



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

10th November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy at least some of the half-term break together. I know that the trips that went out were a great success. The Year 9 Rugby Tour to Holland and the Year 10 trip to Houston have undoubtedly etched unforgettable memories in the minds of our students. Additionally, the visit to Auschwitz by two Sixth Formers before the break was a profound experience, and I am eager to engage with them to explore how they can integrate their newfound insights into our school community.

I am delighted to report on the recent House event, 'The House Shout,' held last Tuesday. The event was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing fierce competition as Houses vied for the prestigious Gartside House Music Trophy and valuable House points. The display of House spirit was truly remarkable, with students from various age groups collaboratively creating memorable musical moments. The instrumental performances, choral harmonies, and the unison finale by the four houses—Stamford, Massey, Tatton, and Bradbury—were outstanding. A special mention and gratitude to former Head Prefect, Alex Patel, who expertly served as the judge for this year's competition. Heartiest congratulations to the eventual winners, Stamford House! I extend sincere thanks to our House Sponsors: Myersons Solicitors, D Wardle (Plant) Ltd, ABC Warranty, and Sodexo for their unwavering support. My appreciation also goes to the 200 plus Parents and Carers who attended the event, contributing to its success.

Before the half-term break, the GCSE Prize Giving took place in the Coleman Hall, featuring an insightful and inspirational speech by leadership 'guru' Drew Povey, who also presented the prizes.

Last week, we hosted a Parents' evening for Year 11, which I am confident proved to be a valuable experience. The two evenings collectively witnessed 1389 appointments, and I extend my gratitude to all Parents, Carers, students, and staff who participated.

AGSB celebrated Diwali this week by hosting an incredible event – UTSAV 2023. Two nights of vibrant performances, colourful traditional food, and an open dance floor made for a truly festive celebration. A massive thank you to the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain Society leaders who meticulously planned UTSAV 2023 months in advance.

In the realm of sports, heartfelt congratulations to the Senior AGBS X Country squad for emerging as North West Champions at the Regional Cross-Country finals held at Sedbergh School on Wednesday. Commiserations to the Juniors and Inters who narrowly missed out on qualification to the Nationals.

Our sporting program continues tomorrow with football and rugby matches against Cheadle Hulme, King's Chester, and MGS. I look forward to seeing many Parents and Carers on the touchline.

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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Houston, Texas 2023



Over the recent half-term break, 26 Year 10 students went on an extraordinary educational trip to Houston, Texas. This trip provided a unique opportunity to learn from real-life astronauts and NASA employees.

The journey began with an early start as the group flew from Manchester to Heathrow, and from there to Houston, Texas, aboard a Dreamliner. The long journey was made enjoyable by lots of films, keeping the students entertained throughout the flight.

Upon our arrival in Houston, we were treated to a series of unforgettable experiences. One of the highlights was an up-close look at the Saturn V rocket and talk of how this colossal engineering marvel worked. We also had the privilege of boarding the Boeing aircraft responsible for launching the Space Shuttle multiple times, offering us a glimpse into the rich history of space exploration.

A talk by an actual astronaut left the students in awe, as we learned about the first hand experiences of life in zero gravity. The astronaut's insight revealed that one is only officially recognized as an astronaut after venturing into space.

Another incredible moment of the trip was witnessing the reusable SpaceX rocket, an engineering feat that has revolutionized space travel.

The students didn't just observe, we actively participated in a range of space-related activities. These included building rockets, constructing heat-resistant tiles, assembling cold-resistant capsules, and even experiencing scuba diving as the closest approximation to zero gravity available on Earth. These activities simulated the work astronauts do, such as collecting samples and repairing components of the International Space Station (ISS).

It was not just space though, on several occasions, we went out to other parts of Texas for food at several different types of restaurants as well as the Kemah Boardwalk seen in the 1994 film, *Forest Gump* and the main event which had a bowling pool, LaserQuest and other arcade entertainment.



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In terms of learning, the trip provided an opportunity to delve into programming, space exploration, and the science behind objects that withstand extreme heat and a lack of it. It also emphasized the importance of teamwork and leadership, fostering the school values as task were not always easy.

The successful execution of this out-of-this-world adventure would not have been possible without the guidance and leadership of Dr Squire, Mr Timmins, and Mr Sampson, who kept everyone in order throughout their trip.

This trip to Houston will never be forgotten by the students on it and will undoubtedly help them in later life.

Nathan Pimlott 10GA



Safe Drive, Stay Alive



As a part of their Sixth Form enrichment curriculum, all of Year 13 were taken to a talk on road safety called 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive', in Middleton last week.

'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' is a road safety initiative that aims to empower young drivers to make safe driving choices. Year 13 students heard from members of the emergency services, and family members who had lost loved ones as a result of

dangerous driving and poor road choices. The powerful message was one that will remain with our students as they take their first steps as road users, with a new profound understanding of the consequences their actions can have.

Thank you to 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' for the time and effort that went into the talk to deliver the pertinent message, and thank you to all members of staff who accompanied the students. The organisers



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commented on the positive behaviour and attitude of Year 13, so many thanks for all students who attended.

*Mr A Sampson
Teacher of Philosophy/ACE Co-Ordinator*

House Shout



The annual Altrincham Grammar School for Boys 'House Shout' took place last week in a packed out Coleman Hall. The four houses (Stamford, Massey, Tatton and Bradbury) offered instrumentals, choral harmonies and the unison finale. It was a great privilege to welcome Old Alt, Alex Patel, to judge this year's competition.

The students were amazing from start to finish and a very big well done to the eventual winners, Stamford!

Many thanks to Mr Soulsby for overseeing this brilliant evening and to House Managers Mr Giffen, Mr Smith, Mr Meakin and Mr Flanagan. A big thanks also to Mr Monument and his sound and lighting team.

A big thank you also to the magnificent AGSB PFA for their continuing support and for putting on an excellent 'spread' during the interval.

Head Master



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House Photography Competition

The results for the 2023 "interesting patterns" photographic competition are now out. We received 171 fantastic entries for this competition from both students and staff.

Each of the entries were judged by 14 members of staff, Governors and former teachers of the School and first, second and third results are as follows:



1st - Caleb C (13CN) Massey (Left)

2nd – Kai Z (7HT) Massey (Below)



3rd – Rian J (10MA) Massey (Below)



Teacher 1st – Mrs F Blakeley Tatton (Below)



The overall house winners for participants are:

- 1st place Bradbury (46 entries)
- 2nd place Tatton (45 entries)
- 3rd place Massey (44 entries)
- 4th place Stamford (36 entries)

Overall standings for the competition are:

- 1st place - Massey
- 2nd place - Bradbury
- 3rd place - Tatton
- 4th place - Stamford

Thank you to everyone who took part.

*Mr D Smith
Teacher of Electronics & Computer Science*



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UTSAV 2023



This week we held Utsav celebrations in School which was truly a fantastic event. There was music and dancing and some wonderful food served up. Thank you to the AGSB Hindu, Jain and Sikh Society for all their efforts in making this community event such a success.

Year 10 Public Speaking House Competition



There was a packed Library yesterday with excellent representation from the audience. Year 10 were debating *"THBT: mining the sea floor is essential for us to access the raw materials required to create a greener future."*

The motion was won by the opposition - Bradbury and Tatton and the judges highlighted the strong content used, excellent highlighting of the issue and good solutions offered. Stand out performance for Stamford was Panchu N who impressed the judging panel with his eloquent and confident oration and compelling style.

The stand out star from Bradbury was Bhargav K who delivered very strong and challenging questions in his role as Questioner.

The results were 1st Bradbury; 2nd Tatton; 3rd Stamford; 4th Massey.

Many thanks to all who helped.

Mrs C Mahony
Teacher of English and Library Co-Ordinator





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Iceland Trip 2025



Year 10 & Year 11 students have been offered the opportunity to take part in something amazing – a summer expedition to Iceland for 10 days in the summer of 2025 with Outlook Expeditions, the leading independent provider of youth development programmes in the United Kingdom.

Expeditions are so much more than a school trip.

They develop character, build resilience and improve wellbeing – the tools required to be a leader and tackle life’s challenges effectively. Taking part in this inspirational, immersive learning experience – outside the classroom – also enables students to accelerate development of core skills.

The expedition costs £2,555 which is protected by ATOL (6697) and can be paid via scheduled payment plans. As part of the programme, we support students through [Pay Your Way](#) which provides guidance, resources and support to help participants earn the cost of their expedition through enterprise activity.



Outlook Expeditions will be hosting an Information Webinar on **Monday 13th November at 7pm** and we would be delighted if students and parents can join us. We will be using [GoToWebinar](#) which is free and easy to download. The webinar is your chance to find out more about Outlook Expeditions and decide if joining the expedition is right for your child. There is no obligation at all by joining the webinar.

To register your attendance and for more information, please visit:

<https://outlookexpeditions.com/schools/altrincham-grammar-school-for-boys-2025>

OUTLOOK EXPEDITIONS

INFORMATION WEBINAR

ICELAND 2025

WHEN:
Monday 13th November @
19:00 (online)

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR AND FIND OUT MORE:

[WWW.OUTLOOKEXPEDITIONS.COM](https://www.outlookexpeditions.com)

If you are interested but unable to attend the webinar, please still register and we can send you a recording afterwards.

Mr W Carr
Trip Leader



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PTI Subject Leadership Awards



Congratulations to the Maths and Science Departments who have retained the PTI Subject Leadership Award through promoting their subjects and introducing pupils, regardless of their backgrounds, to challenging and enriching materials and activities.

Remembrance Day 2023



The Head Master conducted three Remembrance Services today for the pupils and staff and talked about his time as a Royal Marine patrolling the streets of Northern Ireland.

He also talked about the power of forgiveness using the example of Gordon Wilson (who lost his daughter in the Enniskillen bombing in 1987) forgave the IRA who planted a bomb on Remembrance Day in Enniskillen.

The students were a real credit to the School, observing the minute's silence and it was great to see them all wearing their poppies with pride.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Musical Achievements

This year has seen a bumper number of pupils successfully audition and join the prestigious Halle Youth Orchestra. Ryan S (11BZ) Violin; Laurie M (12BK) Violin; Issac A-W (13SM) Piano and Violin and Kavi G (11JM) Percussion.

We are looking forward to seeing them perform at the Bridgewater hall in this December's Winter Concert on the 16th December.



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LAMDA



We would like to say all the very best of luck to those students who are sitting their LAMDA exams this weekend.

Break a leg!

*Ms Clark
Teacher of English & Drama Co-Ordinator*

Sporting Achievements



(Left) Well done to Etienne G (11JM) who took part in the Youth Series Fencing Competition recently in Liverpool and received a Silver medal.

(Right) Congratulations to Sol G (7CR) who took part in the T-UK British Championships (Tae kwon do) in Coventry last month and was awarded a Bronze medal for sparring in his age and grade category.



(Left) Very well done to Jacob L-J (9PA) who recently completed the National Indoor Climbing Awards Scheme (NICASA) Technical Climber Level 3, which is an advanced top-roping and bouldering award.

We are very pleased to learn that Reuben M (9PG) has been invited to play for the U14 Greater Manchester Hockey Academy.

(Right) Well done to brothers, Josh R (9PA) and Henry R (7HI) who have both been selected to represent Greater Manchester at U14 and U12 level in hockey.





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(Left) Well done to Soham B (9SI) who won a Bronze medal in Patterns at this year's British Open Taekwon-Do Championships. Soham won the medal - Black Belt in the 13-14 category.

AGSB Sports

Rugby



Fantastic performances from the 2nd XI and 1st XV last week with victories over Manchester Grammar School and St. Anselm College. Well done also to the Under 12 XI and the Y7 Rugby squad.

Football



A great morning of football last weekend with some great football played by both schools.

Our 2nd XI were the pick of the bunch with a 6-0 win against Manchester Grammar School.



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The AGSB 1st XI are now into the last 64 of the National Cup. The next game is due to be played next week vs Blue Coat School or Upton by Chester.

In the last round vs Cardinal Langley School they won 2-1.

There was a dominant performance from our Year 10 team vs Kingsway in the Greater Manchester Cup last night. A fantastic 5-0 win with 4 goals coming from Jonah P!

Well done to all.



Cross Country



Many congratulations to the AGSB Senior Cross-Country squad who took part in the Regional Cross County Finals at Sedbergh School and are now North West Champions! Hard lines to the Juniors and Inters who just missed out on qualification to the Nationals.

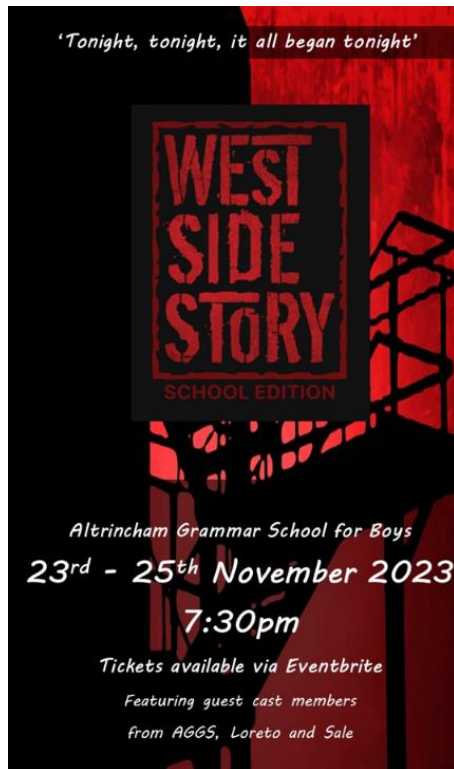
Well done to everyone who took part.



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Important Date for your Diary – West Side Story – 23rd to 25th November



Our whole school production 'West Side Story' is now reaching the final stages of rehearsal. The cast, crew and band are working tirelessly to prepare the most ambitious show in recent AGSB history. This includes a guest cast of more than 18 female students from AGGS, Loreto and Sale Grammar School.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, our performance dates will now be Thursday 23rd November, Friday 24th November and Saturday 25th November.

This is the first time that we have been given the opportunity to stage a Saturday performance, which is an exciting prospect.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our three performances which 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

Sixth Form Open Evening

ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Apply for a place in an academic Sixth Form which offers:

- Consistently outstanding A-Level results (28% A*, 64% A*/A and 85% A*/B in 2023)
- An impressive record of successful applications to Arts, Humanities, Medicine and STEM subjects at leading universities
- Experienced guidance and pastoral support
- A wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities
- Purpose built 6th Form Centre
- Excellent sports facilities
- Fee free education
- Close links to bus, rail, metro station and motorway

Sixth Form Open evening in person on the 15th November 2023 from 5pm till 7pm

Apply online now at: www.agsb.co.uk

Head Master: Mr. G. A. Wright MA (Hons) FRSA, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS. Tel: 0161 928 0808
email: agsbadmissions@hambiltontrust.co.uk website: www.agsb.co.uk

AGSB Sixth Form Open Evening is taking place next Wednesday, the 15th November.

There is no need to book just go to our [Website](#) for more information.

Mr T Murray
Head of Sixth Form



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AGSB Inclusion



SEND Support at AGBS

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 AGBS

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 [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

Noticeboard for Parents

A big thank you to all those Parents and Carers who kindly donated via ParentPay on Own Clothes Day last Friday in support of the Libyan Floods and the Moroccan Earthquake. The fantastic sum of £1,658 was raised and this is now in the process of being sent to the Charity.

The School currently subscribe to an online newspaper resource called 'The Day'.

Parents, Carers and students can click on this [LINK](#) to read it. Families can continue chatting about the articles we discuss in school outside of the classroom and within the home!



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AGSB PFA Christmas Fair

AGSB PFA CHRISTMAS FAIR

Made at Home Stall Request

Sunday, 3rd December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The Christmas Fair will soon be here, this is the biggest PFA event of the year, where all proceeds go directly to buy items for our boys, and it is really important that we have your support.

For the past ten years the PFA has run a **Made at Home Stall**. This is only made possible through your generous donations. We are looking for baked goods, crafted items, knitted, sewn, painted, carved or homegrown (anything homemade is desirable).

In past years, examples of donations have included chocolate lollipops, bread, jam, chutney, pickles, Christmas bunting, cupcakes, brownies, cookies, sloe gin, centre pieces, wreaths, samosas, Christmas cards and ornaments, hair accessories and jewellery, plant cuttings, wood carvings, puddings, knitted dolls, crumbles and more. We accept anything! In recent years, we have also accepted unwanted items or gifts that are in good condition to sell, such as china plates, toiletries, jewellery, cushions etc.

Please can we ask you to get someone in your family - parents, children, grandparents, uncles, aunts and/or even friends to make something special over the next 3 weeks? Every family has someone who can make something special!

Can we also ask you to send an email to either pfaagsb@gmail.com or contact Ravi (details below) to let us know what you are able to make for the stall? We will answer any questions and offer as much help as we can. We are only as successful as the items you donate. Please do get involved and support your son(s).

Remember that Friday 1st December is 'non-uniform day' in return for the boys bringing a donation of chocolates and a bottle (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) for the Tombola stalls.

If you are unable to donate, any help on the stall on the day for an hour would be much appreciated. If you are unable to do either, you can make a monetary donation on ParentPay ("PFA1 - PFA Donations") where all donations go to the PFA directly. Any form of donations, whether it is time, effort or money, goes directly to benefit the boys.

Our contact details for the Made at Home Stall: Ravi Parupudi: 07545819799: ravishankarurp@gmail.com
PFA: pfaagsb@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your support.

AGSB PFA



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Calendar Dates

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



Key Dates are:

- * 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
- * 23.11.2023 – 25.11.2023: West Side Story - 7.30pm
- * 25.11.2023: PFA Snowflake Ball, Bowdon Rugby Club
- * 27.11.2023 – 01.12.2023: Y11 Language Speaking Exams
- * 28.11.2023 & 29.11.2023: Years 7 – 11 Flu Vaccinations
- * 30.11.2023: Y7 Parents' Evening 4.30pm

Vacancies @ AGSB



We are recruiting for a Temporary Part-Time Teacher of Biology (Maternity Cover) from January 2024 and a Temporary Teacher of Maths (Maternity Cover). Further information can be found on our website [HERE](#).

Easy Fund Raising to support the School



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys "Parents & Friends Association" are registered with Easyfundraising, which means that you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online.

Over 7,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Please remember to use Easyfundraising every time you shop online, particularly as we are approaching Christmas and there is lots of shopping to be done! These include all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Your Flight, Your Holiday, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, uSwitch and many more!

This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started! You can find our Easyfundraising page [HERE](#).

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PLANT HIRE, EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS & MATERIALS HANDLING

