



Head Master's Newsletter

26th April 2024

In this Issue ...

- Head Master's Update
- LAMDA Success
- Biology Trip to Orlando, Florida
- Daresbury Lab Particle Physics Masterclass 2024
- International School Award
- 2024 AstroPi Coding Contest
- Junior UKMT Challenge
- Year 9 House Debating Competition
- Congratulations
- British Physics Olympiad
- Book Fest 2024

- SEND Support
- Sporting Achievements
- Sports News
- Dates for your Diary
- PFA Notices
- Parents' Noticeboard
- Staff Vacancies
- AGSB Obituary
- Contact Information

Head Master's Update



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to everyone following the Easter holidays (welcome also to the first edition of the HM's Newsletter on Microsoft Sway). I hope you all had time to re-energise and relax as well as spending time with family and friends. As ever, it is great to have the students back and the School back to life although I do hope the weather takes a turn for the better at some point soon!

'Tis the season of exams' – Year 12 are halfway through their Trial Exams and the main event begins in mid-May and I wish all the very best to Year 11 and Year 13 as they approach their GCSEs and A Levels. There are also end of year examinations taking place for various Year Groups. Students and

parents should be mindful that a sound work life balance is maintained; students need to rest and sleep properly as well as spending time revising. As ever, the pastoral team are keen to support student wellbeing and achievement so please make the relevant Head of Year aware if you have any concerns.

Speaking of exams, the public exam season began this week with the Languages GCSE speaking exams. Many thanks to the Languages Department for all their efforts in co-ordinating this complex logistical exercise so well.

In sport, yesterday the Altrincham Grammar School for Boys 1st XI hockey team defended their National Under 18's Schools Cup title against Ardingly College which took place at The Olympic Park. Although AGSB lost in an extremely tense game 0-1, the team have done fantastically well this season, beating some very reputable schools (including Yarm School and The Perse, Cambridge), on the way to the Final. In football, well done to the Under 15 XI who are through to the Greater Manchester and Trafford semi-finals and to the Under 14 XI who are through to the Greater Manchester quarter-final. This term we turn our attention to cricket, tennis and athletics.

This week, we welcomed our latest cohort of Year 5 pupils who will take part in the Horizons Entrance Exam Familiarisation Course. This year we have joined forces with Sale Grammar, Altrincham Girls' Grammar School, Urmston Grammar School and Streford Grammar School. Many thanks to Ms Cathcart (Assistant Head -Inclusion) and Mrs Crowther (Outreach Co-Ordinator) for leading on this important area of school development.

Next Thursday, 2nd May, we open our doors to the public for the annual ASGB Open Evening where we welcome Year 5 pupils who are thinking of applying for September 2024 entry. I am sure that it will be another busy and successful evening.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright, Head Master

LAMDA Exam Success

HBA Acting facilitates our LAMDA provision at AGSB. Hannah Bounds is a highly experienced LAMDA teacher who prepares our students to sit formal acting qualifications. In March, 50 students in Yr 8-10 sat their first ever LAMDA exams. It was a busy day and the boys showcased their determination and teamwork, many sitting the Duologue exam in pairs.

This week the results were in! An astounding 96% of boys achieved the highest possible grade - a Distinction. There are now a few open spaces in the lesson timetable that have become available. If you are interested in signing your son up for LAMDA lessons, please complete the application form on the following link: <https://hbacting.co.uk/application-form/>

We will be hosting a small, informal LAMDA showcase evening on Monday 29th April at 6pm in the Coleman Hall. A selection of LAMDA students will be performing their exam duologues and monologues. HBA Acting will also be hosting an improvisation performance as part of the evening too.

This is not a ticketed event. All members of the school community are welcome to attend, alongside parents and carers of performing students. This would be especially useful for anyone who wants to

see what LAMDA is all about, if they have been considering entering their son for lessons. The PFA will be providing a cash only refreshments selection. We hope to see you there!

Ms C Clark, English Department & Drama Co-Ordinator





Biology Trip to Orlando, Florida



40 pupils and 4 staff traveled to Orlando during the Easter holidays for a Biology Trip.

The trip was packed with fun and educational activities. Pupils soaked up the sun and engaged in workshops on Paleobotany at the Universal studios; on Sharks and marine sampling at the Mote Aquarium in Sarasota and swam with the manatees in Crystal River. A wonderful experience for all!

Many thanks to Ms Blaize, Dr Thomas, Mrs Crowther and Mrs Short who accompanied the students and managed not to lose anyone!

Ms S Blaize (Biology Department)







Daresbury Laboratory Particle Physics Masterclass 2024



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

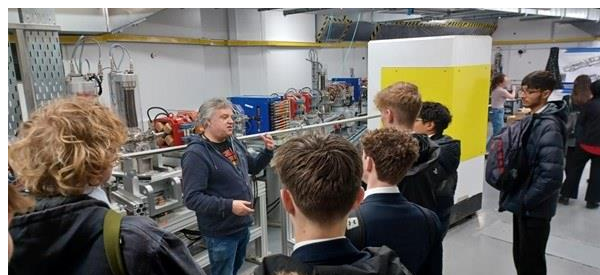
Just before the Easter break, 16 of our keenest Year 12 Physicists attended the annual Daresbury Laboratory Particle Physics Masterclass.

Through a series of lectures, Q&A sessions, practical demonstrations and tours, our pupils really put their A Level Physics studies into context. The chance to interact with working scientists and engineers was invaluable and provided an amazing insight into what life at University and beyond might have to offer for them. Lectures and hands-on activities showed in detail how high vacuum and laser technologies worked. We got a once in a lifetime opportunity to go past the blast shields and enter the high energy photon source during shutdown for its latest upgrade. Via video link we were taken on a live tour of Boulby Underground Laboratory, based in a series of disused mine tunnels, shielded from cosmic rays and background radiation where we had a range of cutting edge world leading experiments shown to us.

The day finished with Professor Fred Loebinger, from Manchester University, giving us a whistle stop tour of the history of particle Physics, its current uses in modern technology and predictions about where it will go in the future. To have a world leading Physics laboratory so close to AGSB and being

given the chance to visit it was an amazing opportunity. For any pupils below the 6th Form who think they'd like to visit Daresbury in the future, you might want to apply for their work experience programme in the Summer Term? Competition for places is fierce but those who attend find it to be an amazing programme.

Dr S Squire, Head of Science



International School Award



AGSB has been awarded Foundation Level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

Many thanks to staff and students from the Languages Department for all their hard work on this project.

OUT OF THIS WORLD results in the 2024 AstoPi Coding Contest!



It has been an unprecedented year of success in the annual AstroPi coding competition. An amazing 6 teams of coders from AGSB achieved "Flight Status!". This means that their projects will run on the International Space Station this May as it orbits 440km above the Earth's surface.

The successful AGSB teams included: 'PiGuys', 'BRAHMS', 'Zenith and pugnatores gloriarum' and all the way down from our returning Year 13 team 'Pollos del Espacio' to team 'Raspberry Shuttle' in Year 8.

The Teams faced stiff competition, first from more than 10 other AGSB teams and also international competition from teams that entered from 30 different countries! As well as the massive sense of achievement that these pupils must have gained from this success, they will also be awarded the

prestigious ASGSB Science award. Results of their experiments will be returned to Earth for Analysis at the end of May. We are greatly looking forward to what they might have discovered.

Dr S Squire, Head of Science



Junior UKMT Challenge



210 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils sat Round 1 of the Junior UK Maths Challenge in the Coleman Hall on Thursday morning this week.

Good luck to all involved.

Mrs S Chancellor, Maths Department

Year 9 House Debating Competition



The Year 9 House debate was held at lunchtime on Thursday with the motion: ***THBT We should accept the risk inherent in contact sports.***

There was excellent preparation from both sides and the judges were impressed with the confident response to questions and how many were able to be off-script, allowing genuine passion to show through. Well done to all who took part!

Star performers today were Aarnav C for the Proposition who was outstanding in his role as Responder. His confident replies and ability to pick apart the questions and points of the other side made him stand out. Chair, Jacob R, also praised his ability to be able to answer the questions in three different ways. A very convincing adversary and hard to dispute.

Star performer for the Opposition was Shun YH in his role as first speaker Opposer. A strong performer with very confident answering of questions from the audience.

Winning team today was Proposition - Massey and Stamford - congratulations!

This leaves the standings today as

1st Stamford

2nd Massey

3rd Bradbury

4th Tatton

Thank you to Mrs Marson for hosting; Head Prefect, Jacob R, for chairing and judges, Mr Flanagan, Tosin A and Leonardo F.

Mrs C Mahony, Teacher of English & Library Co-Ordinator

Congratulations



Well done to Shayan D (9CC) who recently entered the Aristotelian Award Research Essay Competition organised by The Perse, Cambridge. Shayan submitted an excellent essay on the 'Impact of AI on Organisations' and was awarded a Certificate.

The nationwide Aristotelian Award was launched by The Perse during the 2021-22 academic year with the aim of inspiring Year 9 pupils across the UK to develop their independent research skills.

British Physics Olympiad



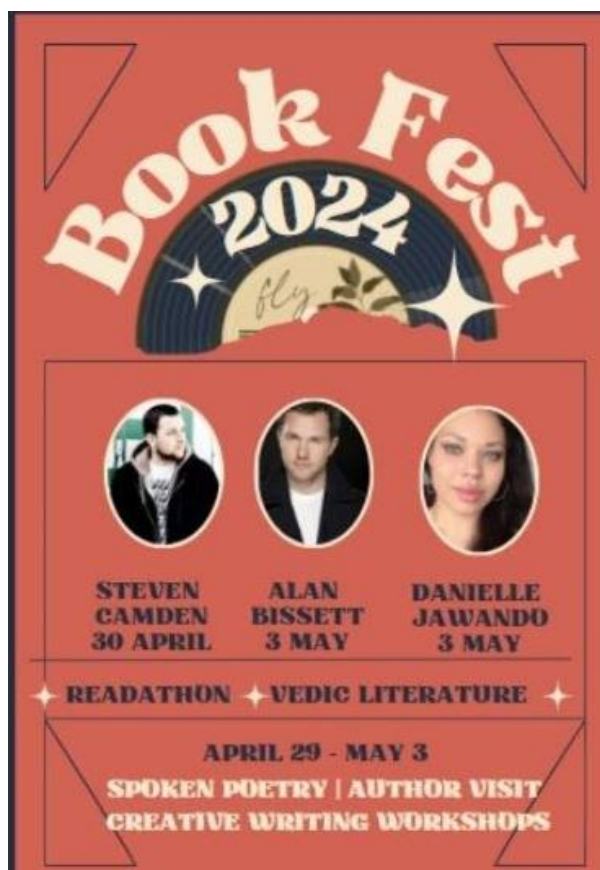




Many congratulations to Alex V (13SM) who, during the Easter Holidays, had the opportunity to take part in the Oxford Training Camp for the British Physics Olympiad alongside a cohort of 13 other students qualifying from previous rounds. After a packed week of physics lectures, practicals and assessments, Alex has been selected as part of the international team of five to compete in the EuPhO in Georgia this Summer.

Alex was invited to attend the BPhO Annual Awards Ceremony at The Royal Society in London yesterday and was accompanied by Head of Physics, Mr Reeder.

Book Fest 2024



We are greatly looking forward to the return of Book Fest (2024) with visits from authors Steve Camden, Danielle Jawando and Alan Bissett next week and the week after.

The authors are coming into school to do workshops with Years 7 to 10 and will have their recently published books with them which students can reserve and pay for in advance on ParentPay. Books can also be purchased and signed on the day.

Danielle Jawando is an author and screenwriter. She will be working with Year 10 students talking about her work and delivering creative writing workshops. Her debut YA novel, *And the Stars Were Burning Brightly*, won best senior novel in the Great Reads Award, and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the YA Book Prize, the Jhalak Children's & YA Prize, the Branford Boase Award, and was longlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal, the UKLA Book Awards and the Amazing Book Awards. Her previous publications include the non-fiction children's book *Maya Angelou (Little Guides to Great Lives)*, the short stories *Paradise 703* (longlisted for the Finishing Line Press Award) and *The Deerstalker* (selected as one of six finalists for the We Need Diverse Books short story competition), as well as several short plays performed in Manchester and London. Danielle has also worked on Coronation Street as a storyline writer. Her second novel, *When Our Worlds Collided*, won the 2023 Jhalak Children's and YA Prize and the 2023 YA Book Prize. Danielle's will have both her books available, *And the Stars Were Shining Brightly* and *When Our Worlds Collided*.

Steven Camden is a leading spoken-word poet who also writes radio plays, teaches storytelling and has written a number of YA novels and a poetry collection. Steven will be working with Year 7 and

Year 8 talking about his work and delivering poetry workshops with them on Tuesday, 30th April. Both his books, *Everything All At Once* and *Stand Up Ferran Burke* will be available.

Alan Bissett will be working with Year 9 students, talking about his work and his latest book, *Lads*. With the help of his new book *Lads*, Alan Bissett will help you understand the serious issues facing girls today, feel confident in calling out bad behaviour when you see it, and navigate relationships so you can be the best version of yourself. From flirting disasters and 'locker room talk', to the importance of consent, join Alan as he discusses this vital handbook for lads you are fed up of THAT GUY and who want to help create positive change.

Mrs C Mahony, Teacher of English & Library Co-Ordinator

SEND Support



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

Sporting Achievements



Well done to Vishi U (8FA) who achieved Grade 4 in both the U14 singles and U18 doubles at Liversedge Tennis Club recently!

Congratulations to Alex T (9CC) who had a very successful GB Skiing Championships in Tignes recently. He was 2nd overall in the U14 age group across both Giant Slalom and Slalom which was an outstanding performance and hopefully puts him in a great position as he moves up to the U16 category next season.





Well done to Lex C and Zach P in Year 7, who last weekend were part of the winning Bowden U12 Hockey team that won the North West In2Hockey tournament and will go on and represent the North West in the National Finals.

Congratulations both!

Esports Success!



A huge congratulations to our Splatoon 3 Esports team, who, on Thursday, travelled down to London and were victorious in the Digital School House National Finals!

A superb team performance was ultimately the difference, as the team had to battle back from adversity after losing their first match of the tournament to a very strong Southend High team in the upper bracket final. This put us in the lower bracket, and we had to overcome our Northern rivals, Outwood Academy City, in the semi-final. This put us on a collision course with Southend High once more, but after a break and time to regroup, the team performed outstandingly to take down the unbeaten Southend team 3-0 and be crowned National Champions!

The team were a real credit to the School and were complimented on their sportsmanship and good spirit in how they conducted themselves during their matches.

Very well done to: Tj C (Capt) (12BN); Joe C (13PT); Anthony C (12MD) and Matthew T (10WL).

A big thanks goes to Hopewiser for their ongoing sponsorship of AGSB esports and also Mr Timmins and the IT Technicians for their continued support in helping AGSB esports the success that it has become.

Mr R Cummins (Maths Department)

Sports News



Our latest Sports Newsletter is now available to view (Issue 7) on our website.

Click on this [LINK](#) to read it here.

National Schools' Badminton Finals

Well done to the KS3 and KS4 Badminton Teams who travelled to Milton Keynes this weekend to represent the North West and AGSB in the Badminton England Schools' Finals. There were 8 regions being represented and these were split into two groups. Both teams played 3 games, winning 1 and losing 2 which meant they finished 3rd in the group. They then played in a semi-final and final to determine positions 5 to 8. The U? team beat King Ecgbert School 3-2 and the U? team beat Pate's Grammar School 3-2 in the final game.

Considering Badminton has only just come back after a prolonged break following Covid-19, the boys have done incredibly well this year. The KS3 team reached the National Finals of the School Sports Magazine competition whereas the KS4 team came runners up nationally. To back that up with representing the North West and coming 5th in both age groups, has capped off an incredible badminton season.

Well done to all boys that competed this year; Omi D; Jinyu W; Yashmit P; S Eldi; Ed H; Danwei L; Rahul S and Tri Nam V.

Not only did we perform well on the Court but there was also a competition to design a Regional Flag. Two of our Year 7 pupils created the winning flag for team North West so many congratulations to Jason T and Andrew C.

Mr A Rawson (PE Department)







Hockey National Finals

The 1st XI Hockey team were runners up in the National Under 18 Hockey Championship Final this week. They lost 1-0 to Ardingly College.

The team played their hearts out and did both themselves and the School proud.





Dates for your Diary



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

Forthcoming Key Dates are:

- 29.04.2024: LAMDA Showcase 6pm
- 30.04.2024: Y10 GCSE PE Moderation Day
- 02.05.2024: School Closes at 12.20pm for Open Evening
- 02.05.2024: Open Evening 5pm
- 03.05.2024: Non-Uniform Day in support of ISOC
- 07.05.2024: Oxbridge Open Evening for Year 12 - 7pm
- 09.05.2024 - 24.06.2024: External Exams
- 13.05.2024 - 24.05.2024: Year 7 Assessments
- 24.05.2024: School Closes for Summer Half-Term
- 03.06.2024: School Re-Opens

AGSB PFA



The AGSB PFA are pleased to announce the return of AGSB Grammarfest! This event will take place on **Saturday, 29th June.**

Last year, the event was a huge success and was attended by many Parents, Carers, Staff and Students.

More information is to follow but please put this date in your diary and keep your fingers crossed for the weather!

Many thanks.

AGSB PFA

**PLANT
and
CAKE SALE**

A graphic of several pink butterflies with black markings on their wings, positioned to the right of the text.

Another date for your diary!

The ever popular AGSB PFA Plant & Cake Sale is back again this year on **Saturday, 15th June 2024** between 12 noon and 2pm. Come along to the main entrance where all the stalls will be centred around the flagpole at the front of School.

There will also be a second-hand uniform sale. Please do come along, there will be something for everyone!

Mrs H Drake, AGSB PFA Staff Rep



Easyfundraising - A very easy and fantastic way to raise money for the School

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Parents & Friends Association, are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. **Over 7,000** shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. These include all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, Argos, Your Flights, Your Holidays, ASOS, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, MoneySupermarket Energy and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

If you would like to find out more about how this works, please click [HERE](#).

With only 183 supporters signed up, so far we have raised an amazing £5,789.81. Just imagine how much more could be raised for the School just by signing up and shopping online.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Parents' Noticeboard



Reminder that it is a Non-Uniform Day next **Friday, 3rd May**. All donations will go to Unity Through Charity and the suggested minimum donation of £1.00 can be made via ParentPay.



Many thanks to all those Parents and Carers who were able to book a slot at the recent C.R.Y. Heart Screening sessions which took place here at AGSB during the Easter Holidays.

Over 200 young adults were screened and eight referrals were made which is amazing.

Cardiac Risk in the Young
Heart Charity 33002648

Every week in the UK at least 12 apparently **fit and healthy** young people die of undiagnosed heart conditions

But screening has been shown to lead to an **89%** reduction in young sudden cardiac deaths

80% young sudden cardiac deaths occur with **no** prior symptoms

1 in every 300 people CRY tests will be identified with a potentially life threatening cardiac condition

When there are signs they include

- family history
- chest pain (exercise-related)
- breathlessness
- palpitations
- dizziness
- fainting

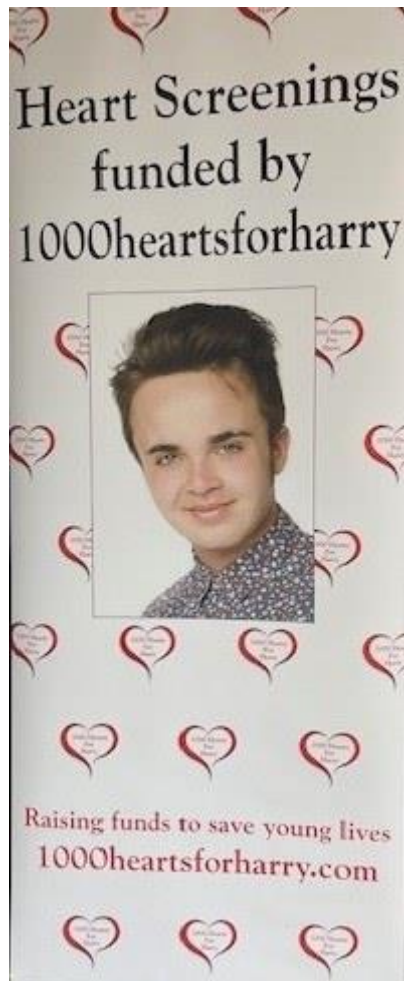
CRY operates a national screening programme available to anyone aged 14 - 35 in the UK. For more information or to book an appointment contact CRY via:

www.testmyheart.org.uk
or **0203 691 0000**

#testmyheart

Offering **help** and **support** to affected families

CRY on Facebook: **Cardiac Risk in the Young**
CRY on Twitter: **@CRY_uk**
www.cry.org.uk



Staff Vacancies

We are looking for a full-time Teacher of English and a part-time Teacher of English (Maternity Cover), both to start on the 1st September 2024.

Full information can be found on our Website [HERE](#).

Deserves a Medal!



Congratulations to Mr Gooch, Teacher of Maths, who ran in the Manchester Marathon last week, achieving an amazing time of 2 hours 46 minutes.

Mrs Blann, our Development Co-Ordinator also achieved a PB, getting round in 3 hours 8 minutes.

Well done to both!

AGSB Open Evening - Thursday, 2nd May 2024

ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS



**"ONE OF THE NATIONAL
TOP 20 STATE SCHOOLS"**

**Examination Results 2023 at
A Level and GCSE**

- A*- A at A 'Level - 64%
- A*- B at A 'Level - 85%
- 7 - 9 at GCSE - 83%

19 Oxbridge offers in 2020, 17 in 2023

**For entry September 2025
Examination date:
Monday 16th September 2024**

For more information about the application
process please visit the School website

**Open Evening:
Thursday 2nd May 2024 5pm-7pm**

Interested parents and pupils are
warmly welcomed



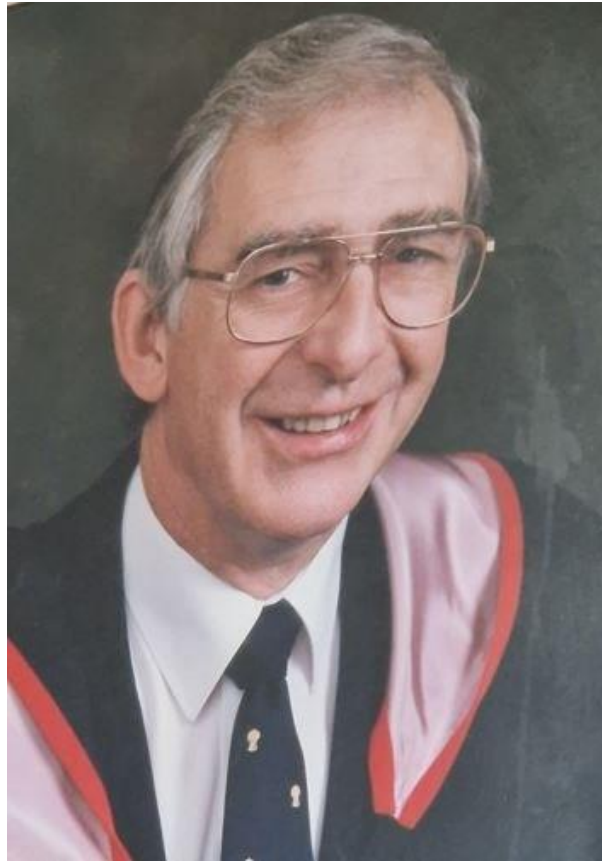
www.agsb.co.uk

Head Master: Mr. G. A. Wright M.A.(Hons) FRSA, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
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email: agsbadmissions@hamblintrust.co.uk website: www.agsb.co.uk



We look forward to welcoming Parents and Carers into School on Thursday, 2nd May to our Annual Open Evening which starts at 5pm.

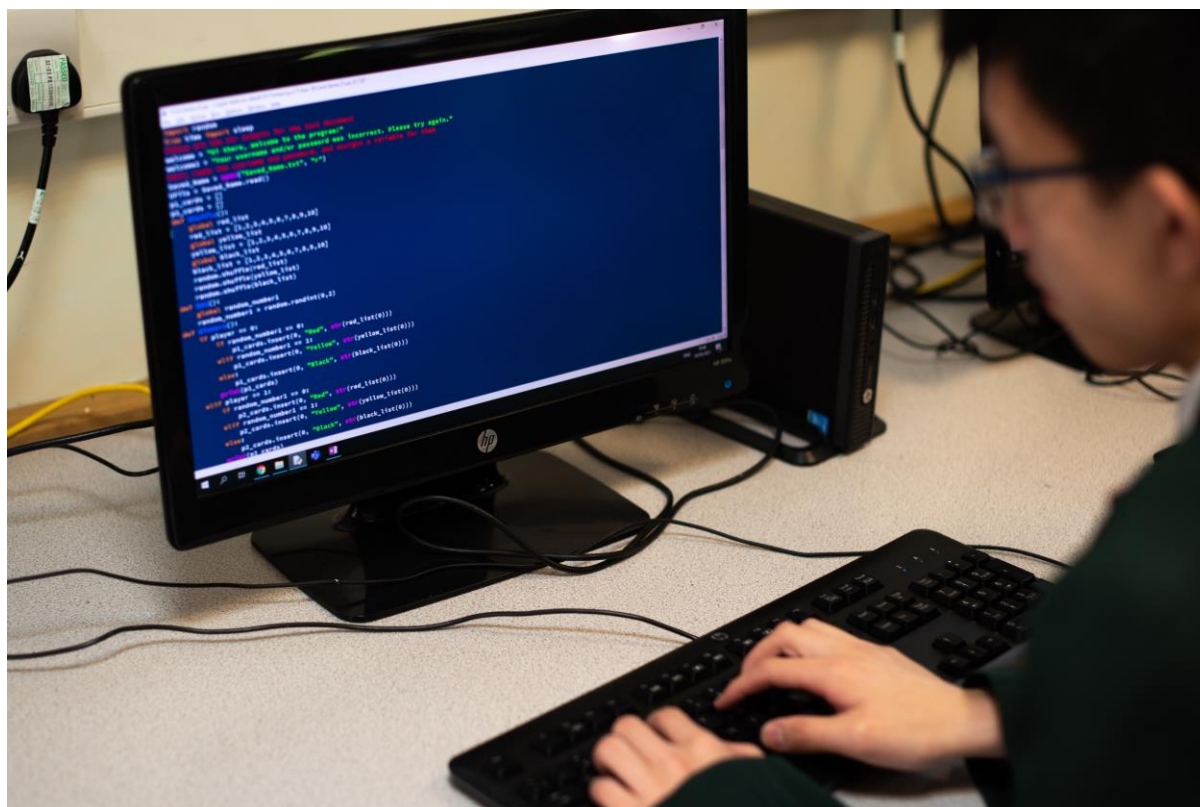
AGSB Obituary



We are sad to announce that former Head Master, Mr Brian Purvis, has recently passed away and we send our condolences to his family and friends.

Brian was the Head Master here at AGSB from 1993-1997.

Information for Parents



Don't forget that our website is a constant source of news and information.

[Letters & Information for Parents can be found here.](#)

Reporting an Absence

If you need to report a Pupil Absence, please use the ARBOR App to do so. For Special Leave Requests, please complete the online form on our website which can be found under the Parents section [HERE](#).

Contact Information



If you need to contact the School:

Telephone: School Office: 0161 928 0858

Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk



AGSB House Sponsors



independents
by *sodexo*

