



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

26th November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Charitable giving is part of AGSB's DNA and I was delighted to learn that we raised over £3,500 for Afghanistan Emergency last week. As Christmas approaches, our students have launched the Christmas Charity Appeal initiative and the yards are already busy with boys raising as much money as possible from a wide range of projects. Once again, they have demonstrated tremendous energy and ingenuity in raising funds for our chosen charity, UK Children's Cancer. Our target is £2000.

OFQUAL have now released an update to schools about contingency measures for examinations next year. The Government is clear that students entering GCSEs or A levels in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer, however, schools are advised to have a contingency measure in place should they be cancelled due to the pandemic. A key feature of any contingency is ensuring that formal assessments do take place over the duration of the year and Mrs Weil sent through our contingency plans earlier in the week.

The Head Prefect delivered outstanding assemblies this week which focused on Anti-Bullying. You may have seen that the Anti-Bullying Alliance has chosen the theme of "One Kind Word" for this year. While bullying is rare at AGSB, students are aware of what to do if they witness bullying of any form and how to report such behaviour. Remaining on the pastoral theme, we had 24 applications from members of Year 11 to become peer mentors. They have now attended training led by Wey Goodman (our school counsellor) and are fully equipped to help Key Stage 3 pupils to achieve their social and academic goals.

We are greatly looking forward to one of the seminal House events of the year next Wednesday – The House Shout, where all four Houses will be competing against each other across three musical categories. After a fallow year, it will be wonderful to have this event back and to be treated to so many uplifting performances in the different vocal and instrumental categories. Tickets are now on sale (please see overleaf).

It has been a pleasure to welcome back a number of Old Altrinchamians to School over the last few weeks. We have welcomed back a number of Old Boys as part to our Alumni Careers Talks and yesterday we welcomed back educationalist and author Dylan William.

Outside the classroom, congratulations to the Senior Debating Squad who progressed through to the Regional Finals of the English-Speaking Union Mace Competition. We are enjoying great success in football with five of our age group A teams reaching the quarter-final stages of the Greater Manchester Cup. And finally, well done to the Senior indoor hockey squad who have made it through to the qualifying stage of the National tournament. Tomorrow we have a block rugby fixture against Stockport Grammar School.

Finally, can I echo Mr Hall's statement to parents yesterday. There have been in few unsavoury incidents in the local area of late where school children have been targeted. Please do speak to your son(s) about staying on the main thoroughfares when travelling home. If possible, they should stay in groups and avoid being on their own and they should not use their iPods/headphones while walking home as they can lose all sense of context of where they are and the potential dangers.



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

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright - Head Master

AGSB Chess Club

NSCC Qualifier 1 Team Battle			
1	QEH	Cheese8_burger 11+11+10+10+9+9	60
2	St Glave's Grammar School - B Team	STOGSbenjy 15+10+9+9+8+7	58
3	Altrincham Grammar School for Boys	svaddhireddy18 16+11+8+7+7+7	56
4	Churchill Academy	maxwalkerchess 12+11+8+8+8+7	54
5	Sir Thomas Rich's School	dheeruv 10+9+9+7+6+6	47
6	Woodbridge School	Koryaga 8+8+7+7+7+7	44
7	King's Worcester Chess	TonedCabbage 11+9+6+6+4+3	39

Congratulations to the AGSB U19 Chess Team who came third in the NSCC Qualifier 1 Team Battle. We are now through to the next round. Well done to all those who took part.

Year 9 House Public Speaking Competition



The Year 9 House Public Speaking Competition took place last week and the motion was 'Governments should intervene to protect failing industries'.

The students were very well-prepared and produced an excellent competition which was again very well-supported by staff and students in the New Library. It was won by the Proposition, consisting of Marley I & Tosin A (Massey) and Seb W & Ehan S (Tatton). Massey was awarded first place by virtue of Tosin's articulate and convincing contribution as Responder. The defeated opposition team consisted of Leo B & Theo B-



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D (Stamford) and Jonah H & Ali AA (Bradbury). The judges awarded third place to Stamford on the back of Leo's fine contribution as Seconder. Many thanks to Ms Clutterbuck, Ms Clark and Kiran D (13ey) for judging the competition, Cameron Mc (13CT) and Miles N (13EL) for Chairing and Timing respectively and Ms Marson for hosting. Thanks as well to other staff and students who came along to support the participants.

Mr Croxton
Head of History & Politics

AGSB Philosophy Society

Last week's meeting of the AGSB Philosophy Society reflected on the nature of art, a very peculiar part of our human culture that is undeniably significant, but difficult to actually define and describe philosophically. This outstanding presentation was led by none other than the head of Philosophy Society himself – Mr Sampson – and led to a lot of thought-provoking discussion from students and members of staff alike. Not only was a good introduction to a major part of aesthetic philosophy presented, but throughout the session we began to see sophisticated discussions on the links between art, contemporary culture, interpretation, and intention.



Sulayman Chaudhry 12HP

AGSB Gardening Club

After not being able to do too much in the eco garden for two summers, the Gardening Club were excited to find what animals had made homes in the very overgrown pond. We are currently putting the pond back to its former glory and look forward to welcoming back the small animals to the wildlife area.

Mrs R Chapman and Miss Frankland





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Crisis in Afghanistan

As winter approaches in Afghanistan, more than 13 million children are expected to go hungry over the next few months. If this happens, Afghanistan could surpass Yemen in becoming the world's most severe humanitarian crisis.

With many countries now holding off on aid because of the new regime, the AGSB Community took swift action to help innocent civilians in Afghanistan as they face increasingly harder times.

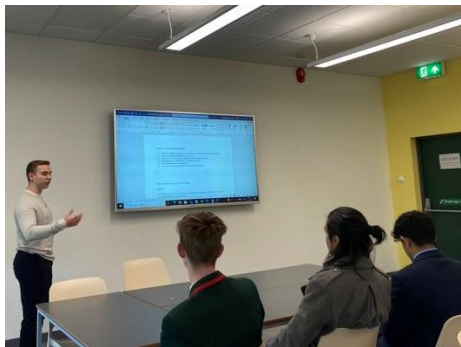
To raise awareness of the crisis, we invited in Islamic Relief's North West Fundraising Manager, Ateeq Salik, who delivered a talk on the current situation in Afghanistan and the work charities are doing on the ground to deliver aid to the most vulnerable. The talk took place on Thursday lunchtime in the Coleman Hall with over 100 students in attendance.



We are also pleased to announce that "Own Clothes Day" last Friday, raised a fantastic amount of money - **£3500** – which will all go to this brilliant cause. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated.

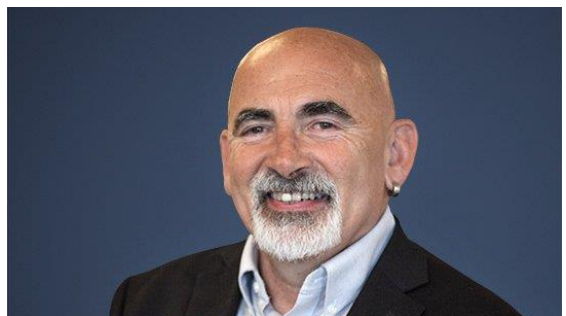
Sohail Sheikh (13WK)

Old Altrinchamian's



It was great to have old boy Alex Cockx in School this week to talk to students about his journey so far in setting up and growing his Karate business. Alex left the School four years ago and it was fantastic to see the students being inspired by his story.

It was a pleasure to welcome Old Altrinchamian, educationalist, teacher, researcher and writer Dylan William back to AGSB yesterday. It was great to catch up with Dylan and give him a tour of his old school.





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AGSB Esports



The Esports Team have now had five wins out of six games so far this season with two more games left to play in week 6 of the British Esports Student Championships! Good luck to all who take part.

Mr Cummins

AGSB University Challenge



Last week saw the welcome return of the 6th Form 'University Challenge' which was great fun. Many thanks to quizmaster, Mr Flanagan.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

60 enthusiastic Year 12 and 13 students voluntarily sat the UKMT Senior Maths challenge recently, a 90-minute, multiple-choice examination.

The challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. This was the highest number of students AGSB has ever entered at the Senior level and all of the students received a bronze, silver or gold certificate. 25 pupils were invited to take part in two follow-up rounds having achieved the threshold scores. 20 pupils will sit the 1 hour Senior Kangaroo challenge and 5 students will sit the gruelling 3.5-hour Olympiad paper, joining only 1,000 other pupils across the UK who were invited.



Well done to all who took part and a special mention to Pranav V (12RD) who was the only Year 12 AGSB pupil invited to sit the Olympiad paper and Seny D (13PT) who achieved best in school.

Miss Potter
Head of Maths



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Sporting Successes



Congratulations to Daniel W (11CE) for who recently took part in the Raw Strength Club Competition in Warrington and for coming 1st in the U23s and 4th in the whole competition (he was the youngest competitor). Dan achieved a 170kg squat, a 112.5kg paused bench press and a 220kg deadlift to total 502.5kg at a body weight of 85.9kg.

Well done to Leo B (9JM), Josh B (9JM) who have both been selected to go forward to the Greater Manchester U14 Hockey Academy as part of the England Hockey pathway.



PFA Curry & Quiz Night

The PFA Curry and Quiz night took place this week which was a fantastic event with over 100 participants making up 11 teams. It was refreshing to see so many people altogether in the Stamford Hall having so much fun. A big thank you goes to Anna and her team and of course the quiz master Basil Le Roux!

Don't forget to check out the AGSBPFA Facebook page to see if you were caught on AFSB's Event Camera!





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AGSB PFA Christmas Fair – Sunday, 5th December 2021

The PFA presents
Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Christmas Fair 2021

- Live Music
- House Stalls
- Pie & Pint
- Asian Food
- Famous Tombolas
- Gift Stalls
- Made@Home Stall
- Cakes & Much More!

Marlborough Rd
Bowdon WA14 2RS
Contact: pfaagsb@gmail.com

5th DECEMBER
12PM-3PM
Adult £1.50 Child 50p

The **AGSB PFA** are delighted to invite you to the ever-popular annual Christmas Fair on **Sunday 5th December 2021 12-3pm**. There will be the usual mix of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas, fun activities, delicious food including gastronomic delights again from the amazing **Asian Food Stall** and **Pie and a Pint Stall** and of course the **infamous chocolate and bottle tombola**.

Yet again this year we are delighted that the boys are more involved than ever: there's **an inter-house competition**, in the 6th Form Centre, where the individual Houses will be running a series of fun activities and serving up delicious food; all boys involved will earn extra house points so please support your son. What's more, Mr Monument has a wonderful array of **live music performances**, in the Coleman Hall show casing the talent in school.

The **AGSB PFA** is really hoping that with everyone's help we can raise over **£10,000** at

the Fair this year. The money raised will do two important things:

- Supply more mental health talks to all years as required and age appropriate
- Raise funds for a new minibus, so essential to support GCSE and A-level field trips in subjects such as Biology, Geography and Geology, aid transportation of boys and their instruments for music events and helping all the boys to get to the sporting fixtures they want to be involved in.

Tombola

On Friday 3rd December, it is Own Clothes Day and in exchange we are asking every single pupil to please bring in one of each of the following:

Bottles: there is an alcoholic and non-alcoholic tombola and we also make up gift packages, beautifully wrapped, that make excellent Christmas and thank you presents.

PLUS

Chocolates or Sweets: Lindt, Jelly Beans, Heroes, Hershey Bars, Moams, Milk Tray, After 8.

Thank you in advance.
AGSB PFA



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House Shout

The House Shout, a musical extravaganza and one of the highlights of the House calendar, takes place on **Wednesday 1st December at 7pm** in the Coleman Hall. Each House will give three musical performances which will be judged, to crown the 2021 House Shout Champion.

Get your tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/agsb-house-shout-tickets-207171715177>.

Tickets are limited and we envisage them selling out fast on a first come first served basis (Max 2 per family).

Mr Soulsby
Assistant Head



The English Speaking Union



Congratulations to the AGSB 6th Form English Speaking Union Mace Debate team who progressed through to the Regional Finals this week. The debate focused on whether artists have a moral duty to be political in their work.

Diwali

Many thanks to the AGSB Hindu, Sikh and Jain Society for delivering assemblies last week which focused on the meaning of Diwali. AGSB also played hosts to two fantastic Diwali events last week on Wednesday and Thursday which were both very well attended.





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House Points Total

The House Points awarded up to the 21st November 2021 is as follows:

	Stamford	Massey	Bradbury	Tatton	Totals
Year Totals	3038	2860	3054	3031	11983

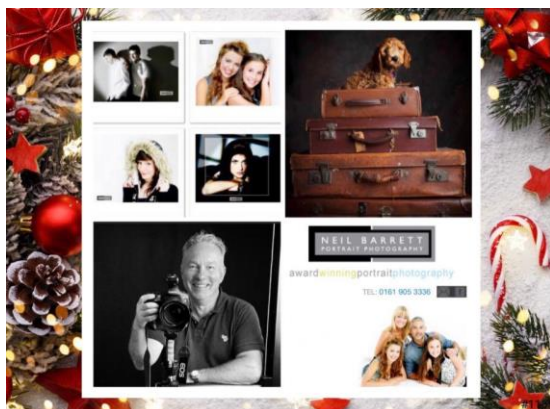
	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13	Total
Autumn 2021 2022	3342	2761	1997	1931	1352	423	177	11983

AGSB PFA – Auction 2021

A very big Thank You to everyone who took part in the PFA Auction of Promises recently. The auction ended with great excitement and raised the fantastic amount of **£8,697**. This means that we will be donating £1,739.40 to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Izyan F in 7MO baked an amazing ten Victoria sponge cakes which raised £364!; The School's 4 promises raised £320, with the pizza and cookies delivery at lunchtime raising £120!



We would not have been able to raise such a fantastic amount of money without the support of Parents, Carers and local Businesses who kindly donated.



We have also now been given an exciting offer to help continue our fundraising for the School and The Teenage Cancer Trust. Neil Barrett Photography is continuing to support our charities by heavily reducing their £120 photoshoot package to just £20 with all proceeds going to the School and the Teenage Cancer Trust. The gift vouchers never expire and you can buy as many as you like. The package includes a one hour sitting in their Timperley studio and a beautiful framed 8' x 10'. Please click on the link [here](#) for full information and terms and conditions. Please use the promo code "AGSB". You can complete the form which you have been sent and drop it

off at School Reception with your cash or cheque.

Book to get your photoshoot by the 4th December to have it ready for Christmas!

Thank you
AGSB PFA



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AGSB Football

The AGSB Year 8 Football team were victorious this week, winning 3-1 against a very strong Hazel Grove High School side. The team now progress into the quarter finals of the Manchester Plate, great achievement!



The AGSB Year 9 Football team also won this week - 8-1 against Moorside High School to make it into the quarter finals of the Greater Manchester Cup – well done boys!

Well Done

Congratulations to Vishakh S (8CM) who has just completed an interview with Sarah Graham - internationally renowned artist - as part of his publication's role. Vishakh only joined the Publications Team this year and he was absolutely sensational during the interview.

Congratulations to Luke M (7RH) who has been chosen for the lead solo for *The Snowman & Hairy Maclary* at the matinee performance of the Halle Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall in December 2021 He is also on standby for possible extra performances in case of illness. Details of the performance can be found [HERE](#).

Well done to Dennis L (9FB) who has recently appeared on BBC Newsround, interviewing new Marvel Superheroes – The Eternals. Click [here](#) to read all about it.





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Well done to Flynn B-D (12RD) and his brother Theo (9BZ) who took part in the Performing Arts Festival over two weekends recently. Flynn won gold medals in every genre up to 18 years and received other accolades such as highest mark (it's the highest ever for the school of 95) and an Adjudicators Choice Award.

Theo got a silver medal & several bronze medals and was nominated as most promising boy. Their principal was impressed with how supportive they both are to other students and are good role models.

Cultural Celebrations

This week's cultural celebration is: Hanukkah. Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration and runs from 28th November until 6th December. We wish all of our students who are celebrating Hanukkah a great celebration!

If you celebrate any traditions at home and would like them to be shared with the school community, please email ajolly@agsb.co.uk Thank you to those parents who have already responded.

Alison Jolly
Cultural Calendar Co-ordinator.

Reminder - 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.

Mr M Soulsby
Assistant Head – Development

Noticeboard for Parents

If a child in your care is returning to school following an injury, surgery or similar, that could put them at risk from further injury by being knocked into by others, or reduces their mobility around school, please contact your son's Head of Year or Form Tutor. This includes any injuries resulting in the use of crutches.

Useful Information for Parents:

If your teen is struggling with challenges and pressures at school, you may find reading [This Guide for Parents](#) is of some use.

Own Clothes Day - Friday the 1st December is Own Clothes Day at school. Your son is asked to bring in a bottle and some chocolates – these form the prizes for the AGSB PFA tombola at the Christmas Fair on the 5th December.



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AGSB SEND CLINIC

AGSB offers a weekly virtual SEND Clinic on Wednesday 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.



Are you entitled?

The Greater Manchester Autism Consortium is offering a range of free webinars on sensory need, understanding autism, managing anger, a drop-in for dads, and supporting transition into Sixth Form or University. More information can be found here: [Events | gmac \(autismgm.org.uk\)](https://gmac.autismgm.org.uk).

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](#)

Miss A Cathcart
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

Help for Parents



Teen Mental Health – A Guide for Parents

Your child's teenage years are an exciting time, but they can be tricky too. With hormones going wild and bigger pressures at school, challenging mood swings are par for the course. With mental ill-health on the rise though, you'll want to keep watch on whether their moods are normal, or if they need a bit of help. Today one in five teens has a diagnosable mental health condition. And on average, people wait 8-10 years after first experiencing mental health problems before seeking help. Of course, if problems are noticed and tackled when they first come up, you can help your child with the tools they need to be happy



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sooner rather than later. If you think that your teen needs more professional help, then there is the school counsellor, or if it's more serious, their GP can help you work out a plan of action together. There are lots of common issues that you can help your teen with if you have the right tips. The link below, ignoring the hard sell for online tutoring or the product placement, offers plenty of useful advice for yourself and your son, such as academic anxiety, peer pressure and online bullying, and body image. There is also some sound advice on the importance of sleep (and power naps) in helping improve performance in examinations.

<https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/parents/teen-mental-health-a-guide-for-parents/>

Forthcoming dates for November & December 2021

Sat 27.11.2021	National Concert Band Festival
Wed 01.12.2021	House Shout Singing Competition - 7pm
Thu 02.12.2021	Y7 Parents' Evening
Fri 03.12.2021	PFA Own Clothes' Day – Bring a bottle/chocolates
Sun 05.12.2021	PFA Christmas Fair - 12 noon to 3pm
Mon 06.12.2021	Covid-19 Vaccination Catch-up
Tue 07.12.2021	Y9 HPV Vaccinations – 2nd dose
Wed 08.12.2021 – 21.12.2021	Y11 Exams
Thu 16.12.2021	School Christmas Lunch
Tue 21.12.2021	School Carol Service for Years 7 & 8, St Mary's Church Bowdon
Tue 21.12.2021	School Closes for Christmas Holidays

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

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