

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

23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you were able to have an enjoyable break. I would firstly like to thank all staff (and students) who were involved in the Football Tour to Barcelona and the Ski trip to Austria. In this day and age, any overseas trip is a huge undertaking, however, for all who attended I am sure that the experience will be lodged in their memory for many years to come.

There has been a good deal of academic enrichment taking place this term. We have recently enjoyed great success in the Physics Olympiad, Maths UKMT, English Speaking Union, MUN, Schools' Geology Competition, MFL Languagenut, Oxford Practical Ethics Challenge and the Cambridge Biology Challenge. Well done to all students who have taken part, it's fantastic that so many students are making the most of these stretch and challenge opportunities.

It promises to be another action packed six weeks in the AGSB co-curricular programme with a huge amount of sport, music, drama, clubs, societies and House events planned. There really is 'something for everyone' at AGSB.

Uniform/Dress Code

I am very pleased overall with the way our students wear their uniform or fulfil the Sixth Form dress code; in the most, shirts are tucked in, and top buttons fastened, however, improvements can be made:

- Some students are choosing to wear trainers rather than a black school shoe. To avoid debate, if
 your son is wearing trainers, please provide him with a note to confirm medical evidence that
 trainers are necessary. Shoes should be proper shoes and black, for all years.
- Should an extra layer be required, it should be a black or grey V-neck jumper. Quarter zips are
 not part of the School uniform or Sixth Form Dress Code. Mid-layers, in school branding or
 otherwise, are part of the sports kit, not the uniform or Sixth Form Dress Code. (Please see image
 overleaf for clarification).

A 'tight' uniform policy prevents a lot of wasted time and avoids unnecessary confrontation. I hope I can count on your support should your son be challenged over uniform infractions and, ideally, please have these conversations before he leaves for school.

Mobile Phones

You may be aware that last week, the Government published new guidance for schools on managing the use of mobile phones. The amount of time that some children – and adults for that matter – spend on mobile phones is concerning because it can amount to addictive behaviour and is often accompanied by access to completely inappropriate and damaging material. AGSB, like many schools, has a robust policy already in place here. We are not in favour of banning phones for the whole school day as they can be useful resources for learning in the classroom. However, at AGSB mobile phones should never be seen or heard outside of the classroom/6th Form Centre. If they are, they will be confiscated.



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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright Head Master

School Uniform Reminder

All students are expected to wear a v neck jumper – sweatshirts, zipped tops and hoodies are not permitted in School. Boys should also be wearing black shoes rather than black trainers.















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Chinese Cultural Immersion Day







What an amazing Chinese Cultural Immersion Day we had before half-term. All sessions were enjoyed thoroughly by Year 7.

Many thanks to Mrs Ding, Frau Chapman and all staff who made this event possible.

Sodexo Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year

Vegetable Chow Mein
Crispy Chicken Szechuan with Egg Fried Rice
Char Siu Beef with Broccoli & Pepper with Egg
Fried Rice
Vegetable Spring Rolls
Prawn Crackers

Sodexo entered into the spirit and celebrated Chinese New Year before half-term and the students were able to buy Chinese food at lunchtime which they all enjoyed!



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ACE Programme

Many thanks to Andy Bernard who delivered a thoughtprovoking lecture to Year 12 students on domestic violence as part of the 6th Form ACE Programme.

Mr A Sampson
Teacher of PSHE & ACE Co-Ordinator



Higher Education Evening for Parents and Carers



There was a fantastic turn out for the Year 12 Higher Education evening before half-term.

Many thanks to Mr Murray (Head of 6th Form) for organising.

Model United Nations

The AGSB Model United Nations team had a great weekend before half-term. Many thanks to Manchester High School for Girls for hosting.

Special congratulations go to Issa and Rey for being highly commended in their groups.







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Trafford Schools Anti-Racism Alliance (TARA)



AGSB gave a very warm welcome to students from Altrincham College, Urmston Grammar School and St Ambrose College to the inaugural meeting of the Trafford Schools Anti-Racism Alliance (TARA).

The students were discussing and celebrating culture and ethnic diversity within schools in Trafford.

Languagenut Competition

This year's Languagenut competition was extremely fierce! Over 180,000 students in the UK were competing to complete as many vocabulary learning activities as they could in two weeks.

AGSB came 1st out of 1,850 schools worldwide and we had 4 students in the UK top 10. For context, each activity consisted of approximately 10 words to learn, and each successful activity came with between 1000-5000 points. Our overall winner, Jayden N (pictured), scored over 14 000 000 points! Congratulations to all of our students who worked so hard to learn so much vocabulary.



Frau Chapman
Head of Languages

Oxford University Practical Ethics Competition



Five Philosophy students in Year 12 - Noel A, Oliver M, Joshua M, Rahul P and Jake S - entered the Uehiro Centre's Practical Ethics and Responsibility competition.

The competition, set up by the University of Oxford, required students to film a video answering a question surrounding applied ethics. The five students submitted a video answering the question 'Is a bad upbringing an excuse



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for crime?', for which they have been placed in the top seven teams of the country for their entry. Well done for their brilliant achievement.

Mr A Sampson Teacher of Philosophy

Successful AGSB Oxbridge Applicants



(L-R back row: Gautham R; James D; Will M; Joe C; Tom R; Zain J; Vikash J; Ibrahim J; (L-R front row: Liheng S; Alex V; Rohan Mc; Jacob R; Aiyush G; Naeem Y; Elliot Y

Congratulations to the 16 AGSB students who have received offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge in this year's round of applications. The offers have been made across eleven different subjects ranging from Philosophy, English and History to Medicine and Earth Sciences.

Well done also to Year 14 student, Adi C who has had an offer from Cambridge to read English.

Mr T Murray Head of 6th Form





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Year 8 Trip to the Gurdwara Education & Cultural Centre



Over the last few weeks, Year 8 have embarked on a Philosophy and Ethics trip to the Sri Gobind Singh Gurdwara Education and Cultural Centre in Whalley Range.

The students were welcomed by our guide, and shown the customary way of entering a Gurwara, by removing their shoes, covering their heads, and washing their hands. The students were then taken to the main prayer hall, in which they enjoyed a presentation on the beliefs and practices of Sikhism. Throughout the day, Year 8 were given the chance to ask any questions about Sikhism, which resulted in some profound questioning of our guide, whose answers gave the students a deep understanding of the faith.



Mr A Sampson Teacher of Philosophy

Finally, students were lucky enough to be sent to the Langar - the free communal kitchen of the Gurdwara - for their lunch, which went down so well students were queuing for seconds.

Many thanks to the Sri Gobind Singh Gurdwara Education and Cultural Centre for hosting us and welcoming our students so warmly. Thank you to the students for representing AGSB so brilliantly, and a big thank you to those members of staff who accompanied Year 8.



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Action for Humanity – Feed the Homeless Project



The AGSB Islamic Society recently took part in the "Action for Humanity - Feed The Homeless Project" despite the cold and wet weather last week.

The group of 12 boys fed over 50 homeless people with bags of hot food, snacks and drinks.

As well as the hot food, more importantly they offered the homeless people, empathy, kindness and a listening ear.

A very big thank you and well done to everyone involved.



EconplusDal – The Journey to Economics Mastery



On Friday 9th February, we had the privilege to watch an economics masterclass, on a visit to Alderley Edge School for Girls, provided by the fantastic EconPlusDal. He has over 250,000 subscribers on YouTube and is a staple in the lives of all A Level economics students, so everyone was super excited to meet him, especially Mrs Newton!!

He gave inspiring advice on exam

techniques and different topics in the course. We played a series of games where our school thrived, especially James D who was brought up to the front to receive special praise from EconPlusDal and an applause from the audience. Everybody gained an abundance of new skills and knowledge and EconPlusDal was a great guy who even had lunch with us as we discussed his internet fame.



Overall, it was a fantastic trip and very valuable.

Harry R and Yusuf R 13NW



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UKMT Maths Challenge



In January, 60 enthusiastic mathematicians from Years 9, 10 and 11 were selected to participate in the Intermediate UKMT Mathematics Challenge.

This one-hour exam tests their mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills in a tense race against the clock.

Altogether, our incredible students achieved 40 Gold, 11 Silver, 6 Bronze and 2 Certificates of Participation.

Special congratulations to Danwei L (11JM) who achieved full marks in the challenge! Good luck to all of those who qualified for the follow-on rounds in March.

Try one of their questions for yourself: "The ages of Grannie's seven grandchildren are consecutive positive integers. The youngest three grandchildren have a mean age of 6. What is the mean age of the oldest three grandchildren?"

Pictured: All of Mr Ayebare's amazing Year 11 students who participated were awarded Gold certificates

Mrs B McCann Second in Maths Department



Old Altrinchamiar



Congratulations to Old Alt, Max McGuire, who has won a Grammy award for his part in creating the music for a blockbuster Star Wars video game, fantastic achievement! Max left the School in 2012 having studied Music at GSCE and A-Level at before going on to study music production at the Leeds College of Music, now known as Leeds Conservatoire.

Max has run his own production company, Metronomic Studios, since his college days but his big break came when he connected with Lead composer Stephen Barton, an established composer originally from Preston who has worked on dozens of major film, television and video game projects.

We look forward to following Max's career over the next few years!



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AGSB Annual House Talent Show/Battle of the Bands



Congratulations to everyone who took part in the AGSB House Talent Show, there were some fantastic performances! Well done also to the Bands that competed in the Battle of the Bands, especially the runners up, Year 7's Armada Band and the 2024 winners, The Hartley's!

A great event which was enjoyed by both students, parents and staff and thanks to everyone who came along to watch!

Mr M Soulsby Assistant Head (Development)



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Vespa Academy Study Skills Workshop for Parents of Year 11 & Year 13 Students

Don't forget to book your **FREE** Tickets for the Study Skills Session for Parents of Year 11 and 13 students on **Tuesday, 27**th **February at 4.30pm here in School.** Martin Griffin will explore five key non-cognitive skills – vision, effort, systems, practice and attitude – and share tools and strategies for their effective development, discussing strategies for embedding a culture that focuses on the development of non-cognitive learning skills at KS4 and KS5.



TICKETS can be booked by clicking on this LINK.

Dr E Thomas
Assistant Head (Teaching & Learning)

House Debating Competition



The AGSB Debate season opened well with the motion "THBT Corporate Sponsorship is good for the Arts".

Both teams were equally matched with some interesting points put across. The overall winners were the Proposition (Red team) comprised of Massey and Stamford.

Star performers today were Hamza Z (Stamford) in his role as seconder, delivering a well-crafted closing statement and Alfie B (Tatton) in his role as

Responder who was able to give detailed responses to questions as well as linking back well to the main points made. Congratulations!

A reminder that Debating Society is every Monday in E1 and open to all. The next House Competition debate will be Year 11 on Thursday 7th March so please get your names in to your House Leaders if you'd like to take part.

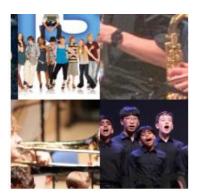
Thank you to Isaac J (Chair); Ben C (Timekeeper), Mr Stroud, Mr Harrison and Jacob R (judges) and everyone who came to support. Particular thanks to those who asked excellent questions in the audience today.

Mrs C Mahony Teacher of English and Library Co-Ordinator



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AGSB Spring Concert



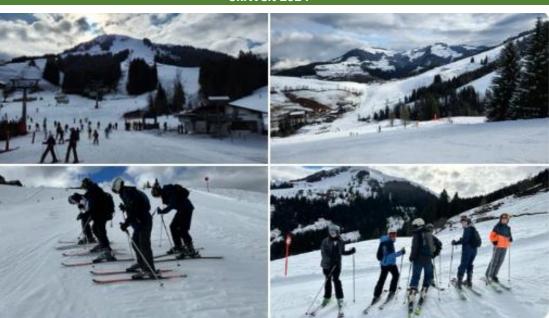
Tickets are now available to purchase for the forthcoming AGSB Spring Concert on **Friday 8**th **March 2024**, which takes place in the Coleman Hall at AGSB. The concert starts at 7pm and will finish at approximately 10pm. Doors open at 6.40pm. Refreshments will be available on the night. To purchase tickets, please click on this **LINK**. Prices are £6 for an adult and £2 for children.

The Spring Concert will feature our School Big Band, Concert Band, Intermediate Jazz Ensemble, String Orchestra, Staff Choir, School Choir

as well as a number of Musical Theatre pieces. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Mr M Monument Director of Music

SkiWelt 2024



Austria is a long way by coach but on Friday 9th February, 50 students and 6 staff set off on a ski trip. Quite some time later we arrived at the resort! After ski fitting on the Sunday, the students began six days of lessons.

The best group to watch is the beginners group. They go from being unable to tighten their boots on Sunday, to tackling red runs in the space of just one week and their progress is extraordinary. This was down to the high quality of instruction from our team of six instructors. As one student said, "There is something great about being in the mountains learning or improving a new skill".

The weather was glorious for most of the trip with warm afternoons and clear blue skies. The conditions in the morning were good with a massive ski area to explore.



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Evening activities included a night of bowling and a bespoke quiz night organised by Miss Farrelly and Miss Callisto. Mr Cummins entertained each night with his customary round up of the day.

Congratulations and thanks to all the staff and students for a great week. They are a credit to the School and made for a hugely enjoyable week.

For those who are interested, the plan is to return to a different resort in Austria next year to do it all again. Information will be coming out in the next couple of weeks.

Mr C Rawson
Trip Leader and Head of Chemistry

Year 9 Football Trip to Barcelona

During the week before half term, the Year 9 football team were privileged to go on a football tour to Barcelona.



in the intense Spanish heat. That afternoon, we spent a few hours visiting the Camp Nou, where we had a chance to buy original FC Barcelona merchandise. Unfortunately, the stadium was undergoing renovation, but we were still able to experience the Barcelona immersive tour, which proved to be very popular. Dinner that evening was followed by a closely competitive Quiz Night,

We had a fun training session on the first morning

which was won by only two points.

On Wednesday, we walked around the City Centre of Barcelona with our tour guide, which included taking in the sights of historical streets, gothic architecture, and political buildings; we also celebrated the birthdays of our two players, Ehsan and Eric.

That evening was our first match coming up against the local Castelldefels FC. The small stature of most of their players meant their technical ability was immaculate, however, with the constant high pressure from Isaac, Daniyal and the midfield, along with the brick wall that stood as our defence, we won the second half comfortably, scoring 4 to round up a 6-2 win. The B team on the other hand, were not so lucky, coming up against





a team a year older. Much to their credit, spirits on both teams remained positive.



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On our final day, the morning started with another walk to the beach in recovery for our final match of the tour. It was an early game, scheduled for the early afternoon against the British School of Barcelona. Arriving at the same location as our A team game the previous night, the A team would play first as we came up against a tough midfield and a defence of comfortable passers. Despite starting strong, getting caught on the counter would be our demise. We fought back, as we did in the first game, with the score fluctuating until the first half ended 2-1 to BSB. The second half was one to watch, end-to-end, comebacks, penalties and disallowed goals made for a spectacular end to our tour. An early free kick from David equalised early on in the half which was cancelled out by

BSB's strong attack. 4-2 to the home side. A goal from Philip's speed – as always – would bring one back and BSB would regain their two-goal cushion from the penalty spot. Once again, the team's fight and spirit came on display, as the ultimate goal of the tour from Philip came late on, followed by another free kick, this time catching the keeper off guard. 5-5. A tap-in only a minute later from Isaac would be disallowed

for offside, and the game ended in a draw.

Special honours go to Joe B, Frank B, Philip S and Ehsan A for winning their respective awards; and much appreciation for Mr Smyth, Mr Cammack and Mr Bailey for providing such a class experience for us all, making for a brilliant tour which we all enjoyed.













David C 9MH



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AGSB Sports

Hockey



Our U18 Hockey squad go through to the next round of the National Cup! AGSB came away 4-2 winners in testing weather against a strong King's Macclesfield side. Well done to all involved!

Table Tennis



Well done to AGSB's U19 Table Tennis team who are through to the Regional Finals. Isaac was the only true U19 but he was well supported by the U16 team, all playing up to take the School through!

Sporting Achievements

Well done to Finlay D (12BN) (right) who has been selected to represent Greater Manchester at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in March in Yorkshire. Good luck Finlay!





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(Left) Congratulations to Elijah C (8FA) who recently participated in the Rising Stars swimming Gala and came in first for backstroke, taking almost 5 seconds off his PB, and came in second for breaststroke, freestyle and butterfly. He had 4 PBS. Well done Elijah!

Right) Congratulations to Rugby players Cameron, Ivor, Oscar and Ollie

who have made it through to the next stage of the Sale Sharks U14 DPP.





(Left) Well done to Brian Z (7CE) who took part in the English Alpine Championships recently in Bormio, Italy. This is England's premier Alpine event and is the biggest English week of Alpine ski racing on the calendar.

Brian entered the finals with the 15th place, second from the bottom. He fought his way through the finals, ultimately losing to the French competitor who ranked first place in the qualifying rounds, securing the third position in the end. Brian also participated in the Slalom Race and Giant Slalom race, achieved 12th and 19th place respectively. Great achievement Brian.

AGSB PFA Curry & Quiz Night - Tickets can still be bought up to 26th February



The deadline has been extended to Monday, 26th February for Parents and Carers to buy tickets for the AGSB Curry and Quiz Night on **Wednesday, 28th February 2024.** Doors open at 7pm for a 7.15pm start. Food will be served promptly at 7.15pm.

As usual, we will have a paid-for bar available selling a range of drinks plus hot and cold beverages.

Everyone is welcome – parents, carers, family, friends, students and staff. The ticket price is £12.50 per head (£5 discount for AGSB students and staff), which includes chicken or vegetarian curry with rice (plain pilau which is also vegetarian) and naan. The chicken is halal.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

AGSB PFA



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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.

You can find out more about Sixth Form Bursary support <u>here</u>.

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



Trafford Sleep Services

Sleep is something that we all take for granted, it is only when we don't get a good night's sleep that we realise how important it is for our health and wellbeing.

Sleep problems are very common in children, especially children with SEND. Every child is different and each family has its own needs and preferred parenting styles, but if you want to make changes to how your child sleeps, Trafford are offering a Sleep Service Webinar for Parents and Carers, details of which can be found here: Trafford Directory | * Trafford Sleep Services.



Trafford Digital Skills Training Course



Trafford are working hard to deliver hyperlocal, accredited digital skills training for unemployed residents of Trafford and have partnered with an adult education provider to deliver incentivised courses in the community, incentivising learning with shopping vouchers and devices.

They are running a digital skills course from Altrincham Library starting on the 26th February and anyone interested should email skills@trafford.gov.uk to reserve a place. You can also call or text 07971 0344641.



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Thank You to the PFA



New table tennis tables are now in position in each yard (including the 6th Form). Students need to remember to bring their own bats and balls!

Many thanks to the PFA for their continued support.

'Pie and Pint' Six Nations Rugby Event on Saturday, 16th March

Every year the AGSB PE Department run an event to raise money for the Senior Rugby and Hockey tour. This Summer they will be travelling to South Africa to experience the sport and the culture.

The attached flyer for 'Pie and Pint' is an event we run in order to raise money to further add to the boys' experience. We will be showing all 3 Six Nations Rugby games on the big screen as well as serving up pies along with a bar service.

We do expect all rugby players to purchase a ticket but would also love to see as many parents, carers, friends and family members in attendance also.

Tickets can be purchased from the PE Office at a cost of £15 for an adult and £10 per child.

Many thanks for your continued support for sport at AGSB.

The PE Dept



Altrincham vs Cancer Campaign



This year, we will be partnering up with the OddBalls Foundation to raise money to spread awareness about testicular cancer and support those suffering from it.

Testicular cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer for males in the UK aged 15 to 45 and we felt inspired to raise awareness and overcome the stigmas associated with it.



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Next week, we will be holding the ever-popular Teacher Sumo Wrestling Competition on Wednesday, 28th February in the Peel Hall at lunchtime.

We will also have a guest speaker, Af Marseh, who will be giving a talk during form time on Friday, 1st March to raise awareness and to advise students on how to self-examine for testicular cancer.



This will also be an Own Clothes Day on **Friday**, **1**st **March** and there is a suggested donation of £2 to support our cause, payable via ParentPay.

Many thanks for your support.

AGSB MedSoc

Noticeboard for Parents

Change to the School Day from April

As you may recall, we wrote to you back in September 2023 to advise that we would be changing the School day on one day per week to allow for regular and focused CPD sessions for our staff.

This change will be implemented in the Summer Term from week commencing 15th April (immediately after the Easter Holidays) as follows:

Thursday	
08.40am - 09.25am	Staff Training
09.25am – 10.20am	Period 1 – Students arrive and go straight to their first lesson
10.20am – 11.15am	Period 2
11.15am – 11.35am	Break
11.35am – 12.30pm	Period 3
12.30pm – 13.30pm	Lunch
13.30pm – 14.25pm	Period 4
14.25pm – 15.20pm	Period 5

This therefore means that students should only arrive at School every Thursday in time to go straight to Period 1 at 9.25am.



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Calendar Dates

Remember to keep an eye on our School Calendar for information on upcoming events.



Forthcoming Key Dates are:

★ 28.02.2024: PFA Curry & Quiz Night – 7pm Stamford Hall

★ 29.02.2024: Y9 Parents' Evening – 4.30pm

* 01.03.24: Own Clothes Day for Altrincham vs Cancer Charity

★ 04.03.2024 & 05.03.2024: Asian Food Sale – 12.20pm in the Coleman Hall
 ★ 05.03.2024: Spanish Exchange Trip – Spanish Students to AGSB

★ 08.03.2024: Spring Concert – 7pm in the Coleman Hall

★ 11.03.2024 – 18.03.2024: Geology Fieldtrip to Cyprus

★ 12.03.2024: Y12 Physics Trip to Daresbury Laboratory

★ 14.03.2024: Piano Recital Concert – 7pm in the Coleman Hall
 ★ 14.03.2024: School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Training

★ 16.03.2024: Six Nations Pie & Pint – 12.30pm in the Stamford Hall

18.03.2024 – 20.03.2024:
 Y7 PGL Adventure Trip to Shropshire
 18.03.2024:
 Y12 Trip to Cambridge Conference

* 19.03.2024 – 28.03.2024: Y10 Exams

★ 21.03.2024: Y12 Parents' Evening

★ 25.03.2024 – 27.03.2024: Y11 Geology Trip to Ecton Mine Trust, Derbyshire

28.03.2024 – 03.04.2024: Biology Trip to Orlando Florida
 28.03.2024: School Closes for Easter Holidays

Friday, 1st March - Fundraising for Altrincham vs Cancer Thursday, 28th March - Fundraising for 'Youth for Good' Friday, 3rd May - Fundraising for Unity Through Charity

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











^{**}Reminder of Forthcoming Non-Uniform Dates**