



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

13th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

May I start by wishing you all a happy and safe New Year. I hope that the Christmas break was a good opportunity to relax and re-energise with friends and family. The Spring Term has brought with it some inclement weather; however, the students have settled into 2023 with their usual verve and spirit.

On the academic front, Year 13 students are already absorbed in A Level trial examination preparation and those in Year 11 are building on a good performance in the GCSE Trial examinations which were held last term.

As I write, rehearsals for the Session Orchestra Evening (a real highlight of the musical year at AGSB) are taking place and the Concert takes place tonight - Friday, 13th January, starting at 7pm. Tickets are available on Eventbrite [HERE](#).

The Senior Leadership Team are currently working on the new whole School strategy. Our new five-year strategy will be based on extensive feedback from pupils, parents, staff and alumni. It anticipates the changes, we believe lie ahead, and the steps we must take together to ensure we hand over a thriving School to future generations. Any Parents and Carers who would be interested in completing a brief questionnaire based on the School's Vision, Values, and draft strategic objectives, please contact my PA – Mrs Brickell – via email to mbrickell@agsb.co.uk.

On Wednesday, we held a lunch to thank all student House leaders for all their efforts last term. This term proves to be another busy one on the House front with events including House Public Speaking, Geography Quiz, Chess, Football and Talent Show.

In Sport, we have a packed schedule of fixtures in the Calendar (all information on fixtures can be found [here](#)). Yesterday I watched an extremely competitive 1st XI National Cup football match vs Wilmslow High. After extra time, the score remained 0-0. Penalties followed, with AGSB winning 5-4. The 1st XI now move onto the last 16 in the country with their next opponents being Shrewsbury School.

I also wish the very best of fortune to the Under 18 Indoor Hockey squad who take part in the National Finals in London today. To be included in the finals (the best 8 schools in the country) is no mean feat.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'G A Wright'.

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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AGSB English Literature

Members of Year 12 English Literature group travelled to Laurus Cheadle Hulme in December, ready to give a guest lecture on Margaret Atwood's *"The Handmaid's Tale"*. Professional, stylish and well researched, they were critically excellent and very much the experts in the room. Exceptional public speaking skills all round from Jacob R, Will M, Dhruv P, Abdul H, Jake H and Cai A. Thank you to Ms Littler for organising it.

Miss C Clark
Teacher of English & Drama Co-Ordinator

Chess Club

If you are interested in joining the AGBS Chess Club, this is currently open to all students from 12.30pm to 1.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and now Thursdays. Thursdays are no longer exclusively for Year 7.

In a few weeks the annual House Chess Competition starts, and during this time, Chess Club will be suspended. If you wish to get a bit of practice in before the House Competition starts, you only have a few more weeks of Chess Club available. House Managers will be contacting students nearer the time with details about how to enter the competition and represent your House.

Dr V Sully
Teacher of Chemistry

Congratulations

Congratulations and very well done to Nakul C in 7CE who won the competition to design a festive window for Coffii22, an independent café in Altrincham. His design cleverly combined a traditional festive wreath with the key features of Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, all designed around the café's logo.

Nakul received a delicious chocolate cake as his prize, made by owner Andy who was very impressed with Nakul's creative design!



Mrs H Drake
D&T Department





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The British Mathematical Olympiad

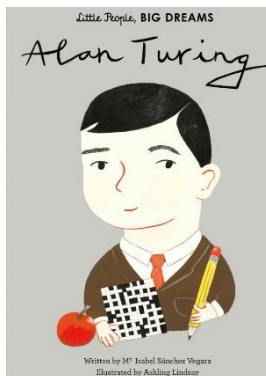


The British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) forms part of the selection process for the UK International Mathematical Olympiad team and for other international maths competitions, including the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad, the Romanian Master of Mathematics and Sciences, and the Balkan Mathematical Olympiad. We are now pleased to announce the results for the first round of the Maths Olympiad that AGSB students took part in:

Isaac A-W: 11 Points; Alex V: 19 Points
Sheen B: 18 Points Alex G: 19 Points
Pranav V: 29 Points
Well done to all those who took part.

Ms J McCourt
Maths Department

Manchester Universities' Cryptography Competition



Do you like breaking codes and solving ciphers?

Manchester Universities' Cryptography competition is starting on Monday 16th January. It is an open competition this year, so there is no sign up required on their website, however, as a School we will be running it as an internal competition. House points will be available for all correct answers emailed to me, and a league table will be set up with the quickest teams getting the most points each week. If you are interested, please email Mrs Chancellor - schancellor@agsb.co.uk - with a list of your team members and your year group. Individuals are welcome to enter too.

For more details, please visit: [The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition edition 2023 \(manchester.ac.uk\)](http://The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition edition 2023 (manchester.ac.uk))

Mrs Chancellor & Mr Carr

Keeping your child safe online ..

Harmful sexual behaviour prevention toolkit

This toolkit is designed for parents, carers, family members and professionals, to help everyone play their part in keeping children safe.

It has links to useful information, resources, and support as well as practical tips to prevent harmful sexual behaviour and provide safe environments for families.

Keeping your child safe online from harmful sexual behaviour:

There is a myriad of difficulties in raising young people these days and keeping them safe, so any good source of additional advice and support should be welcomed by us all. Nowhere is this more needed than in keeping our children safe while online especially in regard to harmful sexual behaviours.

Here is a link to a very useful [TOOLKIT](#) that does just this. It offers tips on what to look out for, what questions to ask, how to make a report about sexual abuse on line, as well as a list of organisations that you can look to for more help.

Mr E Hall
Deputy Head



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AGSB Sports



Many congratulations to the AGSB 1st XI Football squad who defeated Wilmslow High School 5-4 on penalties on Tuesday of this week to reach the last 16 of the National ESFA Cup. The next game is against Shrewsbury away (date TBC)!

For a comprehensive half-term Sports review, please read our AGSB Sport – Issue 2 – Christmas 2022 Report [here](#).

Thank You



You may remember that back in June last year, we asked if any Parents or Carers would be able to assist in the making of some new House Flags for the Coleman Hall.

We are now pleased to tell you that the flags now have pride of place and have all been hand made by Mrs Claire Caulkin. Claire has spent several months working on these flags and I'm sure you will all agree, they look fabulous.

Thank you, Claire, for all your hard work, the School is very grateful.

Head Master



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Session Orchestra Concert Rehearsals in full flow!



Don't forget, you can still buy a ticket for tonight's Session Orchestra Concert on Eventbrite. The Concert features over 100 musicians/singers (including some "old boys" who are making a return!). It promises to be an evening not to miss!

Tickets available [HERE](#).

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



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John Taylor, former Head of Maths (RIP)



We are sorry to impart the news that John Taylor who was a long serving member of staff and alumni sadly passed away last week.

John taught at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys for 40 years and retired in 2012. He started teaching in September 1972 having completed his secondary education at Sale Grammar School and gained a Mathematics Degree at Nottingham University.

John taught in excess of 8,000 pupils, he always enjoyed the teaching and was never interested in a pastoral role. He had an open-door policy and often gave up his lunch hour to help the students with their questions. As both teacher and Head of Department he saw many changes in exam systems and syllabi and over the years there have been some fantastic results both in GCSE and A Level Maths and Further Maths. He must be credited with the current A Level Further Maths curriculum which has increased numbers taking Further Maths to 40+ each year.

John enjoyed sports, playing hockey and rugby at school and at University, continuing to play rugby for Metrovick in Sale. He was in charge of the AGSB rugby team for 20 years and umpired AGSB School cricket matches.

As teachers, the greatest accolade to which we can aspire is the respect, thanks and admiration of all our students, John has achieved these in abundance. We have received so many messages from former pupils and staff remembering the positive impact John had on their lives, he will be missed.

*Ms Potter & Mrs Short
Maths Department*

AGSB Vacancies



We are currently recruiting for a Temporary Part-time Teacher of Biology (Maternity Cover) and a Finance Officer. Please go to the Vacancies Section on the School website for further information or alternatively, click [here](#).

Invigilators Required!

We are looking to put together a voluntary invigilation team for the 2023 exam season and wonder if there are any Parents or Carers out there who could spare the time to assist us with this. A morning invigilation session will normally be between 9.00am and 11.00am and an afternoon session between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. The commitment we are seeking is for several sessions during May and June, however even a few sessions would be a most valuable contribution.



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

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Lavin in the Exams Office at alavin@agsb.co.uk. There will be an information event organised in the very near future where we can talk to you about what invigilation is



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all about and where you will be able to ask any questions. Thank you in advance for any contribution you may feel able to make.

Noticeboard for Parents



We are continuing to receive complaints from members of the public about students stepping out into the road who are not looking where they are going and who are narrowly avoiding colliding with a car.

Please can you remind your child to be aware of the traffic on their daily commute to and from school and to be careful where they cross the road.

We have been advised that there is a new private dental surgery opening next to Waitrose in Altrincham at the end of January who would like to offer a free scan to all boys at AGSB who would benefit from the use of a made to measure Gum Shield. There would be a small cost for the shields which will be made at a local Dental Lab. If anyone is interested in taking up this offer, please email Mr Steve Kettle at steve@cloverdentalfitout.co.uk for further information.

Forthcoming dates for January 2023

Fri 13.01.2023 & Tue 17.01.23

GCSE Geography Fieldwork Trip to Ancoats

Fri 13.01.2023

Session Orchestra Concert 7pm

Wed 18.01.2023 – 27.01.2023

Y13 Exams

Thurs 19.01.2023

Y8 Parents' Evening

Mon 30.01.2023

Y9 Immunisations

Tues 31.01.2023

Y9 Options Evening

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

HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

