



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

3rd March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Half term seems like a distant memory as the Spring Term continues at a relentless pace. There has been a good deal of academic enrichment taking place this term. Since we arrived back, Sixth Form students have been presenting their Extended Project Qualification research to an audience of peers and staff. Subjects have ranged from Fascist Italy and Artificial Intelligence to 'Anime' and Behavioural Economics.

We have now received the results from the first round of the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge attaining 38 Gold, 12 Silver and 10 Bronze certificates. Well done to the highest scorers per year group: Rohan M (Y9) Dan Wei Li (Y10) and Alex Y (Y11).

Also, many congratulations go to Year 12 students James, Harry, Dan & Zen who travelled to London on Tuesday to compete in the semi-final of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Schools Budget Challenge. We have received the news that AGSB are now 1 of 8 schools who will now progress to the final – an amazing achievement.

This week has been Creativity Week and events have included: Art Battles, Pop up Music, debating, Lego League and a Focaccia Art Bread Challenge. Many thanks to our Head of Art – Miss Cooke for co-ordinating.

In music, it was an honour to attend the AGSB Piano recital last week. 30 AGSB pianists took part in the recital and the School value of Resilience was at the core, as the pupils tackled some really quite complex pieces (with great aplomb) throughout the evening in front of a large audience in the Coleman Hall.

Resilience was also central in School assemblies last week. The AGSB Medicine Society co-ordinated a week of fundraising for Altrincham vs Cancer week and the former Provost of Altrincham Tony Collier, delivered an inspirational talk about his battle with cancer having only been given two years to live back in 2017.

You may have noticed that Grammar Schools were, again, part of a negative Press campaign last week – this time by the BBC. Mainly due to our postcode, widening access to disadvantaged pupils is undoubtedly a challenge. However, contrary to the BBC report, opening our doors to more disadvantaged pupils remains a key strategic objective for the School. In 2018, we lowered the 11+ pass mark for disadvantaged pupils by 10; AGSB gives priority to qualifying Pupil Premium (PP) children in our admissions criteria; we invite all Y5 PP pupils from Trafford to a nine-week Exam Familiarisation course and hold an annual Y4 Activities Day for PP pupils. For more information on our Outreach Programme – Horizons, please click on this [link](#).

It has been another busy and successful week in sport with numerous rugby 7's, football, hockey and basketball matches being played.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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Barcelona Football Tour



During the week before half term, our Year 9 football squad travelled to Barcelona on tour.

We played 3 games against 3 local clubs of a really good standard but we played very well against the nice Spanish passing football, especially

considering we played U16 teams.

We also spent some free time on the beach and in the City Centre of Barcelona and enjoyed that a lot. We toured the famous Nou Camp Stadium which was also great. Everything went smoothly and the fantastic efforts of staff and students made for a brilliant tour.

Special mentions go to Koby E, Daniel T, James B and Oscar D for winning their respective awards at our final restaurant meal.



Cameron B (9CO)





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2023 Ski Trip to Austria





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The 2023 Ski Trip travelled once more to Austria after a COVID enforced break in 2021 and 2022. This year we were in the Oberlungau region, skiing at the resorts of Fanningberg and Mauterdorf.

80 students left Altrincham on a Friday morning and I am glad to say that 80 made it back 8 days later.

In that time, beginners had graduated from the nursery 'snowplough' slopes up to the very top of the mountains. They were still snowploughing but this time with a view. Intermediates were parallel turning with skill and speed, whilst the advanced group really focused on speed much to the dismay of the trip leaders.

All this in the beauty of the Austrian alps. I am sure that all who were there will remember it for many years to come. Some may wish to join us again when we return to Austria once more in 2024. Even if that return is just to take part in the traditional Austrian Karaoke. *Mr Brightside* has never before serenaded a restaurant full of dating couples on Valentine's Evening with such gusto.

If any students in Years 7 to 12 do wish to come with us next year, then keep an eye on your emails and SchoolComms in the next wee while.

Mr C Rawson

Head of Chemistry & Ski Trip Leader!



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Altrincham vs Cancer

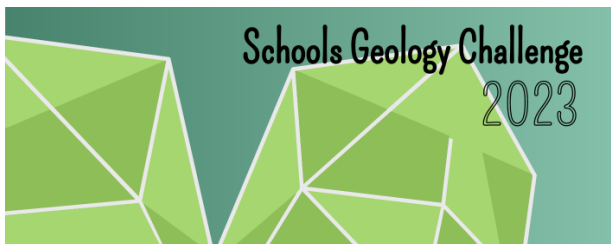


Last week, AGSB took part in **Altrincham vs Cancer**. Morning assemblies have raised awareness informing pupils on the sad reality of cancer - but also how the spread can be prevented with donations and support. AGSB has dedicated the week to fundraising for The Christie Hospital. Many thanks to the AGSB Medicine Society who have done an incredible job of raising awareness of this crucial subject. Thanks also to our great friend, Tony Collier, for his inspirational speeches.

*Mr A Gallamore
Head of Careers*



Geology Challenge



The **Schools Geology Challenge** is a competition where students showcase their interest in geology, learn more about the way geoscience impacts our lives, and put their teamwork and presentation skills to the test!

Many congratulations therefore go to the AGSB Geology team who have, once again, made it through to the Geology Schools Challenge final in London.

*Mr M Parker
Head of Geology*



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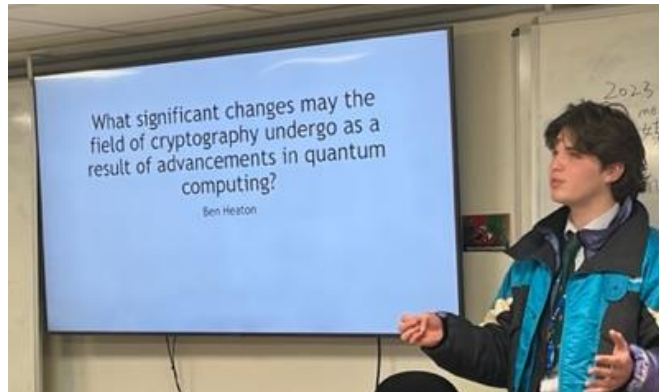
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AGSB Sixth Form



Last week our Y13 students began presenting their EPQ's and will continue to do so over the next couple of weeks.



Well done to Soham and Ben on delivering two excellent presentations on "Framing as a Market Strategy" and "Cryptology". We look forward to many more presentations.

*Mr T Murray
Head of Sixth Form*

Year 12 House Debating Competition



The Year 12 House Debating competition was held last week and the motion was *'THBT: Faith schools have no place in twenty-first century Britain'*. It was one of most engaging and keenly contested competitions we have seen and was ultimately won by the proposition, consisting of Tom R & Jacob R (Stamford) and Hugo S-F & Raphael S (Bradbury). Stamford was awarded first place by virtue of Jacob's robust and well-argued

contributions to the floor debate. The defeated opposition team consisted of Harry R & Will M (Massey) and Labib A & Frankie Mc (Tatton). 'Star Performer' for the opposition was Will M for his measured and perceptive contributions in the floor debate which meant Massey claimed third place.

Thanks to Ms Clark, Mr Sampson, Ms Chapman and Ben B-J (Y13) for judging and to all other staff who came along to support the students. Turnout from across a range of year groups was fantastic and those in the audience asked some excellent questions!

*Mr Croxton
Head of History/Politics*



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Piano Recital Concert



A huge well done to all of our wonderful pianists that performed in the Piano Recital last week. We heard some fantastic pieces of music.

*Mr M Monument
Director of Music*

Creativity Week Activities



This week was Creativity Week in School and we have created different spaces around school where students can showcase their creative talents.

Here are some of our very talented musicians who popped up around school to celebrate the

importance of working collaboratively and creating music together. Thank you for keeping us all entertained!



Focaccia Competition



Thank you so much to the staff and students that entered the focaccia competition for Creativity Week. We had some beautiful entries and the judges Mrs Drake and Nisala G (Y12) found it very difficult to choose the winners!

The results are:

Students - 1st place: Chaitanya K (7OL); 2nd place: Charlie W (7UN) and 3rd place: Asadullah M (8CC)



Teachers - 1st place: Mrs Blakely and 2nd place: Mrs Embleton

*Mrs V Gordon
Food & Nutrition*

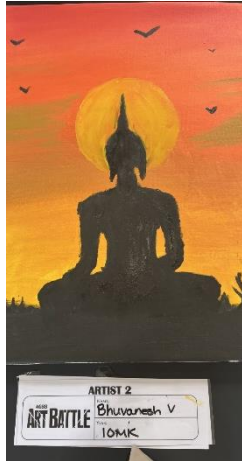




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Battle of the Arts



Well done to all who took part in the Art Battle during Creativity Week. Above are the four worthy winners!

Ms C Clarke
Head of Art



History

Many thanks to Mr Neil Smith, Headteacher at Cheadle Hulme School, who came into school and delivered an excellent talk on the Vietnam War to our Y10 and Y11 Historians this week.

Mr N Croxton
Head of History



UKMT Intermediate Maths' Challenge



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

The results from the first round of the UKMT Intermediate Maths' Challenge are in and AGSB recorded 38 Gold, 12 Silver and 10 Bronze Certificates. The highest scores per year group were achieved by Rohan M (Y9), Dan W-L (Y10) and Alex Y (Y11). Well done to all.



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IEA Budget Challenge



By way of background *"The IEA is the UK's original free-market think-tank, founded in 1955. Our mission is to improve understanding of the fundamental institutions of a free society by analysing and expounding the role of markets in solving economic and social problems"*.

After a very early 7am train to London on Tuesday, we were the only team from anywhere but the South East and proud to be representing the North. As we were the penultimate group, we watched the other schools present their budgets with diverse and interesting proposals put forward. Our presentation went to plan, and the judges seemed to like it. The judges asked questions Mr Smith admitted he would struggle to answer but luckily Zen thought fast and provided a confident answer that seemed correct. The top 8 teams from both semi-finals went through but we weren't to be told until the next day.

Making the most of being in London, we went sightseeing. Places like Big Ben, the London Eye and Buckingham Palace were a short walk. The highlight of the sightseeing was pigeons landing on both Mr Smith and Mrs Newton.

After all day waiting nervously the email came through late on Wednesday night telling us that we were through to the Final. The experience gained from the semi-final has given us confidence that we will be a strong competitor in the Final and can bring it home to Altrincham.

Well done to Harry, James D, Daniel V and Zen K.

Harry Reed (12NW)



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LAMDA at AGSB



We are pleased to announce that over 80 students have signed up for LAMDA lessons after a really successful taster morning. Hannah Bounds, our new LAMDA provider, is excited to get going with lessons from next Wednesday!

Ms C Clark
Drama Co-Ordinator



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World Book Day 2023



It was great to see our English teachers embracing World Book Day this week! Mrs Hildage (top left) was Sherlock Holmes as featured in Y8 Spies & Private Eyes; Mrs Clark (top right) was Lear as featured in A Level set text King Lear; Mrs Mahony (bottom left) was Alice in Wonderland as featured in Y7 Heroes & Villains; Miss Littler (bottom right) was Mrs Sybil Birling as featured in GCSE set text An Inspector Calls, and Mr Keaney (centre) won the prize for the most simple, yet effective, costume as a commanding Inspector Goole!

Well done to all staff who dressed up, the costumes were amazing!

*Mrs C Mahony
Library Co-Ordinator*

GCSE English Literature



Pupils and staff had a great day out at Poetry Live this week. Our Year 11 students heard from the poets they are studying as part of their GCSE English Literature, as well as the lead examiner from AQA.

Pictured is the current Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage.

*Ms E Chapman
English Department & HoY 10*

Study Skills Session for Parents and Carers of Students in Years 11 and 13



Parents and Carers of students in Years 11 and 13 have received a letter from Dr Thomas, Assistant Head (Teaching & Learning) inviting them to attend a Study Skills Session in School on **Tuesday, 7th March at 4.30pm**. This will be delivered by Martin Griffin from the VESPA Academy, a teacher with over 20 years' experience. This session is being run to help Parents and Carers to support their children with their revision and exam preparation. Tickets are FREE but must be booked through Eventbrite so that we have an idea of how many people to expect. If you are interested, please click [**HERE**](#).



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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.



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.



More information can be found [HERE](#)

Ms A Cathcart

Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

GROW – AGSB's Gardening Club Spring Update



Everyone in AGSB's Gardening Club is very excited about the soon arrival of Spring and to celebrate we are going to take part in the RHS Big Seed Sow by holding a Seed Swap at lunchtime on **Monday, 27th March in C7**.

For more information click on this [LINK](#).

So, start digging out all of your old vegetable/flower seed packets at home over the next couple of weeks and bring them along to swap and share. Members of the GROW team will be on hand to offer any advice that you may need about how to get growing and start gardening this Spring.

The GROW team has been busy weeding and adding wheelbarrows full of leaf mould compost to our beds and so far, we have planted onions, garlic, carrots and our potatoes are 'chitting' away nicely, ready to plant before the Easter break. Our wildflower meadow is starting to germinate, and we will be adding more seeds to this area to promote successional flowering throughout the Summer months to encourage bees and butterflies into the garden.

Thank you to everyone who supported our stall at the Christmas Fair and to the PFA for funding our amazing greenhouse which is almost ready to start planting up with tomatoes and salad crops.

Remember everyone is welcome to come along to GROW each Monday lunchtime in the School Garden behind the Music rooms.

Miss Jackson & the GROW team 🌱🌻



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AGSB House Competitions – Last Call to reserve Tickets which are Free!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Monday 13th March 3:30-5pm.
-NOT A HOUSE COMPETITION!
-Two songs per band
-Email Mr Monument by 20th Feb to enter.
-The winning band will also play an encore to close the show.
-Sound check on Friday 10th March @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 20th Feb.
-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.

*There will be bonus house points for the house with the most (loudest) audience members.

Get your FREE tickets here! Submit your entry here!

On Monday, 13th March (3:30pm - 5pm), AGSB will host two competitions combined into one spectacular event. We are looking for entries!

Battle of the Bands and AGSB's Got Talent

Battle of the bands 3:30pm -4:15pm

AGSB's Got Talent 4:15pm - 4:50pm

Results announced at 4:55pm and the winning band will close the show at 5pm.

Tickets are free – but you must reserve one. Click [HERE](#) *Students must book their own tickets.

We are looking to fill the Coleman Hall with pupils to watch this event. **(Parents and Carers may come too!).**

*There will be bonus House points for the House with the most (loudest) audience members.

AGSB's Got Talent - A House Competition!

Have you got a talent? Open entries to the competition, House points awarded for every entry.

Upload an audition video [HERE](#) by Monday, 20th February.

House Managers will select two performances per house to perform at the show.

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 maximum of one traditional music performance per House at the actual show.

There will be a winner for each of the separate competitions which will be decided by an online vote at the end!

Battle of the Bands – Not a House competition

Each band will play two songs to open the show and students should enter by e-mailing Mr Monument as soon as possible, or by Monday, 20th February.

The winning band will also play an encore to close the show.

There will be a sound check on Friday 10th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm. Bands must be represented at this sound check.

Bands of all age and abilities will be accepted.

Mr M Soulsby

Assistant Head (Development)



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AGSB Sports

Football



Great 4-3 win for our Year 11 Football team in the Trafford Cup vs Blessed Thomas Holford CC on Wednesday this week.

Rugby

Knocked out in the Quarter-Finals of the Birkenhead 7's – we would have liked to have progressed further but can't knock the boys' efforts. Well done to all involved.



Sporting Achievements

Well done to Ronjay R (10AS) who has been selected for the Cheshire County team to play in the U18 Division 1 County Cup Tennis Tournament in Bath in March. We wish him every success.

Congratulations to both Jamie R (13CU) and Alex V (12SM) who have both qualified for the British Swimming Championships which take place during the Easter holidays, great news.

Noel A (11RW) ran 56 miles during the month of February and raised a total of £200 for Cancer Research UK which is a fantastic achievement.



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Noticeboard for Parents



We have been asked to help local churches and faith groups in the area to support the people seeking asylum and who are living in the Ashley Hotel in Hale. At present there are 127 people in the Hotel - 60 adults and 67 children and young people - from around 15 countries.

Care UK - who provide a similar service in a number of hotels in Manchester and South Manchester - have agreed to help the people at the Ashley Hotel on the basis that we help them locally by collecting the things that are needed. There is an urgent demand for clothing for teenagers generally but more particularly, for boys and young men - many people seeking asylum arrive with only the clothes that they are wearing. We have therefore decided to reach out to the School Community in the hope that we can help.

Teenagers' clothing which is needed the most is for boys aged 13 to 19 and girls from size 6 to 12, for example pyjamas, dressing gowns, slippers, new underwear, Winter/Summer dresses, vests and socks, jeans, jumpers, T-shirts, football kits, warm coats, cagoules, wellies, trainers/shoes. A list has been sent out to Parents and Carers so please do refer to this.

Please do not bring in items which are not on the list as this will slow up the process of meeting people's immediate needs.

If you are able to help, please send in your clothing donations to School. There will be large "bins" in the Reception area where donations can be left.



TfGM have advised us they have been made aware that the morning bus service 751 has been following the wrong route in Cheadle Hulme.

On some mornings the bus has additionally served the turning circle by the Pointing Dog on Grove Lane which has led to some confusion and complaints from parents. They have now clarified the route with Stagecoach who have confirmed that the bus will be following its correct route from Monday (from Gillbent Road, right on to St James' Way).



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AGSB Website



Just a reminder for Parents and Carers that there are lots of useful links and information contained on our website, both curricular and extra-curricular, so please don't forget to check this from time to time to keep up to date with what's going on. You can access everything [HERE](#).

Forthcoming dates for March and April 2023

Mon 06.03.2023 – Mon 13.03.2023

Tue 07.03.2023

Thurs 09.03.2023

Fri 10.03.2023 – Thurs 16.03.2023

Fri 10.03.2023

Mon 13.03.2023 & Tue 14.03.2023

Mon 13.03.2023

Mon 13.03.2023 & Tue 14.03.2023

Fri 17.03.2023

Sat 18.03.2023

Tue 21.03.2023 – Fri 31.03.2023

Thurs 23.03.2023

Wed 29.03.2023 – Fri 31.03.2023

Wed 29.03.2023

Mon 03.04.2023 – Fri 14.04.2023

Mon 17.04.23

Tue 18.04.23 – 28.04.2023

Y13 Geology Fieldwork Trip to Cyprus

Y11 & Y13 Parents' Revision Skills Workshop 4.30pm

Spring Concert @ 7pm

Spanish Exchange (Spanish Students to AGBS)

Own Clothes Day with a difference! *Students may come to School wearing clothes or an item of clothing that represents their culture, however, choices must be respectful.*

Islamic Society Asian Food Sale 12.20pm

AGSB'S Got Talent & Battle of the Bands 3.30pm

Asian Food Sale

Own Clothes Day for Turkey/Syria Earthquake Fund

Senior Rugby Fundraiser Tour Pie & Pint 12-7.30pm

Y10 Exams

Y12 Parents' Evening

Y7 PGL Adventure Trip to Yorkshire

Senior Sports Awards Evening

School Closed for the Easter Holidays

School Re-Opens for the Summer Term

Year 12 Exams

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS.
Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

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