



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

8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

There is a clear academic focus across a number of year groups this term. Years 10 and 12 are working hard to prepare for their trial exams which take place over the next few weeks. Meanwhile, Year 11 and Year 13 need to keep a laser focus on maximising their learning from the trial examinations as they look forward to the public exams which begin in May.

Last week, the Department for Education launched a campaign to improve attendance across all schools in the UK. The campaign strapline is “**moments matter, attendance counts**”. Although attendance at AGSB is above the national average, can I remind Parents and Carers not to organise holidays and visits abroad during term time. All students should be aiming for 97% - 100% attendance (unless they have experienced periods of illness) across each term.

Last week, former Royal Marine, David Coleman, delivered an inspirational talk to members of the 6th Form as part of the ACE programme. David talked about the many challenges he has had to overcome in life, from school to Marines training and from Afghanistan to life after the military. David talked passionately about mental health and the importance for boys/men to open up and talk about whatever difficulties they are experiencing.

AGSB students have been involved in two major charitable initiatives this week. On Monday and Tuesday, 100's of students flocked to the Coleman Hall for the annual AGSB Islamic Society (ISOC) Food Sale. This year, funds are being raised for the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. Many thanks to ISOC and all the parents and family members who work tirelessly to provide the food and drink. Over the past seven years, this event has raised over £34,000 for various humanitarian charities.

AGSB, once again, supported the Altrincham vs Cancer fundraiser. Members of MedSoc raised a grand total of £1,957.21 for the OddBalls Foundation, the UK's leading charity, spreading awareness about Testicular Cancer and supporting those affected by it.

Many thanks to all Parents and Carers who joined us for the PFA Curry and Quiz night. The food was excellent, and I am delighted to report that the quiz was won by the staff team!

There has been a good deal of sporting success across all sports over the past fortnight, however, the two teams of the month (so far) are the Under 16 Badminton Squad who are through to the National Finals after defeating Bedford School, and the Under 16 Basketball team who were crowned Trafford Champions.

As I write, we are greatly looking forward to the second major musical event of 2024 – The Spring Concert.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'G A Wright'.

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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Codebreaking Competition



This year's codebreaking competition saw 21 teams sign up from Year 7 to Year 10. Each week's coding tasks were different, meaning teams needed a wide range of strategies to complete the tasks. Tasks included a treasure hunt around the school, a cryptic photograph with hidden clues, an AGSB twitter hidden message and a staff classroom code.

The competition was won by Ritvik N in Year 8, Team Name: RA Codebreakers. Every year the competition is won by a Year 8 team, do we need to set you more homework?

Certificates were also given out to the best team in Year 10 - SAO (Captain Oliver C) who came second overall, the best team in Year 9 - Crack Codecaine (Captain Asadulla M) who came third overall, and the best team in Year 7 -

The Galactic Disk Burners (captain Samuel Y) who came fourth overall.

Very well done to everyone who took part.

Mrs S Chancellor (Maths Dept) & Mr W Carr (Comp Science Dept)

Guest Speaker – David Coleman



Many thanks to Civvy 2 Commando CEO, David Coleman, for delivering an inspirational talk to members of the 6th Form last week. David talked about the many challenges he has had to overcome in life, from School to Royal Marines training and from Afghanistan to life after the military.



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AGSB Work Experience – Placements Needed!



Each year the Year 10 & Year 12 students participate in a week of work experience to develop knowledge of the workplace and build their confidence moving towards the next step on their journey.

We aim to arrange a meaningful placement for each student and over recent years, we have managed to support most students in gaining an opportunity to go into a business and see what the world of work entails. This is achieved with the support of local businesses and parental support, as well as previous placements offering current students a placement.

We are therefore reaching out to the parent community in the hope that there may be some individuals who could offer to support one or more of the students during the week. This year the work experience week is the 8th to the 12th July. Ideally, students would spend the full week with a business but if this is not possible, we would welcome any offer of support.

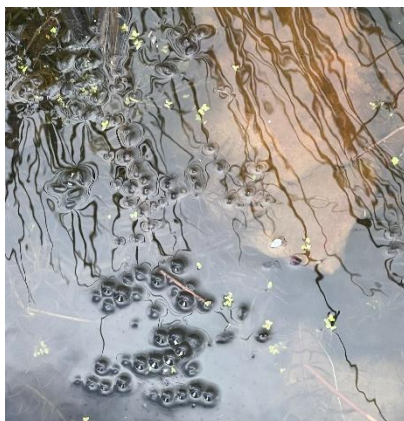
If you can offer a placement, please complete the [ONLINE FORM HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at agallamore@agsb.co.uk

Many thanks.

Mr Andrew Gallamore
Head of Careers

AGSB Gardening Club



The eco garden is now waking up as Spring arrives! We have lots of frog spawn in one pond, with a wealth of tadpoles in the other.

The students are busy replenishing the beds with compost, ready for the seedlings as soon as it gets a little bit warmer.

If anyone would like to donate anything to the Gardening Club, please drop off with reception.

Many thanks!

Mrs R Chapman & The Gardening Club



Gardening Club




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Book Fest 2024



Once again, we have the return of our Book Fest 2024 event which takes place between the 29th April to the 3rd May.

This year we have three authors coming into School who will also be running creative writing workshops with selected classes.

On Tuesday 30th April we have **Steven Camden**, a spoken poet author, coming in to speak to all Year 7 and Year 8 students and to run workshops.

On Friday 3rd May, **Danielle Jawando** (fiction and YA award winner) will be delivering a talk to all Year 10 and then running workshops with some students. On the same day, **Alan Bissett** (non-fiction author of "Lads" and billed as an anti-Andrew Tate) will be delivering a talk to all Year 9.

Mrs C Mahony
Library Co-Ordinator

Asian Food Sale



Well done to the AGSB Islamic Society for a very well organised two day Asian Food Sale this week. The food was delicious and the students were queueing round the yard for their lunch! All monies raised is in support of the Unity Through Charity Campaign for the crisis in Sudan.



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International World Women's Day



This week Assemblies have been celebrating International World Women's Day.

Many thanks to Head Prefect, Jacob R, and Senior Prefects, Jamie L-B and Gautham R, for delivering an outstanding presentation which provided us all with much 'food for thought'.

Well Done

Congratulations to Anton B in Year 12 who has successfully completed his B1 French and B2 German exams, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CERF) in alliance with Alliance Française and the Goethe Institut.

Well done Anton!



Translation Bee



We are pleased to announce that the following students are going through to the Regional Finals of the Translation Bee on the 6th June at Lancaster University:

Aryan D (8FA) and Ramkiran V (8FA) for French

Kaysan C (8FA) and Hashaam U (8LS) for German

Aayush G (8DO) and Adam K (8CK) for Spanish

We wish them all the very best of luck!

Mrs F Blakeley
Teacher of MFL



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FutureChef 2024



Mrs V Gordon
Teacher of Food & Nutrition

Big congratulations to Harry C (11AS) for all the hard work and commitment shown in the recent FutureChef Competition.

School heats were carried out in October, where two winners were selected from a total of 12 entries from Years 9 to 11. The standard of cooking by all the boys was very high, but the winners of the heat were Owais B (11MA) and Harry C (11AS).

The FutureChef Regional Finals took place at Manchester College in November, with nine contenders from various Trafford schools taking part. Harry managed to beat off all the competition, showing his amazing culinary skills.

Harry was very fortunate to be given Executive Chef, Paul Beckley, from The Kimpton Clocktower Refuge Restaurant in Manchester to mentor him to the next stage and the Future Chef North West Final at St Helen's college came around very quickly but thankfully, Harry had practised his dishes many times, much to the delight of his parents!

On the day nerves were showing as all students were led to the professional catering kitchens.

Harry deboned a whole chicken, made pasta from scratch and a reduction sauce, craquelin profiteroles with creme pat filling, jam sauce and marinated blackberries. The chefs were very impressed and gave Harry some lovely feedback and said he would be welcome to work with them anytime!

Unfortunately, Harry just missed out on the top spot, but only just!

Well done Harry!





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Y11 House Debating Competition



An excellent debate was held this week on the motion THBT: *Billionaires owning media companies is bad for democracy*. Year 11 really rose to the challenge with this with impressive research on both sides leading to a fiery debate. The winner was the Proposition (Massey and Stamford) with Tosin delivering an impassioned opening speech that set the tone for the rest of the debate.

Star performers had to go to the questioner/responders Seb and Kavi who kept the argument going with well-considered facts and convincing counter points.

Thank you to all spectators, particularly those who asked questions. Thanks also to the debating team of Jacob, Hugo and Nat for chairing and judging and Mrs Marson for hosting.

The rankings were: 1st Massey; 2nd Stamford; 3rd Tatton; 4th Bradbury

Mrs C Mahony
English Dept & Library Co-Ordinator

External Exam Invigilators Required from 16th May to the 26th June 2024



We Need You! – Volunteer Invigilators Required

We are looking to put together a voluntary invigilation team for the 2024 exam season and wonder if there are any Parents or Carers out there who could spare the time to assist us with this. A morning invigilation session will normally be between 9.00am and 11.00am and an afternoon session between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. The commitment we are seeking is for several sessions during May and June, however even a few sessions would be a most valuable contribution.

Those interested will be asked to assist with invigilation in the Coleman Hall or other exam rooms where there will always be a senior experienced invigilator present.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Lavin in the Exams Office at alavin@agsb.co.uk.

Thank you in advance for any contribution you may feel able to make.

The Exams Team



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Old Altrinchamian



Last week, we had another Alumni talk, this time delivered by Bilal Chaudhry who left school in 2017 to pursue a degree in Product Design Engineering at the University of Brunel in London.

Since graduating Bilal has worked as a Graduate Lighting Designer with AECOM and has gained experience working on a wide range of projects including the installation of a new lighting concept at the Serpentine Gallery in London.

Bilal's career was inspired by his love of Design Technology at AGSB and this talk was great for those students who are studying DT or Art and are wondering about the many pathways you can progress onto from these subjects.

Farewell



This week we said goodbye to Mrs Tracey Richardson, our Admissions Manager, who has been with AGSB for 17 years!

We wish Tracey a long and happy retirement.

Altrincham vs Cancer Campaign

A very big thank you to everyone who took part in the activities last week to raise money for Altrincham vs Cancer. We had Nerf gun shooting, hoop toss, guess the number of sweets and the ever-popular teacher Sumo Wrestling Event!

The final total raised, including Own Clothes' Day, was a fantastic **£1,957.21** 😊😊. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated.

Mr A Gallamore & The AGSB MedSoc





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AGSB House Drama



The inaugural AGSB House Drama Competition is taking place on **Wednesday, 13th March 2024** at 7pm in the Coleman Hall.

This is an evening of monologues, duologues and musical theatre.

We would love to see Parents, Carers and family members in attendance and admission is free although tickets must be reserved via this [LINK](#) so that we have an idea of numbers.

This promises to be a fantastic evening so do come along!

HM Commendations

Well done to two Y7 students, Ewan W (7CR) and Benjamin F (7BY) who both receive a Head Master's Commendation for their fantastic presentations to the History & Politics Society recently.

Congratulations to Eric C (7EE) who receives a HM Commendation for producing an outstanding project on 'Does God Exist'?

AGSB Sports

Badminton



(Left) The U16 Badminton team have progressed to the National Finals, beating Bedford School in the semi-finals.

Hockey

(Right) The U16 Hockey squad also progressed in the National Cup last week, beating Rossall School 10-0. Well done to all involved!





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Rugby



Great day of 7's at AKS Lytham! The U13's progressed to the Plate Competition with a good win against Giggleswick after the group stages.



Well done to all involved. They are now looking forward to the next tournament.

Well done to the U12 Rugby 7's squad who won 2, drew 2 and lost 2 in the Cheshire 7's. A promising start to the 7's season.





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Football



Some great wins for the AGSB Football teams this week, getting their Trafford Cup campaigns off to positive starts.

Greater Manchester Cup:

Year 8's are into the semi-finals of the GM Cup;

Year 9's are into the 3rd round of the GM Plate;

Year 10's are into the quarter-finals of the GM Cup

Trafford Cup:

Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 are all into the quarter final!

This week we have played 5 cup games:

Y7 won vs St Antony's 2-1;

Y8 won vs Wellacre 5-2;

Y9 won vs Stretford High 4-2 & Cheadle

Hulme High (TBC tonight); Y10 won vs

Urmston 3-1



Great results and well done to all involved!





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Basketball



Great win for the U16 Basketball team (left) who are now Trafford Champions!

Well done to everyone involved and thank you to Mr Land for all your hard work.

Sporting Achievements

Well done to three Y7 pupils, Robert L, Jai C and Leo C who recently took part in their first ever competition on the water in the Trafford Head of the Bridgewater rowing competition,

Robert and Jai were in a coxed quadruple scull with three other juniors from Trafford Rowing Club, winning the J13 event by 1 minute and 13 seconds. Leo won the J13 single sculls event by over 30 seconds and in the process set a new personal best time for the distance.



Great achievement!

Sport for All Campaign – ‘Moving to Action’



We are pleased to inform you that Phase 2 of the AGSB Sport for All Campaign – ‘Moving to Action’ has now begun.

This includes a new cricket wicket and full drainage of the bottom fields. A big thank you to all who supported the Campaign.



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SEND Support at AGSB



You can arrange an appointment to discuss a SEND issue, either at our weekly virtual SEND Clinic (Thursdays 1:30pm- 3:00pm) or at another suitable time.

Financial Support at AGSB

You can apply for Free School Meals [here](#).

You can find out more about Pupil Premium support for Y7-Y11 [here](#).

You can find out more about Sixth Form Bursary support [here](#).

Information on discounted and free public transport for students aged 11-18 is available [here](#).

Help with funding UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) is available [here](#).

For all Inclusion related queries, please contact acathcart@agsb.co.uk

Ms A Cathcart
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco



PFA Curry & Quiz Night



The AGSB PFA Annual Curry & Quiz Night was another huge success with lots of Parents, Carers and students in attendance. The food was amazing and we are delighted to report that the AGSB Official Staff Team won by a clear 5 points!

Many thanks to the PFA for organising another fantastic event!



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'Pie and Pint' Six Nations Rugby Event on Saturday, 16th March

Every year the AGSB PE Department run an event to raise money for the Senior Rugby and Hockey tour. This Summer they will be travelling to South Africa to experience the sport and the culture.

The attached flyer for 'Pie and Pint' is an event we run in order to raise money to further add to the boys' experience. We will be showing all 3 Six Nations Rugby games on the big screen as well as serving up pies along with a bar service.

We do expect all rugby players to purchase a ticket but would also love to see as many parents, carers, friends and family members in attendance also.

Tickets can be purchased from the PE Office at a cost of £15 for an adult and £10 per child.

Many thanks for your continued support for sport at AGSB.

The PE Dept



Noticeboard for Parents

A reminder that next Thursday, 14th March, School will close at 12.20pm for all students for Staff Training. There will be no lunch provision for students.

School will open as normal at 8.40am on Friday, 15th March.

Calendar Dates

Remember to keep an eye on our [School Calendar](#) for information on upcoming events.



Forthcoming Key Dates are:

- * 11.03.2024 – 18.03.2024: Geology Fieldtrip to Cyprus
- * 12.03.2024: Y12 Physics Trip to Daresbury Laboratory
- * 14.03.2024: **School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Training**
- * 14.03.2024: Piano Recital Concert – 7pm in the Coleman Hall
- * 16.03.2024: Six Nations Pie & Pint – 12.30pm in the Stamford Hall



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- * 17.03.2024: National Concert Band Finals in Warwick
- * 18.03.2024 – 20.03.2024: Y7 PGL Adventure Trip to Shropshire
- * 18.03.2024: Y12 Trip to Cambridge Conference
- * 19.03.2024 – 28.03.2024: Y10 Exams
- * 21.03.2024: Y12 Parents' Evening
- * 25.03.2024 – 27.03.2024: Y11 Geology Trip to Ecton Mine Trust, Derbyshire
- * 27.03.2024: Old Boys' & Senior Sports Awards/Presentation Dinner
- * 28.03.2024 – 03.04.2024: Biology Trip to Orlando, Florida
- * 28.03.2024: Own Clothes' Day in support of Youth for Good
- * 28.03.2024: School Closes for Easter Holidays

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Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

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