

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

19th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we come to the end of this half of term, I would just like to express my sincere thanks to all AGSB students for their dedication and hard work across the last six weeks. Year 7 students have all settled in very well indeed and I hope are now flourishing at AGSB. Thank you to our 6th Form students for welcoming those new boys into school and to staff for their support of each and every student in our care.

In assemblies over the past two weeks, we have celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week and National Poetry Week. Our newly trained Mental Health Champions (MHC) delivered an excellent presentation on mental health and marketed a new initiative at AGSB – The Wellbeing Hub. Every Monday to Thursday our MHC and Wellbeing Ambassadors will be manning the Head of Year room during lunchtime. If any students are finding things difficult, the support team at AGSB can help them find all sorts of advice on how to best manage any troubles they may be experiencing mentally. To read Mr Hall's recent communication on Mental Health Support at AGSB, please click here.

Thank you also to Mr Davies (Head of English) and his team for 'lighting up' the Coleman Hall with some amazingly poignant poetry throughout this week.

On the academic front, aspirations amongst the current Sixth Form are running high with the usual high number of priority UCAS applications for Oxbridge and medical courses already submitted. Although the competition for such courses is always fierce, our candidates are starting from a position of strength after their outstanding GCSE results last year.

In the co-curricular programme, the sheer range of opportunities on offer is astounding, from the Law Society and Musical Theatre Society to Warhammer Club and Esports, there really is 'something for everyone' at AGSB. In sport, it has been a stellar six weeks with some excellent victories and performances across a range of sports including football, rugby, hockey, cross country, table tennis, tennis and badminton. Finally, in drama, Jacob R (Head Prefect) produced, directed and acted an outstanding play called Bacchae - based on mythological events from around 2000BC.

As I write, final preparations are being put into place for our annual GCSE Awards Evening which will be held in the Coleman Hall this evening.

Dates for your Diary:

On the 1st and 2nd November, we welcome Year 11 Parents and Carers for our first (virtual) Parents' Evening of the year. Parents and Carers are also invited to one of the seminal events of the House calendar: The 'House Shout' which takes place on 31st October and we are hugely excited to announce that our School production, "West Side Story" will take place on 22nd, 23rd, and 24th November – tickets are now available.

Please accept my warm best wishes for the Half Term break ahead.

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright, Head Master



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History & Politics Society



Well done to Year 13 students, Nat Mc and Hugo S-F for delivering an intriguing presentation on the Cold War to a packed classroom last week!

Dr Kathy Weston - Webinar



Many thanks to Dr Kathryn Weston (founder of Tooled Up Education) for delivering a fantastic webinar for parents and carers last week. We had some excellent feedback from you saying how enlightening this was.

Dr Weston took parents on a journey through the evidence relating to children's resilience and mental health and discussed the small things that we can do at home so that our children thrive in all aspects of their lives. She also discussed the challenges that children have faced following the pandemic, particular

issues relating to boys, and explained how parents can boost their emotional, academic and digital resilience moving forward.

Mental Health Ambassadors

Following on from her presentation to Year 12 students recently on becoming a Mental Health Ambassador, last week the newly appointed Mental Health Champions took part in a full day of training with Ms Liz Copeland from LCT.

The boys all agreed they learned so much.

Mental Health Support

If you are finding things difficult, the support team at AGSB can help you find all sorts of advice on how to best manage any troubles you may be experiencing mentally. **CLICK HERE** to read a letter from Mr Hall.





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Black History Month 2023



Many thanks to the amazing Anti-racism Ambassadors who led Assemblies during Black History Month 2023.

This year, their focus is on Celebrating Black Women from the STEM field (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics).

Year 12 Public Speaking House Competition



A very challenging debate was held on *THBT*: Zero is a concept and not a natural number. Some excellent debates on both sides, particularly effective this time was how many were able to speak "off-script" and we were treated to some excellent rhetorical devices! The motion was won by the

Proposition with star speakers – Jafar B who was highlighted for his brilliant presentation and polished performance - and Isaac J for his, well, comedic value as well as being able to make some points!

Star performer on the Opposition was Abhi, praised for his initial questions as well as his natty blue suit.

Overall the judges were impressed with the argument and the research and Piyush was singled-out for having started to explore the impact of the difference between Eastern and Western inventions of maths.

Thank you to this week's judging panel, Nat Mc, Hugo S, Mrs Chancellor and Mr Haimes. Thanks also to Jacob R for Chairing, Mrs Marson for hosting and to everyone who came to support. This week's results: 4th Bradbury; 3rd Tatton; 2nd Massey; 1st Stamford.

Mrs C Mahony

Teacher of English and Library Co-Ordinator

AGSB Food & Nutrition

This month the Food & Nutrition Department held the FutureChef School heats. The brief for students was to make two courses for under £5. We have to say that the dishes that were made were of an excellent



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standard. Chief judge, Mr Flanagan, tasted each dish and on the final day was joined by the Head Master to make the final judging decisions.

The winners were Y11 GCSE students Owais B and Harry C who will go through to the local final to be held at Manchester Catering College in Harpurhey in November. Their dishes showed excellent skills, including portioning whole chickens, making pasta from scratch and then shaping into ravioli and tortellini.

Many thanks to all who took part and well done to Owais, Harry, Joseph S 9CD (3rd) and Asadulla M 9 CC (4th). Below is a selection of the fantastic dishes which were served up!



Mrs V Gordon Food & Nutrition Department



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Philosophy House Competition



After four excellent presentations each attempting to answer the question 'Who is the most significant Philosopher of all time', Leo B from Stamford came first with his brilliant presentation on Zeno, the father of Stoicism.

The results are: 1st: Leo B (Stamford); 2nd: Yuvan V (Massey); 3rd: Arnav N (Bradbury); 4th: Jeremy J (Tatton)

Thank you to all the competitors for some really

academic talks and thank you to all audience members for some excellent questions. A further thanks for the library staff for hosting our competition and for Dr Hepden, Mr Haimes and Mr Croxton for judging.

Mr A Sampson
Teacher of Philosophy/ACE Co-Ordinator

AGSB Art



This week in Open Studio (Art Club every Tuesday) students have been exploring their posca pen skills.

Pictured left, Arthur S (7CR) is very impressed with his design!

Miss F Cooke Head of Art

A Performance of 'Bacchae'

It was a great privilege to attend the AGSB official production of Bacchae written by the Athenian tragedian Euripides.

A play based on mythological events from around 2000 BCE. Many congratulations to all involved and a special mention goes to the Director and actor, Head Prefect Jacob R!

Thank you to all Parents, Carers and staff who bought tickets.



Head Master



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House Leaders Meeting



Last week in the Old Library, House leaders from across all Year Groups met for lunch which was followed by a series of leadership tasks.

House Photography Competition



2023 House Photography Competition: "Interesting patterns"

Calling all budding Photographers! We are again running the House Photography Competition 2023 and students and staff are invited to submit their entries. Photographs must be based the

theme, "Interesting patterns" and the competition is open to how you interpret the category.

Please note the Competition rules are as follows:

- You must take the photograph yourself and upload the original file to the online form.
- WhatsApp and other Social Media apps are not permitted as they do not show the camera used.
- You can only submit one image.
- Images cannot include photographs of people who can be identified.
- Your image must not be manipulated/photoshopped, however, images may be tweaked to enhance colour or cropped to enhance the image.
- Images must be submitted on or before the 30th October 2023 and must be in one of the following formats:
 - JPG/JPEG
 - ➤ HEIC
 - ➤ BMP
 - PNG

Do not upload Word files, PDF, PowerPoint etc, it must be the original file shot on your camera/phone.

FINALLY, entries can be submitted HERE

Good luck!

Mr D Smith

Teacher of Electronics & Computer Science



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Guest Speakers

On Tuesday, 10th October, we invited Emma Cole into school from 'Positive Voice' to talk to Year 13 about HIV. Emma led a fascinating talk, which centred on her story of living with HIV since the early 1990's.

Through this lens, Year 13 were able to understand the reality of the disease, and not what the stigma may lead people to believe. After regaling Year 13 with her experiences, the students had a chance to ask Emma about her life and HIV, which resulted in some powerful and thoughtful questions.



A big thank you to Emma for coming into school and thank you to Year 13 for their openness and maturity.

Mr A Sampson Teacher of Philosophy/ACE Co-Ordinator



It was fantastic to welcome Dr Ikram Butt & Junaid Malik to AGSB this week. Ikram is the first British Asian Rugby Player dual international, playing rugby league for England and union for Pakistan.

Junaid is a dual amateur international and we are grateful for his inspirational words.

Model United Nations



Well done to the AGSB MUN team who enjoyed another excellent Model United Nations Conference at Cheadle Hulme School recently.



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AGSB Geology

Our first AGSB Geological Society meeting took place last week with Talks from Ed and Rohan about carbon capture and sequestration.

Mr M Parker Head of Geology



GCSE Awards Evening – Thursday, 19th October 2023



We are pleased to announce that our Guest Speaker for the GCSE Prize Giving event in School tonight is Mr Drew Povey.

Drew Povey has over twenty years' professional experience in multi-sector executive-level leadership across a wide range of sectors including Elite sport, Corporate, Non-Profit and Government/Public settings. This extensive experience has afforded Drew a comprehensive leadership viewpoint and an ability to catapult leaders both personally and professionally. Drew is continually exploring and developing the latest thinking and practice. He works

with leaders and organisations to empower and best prepare individuals, teams and whole organisations for this ever-changing world in which we live.

Co-Curricular Enrichment at AGSB



We have recently been highlighting the benefits of co-curricular enrichment in Assemblies and through 'Thought For The Week'. Co-curricular enrichment is a very important aspect of life in any school, but especially here at AGSB.

We recently completed an audit of

what opportunities we have at AGSB and I hope you agree, the findings were very impressive. We are proud to be able to offer a vast variety and volume of provision.

For more information regarding our Co-curricular provision for 2023/24 please click on this LINK.

Mr M Soulsby Assistant Head (Development)



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AGSB Immersion Trip to Nice, France



As the AGSB French Riviera adventure came to an end at the weekend, there were so many memories made and steps counted. There were visits to Monaco and Monte Carlo, including the Musée Océanographique, the Palace and the Old Town. History, Geography, Biology and French! Well done to all students who were a pleasure to be away with.

Mrs V Brennan Head of French

German Exchange



We have recently returned from a very successful return leg of the German Exchange where our students have stayed in the homes of their host partners and attended lessons at the German School.

Our Students have experienced living in the German family, studying in a German school and visited some of the many attractions that Stuttgart and Southern Germany has to offer such as the Wasen, the Herbst and the Explorhino centre in Aarlen.

We would like to thank the teachers at our partner school and the students for their warm welcome for our stay.



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Our students and I would also like to thank Mrs Farrell and Ms Farrelly for making this trip such a success.

Mr D Smith
Computer Science and Electronics

Lessons from Auschwitz Project



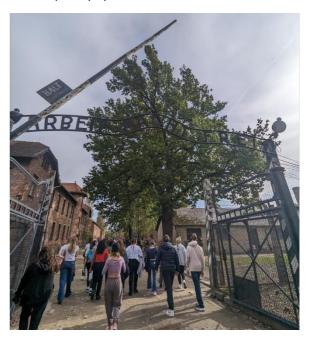
This week I was one of a lucky few at my school to be able to attend the Lessons From Auschwitz project. Within a single day they took us on a tour of both KL Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The holocaust is incomprehensible, words like 'harrowing' and 'evil' barely even scratch the surface. I would urge every one of you to visit and try and

begin to understand the horrors that Nazis inflicted on the European population.

It is important to say that each individual's experience is different. For me, the most touching moment was in KL Auschwitz where they have on display the 'Book of Names.' Produced by Yad Vashem, it has all the names of those who died. They are currently at 4 million names and continue their work to this day. But the most emotional moment for me was seeing my family's name within this book, their birth dates, and where they died.

I am the first one in my family to visit the concentration camps since the war, and that is what made my personal experience so special. It wasn't just a history trip for me, but it symbolised the survival of those that managed to escape, a celebration of how we are now thriving in society. Although not religious myself, it was scary to see that I would have been in the same position as those that had died if I were to be born only 80 years ago.



Thank you again to the team from Lessons From Auschwitz and AGSB for providing me with this invaluable experience.

Hugo S-F 13WK



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Well Done



Left - Congratulations to Raayaan K (12MG) who travelled to Sheffield and attended his first ever Chess Tournament. Raayaan achieved first place in his category, with no losses, and won a prize of £200.

Right – Well done to Amr T (12BN) who dropped 6 marks across his two GCSE Geology papers and in doing so obtained the highest mark in the country (including Wales).



Congratulations to Brian Z (7CE) who has just received his ABRSM Piano Grade 8 merit Certificate after five months of practice. Brian embarked on his ABRSM journey in October 2020, and he successfully completed all 8 grades within a span of three years.

Brian has also during this period, achieved a distinction in ABRSM Guitar Grade 5. Well done!

Thank You



Thank you to the most recent Book Fairy (who donated 54 books).

We are very grateful for these donations.

Ms C Mahony Library Co-Ordinator

Rugby

Great performance from our U16 Rugby team recently! Progressing into the next round of the County competition after beating Brine Leas School. Well done to all involved, especially James M (11CX) for picking up MOTM.

AGSB Sports







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Another excellent morning of rugby with commitment from both schools. Many thanks to Crossley Heath for the fixtures.

Football

A top quality performance from our 1st XI puts AGSB through to Round 3 of the ESFA. We came away 5-0 winners with performance building each game. Thanks to Trinity High for a great match!



Badminton/Table Tennis



Last week we welcomed Wirral Grammar School to AGSB for an excellent block of badminton and table tennis matches!



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Old Altrinchamians



(Left) It was great to welcome back Old Alt, Alex Cunningham, this week who gave a talk about his career in Geology.

After AGSB, Alex went to St Andrews University and since graduating he has worked across a number of different roles and is presently working as a Mine Geologist in Australia.

Alex took time out of his vacation to come into School.

(Right) It was fantastic to welcome Old Alt, Freddie Whitehurst, back to AGSB this week.

Freddie has recently graduated with a First Class Degree in History from Oxford University. He shared some excellent tips with our current students regarding Oxbridge applications.



House Shout – 31st October at 7pm

On Tuesday, 31st October, we will host one of the highlights of the House Calendar – the House Shout.

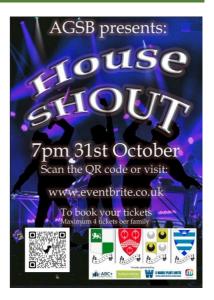
Each House will deliver three performances: An Instrumental Ensemble, a Choral Harmony and a Vocal Unison.

We would love as many Parents and Carers as possible to join us for a fantastic evening of Music and Fun!

Tickets are available on Eventbrite at a cost of £6.00 per person. We are hoping to arrange a cash bar on the night.

Please come for a 6.30pm reception for a 7.00pm start.

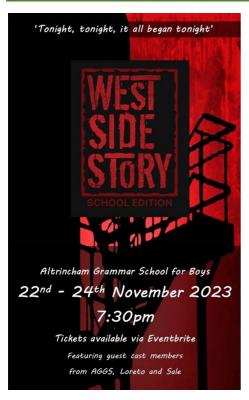
Get your Tickets HERE!





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Important Date for your Diary – West Side Story – 22nd to 24th November



Following on from last year's hugely successful production of 'Les Misérables', we are pleased to invite you to our Whole School Production for 2023 - 'West Side Story'.

Join us in 1950's New York for this timeless tragedy of young love, violence and revenge.

There are three performances with the first performance on Wednesday 22nd November and then Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th and will take place in the Coleman Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are now available to purchase on Eventbrite HERE at a cost of £14 for adults, concessions £10 (senior citizens and children under 18). No maximum tickets per family but there are only 250 tickets available per night.

Be sure to get your tickets early before they all sell out as this promises to be a sellout event!

Ms C Clark
Drama Co-Ordinator

Holland Rugby Tour



17 boys set off for the Holland Rugby Tour last Sunday and are having a fabulous time, on and off the pitch!

There have been visits to a bowling alley and a trip to the seaside as well as some great games of rugby!



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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.





If you think your son may be eligible for means-tested Free School Meals, you can apply through Trafford Council by

visiting the following <u>WEBSITE</u>. We will be notified by Trafford if your application is successful, and we will also receive additional Pupil Premium funding to support your son's learning.

If your son already receives Pupil Premium and requires any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cathcart at acathcart@agsb.co.uk. More information can be found HERE.

For information on how to access discounted and free public transport for students aged 11-18, please click here - <u>Fares and passes for young people | Transport for Greater Manchester (tfgm.com)</u>.

Please also note that students on FSM or Bursary can apply for full funding to cover UCAT fees (University Clinical Aptitude Test). Full details can be found here - <u>Bursary Scheme | UCAT Consortium.</u>

Ms A Cathcart Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco

Noticeboard for Parents



Please remember that the clocks go back on Sunday, 29th October.

School re-opens on Monday, 30th October 2023.

Reminder that School closes at 12.20pm on Friday, 3rd November for Staff Training.

AGSB PFA joint Snowflake Ball with AGGS PTA



We are delighted to announce that for the first time, AGSB PFA and AGSB PFA are joining together to hold a joint 'Great Big Grammar School Ball' on Saturday 25th November 2023, at Bowdon Rugby Club.

Tickets are now on sale and available to buy via ParentPay. You will be able to buy tickets individually/as couples and we will seat you will other Parents and Carers from your son's year group, wherever possible.



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Ticket price is £55 per person, including a welcome drink, 3 course meal (catering for all dietary requirements), and entertainment. Currently, there are 100 tickets allocated to AGSB and a maximum of 12 tickets (one table) can be bought by any single parent.

The Ball is for Parents, Carers and their friends of both of our lovely schools, as well as staff (not for students).

We are expecting a high demand, so please book your tickets as soon as possible. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

All profits from this event will be split equally between the two School's PFA's.

It would be great to see many of you there!

AGGS PTA & AGSB PFA

AGSB PFA Neil Barrett Photo Shoot



We are very pleased to announce that Neil Barrett, Professional Photographer, is again supporting the School this year.

You have the chance to purchase this amazing "PHOTOSHOOT GIFT" – which is £20 for a £120 portrait package for your loved one as a Christmas gift.

Please click on this link - https://neilbarrettphotography.co.uk/agsb and use promo

code: AGSB!

This offer is available to everyone, and you can buy as many gift vouchers as you need to give for lovely presents that never expire ②. The offer includes a 1-hour photoshoot in Neil Barrett's Timperley studio and a beautiful, framed 8' x 10' portrait and if you book by the 10th December, you will receive your portrait for Christmas!

Give a gift of a beautiful portrait while supporting our charities. It could be a family, child's, best friend, graduation, or even a pet portrait all taken by award-winning portrait photographer, Neil Barrett, who is continuing to support our charities by heavily reducing their £120 package to £20 with all proceeds going to much-needed provisions for the School.

AGSB PFA

Calendar Dates

Remember to keep an eye on our <u>School Calendar</u> for information on upcoming events.



Key Dates are:

★ 20.10.2023: School closed for Staff Training Day

20.10.2023 − 30.10.2023: School closed for Autumn Half Term Holiday
 22.10.2023 − 27.10.2023: Y10 Trip to Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas

* 30.10.2023: School Re-Opens after the Half Term Holidays

* 31.10.2023: House Shout – 7pm

* 01.11.2023 & 02.11.2023: Y11 Parents' Evening

★ 03.11.2023: School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Training



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★ 03.11.2023: Non-Uniform Day for Charity

★ 06.11.2023 – 09.11.2023: Y7-Y10 House Winter Sports Festival

★ 06.11.2023: Y10 Parents' Meeting for Work Experience - 7pm

★ 08.11.2023 & 09.11.2023: UTSAV 2023 – Coleman Hall - 7pm

★ 15.11.2023: A Level German Theatre Trip – The Metamorphosis, The Lowry

15.11.2023: Sixth Form Open Evening - 5pm
 16.11.2023: Y7 Parents' Study Skills Evening - 7pm
 16.11.2023 & 17.11.2023: Geography Field Trip to Salford Quays

★ 22.11.2023 – 24.11.2023: West Side Story - 7.30pm

★ 25.11.2023: PFA Snowflake Ball, Bowdon Rugby Club

27.11.2023 – 01.12.2023:
 28.11.2023 & 29.11.2023:
 30.11.2023:
 Y11 Language Speaking Exams
 Years 7 – 11 Flu Vaccinations
 Y7 Parents' Evening 4.30pm

Vacancies @ AGSB



AGSB have two vacancies (Deputy Head Pastoral) and Temporary Teacher of Maths (Maternity Cover), both of which can be found <u>HERE</u>.

Sodexo

Could Parents and Carers please keep an eye on their son(s) balances on their Sodexo account/card. We are seeing an increasing number of negative balances, some of which exceed £10.00 and some over £20.00. Pupils must have funds on their cards to purchase items from the dining rooms and going into a negative balance is only to be used in emergencies. The increase of pupils with no funds is causing huge delays at the till as the staff have to take time to write down what the students have and then it has to be manually adjusted from the office.

In order to access the ParentPay guide 'How to set alerts', please follow the simple steps below:-

- 1. Please select 'Help' from your home screen
- 2. On the Knowledge base screen, select 'Managing your account'
- 3. Finally, click on 'How to set alerts' and follow the instructions provided

Many thanks.

Mrs Patricia Bowden Catering Manager

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









