

Mr D Smith Bradbury House Manager





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## **UTSAV 2022**





Great photos taken at AGGS Utsav event. It was an amazing evening with outstanding performances, lovely food and a good deal of money raised for a number of charities. Many thanks to Soham and his team for organising this excellent event.

## **AGSB Sports Report**



# **Sports review September to October**

It has been a successful start to the year for AGSB sport. We have already had 65 sports fixtures to date across all sports. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football are currently undefeated scoring 34 goals and only conceding 11. They have had noticeable wins against Rossall School and most recently St Ambrose College in the National Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> Round. The year 7 side have had a similar strong run of form, having played five and won five.



All Hockey age groups are progressing nicely in the County Cup. Indoor hockey training has commenced in preparation for the North West finals later this term.



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The U15 Rugby Squad recently beat Knutsford HS, to progress into the next round of the National Competition.

In Tennis our U15 team will be travelling to Sunderland in November having qualifies for the Reginal Finals.

After half term there is plenty more going on with the Basketball league starting, school badminton and table tennis competitions starting not to mention cross-country and swimming.

The Sports+ timetable is proving very popular with participation rates increasing, most noticeably in Badminton and Table Tennis. It's great to see our sports clubs so well attended.

Well done to all those that have represented the school in sport this half term. I wish all teams well for the rest of the season. I'm sure we will experience much success.

Mr S Meakin Head of PE (Sports)

## **Co-Curricular Activities/Dates for your Diary**



One of the highlights of the annual House Calendar is the House Shout – a musical extravaganza.

Tuesday 18th October 2022



Tickets available **HERE** 



# **AGSB Islamic Society Charity Week Dinner**

- ☆ Thu 20 Oct 5:30 PM 9:00 PM
- ♦ Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Coleman Hall, WA14 2RS

AGSB ISOC will be holding a formal dinner in the Coleman Hall. All profits from the event will go to the international Charity Week's Cause: Orphans and Needy Children. They will be hosting guest speakers, presentations, speeches, fundraisers, auctions and a raffle too!

Tickets available to ISOC Society members only.



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# Les Misérables

# Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022



The School Production of Les Miserables is taking place on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November through to Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November and the cast are working tirelessly to get the show ready. They are in school all day this Saturday to get to grips with Act 2. Tickets are available on Eventbrite and are selling fast! Link to Eventbrite **HERE** 



On the 6<sup>th</sup> 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**.

For full information of all extra-curricular events, these can be found HERE.

## **AGSB Anti-Racism Committee**



AGSB's Anti-Racism Ambassadors are proudly celebrating Black History Month and our continuing commitment to being an Anti-racist School. Throughout the month we have been enjoying a range of activities and events to explore 2022's theme "Time for action, no words". Thank you to all those who also took part in the Assemblies delivered to all students.



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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 <a href="mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk">acathcart@agsb.co.uk</a> 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 <a href="mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk">acathcart@agsb.co.uk</a>.

Aspergers

Down syndrome

Dyslexia Learning Difference

More information can be found HERE

Ms A Cathcart Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

# **Forthcoming dates for October 2022**

Sun 16.10.2022 - Fri 21.10.2022 Tue 18.10.2022 Wed 19.10.2022 Wed 19.10.2022 Thu 20.10.2022 Thu 20.10.2022 Mon 31.10.2022 Tue 02.11.2022 Friday 04.11.2022 Thu 10.11.2022 Fri 11.11.2022 Mon 14.11.2022 Wed 16.11.2022 Thu 17.11.2022 Tue 22.11.2022 - 25.11.2022 Wed 30.11.2022

Y9 Holland Rugby Tour
House Shout @ 7.30pm
School Closes @ 12.20pm for GCSE Awards Evening
GCSE Awards Evening @ 7.30pm
AGSB Islamic Society Charity Dinner@ 5pm
School Closes for Half-Term
School Opens
Y11 Parents' Evening
School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Training
Y10 Study Skills Parents' Evening @ 7pm
School Remembrance Day Services
Y8 HPV Immunisations
Sixth form Open Evening @ 5pm
PFA Curry & Quiz Night @ 7.30pm @ AGSB

School Production of Les Miserables @ 7pm

**Y10 Work Experience Information Evening for Parents** 



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## **AGSB PFA**



The PFA have kindly put together a team to bake a selection of cakes to bring in to School on the 20<sup>th</sup> October for a Staff Appreciation to thank the staff for all their hard work. A big thank you also goes to Mrs Drake who is our PFA Teacher Representative who puts a lot of time and effort into the PFA.

# **AGSB PFA Auction Of Promises**

AGSB Auction of Promises is a great vehicle for everyone to participate.

Anybody can donate a gift, service, skill, vouchers, or an experience to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Items can include things like cookery lessons, tickets to a match, theatre or an event, a family holiday rental, music or subject tuition lessons, fresh baked items, IT support, a photography sitting, present wrapping service, gym passes etc.



The auction will start at **4.00pm Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022**, when everybody can start bidding on the Auction lots to try and grab their favourite prizes whilst supporting our School community and Young Minds! The link to the AGSB Auction of Promises will be emailed to everyone prior to the start date and will also be available on AGSB social media. Follow us and see if you have been caught on the AGSB PFA camera, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at AGSB PFA (@AgsbPfa). Please share with family and friends.

For further information on how to get involved and donate, please contact Irene Tse @ AGSBauction@gmail.com. Please email with a description and a picture of your donation, along with your child's name and form (they will get a bonus House point for each donation). If you are donating the prize on behalf of a company, please also send us your logo so we can promote it on the social media pages. (The 2021 Auction can be viewed on <a href="https://auctionofpromises.com/AGSB2021">https://auctionofpromises.com/AGSB2021</a>).

Entries into the Auction need to reach us by 12pm on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November and will end at 9pm on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Winners will be contacted within 3 working days. 20% of total proceeds will go to Young Minds Charity.



You will have already heard of Satchel One (Show my Homework) which has been an invaluable resource – funded by the PFA - for all boys over the last three years, and you and your child will most likely have already used it! We would like to ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 from each parent/carer across the whole School to fund this for another three years and if you are able to assist, please visit ParentPay

(PFA Donations) to make your donation using this code: **2223PFA01 – Voluntary contribution for Show my Homework (PFA).** 

Thank you for your continued support.



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## **Noticeboard for Parents**

Don't forget, Parents and Carers are invited to email in any of their cultural events for the Newsletter – to Mrs Jolly – <a href="mailto:ajolly@agsb.co.uk">ajolly@agsb.co.uk</a>, the Cultural Calendar Co-Ordinator.

## **Traffic Congestion on Marlborough Road**



Yet again, another polite reminder to Parents and Carers about the danger to students crossing Marlborough Road in the morning and at the end of the School day.

We are still receiving complaints from members of the public about people who just pull out without any consideration for other road users or the students who are walking. Safety to our students is of paramount importance.

Please also be aware that cars who drive down Heath Road to drop off their children is also causing a nuisance to neighbours. Please do not stop or turn around in anyone's driveway.

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS. Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk









