



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

19th January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Happy New Year!

It has been good to welcome students and staff back for the start of the Spring Term. Year 13 students have been working hard to prepare for their A Level trial examinations, which start next week, and the School in general has been a hive of activity with a myriad of sporting, musical and other activities taking place every lunchtime and after school.

Optimism and Hope was the given theme for my first Assembly of 2024 – an apt topic for a new year, and perhaps a brave, vital one for the present times. I also explained to students during my assembly that membership of any community depends on adherence to the shared expectations and rules of that community – which are devised for the well-being of its members and of those with whom we come into contact. It means taking care of ourselves and others and taking responsibility for our actions. We are fortunate that our students are generally very ‘biddable’ and keen to please, however, I reminded students of some reasonable expectations such as being kind and respectful; to take pride in their appearance and in wearing their school uniform; not to drop litter and to be punctual to all lessons. I would be grateful to Parents and Carers if you would lend your support by reinforcing our high standards.

We are delighted for the seven students who received offers from the University of Oxford this week across a broad range of courses. Cambridge will be making their offers later this month. All of Year 13 must be congratulated for the excellent work on their applications, their offers and their achievements as a whole and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who also helped with writing references and provided interview practice. Please remember the Sixth Form Team are keen to support student wellbeing and academic achievement so do make the relevant Head of Year or Mr Murray (Head of 6th Form) aware if you have any concerns.

As I write, rehearsals for the Session Orchestra Evening (a real highlight of the musical year at AGSB) are taking place and the Concert takes place tonight - Friday, 19th January, starting at 7pm. Tickets are available on Eventbrite [here](#).

In Sport, we have a packed schedule of fixtures in the Calendar (all information on fixtures can be found [here](#)). Tomorrow, we have block fixtures in rugby and football against Liverpool College and Wilmslow High School.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G A Wright', with a horizontal line underneath.

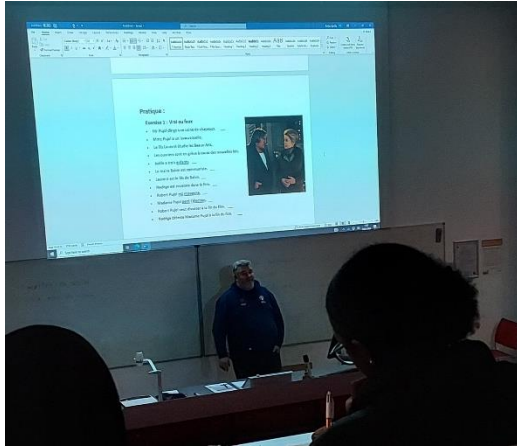
Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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A Level French Film Study Day



On Thursday 11th January, A Level French students spent the day in the Languages and Cultures Department of Lancaster University to celebrate the 80th birthday of critically acclaimed actress Catherine Deneuve.

With *Le Dernier Métro*, they had an introduction to the Nouvelle Vague, a French art film movement that revolutionised film making throughout the world. They had an insight into France under Nazi occupation.

The second film, *Potiche*, gave the students the chance to see the range of the actress, in a completely different genre.

The comedy dealt with the themes of sexism, the evolution of family life as well as politics and strikes in 1970's France. Both films were preceded by an introduction in French and followed by activities that enables students to revise essential structures but also getting new angle on cultural events.

Mrs F Blakeley
Languages Department



Year 7 Public Speaking House Competition



A brilliant first public speaking event was held by Year 7 on Thursday lunchtime this week, debating "*We should not eat meat.*"

The judges were impressed with how well the contestants spoke; their confidence and also how their content was credible and well-researched. The vocabulary to emphasise points and opinions was also praised.

The results were incredibly close, with the judges being split evenly, having to call on other teachers in the audience to intervene and decide on the winner. The decision was finally made, and the winning team was the Opposition - congratulations to Tatton and Bradbury!



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Star Performers from each team also earn House Points so well done to **Subhan K** (Bradbury) in his role as Questioner who kept the other team on their toes; and to **Samuel Y** (Massey) in his role as Proposer who had a clear and well-researched argument.

The rankings for our final Public Speaking event this round are: 1st Bradbury; 2nd Tatton; 3rd Massey; 4th Stamford.

Thank you to Head Prefect, Jacob R, for chairing and today's judging team consisting of Rey B, Vishakh S (Y10), Isaac J (Y12) and Mr Flanagan and Miss Clark. Thanks also to Mrs Marson and the Library helpers for hosting.



Mrs C Mahony
Teacher of English and Library Co-Ordinator

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys ranked in Top 50 of UK's Top 200 Sporting Schools



AGSB is celebrating being named the 49th best school for sport in the whole of the UK.

The prestigious honour was revealed in the latest annual ranking of the top 200 sporting schools across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by School Sport Magazine.

Head Master Mr Wright said: "We are absolutely delighted with the news which emphasises our school's place among the UK's sporting schools elite. It's an amazing achievement and

recognises the hard work and achievements of both our students and the PE Department. School Sport Magazine is a prestigious publication and produces a highly respected Top 200 guide to the best schools which is eagerly anticipated every year. We are regularly ranked in the top 50 in this annual table which is a remarkable achievement."

AGSB takes pride in the breadth of sports offered which include football, hockey, rugby, X-country, athletics, cricket, tennis, basketball, badminton and table-tennis.



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AGSB Art Department



Congratulations to Ben Edwards who will be representing the School in the regional round of the National Articulation competition.

Before Christmas we listened to a number of fantastic presentations on a wide range of artworks and pieces of architecture by students in Year 12 and Year 13.

When we returned after the Christmas break, the top three presentations were pitted against one another in the School Library in front of a crowd of curious Year Groups. The standard was very high and any of the top three would represent the School proudly.

However, after deliberation, the judges decided that the presentation of Ben E (13CN) was the worthy winner and he will now represent the School in the regional final in February. We wish him every success.

Miss K Lee
Art Department

AGSB Geology Lecture



Last week, AGSB hosted the second annual Geology Christmas lecture given by Marc Reichow from Leicester University, entitled "*The Fury of an Explosive Eruption*".



Mr Reichow is a Geoscientist with a strong background in igneous petrology, mineralogy, geochemistry and geochronology. His research involves the role of large scale volcanism in climate

change as well as Large Igneous Provinces (LIP's) from various tectonic settings. His latest project focused on the formation of super-eruptions in the Yellowstone volcanic track.

As an igneous Petrologist, Professor Reichow is an expert on volcanoes and other areas of igneous geology. His lecture was based on the question: "*What if Mt Pinatubo would have erupted near Manchester?*"

The volcano, Mt Pinatubo erupted explosively in the Philippines in 1991 and was the second largest eruption in the 20th century. The talk explored a hypothetical scenario of placing the volcano near Manchester in order to highlight the consequences that this catastrophic eruption had on the local environment.

Mr M Parker
Head of Geology



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Spanish Exchange Trip to Barcelona



On Wednesday, 10th January nineteen AGSB students went on the Spanish Exchange Trip to Barcelona where they stayed with their host families and spent time at the Colegi Sagrada Familia School.



There was a walking trip around the City Centre, a guided visit to the Picasso Museum, a trip to Antoni Gaudi's iconic Cathedral, La Sagrada Familia and a visit to the Olympic Stadium in Mont Juic where Barça are currently playing.

The host students will be flying to Manchester in March for the return leg of the Spanish Exchange and we look forward to welcoming them to AGSB.

Thank you to Ms Mattison and Mr Cummins for being great trip leaders!





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History & Politics Society

Another fantastic turnout by the History & Politics Society last week. Well done to Barny W (12BN) for delivering a brilliant lecture on The Falklands War.



Guest Speaker from Barclays



It was fantastic to welcome the Vice President at Barclays and parent, Nawal Arshad, who delivered a leadership workshop for Year 12 students last week.

AGSB on the International Space Station



On Monday and Tuesday this week, 10 teams of between two and six AGSB students from Year 13 all the way down to Year 8, fiercely contested this year's first round of the international AstroPi "Mission Space Lab" contest.



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Pupils have been tasked to write code to accurately determining the velocity of the ISS using on boards sensors and a Rasperry Pi. AGSB have participated in this competition for the past 3 years and in the last 2 years, have had fantastic success with the code of 4 teams from AGSB running on the ISS, 400km up as it orbits the Earth's surface.

This year the standard has been the highest yet with many of our teams presenting fully realised project plans and demonstrating excellent code which has already yielded results on the test data. Last year's returning finalists, our Year 13 team, 'Los Pollos', showed us how they are preparing to further improve their winning formula. The depth of the field was clear when our youngest team Rasperry Shuttle from Year 8, gave one of our best presented, simplest yet technically brilliant ideas.

Congratulations to all the teams that took part, the hard work you put in was obvious. Keeping fingers crossed that at least some of your projects will achieve "flight status" and be selected by the European Space Agency for Phase 2 of the contest.

Dr S Squire
Head of Science

Geography Fieldwork Trip to Ancoats



This week, Year 11 Geography students have undertaken field work in Ancoats, near the centre of Manchester.

During these wintery trips - one of which was done with fresh snow underfoot, students gathered primary data to help decide whether the regeneration of the area has been sustainable or not. We looked at how the city changes along a transect with distance from the centre, as well as the different land uses in Ancoats, taking surveys to record our opinions on the area.

It was an important trip as the data gathered will help us in Paper 3 of our GCSE exam, as well as furthering our theoretical knowledge learnt in school by applying it in the real world.

And, of course, we had plenty of fun exploring new parts of the city!

Ehan Sajjad 11FN



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Meet the AGSB Art Ambassadors



Y12 Art Ambassadors (L-R): Emmanuel A, Aayan S, Hugh L, Ravi H, Will D

The Art Department would like to welcome and introduce the Art Ambassadors. As an Ambassador, the students get involved in a whole range of Art Department duties from helping to maintain classroom equipment; representing the Art Department in whole school activities (eg Creativity Week; **Articulation** - Y12s); mentoring younger art students (Y12s) to planning, organising and running workshops.

The Y7s are currently very successfully running a Comic Club workshop on a Tuesday lunchtime in A1 until the 6th February, that all KS3 students are welcome to come attend.

Well done for the super organisation of this very well attended club. Watch this space for a Comic Club article and future Workshops.

Y7 Art Ambassadors (L to R): James O, Leo C, Noah D, Harry T, Aran D-B (not pictured)



Mrs S Embleton
Art Dept

AGSB join National Drive to improve School Attendance



AGSB are supporting the National drive to improve school attendance. From the start of the Spring Term, the Department for Education are running a National Campaign to ensure that everyone is clear that **'moments matter, attendance counts'**.

time.

Whilst we at AGSB have maintained our levels of attendance, there has been a rise in requests for term-time holidays for increasing amounts of

Any requests for term-time absences, such as additional holidays etc, must be made through the Leave of Absence Request Form on the School website which can be found [HERE](#) with at least four weeks' notice. Requests must be submitted for the consideration of the Head Master and authorisation will be at his



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discretion in all circumstances. The School focus is on the highest level of education for its students and wish to discourage absences that prevent that. Any absences not agreed by the Head Master will be registered as unauthorised and may result in a Penalty Notice being issued.

However, we do understand that there are some circumstances where you may have very little notice of an absence, therefore the earliest notification would be appreciated. Please note that the national guidelines for leave of absence is three days over the whole of a student's school career. Any days over and above this or further requests made in a school year can be subject to a fine for non-attendance from the Education Welfare Office. Additional holidays are not an automatic right and fines will be issued to those found to be taking longer term time absences.

Mrs A Jolly
Attendance Officer

An interesting look at our Maths' lessons from a Y13 AGSB student!

One of the ways to communicate the beauty, interconnectedness and applications of Mathematics is through visual representations of various concepts, conjectures and proofs.

Taking inspiration from Stanford graduate Grant Sanderson and his 3Blue1Brown YouTube channel, Y13 student, Vikash J has mastered Manim, the animation engine software designed by Grant, and used it to create entertaining and instructional videos on optimisation problems, infinite fractions and an extension of Pascal's triangle to model trinomial and quadrinomial expansions, and to illustrate probability distributions.

Vikash demonstrates both deep mathematical understanding and a flair for communication of mathematical ideas in a manner which makes them accessible for mathematicians and non-mathematicians alike.

If any of our students are interested, you can check out Viksash's YouTube channel below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsCx37ZHrypWutKzDZiSR9A>



Viks

Somebody with nothing better to do with his life. I am 17 and I am from the UK and enjoy maths more than I should.

Feel free to get in touch for any help or queries. Email - viksycontact@gmail.com

www.youtube.com

Mr T Ayebare
Head of Year 9/Maths Department



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AGSB Annual House Talent Show

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Thursday 22nd February 4:30-6.30pm.

-NOT A HOUSE COMPETITION!

- Two songs per band
- Email Mr Monument by 29th Jan to enter.
- The winning band will also play an encore to close the show.
- sound check on Wednesday 21st Feb @3:30
- Bands of all age and abilities will be accepted.

AGSB's got TALENT

- Open entries to the competition, house points awarded for **EVERY ENTRY!**
- Upload an audition video below by 29th January.
- House Managers will select two performances per house.

-We are looking for a variety show (comedians, juggling, gymnastics, dance, magic, didgeridoo, sitar, poetry, a skit, cultural performance, yo-yo, etc).

There will be a winner for each of the separate competitions, which will be decided by a vote on the evening.

Let's fill the hall with spectators on the **22nd February @4:30-6.30pm!**

Get your **FREE** tickets here!

We are pleased to announce that **FREE** tickets can now be reserved for AGSB's Got Talent which is taking place on **Thursday, 22nd February between 4.30pm and 6.30pm** in the Coleman Hall.

To reserve your free tickets, you can scan the QR code on the poster on the left but be warned, there are only limited numbers available!

STUDENTS - Do you have a talent that can win points for your House? If so, record your audition video and upload it to the Form via this [LINK](#) (entries must be in before the 5th February).

Battle of the Bands

STUDENTS - you can enter by emailing Mr Monument direct to enter your band (mmonument@agsb.co.uk).

Details of both competitions are included on the attached posters.

Congratulations



Many congratulations to William M (9PG) who achieved a Distinction (135 marks) in his recent Grade 7 Cello exam. Well done Will!



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AGSB Sports

Football



There was a great morning of football last weekend against Stockport Grammar School, some brilliant fixtures at all age groups.

Our Year 13's went out in style in their last ever Saturday morning match winning 5-1!

The U14 football team are waiting for the draw to be complete for the Greater Manchester Plate competition and the AGSB U15 football team are through to the 3rd round of the Greater Manchester Cup against East Manchester Academy.

Sporting Achievements



Many congratulations to Brian Z (7CE) (left) who participated in the Ambition Children's Ski Racing Championships 2024 held in Hinterreit, Austria over the Christmas holidays and won a Bronze Medal in the U12 category. Well done Brian!

Well done to Aryan D (8FA) (right) who won the best U12 Cheshire Bowler of the year and Cheshire Boys Player of the Year (across U10-U18 age groups), which is fantastic!



Congratulations to Sithun D-S (8FA) (left) who has been selected for the National Chess U13 squad. Sithun is also playing at the Chess Conference in Blackpool in February and in the Rapid Play Chess Championship at Peterborough in March. Good luck Sithun!

Congratulations to Alex T (9CC) (right) who has been selected to represent the Great Britain Children's Ski Team on the 24th January in the Czech Republic. Good luck Alex!





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SEND Support at AGSB



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](#).



If you want information about Sixth Form Bursary support please click [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

AGSB 2024 Futures Fair

AGSB
2024 Futures Fair.
Thurs 2nd May
8:45AM - 12:20PM
OVER 600 OF OUR STUDENTS WILL
BE IN ATTENDANCE ACROSS THE
MORNING

AGSB Futures Fair (2nd May 2024)
- Registration of interest.

TO REGISTER YOUR ORGANISATION PLEASE
SCAN THE QR CODE OR
GO TO THE LINK BELOW:

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM
/E/PEF4RHBG9Y](https://forms.office.com/E/PEF4RHBG9Y)

In May, AGSB are running a Careers Fair for our students and we are reaching out to employers, apprenticeship providers and Universities who may want to exhibit on the day.

If you are a local business or you know of anyone in business who would be interested in promoting apprenticeship opportunities to our students, we would like to invite you to attend AGSB on **Thursday, 2nd May 2024** to have a stand where you can chat to our students.

On the day, we will have three Year Groups – Years 9, 10 and 12, attending for 50 minutes each (total of 600+ students).

Refreshments will be provided for all exhibitors. If you would be interested in having a stand, please click on this [LINK](#) to complete the form:

If you would be interested in finding out more information, please contact our Head of Careers, Mr Andrew Gallamore, via email – agallamore@agsb.co.uk.

Mr A Gallamore
Head of Careers



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External Exam Invigilators Required from 16th May to the 26th June 2024



We Need You! – Volunteer Invigilators Required

We are looking to put together a voluntary invigilation team for the 2024 exam season and wonder if there are any Parents or Carers out there who could spare the time to assist us with this. A morning invigilation session will normally be between 9.00am and 11.00am and an afternoon session between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. The commitment we are seeking is for several sessions during May and June, however even a few sessions would be a most valuable contribution.

Those interested will be asked to assist with invigilation in the Coleman Hall or other exam rooms where there will always be a senior experienced invigilator present.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Lavin in the Exams Office at alavin@agsb.co.uk. There is to be an information meeting for volunteer invigilators on **Wednesday, 7th February at 5pm** in the Coleman Hall where you will be able to ask any questions. Thank you in advance for any contribution you may feel able to make.



Mrs A Lavin
Exams & Data Assistant

Charity Fundraising



AGSB students were tasked with raising as much money as possible for Charity during the month of December and came up with all kinds of ideas as to how to do this.

The amount raised was a staggering **£2,238.35** which will now be split equally between four very deserving Charities, chosen by Mr Hall as follows:

- Trafford Domestic Abuse Services
- South Trafford Foodbank
- Barnabus Manchester Homeless Charity
- Prostate Cancer UK

A very big thank you to everyone who took part and to everyone who donated. Your donation has made a big difference to someone's life.

Mr E Hall
Deputy Head



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Noticeboard for Parents

Yet again, the amount of 'forgotten' items that are being dropped off on a daily basis with the ladies on Reception is increasing, in particular musical instruments, PE kit and Food Tech ingredients. Please note the School policy is that if a student forgets to bring something to school which he needs for lessons, he must speak to the relevant class teacher to explain and endeavour to complete the School day without it. Whilst your son's item may be a 'one off' there may well be several other students doing the same thing.

A reminder to Parents and Carers that the School should be advised of any medical appointments in advance of the date. We are once again receiving last minute phone calls asking for staff to go and get students out of their classroom. It is the student's responsibility to inform their teacher at the beginning of the lesson that they must leave early and to arrive in Reception in plenty of time to sign out.

Calendar Dates

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



Forthcoming Key Dates are:

- * 23.01.2024 – 26.01.2024: Y13 Exams
- * 30.01.2024: Y11 Poetry Live Trip – Opera Theatre, Manchester
- * 31.01.2024 & 01.02.2024: Y10 Parents' Evening
- * 04.02.2024 – 09.02.2024: Y9 Football Trip to Barcelona
- * 06.02.2024: Y10 Study Skills Evening – 6pm Coleman Hall
- * 07.02.2024: Y8 PSHE Trip to a Gurdwara in Manchester
- * 08.02.2024: Y7 Deep Learning Day: Chinese New Year & Cultural Immersion
- * 09.02.2024 – 17.02.2024: Austria Ski Trip
- * 09.02.2024: Y13 Economics Trip to meet EconPlusDal, Alderley Edge
- * 09.02.2024: School Closes for Half-Term
- * 19.02.2024: School Re-opens after Half-Term
- * 21.02.2024: Y8 PSHE Trip to a Gurdwara in Manchester
- * 22.02.2024: AGSB's Got Talent & Battle of the Bands 4.30pm Coleman Hall
- * 28.02.2024: PFA Curry & Quiz Night – 7pm Stamford Hall

Social Media Presence



Please remember to follow the School Twitter/X account @agsb_official to keep abreast of all the latest AGSB information and details of all events taking place in and out of school and sharing in the success of such wonderful activities like House events, Information evenings, art exhibitions, music events, school productions, sport and general news (including inclement weather updates).



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Snow Settles on AGSB



Two very different photographs taken this week!

one taken at the front of the School on a very snowy and cold morning and the other of the School field bathed in a fabulous morning sunrise, courtesy of the Head Master and Mrs Brickell!



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

HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

