



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

29th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The term is now in full swing with the natural rhythm of Co-Curricular and information events now underway. Last week we welcomed Year 7 Parents and Carers into School for the PFA Welcome evening, the Year 12 information evening was held on Wednesday night and our first musical showcase evening was held last night.

The football, rugby and hockey seasons have started well as we head to another busy Saturday morning with fixtures against Scarisbrick Hall, Lymm HS and Bolton School.

It is also 'business as usual' with regard to curriculum trips. Last week, Year 13 Biologists enjoyed an excellent few days in North Wales where they had the opportunity to consolidate their ecology skills and complete work for the Required Practical Assessment component of their course.

This week we have celebrated European Day of Languages We were hugely impressed by Year 7's ingenious hat creations for our House Competition in celebration of different languages and cultures worldwide. Well done Year 7! Other events included a scavenger hunt and an MFL Bake Off. This week has also seen the return of the annual German Exchange. Since 2000, AGSB have enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium school and are currently hosting 29 students. AGSB students will travel to Germany for the '2nd leg' of the exchange on the 5th October. Many thanks to Mr Smith, Miss Farrelly and Mrs Farrell for all their hard work in making the exchange possible.

Developing leadership skills in students across all age groups is a key objective in our current strategy 'Developing Excellence'. This term, students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 can apply for three new student leadership roles: Mental Health Champions (Year 12), Anti Bullying Ambassadors (Years 8-10) and Well-being Ambassadors (Years 8-10). Interested students should apply via a letter of application (details can be found on Satchel One). Those shortlisted, will be trained by an external company and will play a key role in these important areas of our pastoral programme.

As I write, I am on my way to London with Ms Blaize and three Year 13 Biologists. Ibrahim, Freddie and Yuvan have taken a project on DNA origami to the next level and designed an application for transplant medicine through making transplant tissue universal. They have now been invited to the Francis Crick Institute by IRIS (The Institute for Research in Schools) where they have been shortlisted for 'Best Project in the UK.' I am delighted to announce that their project was 'highly recommended' by the panel of judges. We are extremely proud of their achievements.

Next Thursday (5th October) is an opportunity for Parents and Carers of pupils in Year 7 to come into school to learn more about our academic curriculum from Mrs Weil (Deputy Head - Academic).

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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Biology Field Trip to Wales



Last week 76 Year 13 Biology students climbed on board two coaches heading towards Betws y Coed for a 3 day Ecology field course. There was mild trepidation due to the very wet forecast.

However, the weather was kind and we enjoyed three days of excellent field work, ranging from lichen distribution analysis in a farmer's field to rocky shore ecology in Penmon, Anglesey, with porpoises entertaining us just off the beach.

The students worked hard, absorbed a lot of important ecology and completed two 'Required Practicals' for their A level course.



The Chef of the Centre summed up the visit of Altrincham Boys' nicely. She said, "bechgyn dymunol iawn a mae nhw wedi bwyta lot, dwini'n licio hynny!" This translates roughly to 'Lovely, personable young men, they eat a lot, but I like that!'. They were a great credit to the School.



Dr E Thomas
Assistant Head (T&L)



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European Day of Languages

Excellent participation from Year 7 students for the European Day of Languages hat competition on Wednesday this week. There were some amazing hats on display and the students worked very hard on their creations.

Mrs Brennan also held some fantastic Assemblies for students on the importance of becoming global citizens by increasing their linguistic diversity.



Ms Mattison along with Mrs Gordon in the Food & Nutrition Department held a "Great British Bake Off" and the winners were:

- Joint 1st: Ivor D/Edward M
- 2nd: Henry J
- 3rd: Lucas W

*Mrs Chapman, Mrs Brennan, Mrs Gordon & Ms Mattison
Languages Department*



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ACE Talk to Year 12 Students on Organ Donation

Many thanks to Collette from **Save9Lives** who came to talk to Year 12 about organ donation.

The charity was set up by Collette's son, Jim Lynskey, who founded the charity after he was put on the waiting list for a heart transplant.

Save9Lives aims to spread the message that one organ donor can save or enhance nine lives. Jim very sadly passed away in 2019, but thanks to his family, his message still carries on, and Collette shared her powerful and moving story to a very respectful and responsive Year 12.



Mr A Sampson
ACE Co-Ordinator

A Performance of 'Bacchae'



Preparations for the Classics/Drama production of the ancient tragedy "Bacchae" are coming along nicely and we'd like to invite you and your families to come and see it!

Students from Years 9-13 have been working hard on a modern interpretation of the play and are excited to share it with the School.

The performance will be in the Coleman Hall at **7pm on Thursday 12th October**, you don't need any prior knowledge to watch it and tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#) now at a price of £5.00 (no concessions). Please aim to arrive at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

Jacob R (Y13) & Ms C Clark (Drama Co-Ordinator)

Collage Film Productions



It was a great pleasure to welcome Collage Film Productions into School last week who have been producing and directing the new AGSB School film.

Once this is finalised, you will be able to view it on our website.



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Forthcoming Guest Speaker



Dr Kathryn Weston is the founder of Tooled Up Education. She holds a Common and Civil Law degree (LL.B.) from Queen's University in Belfast and a Masters (MPhil.) and Doctorate (Criminology) from the University of Cambridge. She was an education and policy researcher for over ten years.

As a criminologist, Kathy specialised in resilience within institutional settings, social identity, identity in crisis and the role of narrative in coping. During her time as a criminologist and education researcher, she became interested in the role of parenting for children's outcomes and the relationship between home and school.

Dr Weston is delivering a bespoke webinar for AGSB parents on **Wednesday, 11th October at 7pm** on "Raising a resilient child". To register in advance for this webinar, please click on this [LINK](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

In this online talk, Dr Kathy Weston will take parents on a journey through the evidence relating to children's resilience and mental health and discuss the small things that we can do at home so that our children thrive in all aspects of their lives. She will discuss challenges that children face following the pandemic, particular issues relating to boys, and explain how parents can boost their emotional, academic and digital resilience moving forward.

Year 13 House Public Speaking



The first public speaking event of the year took place this lunchtime. Year 13 were debating "*THBT Cancel culture is a threat to freedom of speech*". The excellent debating was won by the Proposition - Massey and Stamford. The judges' verdict was that both sides offered credible, nuanced and layered arguments but ultimately the winner went to the team that was less scripted and had exceptional questions. Stand out performances on both teams. On the Proposition and representing Massey

was Abdulrahim H-A who answered impressively off script. Also, for Massey was Will M who was highlighted for his phenomenal questioning. On the Opposition, Tatton's Michael S was praised for his style of speech and interactive elements; Tatton's Harry K was also commended for his ability to perform as both Responder and Questioner. Thanks also to Ed H for stepping in to represent Bradbury at the last minute.

Thank you to the judges Miss Clark, Jacob Roden and Nat Mc and Mrs Marson for hosting in the Library; Hugo S-F as Chair and everyone who came to watch such a great first debate.

The results currently stand at: Massey 1st place, Stamford 2nd, Tatton 3rd and Bradbury 4th,

Ms C Mahony,
English Teacher & Library Co-Ordinator



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AGSB History – Leaf Project



An exciting opportunity has arisen for AGSB History students to be involved in a new project which seeks to establish how we can use lessons from the past to make positive change in the world. It is called the LEAF project and it seeks to use effective altruism to provide solutions to problems in society. Our own Tosin A (11MK) has been involved in its design and is participating in the programme. He is interested to know whether other students would like to join him. This part of the LEAF project takes the form of a 5 week online course and will begin in mid-November. It is run by Jamie Harris, an Oxford University graduate, and is open to any to any intellectually curious and altruistically minded student of GCSE or A Level History. It is a competitive application process, but students will stand a good chance of being successful if they are likely to achieve (or have already achieved) a Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE History.

If any student is interested in signing up, they should submit an application using the link [HERE](#)

If students want further information on the project before making a decision, they should speak directly to Tosin. Well done Tosin for all that you have contributed to this fantastic project already!

*Mr N Croxton
Head of History*

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships



Very well done to Daniel A and Harris A (Year 12) who have been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship in Engineering. The Scholarship is the most respected of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school age students to be future leaders in Engineering!



Oxford University Essay Competition



Many congratulations to Jake H in Year 13. Jake's essay has been shortlisted for the History category of the prestigious Oxford University John Locke Institute 2023 Global Essay Prize.

What a fantastic achievement!



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AGSB Music Department



Well done to everyone who performed in our Cast Cabaret last week. It was such a varied mix of songs and everyone sounded fantastic!

A big thanks also to Julian, George, Divyan, Will and Harry for some outstanding pizza skills!



In the second week of term we held an informal jazz evening in the Sixth Form Centre, our first performance of the year where a number of our younger students have stepped up into the Senior Big Band.

There was also a first performance of a staff jazz quintet, led by Year 13 student, James L.



On Thursday this week, we held our Year 7 Music Showcase which unfortunately, due to the weather, had to go ahead in the Coleman Hall instead of outside in the Quad.

However, the boys were amazing and sang alongside both the Concert and Jazz Bands. Many thanks to everyone who attended.

Mr M Monument
Director of Music



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AGSB Gardening Club



Harvest has started in the school eco garden! Students learnt about harvesting beans and the difference between dried beans and still ripe beans.

The garden has been extremely fruitful this year, with a harvest of pumpkins, runner beans, tomatoes, butternut squash, herbs and so much more. The strawberries have started to regrow due to the unusually warm and wet weather for September.



*Mrs R Chapman
Member of the Gardening Club Team*

AGSB Electronics

Congratulations to the winner of the Y11 GCSE Electronics 'building a circuit' competition, Zijian W, and well done to runners up Vishruth K and Daniel C.

*Mr D Smith
Technology Department*



IRIS Awards Ceremony, London



Our students excelled in an Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) project on DNA Origami.

A successful day at the Manchester Conference in June included presenting their research to just under 200 other pupils, teachers, and scientists. This was met with many compliments from the Director of IRIS and positive comments from University Professors. They also produced and displayed an academic poster.

Over the past few weeks, they engaged in practical work in the classroom in their own time. DNA oligonucleotides, DNA scaffolds and other reagents were used to create a DNA structure to be analysed under an atomic force microscope by the Bragg Institute in Leeds.

We are delighted to say that on the back of all their hard work, they have been nominated for the Best Research Project Award by The Institute for Research in Schools and were awarded highly commended.



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German Exchange Trip



29 Students from Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium in Fellbach, Germany have been visiting the School for the last week as part of our annual German exchange visit. These students have taken part in lessons,

visited Manchester Museum for a tour, visited the beach and the rides at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and have even played music in assembly.

The families involved have also taken their exchange partners to places such as Jodrell Bank, the Theatre, various National Trust Castles and a Tour of Wales to mention a few.



Getting the students to the airport this morning, I received many positive comments from the families and the students, especially mentioning how much our students are looking forward to our return visit on Thursday 5th October.



Our exchange has been running since the year 2000 and it has been a pleasure to re-establish this valuable link between our two schools again after a break due to the Pandemic. Even after one week, there has been an improvement in our students' language skills and some great friendships made.

We look forward to heading off in the next week.

Mr D Smith
Trip Leader





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Sporting Achievements



Well done to Eshan H (9PS) (left) who competed in his first Muay Thai interclub competition in Oldham recently.

Congratulations to Alex T in Year 9 (right) who won the U14 National School's Ski Race competition.



(Left) Well done to Joe S and Ronjay R, both in Year 11 who won the runner's up title in the Chapel Allerton Summer Grade 3 U18 Tennis tournament in the Summer. They also won the Under 16 Cheshire County Double's Championship



Congratulations to Joseph S (9CD) who has recently passed his Karate exam.

Thank You



(Left) Many thanks to the very kind person who donated these books to the School. They were left on Mr Bromley's desk in the Geography classroom!



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AGSB Sports

Rugby



The Rugby season has started off positively with matches against Birkenhead and AKS Lytham.

Football



The Football teams have had an impressive start to the 2023-24 season.

There have been midweek and Saturday morning fixtures against various schools with some impressive performances throughout the age groups.

Thanks to Mr Evans, Mr Hayward & Mr Bobin for supporting school football and taking the Y9 & Y8 teams respectively on Saturday

mornings.

Cup Football will begin next week for all age groups in the Greater Manchester Cup and our 1st XI have their first cup game v Trinity High School in the English School's Cup.

Games played: 16; Won: 15; Lost: 1; Scored: 89; Conceded: 25

Badminton



We had a great start to the Badminton season. Our U14B side are progressing well after a great fixture with Wirral Grammar School who hosted the team.



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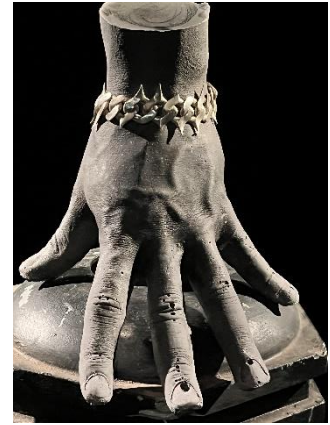
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Old Altrinchamians



Congratulations to former student, Liam Winter-Roach who was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to showcase his work at the London fashion week recently. The Title of his work was "Agony in the Garden".

NEWGEN is a British Fashion Council initiative that supports the best emerging fashion design talent and aims to build creative, responsible businesses for the future. Established in 1993 and celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, it has helped nurture the careers of hundreds of designers and businesses, launching many of them onto the international stage.



AGSB Day of Cultures – Friday, 29th September

As part of our ongoing celebrating and promoting all of the cultures within school, we are pleased to say that this year's Day of Cultures which took place today, was a huge success and Year 8 had an amazing day taking part in activities that celebrate cultures around the world. Students were also encouraged to wear clothes that represent their own culture.



Thank you to staff who made their lessons fun and interesting and to everyone who helped on the day.

Mrs R Chapman
Head of Languages



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Chadwick Mulholland Hope Tribute Fund (Chad's Challenges)



Last Saturday, Chad's Hope Fund finally achieved their objective which was to raise lots of money, to have fun, to make people smile and to keep the special memory of Chad alive within Altrincham Grammar School for Boys (AGSB) and the wider community.

The main focus of donations was to the Chadwick Mulholland Hope Fund at The Christie but we also raised money for other good causes. In 15 years, and over 150 events, Chad's Challenges at AGBS has raised **over £74,000!**

Many other groups outside of AGBS have also done amazing things to add to Chad's Hope Fund and the time of closing, Chad's Challenges, the Hope fund total was a staggering **£100,600.00.**

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated over the years and helped with various events. You can still donate via your AGBS ParentPay account, or you can donate directly to his fund and add gift aid by clicking on this link - <https://chadwick-mulholland.muchloved.com/Fundraising/Events/668255767>.

Mrs G Williamson
Sixth Form Officer

Trafford & Counselling Family Centre

I'm a Parent...
Get me out of here!
Autumn 2023

A 6 week course for parents with children 11+
Fully funded for parents and carers of children attending Trafford Schools.



Trafford are running a 6 week course for Parents and Carers with children aged 11 plus to help with the following:

- Have an understanding of where your child is developmentally.
- Learn the importance of self-care.
- Understanding the development of the teenage brain.
- Learn skills to apply in any situation.
- How to listen to your teenager.
- Improve how you navigate conflict with your teen.
- Learn to 'let go' whilst maintaining boundaries.

Sessions will run from the 8th November to the 12th December from 9.30am to 11.30am and 12.30pm to 2.30pm at The Counselling & Family Centre, 40 Mayors Road, Altrincham WA15 9RP. Further information can be found [HERE](#).



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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 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. More information can be found [HERE](#).

For information on how to access discounted and free public transport for students aged 11-18, please click here - [Fares and passes for young people | Transport for Greater Manchester \(tfgm.com\)](#).

Please also note that students on FSM or Bursary can apply for full funding to cover UCAT fees (University Clinical Aptitude Test). Full details can be found here - [Bursary Scheme | UCAT Consortium](#).



Trafford Council are also running a fully funded 6 week course called Starting Strong for parents of children with SEN.

For further information, please click on this link: [The Counselling & Family Centre | Courses | SEND Parents \(thecfc.org.uk\)](#)

Ms A Cathcart
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

Health for Teens – Trafford Website

Trafford are to launch a new [Health For Teens](#) website, which introduces a new and different way for young people aged 11-19 to learn about their health, support their own wellbeing, and increase the accessibility of school nurses. This website features bite-sized information on a comprehensive range of physical and emotional health topics for young people, including healthy eating, body image, managing stress, advice on relationships, puberty, sexuality and much more. Young people can also find out about accessing help and support from local Trafford and Manchester services.



Please click on the link above for more information.

Mr E Hall
Deputy Head (Pastoral)



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Noticeboard for Parents

If you would like us to celebrate your child's achievements in future Newsletters, these can be emailed to agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk.

AGSB PFA joint Snowflake Ball with AGGS PTA



We are delighted to announce that for the first time, AGSB PFA and AGGS PFA are joining together to hold a joint '**Great Big Grammar School Ball**' on **Saturday 25th November 2023**, at **Bowdon Rugby Club**.

Tickets are now on sale and available to buy via ParentPay. You will be able to buy tickets individually/as couples and we will seat you with other Parents and Carers from your son's year group, wherever possible.

There will be an 'early bird purchase' ticket price of £45 per person, including a welcome drink, 3 course meal (catering for all dietary requirements), and entertainment. This will be valid on all tickets purchased before the **8th October 2023**. After that, the ticket price will return to full price of £55, subject to availability. Currently, there are 100 tickets allocated to AGSB and a maximum of 12 tickets (one table) can be bought by any single parent.

The Ball is for Parents, Carers and their friends of both of our lovely schools, as well as staff (not for students).

We are expecting a high demand, so please book your tickets as soon as possible. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

All profits from this event will be split equally between the two School's PFA's.

It would be great to see many of you there!

AGGS PTA & AGSB PFA

Calendar Dates

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



Key Dates are:

- * 05.10.2-23 – 12.10.2023: German Exchange to Fellbach
- * 05.10.2023: Y7 Parents Curriculum Meeting 6.30pm
- * 08.10.2023 – 14.10.2023 Y11 – Y13 French Language Study Immersion Trip to Nice
- * 10.10.2023 & 11.10.2023: Y7 Diagnostic Tests
- * 11.10.2023 Dr Kathy Weston Webinar @ 7pm
- * 12.10.2023: 'Bacchae' Drama & Classics KS4/5 Play @ 6pm Coleman Hall
- * 15.10.2023 – 20.10.2023: Y9 Holland Rugby Tour
- * Fri 16.10.2023 – 30.10.2023: Photography Competition for all Year Groups



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- * 19.10.2023: GCSE Awards Evening @ 7pm Coleman Hall
- * 20.10.2023: School closed for Staff Training Day
- * 20.10.2023 – 30.10.2023: School closed for Autumn Half Term Holiday
- * 22.10.2023 – 27.10.2023: Y10 Trip to Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas
- * 30.10.2023: School Re-Opens after Half Term Holidays

Transport for Greater Manchester Information



BEE NETWORK

The first Bee Network buses are now running in parts of Greater Manchester. For the first time in almost 40 years, bus services are under local control in Bolton, Wigan, and parts of Bury, Salford and Manchester. More information can be found in the [Press Release](#) here.

Vacancies @ AGSB



AGSB have vacancies for a Temporary Teacher of Maths (Maternity Cover) from January 2024 and for a new Deputy Head (Pastoral) from September 2024. Further information can be found [HERE](#).

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