



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

15th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

A very warm welcome back, especially to families who have recently joined AGSB.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. It has been wonderful to see the School in action again with the return of our students and colleagues. Students returned to school last Thursday in glorious sunshine, which now seems a somewhat distant memory as the rain cascades against my office window! New routines are becoming established quickly as students and teachers set targets for the year ahead. Sports fixtures have begun and rehearsals for West Side Story are gaining pace as we look forward to the whole school drama production later this term.

We have started the year on a high, with excellent results at A level and GCSE. At A level, a record (pre-pandemic) 85% of grades were at A* - B and we now know that the majority of last year's Year 13 have won places at their chosen destinations, ranging from Oxbridge to degree apprenticeships with multi-national corporate organisations.

GCSE headlines were also impressive, with 82% of entries graded 7-9. Last year Ofqual (the exam regulator) informed schools that grade boundaries would return to 2019 levels; so, although there has been a stark fall nationally in the number of top grades awarded at A level and GCSE, we can be extremely pleased to come out significantly higher than 2019.

This level of attainment speaks volumes for the progress made by the School during the years of the pandemic and its aftermath, as well as for the dedication of last year's exam cohorts and their teachers. We look forward to acknowledging this achievement at the GCSE and A level prize-giving later this term.

We have much to look forward to between now and Christmas across the range of school activities. Thanks in advance to all Parents and Carers for everything you do to support your son's endeavours in school.

The AGSB House event calendar kicks off next week with the House Cross Country and we are also looking forward greatly to one of the seminal House events – The House Shout, which takes place on the evening of the 31st October in the Coleman Hall (all Parents and Carers are welcome).

Last weekend sport made a welcome return with competitive rugby and football fixtures against Birkenhead School and King's Chester. Tomorrow, we look forward to rugby and football fixtures against AKS Lytham and Rossall School. It will be good to see Parents/Carers at fixtures and events again this term. Please see the School calendar [here](#) for key dates ahead and the AGSB SOCS Sports calendar [here](#) for a full programme of forthcoming fixtures.

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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New Academic Year 2023-24



We had a fantastic start to the new academic year last Thursday. We welcomed both new students and staff to an Assembly to celebrate the successes of the summer and also presented last year's House Trophies. Many congratulations to the winners – Bradbury & Stamford.

Geography Fieldtrip – Eryri 2023

The Year 11 Geography GCSE students have recently returned from a productive and enjoyable field visit to Eryri. The students departed early on Thursday, 7th September to the Rhyd Y Creuau Field Studies Centre in order to spend the day collecting some valuable data for their Paper 3 examination at the end of the Year. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time in the Afon Conwy river, even if their socks did get a bit wet! The students were investigating how river characteristics changed downstream by measuring the width, depth and velocity of the river across three sites. They were certainly hungry by the time they returned to the Centre and, to the delight of the chefs, cleared them out of all the pasta and cake!

The next day the students visited Cwm Idwal to look at evidence of past glaciation which was a great opportunity for them to consolidate what they had learned in Year 10. They were even treated to a fly past by some RAF jets on manoeuvres which was very impressive.

Overall, the students worked really hard and had an enjoyable time.

Mr P Williams
Geography Department





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2023 University of Manchester Minesweeper Competition



Congratulations to six of our Year 10 students who won the 2023 University of Manchester Minesweeper competition, defeating eight other schools, the students built their own robot that could be used to detect landmines (Nish P; James C; Yuvan V; Joseph A; Yuvadeep K and David D).

Mental Health First Aid



Many thanks to Liz Copeland for delivering an excellent presentation to Year 12 on both the application process, and the training involved to become a 6th Form Mental Health First Aid Champion on Tuesday this week.



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Collage Film Productions



On **Tuesday, 19th September**, we have arranged for Collage Film Productions to come into school to produce a new video for our School Website.

Please could we ask that students could ensure that they are of smart appearance on that day.

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". Further information will be emailed out to all Parents and Carers soon.

Well Done

Congratulations to Jake S in Year 9 who passed his Grade 2 ABRSM Bassoon exam with distinction.

Well done to Rey B in Year 10 who has recently passed his Grade 4 Flute exam with merit.



Many congratulations to Sithun DS (left) from Year 8 who competed in the British Chess Championship in July 2023 in Leicester and achieved 3rd place in the U12 section. What an achievement!



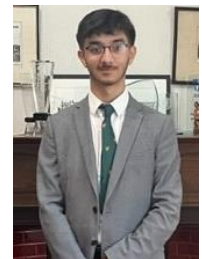
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Well done to Noah K (right) from Year 9 who successfully passed his Grade 4 Piano exam this summer. This is a great achievement as Noah only started playing the piano in Year 7.



Many congratulations to Alex W (left) from Year 12 who was awarded a Bronze Medal for his score in the UKMT Maths Challenge.



Very well done to Yusuf N (right) from Year 13. His essay has been shortlisted for the Philosophy Category of the prestigious Oxford University John Locke Institute 2023 Global Essay Prize. What an achievement!

A very big well done to the Sixth Form Chad's Challenges team, led by Rohan Mc in Year 13. On Sports Day, the team raised £300 all of which will be added to Chad's Fund for The Christie

Sporting Achievements



Congratulations to Krishav R from Year 8 who played at "The Lords - Home of Cricket" in the Boys U13 Club T20 National Finals for Didsbury Cricket Club against Ealing Cricket Club. His team finished as national runners up after a very close finish. Krishav's journey to Lords over the summer included 12 matches, beating top clubs from Lancashire, Cheshire, Durham, Scotland and Nottinghamshire.

Krishav was the youngest player in this team and has ended the season as the Club team's best bowler.



Congratulations to Alex V (left) in Year 13 who, at the end of July, took part in the British Summer Swimming Championships in Sheffield.

Alex won two silver medals in the 800m and 1500m freestyle events and became British Champion in the 400m freestyle claiming gold in the 18 years and over age group. Great achievement!



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AGSB Sports



Congratulations to Alfie W and Seb D from Year 13 who have been appointed 1st XV Rugby and 1st XI Football captains for 2023-24.

I am sure that they will lead by example in all that they do. All the very best for the season ahead.

Head Master

Rugby



Good first hit out for the 1st XV last Saturday morning.

Many thanks to Birkenhead School for hosting.

Football

A great first Saturday morning of football for our Junior AGSB squads. We came away with all three wins but some very good football was played by both schools. Thanks to King's Chester for hosting.





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Old Altrinchamians



it was fantastic to see Old Alts, Brendan Creed and James Mazarelo playing for the England Hockey team against Germany in the Final of the European Championships.

We were pleased to hear recently that former student, Sumedh B, (left) has become an initiate in Krishna Consciousness. This is quite an honour and a significant step on a spiritual journey. Sumedh is coming into school next week as he is helping with our Cultures Day sessions.



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 announce that this year's Day of Cultures will take place on Friday, 29th September. Students are encouraged to wear clothes that represent their own culture. This can be in the form of traditional clothing, or a colour representing something to do with their culture. Last year's Day of Cultures was a huge success and we would like to continue this throughout the year.

Also on the 29th September, Year 8 will undertake a day of cultural immersion, where they will be taking part in activities that celebrate cultures around the world.

At AGSB we operate a Cultural Calendar, where we appreciate and acknowledge customs and traditions celebrated at home. Coming up we will be acknowledging Yom Kippur. If your family celebrates anything at home that we can acknowledge in our cultural calendar, please email Mrs Jolly, our cultural calendar co-ordinator admin@agsb.co.uk

AGSB Languages



As is always the tradition at AGSB, we are celebrating European Day of Languages on the 26th September. We are very proud of the multi-lingual student body at AGSB, and in this year's Year 7 we have students who speak a total of 24 different languages!

We are going to be celebrating European Day of Languages in a variety of ways, and ask you to encourage your son to participate:

- Year 7: A hat designing competition (with prizes!)
- Year 8: A Languages choir and a scavenger hunt (with prizes!)
- Year 9: A cake baking competition (with prizes!)
- Years 10 & 11: A linguistic competition

Mrs R Chapman
Head of Languages



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Chadwick Mulholland Hope Tribute Fund (Chad's Challenges)



After an amazing 15 years of fun, fundraising and making people smile, a team of Chad's family and friends will complete the 10km Tatton Park Walk of Hope as a final and fitting end to the fund. We are doing the challenge on the 23rd September.

We would really appreciate your best wishes and your financial support aiming to raise £3000 which would also take his Christie fund to over £100,000.

You can donate via your AGSB ParentPay account, or you can donate directly to his fund and add gift aid - <https://chadwick-mulholland.muchloved.com/Fundraising/Events/668255767>.

Here is some information written by his family about why we have run amazing events and challenges for the last 15 years. We have also raised £50,000 for other charities in Chad's name.

"Chadwick Mulholland was born on 3rd September 1990. He was a quiet, caring, loving and very intelligent boy.

In January 2005 at the age of 14, he discovered a lump on his neck, it was then that our lives changed drastically and in the three and-a-half years that followed, Chad suffered relapse after relapse, but never lost his enthusiasm for life.

In May 2007 he not only had a bone marrow transplant, which we thought was the answer to our prayers, but somehow finding the strength from (I don't know where) managed not only to take his GCSE's, albeit in isolation in hospital and at home, but gained 10 A's. Then after the Hodgkins Lymphoma came back for the fourth time in September 2007, he still found the strength to sit an A Level in Further Maths obtaining an A the week before he died on 18th August 2008.*

He was our star and now our angel, he is much loved and will always be remembered by all his family and friends.

In September 2008 with the help of his old school, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, we set up Chad's Challenges, for anyone wanting to set a personal challenge for themselves, whilst having fun and raising much needed funds for The Young Oncology Unit at The Christie (now the Palatine Treatment Centre) who do a fantastic job in making the worst of situations into a comfortable one".

Here's to a great final Chad's Challenge.

Mrs G Williamson
Sixth Form Officer



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School Counsellor



We sometimes need a little additional support and guidance to think through or resolve personal and psychological difficulties.

Talking to parents, teachers or friends about your personal situations can sometimes be a struggle as they are too close.

Counselling is an opportunity to talk to someone who is open and honest. Who will listen to, respect and not judge your opinions but support you in a client lead way. Providing the opportunity to learn about yourself, understand how you feel, think and respond to life's challenges.

We may not be able to fix your problem but to 'off load' can enhance your well-being, help you to think and feel differently, and feel less alone.

1:1 confidential counselling is available on Wednesday and Thursday in C9 meeting room (next door to the Old Library). Appointments can be made through me, or by speaking to your Head of Year or to Mrs Pickering.

Mr E Hall
Deputy Head

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](#).

Ms A Cathcart
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

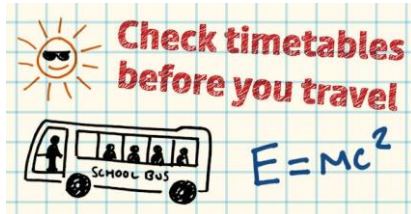


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Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

TfGM Schools and Colleges Update 2023-24



We've been working away over the school holidays to update the [dedicated webpages](#) for each school in Greater Manchester. On your travel webpage, you'll find the current information on school bus timetables (if applicable), the commercial bus services that operate in your school's area, and links for tickets and passes information.

View your school travel information: <https://tfgm.com/schools/trafford/altrincham-grammar-school-for-boys>.

It's an exciting academic year that lies ahead, starting off in September with 31 schools in Bolton, Wigan and parts of Manchester, Salford and Bury joining the Bee Network. We're not stopping there, as just before the Easter holidays, the second phase of Bus Franchising will be introduced in March 2024 in Oldham, Rochdale and parts of Bury, Salford and North Manchester. You can find out more information on our [dedicated Bee Network webpage](#). We're here with you every step of the way - [drop us a line anytime](#).



If you can, please consider whether your child can walk or cycle to school – it can be a safe and healthy way to make shorter trips. With new [cycling and walking routes](#) popping up across the region, it is safer and easier than ever to get about on foot or by bike.

If you do need to drive, please switch off your engine when waiting outside to reduce air pollution and, if possible, try parking further away and walking the last part of the journey.



Ticket to ride

Whether your school community travel on TfGM funded school buses, on commercial services or on the tram, we've got you covered with our dedicated [fares and passes information](#).



Our [ticket finder tool](#) can help families work out the option that best suits them.

In addition, there's also details about eligibility and how to apply for:

- [igo cards](#)
- [Free school passes](#)
- [Scholar's permits](#)
- [Our Pass](#)

Don't forget, you can message us [@OfficialTfGM](#) on X (formerly Twitter) or send us [an email](#), and we will be happy to help.

TfGM



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Cheshire School of Bell Ringing



Is your son looking for a new hobby? Something that he can take with him to university and beyond? A hobby that is both challenging and rewarding, that requires physical skill and mental agility?

If so, bell ringing could be it.

The brand new Cheshire School of Bell Ringing has arrived, and it is based in Altrincham. It offers a systematic and rigorous approach to the teaching of bell ringing. Run by accredited teachers it allows youngsters to learn this amazing skill in Rapid Time.

Altrincham has a reputation for teaching bell ringing to young people and we have taught a number of boys from AGSB. In 2020, we won the award for the best bell ringing youth group in the country and our youngsters have now taken this hobby to universities across the country.

The first BellStart course for the Cheshire School of Bell Ringing begins on Saturday, 23rd September. It is based at St Margaret’s Church on Dunham Road. Sessions will run from 10.30am until 12.30pm each Saturday and will cost £5 per session.

If you would like to find out more, please check out the website – www.cheshirebells.org – or email us at cheshirebells@gmail.com.

Noticeboard for Parents



As you may be aware, the congestion on Marlborough Road in the morning and afternoon is becoming a problem. If your child can walk to school, please encourage them to do so. If you must drive your child to school, please ensure that you are not parking on the road outside school or driving into the Grammar car park (this is for staff and visitors only and is not to be used as a drive through/turning circle).

Please try and drop your child off away from school and encourage them to walk the rest of the way. We have received some very concerned emails and phone calls from the local neighbours and members of the public about the erratic driving and general rudeness of parents. A Traffic Officer will be patrolling the road from time to time. Please also remember to be courteous at all times.

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



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Sodexo

Sodexo have asked if Parents and Carers of students in Years 8 to 11 could be reminded that pupil balances on Sodexo Cards must be kept in credit. Some students have returned after the Summer holidays with negative balances from last year and this obviously has a detrimental effect on the service speed.

For all information regarding the Sodexo provision, ie menu prices, selection of food, this can be found on our Website by clicking [HERE](#).

AGSB PFA

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Year 7 PFA Welcome Evening Thursday, 21st September

The PFA would like to invite all Year 7 Parents and Carers to a Welcome Evening on Thursday, 21st September 7pm in the Coleman Hall.

The evening will consist of:

- Welcome by the Head Master
- Welcome by Mrs Short, Head of Year 7
- Welcome and Introduction to the PFA by PFA Chair
- Parents informal meet & greet with Form Tutors and PFA Reps plus drinks and snacks

We look forward to seeing as many of you there!



Thank you to those Parents and Carers who kindly donated uniform items for the Pre Loved Uniform Sales which took place over the Summer holidays and thank you to everyone who came, we were able to raise a fantastic £2,702. The students benefit directly from the money the PFA raise for the School.

AGSB PFA

Social Media Accounts



Keep up to date with the School activities, achievements, news and associations by following AGSB social media accounts. Watch this space as we add more but for now here are the ones you can follow. Twitter feeds first, followed by Instagram:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Head Master/School | @agsb_official |
| Music | @AGSB_music and Instagram @agsb_music_department |
| Sport | @AGSBsport and Instagram @agsbsport |
| Careers | @AGSB_Careers |
| House System | @AgsbHouse |



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German	@agsbGerman
Geography	@AGSB_Geography
Philosophy & Ethics	@AGSBPandE
AGSB PFA	@AgsbPfa
AGSB Esports	@agsbesports and Instagram @agsb_esports
Food & Nutrition	@FoodAgsb and Instagram @agsbfood
English	Instagram @agsb_english
Publications	@AgsbPublication
Library	@agsblibrary and Instagram @agsblibrary

Site News



To improve safeguarding across the site, the School secured a bid from the Government to put in place a new ornate iron style fence. This has been one of the many projects of work which has been undertaken of the Summer and we are sure you will agree this looks fantastic. The fence runs all the way down the length of Marlborough Road and at the rear of the School on Heath Road.



Calendar Dates

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



Key Dates are:

- * Tue 19.09.2023: Collage Film Productions in School to shoot School Video
- * Wed 20.09.2023 – Fri 22.0-9.2023: Y12 Biology Field Trip to Wales
- * Thu 21.09.2023 – Thu 28.09.2023: German Exchange to AGSB
- * Thu 21.09.2023: Y7 PFA Welcome Evening
- * Fri 22.09.2023: Y7 CATs Exams
- * Mon 25.09.2023: Y8 HPV Vaccinations
- * Tue 26.09.2023: Sixth Form Welcome Evening:
- * Tue 26.09.2023: European Day of Languages
- * Fri 29.09.2023: Y8 Languages Deep Learning Day
- * Fri 29.09.2023: Own Clothes Day for Day of Culture



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Vacancies @ AGSB



AGSB require a Temporary Teacher of Maths (Maternity Cover) from January 2024. Further information can be found [HERE](#).

Easy Fundraising



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys “Parents & Friends Association” are registered with Easyfundraising, which means that 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, Argos, Your Flight, Your Holiday, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, uSwitch 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! You can find our Easyfundraising page [HERE](#).

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