

A Grammar School with Academy Status Head Master: Mr G. A. Wright MA (Hons) FRSA Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, WA14 2RS

21st January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The Spring Term has started with great pace, purpose and endeavour. I would like to begin by thanking all the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to administer the Covid-19 Lateral Flow Tests on students' return to school. Thank you also to all those who tested before returning to school; this has resulted in very few on-site positive results. We have therefore been able to re-open with confidence, and I very much hope that this remains the case as the term progresses. It goes without saying that the at-home, twice-weekly lateral flow tests have never been more important, and we will continue to send out reminders.

Over the last few weeks it has felt like there has been more news around than we know what to do with, as the various travails of the Prime Minister, Prince Andrew and Novak Djokovic dominate the front pages. There is also much to report on from AGSB! In the academic arena, Year 11 have now completed their Trial Exams and I wish the very best to Year 13 who begin their exams in February. Public exams in the summer, at this moment in time, will go ahead and Exam Boards are due to release their modifications (such as formula sheets and question choices) on the 7th February.

Academic enrichment is high on the agenda at AGSB and I was delighted to hear how well our students had performed in the Physics Olympiad and the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. In Physics, eleven Year 13 students participated in the competition at the end of last term. All students obtained awards with 4 reaching Silver and Gold. In Maths, 4 students gained top awards and Seny D was awarded a medal for being in the top 100 in the country. We wish Seny all the best in Round 2.

In sport, normal fixtures have resumed with excellent rugby, hockey and football fixtures against Stockport Grammar, Crossley Heath Grammar and St. Anselm's. The Under 16 and Under 18 indoor hockey squads were, again, champions of the North and travelled to London last week for the National finals. Well done to the Under 18 squad who made it through to the semi-final and were narrowly beaten by Whitgift School 1-2. To have two AGSB sides in the top 8 (and 1 in the top 3) in the country is an amazing achievement.

After an excellent start our 'Sports for All - Making a Difference Campaign', has faced some disruption due to Covid, however, we have re-scheduled two Receptions which will now take place at the end of January. All parents who were invited to the postponed Receptions have been contacted with the change of dates.

Next week we are looking forward to meeting Year 8 Parents (albeit virtually) for the teacher/parent consultation.

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

Yours faithfully

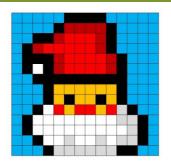
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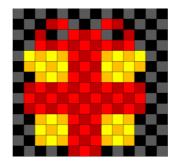
Mr G. A. Wright – Head Master

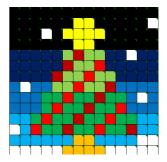


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Christmas Pixel Art House Competition









We had some great entries for the Christmas Pixel Art House Competition. The top three are exhibited above along with a collection of a few of the entries. Well done to all who took part.

1st	Vishakh S	Year 8	Bradbury
2nd	Moeed A	Year 7	Tatton
3rd	Immanuel M	Year 7	Tatton

Mr W Carr

Teacher of Computer Science & IT

AGSB Physics



The BPhO is to encourage the study of physics and to recognise excellence in young physicists through ten annual physics competitions. This year 2,300 students from 393 schools (1,616 students from 270 schools in 2020) participated from the UK and from a few schools overseas

(and a further 2,100 students in China). This entailed marking 4,500 scripts (along with some double marking of scripts for moderation). The aim is to challenge a range of student knowledge, preparation and ability, allowing access for good students, whilst also aiming at stretching and challenging the top young physicists in the country in a national competition.

Eleven of our Y12 students took part at the end of last term and all of the students obtained awards. Special mentions go to George N; Ali A and MJ for achieving Silver Certificates. Well done also to Kevin G on being awarded a Top Gold. We are very proud of them all.



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AGSB Mathematics



The Senior Mathematical Challenge is a 90-minute, multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience and we have to say congratulations to the following Sixth

Formers who have gained top scores. Sera S and Kevin G gained a Merit; Pranav V and Seny D were awarded a Distinction and Seny has also been awarded a medal for being in the top 100 in the country. Well done to all!





Well done to our Under 16 and Under 18 Indoor Hockey Squads who travelled to London last week to compete in the National Finals.

The U18 squad came third in the country reaching the semi-finals and being narrowly defeated by the hosts, Whitgift School. The U16s battled hard but were unable, this year, to make it out of the group stage.

Indoor hockey continues to be one of the top

performance sports at AGSB and to be third in the country, yet again, is a huge accolade. Many thanks to Head Coach, Albert Marcano, Mr Meakin and Mrs Chancellor for accompanying the team.



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The U18 1st XI Hockey team are also now through to the next round of the National Knockout, with a great win against St Anselm's School. Well done to all involved.

Year 7 House Public Speaking Competition



The Year 7 House Public Speaking Competition was held last week and the motion was 'This House Believes That: 'Michael Jordan is the greatest athlete of all time'. This was the first experience of public speaking for all of the students involved but they put in some very creditable performances. The competition was closely contested, but was ultimately won by the Opposition, consisting of Yusuf J & Cameron S (Stamford) and Zac R & Ravishanka N (Bradbury). Both Stamford



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representatives were excellent and, with Cameron awarded star performer in his role as Questioner, they gained first place. The defeated proposition consisted of Ayaan S & Moosa N (Massey) and Tahmeed R & Wassem A (Tatton). The judges awarded third place to Tatton on the basis of Tahmeed's calm and measured performance as Responder. Many thanks to Mr Birchall, Adham S, Head Prefect and Kiran D (Y13) for judging the competition, Wurdaan K (Y13) for chairing and Ms Marson and Ms Mahoney for hosting. Thanks as well to other staff and students who came along to support the participants.

Mr N Croxton Head of History & Politics



AGSB Chess

Congratulations to the AGSB Chess Squad who had an excellent win in the National Chess League last week versus King Edward VI School, Chelmsford. Individual wins were enjoyed by Gautham, Sai and Seny. Good luck to them all in the forthcoming National Chess Championships.

AGSB Gardening Club

For those who are new to the School or who haven't heard about the Gardening Club before, we set up the Eco-garden few years ago with an aim of providing a space for pupils and staff to learn about food, nature



and the environment, to encourage native species, and to produce food in an environmentally friendly way for anyone in school to use!

We have had a couple of seasons of success, with the highlights being harvesting our own carrots to make carrot soup with Food Tech, discovering and learning about ants' nests, and growing pumpkins for Halloween!

Our goals for the next few weeks are to build a few new raised beds, clear away the lockdown weeds, reestablish the pond, and hopefully get our polytunnel up and running!

If any students are interested in getting involved, either to help organise or just to come along occasionally, speak to Miss Frankland or pop along on Monday lunchtimes in the garden by D5. And, if any parents want to donate gardening equipment, anything from the below list would be much appreciated:

Old wellies or trainers; waterproofs; over trousers; hand tools; larger gardening tools such as spades, forks, hoes; bamboo or other canes; old shelving for the polytunnel; seeds and anything else that may be useful.



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If anyone is unsure about what may be useful or you have larger items that need to be collected, please email Miss Frankland (ofrankland@agsb.co.uk) or Mrs Jackson (ejackson@agsb.co.uk)

Thank you.

The Gardening Club 😂 💥 🖓 🍞 🐌

AGSB Cultural Calendar

Our Cultural Calendar is very busy this month. We have displays for the Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27th January to highlight the path racism can take a whole nation, together with Chinese New Year on the 1st February and the Hindu celebration of Saraswati Puja on the 5th February.







If you have an event that we could share with the rest of the school community please let us know at <u>agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk</u> or speak to Mrs Jolly in the Reception Office. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Year 13 House Debating Competition



The Year 13 House Debating Competition was held yesterday afternoon and the motion was '*This House Believes That:* '*The historical process is driven more by individuals than broad structural factors'*. It was an excellent competition characterised by a free-flowing and wide-ranging exchange of ideas.

The competition was closely contested, but

was ultimately won by the Proposition, consisting of Wurdaan K & Jack R (Stamford) and Hasanat A & Sumedh B (Massey). It was a real team effort, with all members making meaningful contributions, but Wurdaan was awarded star performer for his quick thinking and articulate responses. The defeated opposition consisted of Miles N & James L (Bradbury) and Kiran D & Jude W (Tatton). The judges awarded third place to Bradbury on the basis of Miles' measured and effective contributions. Many thanks to Mr Davies and Ms Clark for judging the competition, Adham S (Head Prefect) for chairing and Ms Marson and Ms Mahoney for hosting. The next House debating competition is for Year 12 on Thursday, 3rd February and the motion is: '*Gastric bands should be a higher surgical priority than joint replacements*'.

Mr N Croxton Head of History & Politics



Unfortunately, the Year 8 Football team were beaten this week by a strong Wright Robinson team on a big pitch. The players did themselves proud considering the conditions. Well done!



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AGSB Cross Country





What a great day yesterday at the Trafford School's Cross Country:

Year 7:	2 nd
Year 8 & 9L	5th
Year 10 & 11:	4th
Year 12 & 13L	1 st

Congratulations

Well done to Victor S (7MO) who recently been invited to take part in rehearsals for the shooting of a film entitled *Jambalaya*.

Congratulations to Matthew M (11CC) who has recently attained a Grade 8 Violin Exam with Distinction, a real achievement at such an age!



Congratulations to Year 13 students, Charlie W and James L who make the matchday 23 for Sale Sharks vs Yorkshire this Sunday at Keighley RUFC – good luck!



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AGSB Inclusion

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.



If you think your son may be eligible for means-tested Free School Meals, you can apply through Trafford Council by visiting the following <u>WEBSITE</u>. 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 <u>acathcart@agsb.co.uk</u>.

More information can be found HERE

Ms A Cathcart Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

One cold and frosty morning ...

What a great scene overlooking the School playing fields one early frosty morning this week! Thanks to Phil Hadwen, Site Assistant.



Forthcoming dates for January and February 2022

Wed 26.01.2022	Covid-19 Vaccinations – Second Dose
Thu 27.01.2022	School Photographer Y11 & Y13 – Individual & Year Groups
Thu 27.01.2022	Y8 Parents Evening – Online



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Tue 01.02.2022	Y9 Options Evening (online) – 7pm
Wed 02.02.2022 – Fri 11.02.2022	Y13 Trial Exams
Sun 06.02.2022	Pie & Pint – 6 Nations Rugby 1.30pm – 8pm
Wed 09.02.2022 & Thu 10.02.2022	Y10 Parents' Evening Online
Fri 11.02.2022	School Closes for Half Term
Mon 21.02.2022	School Opens
Wed 23.02.2022	Piano Recital Concert – Coleman Hall 7pm
25.02.2022	School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Development

Noticeboard for Parents

Heath Road Gate: If Parents choose to drop off or collect their son(s) from the Heath Road entrance, please be courteous to the local residents and do not use driveways to turn around or drive onto the grass verges of the houses on the road as we have been receiving complaints from the homeowners.

Important Dates for the Diary:

- Friday, 25th February 2022: School will close for all students at 12.20pm for Staff Development.
- Monday, 13th June 2022: Staff Professional Development Day (Students will not be in school but will be set independent work to do at home).

Altrincham Leisure Centre Consultation 2022



Trafford Council has announced multi-million pound plans to redevelop three Leisure Centres in the borough following the successful redevelopment of Urmston Leisure Centre.

Altrincham Leisure Centre is set to be the next in line for redevelopment and they would like to hear your views on the initial proposals. They are keen to hear from those who

currently use the Centre as well as those who do not.

Floor plans and frequently asked questions can be found at the consultation at the below link or QR code: <u>Altrincham Leisure Centre Consultation 2022 - Trafford Council's Citizen Space - Citizen Space</u>

Trafford Council would be grateful if you could take a moment to have your say by using the above link/QR code or by emailing <u>alcd@trafford.gov.uk</u>.



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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. Don't forget if your son has a positive test, please notify us via email to covid@agsb.co.uk.

Mr M Soulsby Assistant Head – Development

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