



# 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

28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome back to everyone following the Easter holidays. 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, the Spring weather has certainly helped make the first two weeks back go as smoothly as possible.

Firstly, I must belatedly congratulate the AGSB Jazz Band on being awarded a Gold Award at the National NCBF Finals which were held in the final weekend of the holidays at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. This really is an incredible achievement on the national stage. Congratulations go to both the students and to Mr Monument and his team. I know how much hard work and practice they have put in this year so this is very much deserved.

In sport, I am delighted to report that yesterday, the Altrincham Grammar School for Boys 1st XI hockey team won the National Under 18's Schools Cup final which took place at The Olympic Park. They defeated last year's winners Magdalen College School, Oxford 4-1. The team have done fantastically well, beating some very reputable schools, to become champions. Congratulations also go to the Under 18 football XI who won the Greater Manchester Cup after defeating Canon Slade School in a tense game that ended with a penalty shootout. This term we turn our attention to cricket, tennis and athletics where we have already won a number of matches.

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

It is marvellous to see the "Sports for All - Making a Difference- Moving to Delivery" phase underway. Our top fields are currently being treated to a Sports England standard and our new five lane cricket enclosure should be ready for use in late May.

This week, we welcomed out latest cohort of Year 5 pupils who will visit the School for the next nine weeks as part of the Horizons Entrance Exam Familiarisation Course. It was marvellous to see our current students making our guests so welcome throughout yesterday afternoon. Many thanks to Ms Cathcart (Assistant Head -Inclusion) for leading on this important area of school improvement.

Next Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 forthcoming Bank Holiday.

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright  
Head Master



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## AGSB – Cryptography Competition 2023



This year's cryptography competition involved the hardest codes that have ever been cracked! One of last year's winning team, Yusuf J (8CC), entered the competition again to retain his title with his previous team mates going into Sixth Form this year. He found some real talent in the depths of the Y8 Maths Department in the form of Asadulla M (8CC) and Harry Y (8CC) to create a new team called "Zovmql aZlabop", coming out as 2023 champions.

They solved 3 out of 5 codes quicker than the other AGSB teams and burnt off the second place team "The Steamed Dumplings", led by James C (10FB), who won the competition in 2021. This was due to Jamal's

resilience and determination to correct decode Week 5, being the only team to submit a correct entry! Certificates will be presented to the winning Y8 team in assembly by Mr Ayebare.

There is however one outstanding puzzle... Week 6 was unsolved by all AGSB teams! The solutions are now available on the University's website if anyone would like to see the code of all codes. I wonder whether Alan Turing himself could have worked it out...

Thank you to Mr Carr for promoting the competition in Computer Science lessons. This year the scoring system was run internally, but the codes were provided by the University of Manchester as part of their Alan Turing Cryptography Project 2023. In exciting news hot off the printer, rumour has it there may be some codes created internally next year to spice up the competition, but also make it more accessible to all. Until the coders... over and out!

*Mrs S Chancellor  
Teacher of Maths*

## AGSB Wildlife Club

The Wildlife Club held a successful fundraising event in the Spring term. They set up games stalls with pupils competing to win Easter themed prizes as well selling Easter themed baked treats and drinks which raised the grand total of £174, with money going to Pangolin Conservation and funding of equipment for The Wildlife Club such as a fish tank, binoculars, and a butterfly farm.

The Wildlife Club meet on Wednesday lunchtimes in N15.

*Mrs S Ward  
Biology Department*





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## Mission Space Lab



Mission Space Lab offers teams of young people the chance to have their scientific experiments run on board the International Space Station and we are very pleased to announce that two teams of AGSB pupils have been successful in the annual Mission Spacelab AstroPi competition.

Against stiff competition from 1000's of entries across schools in the UK they have progressed through to the final of three rounds.

During the month of May, the code that they have written will be run by NASA on the International Space Station IN SPACE!!! The teams will be carrying out experiments looking at life on Earth and Life on the ISS.

Well done to the two teams which comprise:

Shehroz K (11FN); Harris A (11FN); James F (11FN); Daniel A (11FN); Aidan K (joining the team remotely from his new home in Canada); Kunooz Syed (11FN); Piotr B (12SM); Paco L (12PT); Joe C (12PT) and Franek M (12SM).

*Dr S Squire*  
*Head of Science*

## National Academy Essay Competition



Congratulations to Y11 students Rahul P and Zuehb H who entered the National Academy Essay Competition 2023. Both of their essays (based on the prompt, "If buildings can talk ...") will be included in the printed book that will be published in July.

*Mr M Davies*  
*Head of English*



## Y9 House Debating Competition



The re-arranged Year 9 House Debating competition was held today and the motion was 'This House Believes That: Broadcasting live sports only on pay-to-air channels has had a detrimental effect on the sport'.

It was a well-informed and keenly contested debate in the Old Library. On a split decision, it was narrowly won by the opposition, consisting of Mazin G & Zack S (Massey) and Nathan P & Jonnie G (Tatton). Tatton was awarded first place by virtue of Nathan's clear and confident responses to some very challenging questions in the floor debate. The defeated proposition team consisted of Shrirang J & Bhargav K (Stamford) and Roman S & Aadith M (Bradbury).





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'Star Performer' for the opposition was Shirang J (9WL) for his very effective contributions in the floor debate which meant Stamford claimed third place.

Many thanks to Ms Clark and Ben B-J (Y13) for judging.

Mr N Croxton  
Head of History & Politics

## AGSB Hindu, Sikh and Jain Society



Sewa is a key value in Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism. It is the act of selflessly serving others without expecting anything in return.

AGSB HSJS members were pleased to volunteer with Sewa Day at the recent Manchester Marathon by handing out water bottles to the runners.

## AGSB Sports for All Campaign



It is fantastic to see progress in Phase 1 of the Sports for All – Making a Difference Campaign – Moving to Delivery. Drainage of the top fields, tennis court improvements and five lane cricket enclosure.



Click on this [LINK](#) for the most up-to-date information.



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## National Concert Band Festival



The AGSB Jazz Band took part in the National Band Festival over the Easter holidays at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and came away with a Gold Award.

Big congratulations to all of the musicians who played and thanks to Mr Monument for organising.



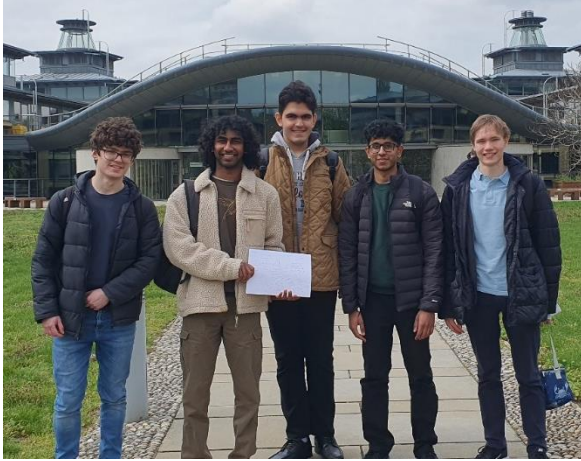




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## Naboj Maths Competition – Cambridge University



The Naboj Maths Competition is an annual competition that challenges students to solve complex mathematical problems. This competition is held in various countries around the world and attracts participants from all over.

Our team, consisting of Sheen B (Y13), Pranav V (Y13), Alex G (Y13), Alex V (Y12), and Arya M (Y12) worked together to solve the challenging problems presented to them.

After an intense competition, our team managed to score 30 points, earning us a spot in third place; losing to second place on tiebreaker rules and losing to first place by just 1 point. Internationally we were placed 48<sup>th</sup> out of 468 teams. This was a fantastic achievement, considering the number of talented teams that participated in the event.

Words from the team: “The competition provided an excellent opportunity for us to showcase our mathematical skills and knowledge, as well as work collaboratively to solve complex problems. It was a great learning experience for all of us, and we are proud to have represented our school in the competition. We are grateful to our teachers and mentors who have guided us and helped us prepare for the competition. The Naboj Maths Competition was a challenging and rewarding experience for our team, and we are proud of our achievement. It has further fuelled our passion for mathematics, and we hope to continue exploring the subject and participate in more such competitions in the future.”

### The Team

## House Points



Very well done to the following students who have received 100 House points up to the end of the Spring Term:

Yusuf J (8CC)  
Asadulla M (8CC)  
Oliver G (8PA)

Sarim A (8CD)  
Ans I (8WD)  
Daniel B (8CD)



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## Thank You



The Music Department has most gratefully received the donation of an antique Bechstein upright piano, which has been housed in MU10.

The piano dates back to the 1880'S but is in remarkably good condition and will be enjoyed by many students for the years to come!

Many thanks to Denise Laver for her continued support of AGSB.

Mr M Monument  
Director of Music

## Well Done

Congratulations to the 90 Year 10 pupils who have received their Bronze Crest Award Certificates for their scientific research projects on Dehydration treatments, undertaken in Biology lessons last year.

Congratulations to Alex V (12SM) who has passed his Grade 7 double bass exam with distinction getting 137 marks out of 150.

Well done to Nate D (13BN) who ran the Manchester Marathon without doing any training!

Congratulations to Arya M (12EL) who has recently had an article published entitled "The Effect of Mathematics Anxiety on Cognitive Failures Among High School Students" having used AGSB for his case study. If you would like to read Arya's article, you can do so [HERE](#).

## 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](mailto: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?

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](mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk).

More information can be found [HERE](#)

Ms A Cathcart  
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco



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## PFA Plant & Cake Sale

Date for your diary!

The popular AGSB Plant & Cake Sale is back again this year on **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June** between **11am and 1pm**.

There will also be a Second Hand Uniform sale.

Please do come along, there is something for everyone!

Mrs H Drake  
PFA Staff Rep



AGSB GARDENING and WILDLIFE CLUB

# PLANT and CAKE SALE



Saturday 10th June 11am-1pm

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys Marlborough Road WA14 2RS

PFA second hand uniform sale

Beautiful hand tied home grown bouquets by Melanie Farrow.



Wildlife themed objects made in Tech Tuesday.



Plants and unusual garden ornaments Bird and Bay, Lymm.



## AGSB Sports

### Football

Congratulations to the 1st XI Football team who, for the first time in seven years won the Greater Manchester cup after defeating Canon Slade School, Bolton.







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## Hockey

Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey team who defeated Magdalen College School, Oxford 4-1 in the U18 National School's Hockey Final which was played at Olympic Park, London



## Cricket

Well done to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI for beating Birkenhead School by 8 wickets. Well done to the Y8 Cricket XI for beating Alsager School in the Cheshire Cup.



To read the new edition of the Fourth Edition of the Sports Newsletter, please click on this [LINK](#).



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## Sporting Achievements



Rory H (9CM) and Harry S (9CO) recently played for the U14 UK Lions Hockey team in Rotterdam, playing clubs from Holland, Germany and Austria. Their team won the competition, and it was a fantastic experience for them both.

## Information Dashboard

One of our House Sponsors, Myersons Solicitors have recently produced a magazine that provides topical free support to individuals. In this month's magazine, the topics included are:

- **I've been offered a new job – what should I look out for in my contract?**
- **7 Common mistakes when divorcing**
- **The residential property market**
- **After the death of your mother or father, can a sibling live in the house?**
- **And more**

If any of the above topics are of interest to you, please read the [MAGAZINE HERE](#).



## Noticeboard for Parents



A reminder to all Parents and Carers that School will close at 12.20pm on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May** for Staff Training.

Students need to ensure they can get home as there will be no bus at that time.

## Forthcoming dates for May and June 2023

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





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## Key Dates are:

Mon 01.05.2023	School Closed for Early May Bank Holiday
Tue 02.05.2023 – Tue 09.05.2023	Spanish Exchange to Barcelona
Tue 02.05.2023	Y12 Oxbridge Evening – 7pm
Wed 03.05.2023	Y10 GCSE PE Practical Moderation
Thurs 04.05.2023	School Closes at 12.20pm for Open Evening
Thurs 04.05.2023	School Open Evening – 5pm to 7.30pm
Mon 08.05.2023	School Closed for Bank Hol for Coronation of King Charles III
Tue 09.05.2023 – Fri 12.05.2023	Year 9 Exams
Wed 10.05.2023 – Fri 12.05.2023	Y9 Cricket Tour to Birmingham
Thurs 11.05.2023	Y11 Study Leave begins
Fri 12.05.2023	Y13 Leavers’ Breakfast
Mon 15.05.2023 – Wed 28.06.2023	External Exams
Tue 16.05.2023	Y8 – Second Dose HPV Immunisations
Wed 24.05.2023 – Fri 26.05.2023	Y10 Geology Field Trip to Anglesey
Fri 26.05.2023	School Closes for Summer Half-Term Holidays
Mon 05.06.2023	School Re-Opens after Half-Term
Thurs 08.06.2023	Y8 Translation Bee Regional Finals
Wed 07.06.2023 – Fri 09.06.2023	Y7 and Y8 Exams
Sat 10.06.2023	PFA Plant & Cake Sale 11am
Tue 13.06.2023	Chinese Trip to Chinatown
Tue 13.06.2023	Y8 Parents Meeting for Barcelona Trip 7pm
Wed 14.06.2023 & Wed 21.06.2023	Y8 Philosophy Visit to the Sri Gobind Singh Gurdwara Education & Cultural Centre
Thurs 22.06.2023	Y12 Trip to watch ‘LEAR’ at Shakespeare North Playhouse
Fri 23.06.2023	Geography Trip to Llandudno
Tue 27.06.2023	Y8 SEAL Day
Tue 27.06.2023	KS3 Production – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
Wed 28.06.2023 to Fri 30.06.2023	Y12 Geology Trip to the Vale of Eden
Fri 30.06.2023	School closes at 12.20pm for Staff Training

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS.  
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