



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

21st December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

When we returned to school in September, none of us really knew what the next few months would bring. We all hoped we would return to some form of normal school life, and although pupils and staff have continued to wear face coverings around the site, it has been a relief to get through the term without any further disruption.

There has undoubtedly been a good deal of progress on the academic front and the transition from bubbling to teaching in specialist areas has been especially welcomed by all. Looking back on this term, it has been extremely gratifying to see how keen our pupils were to engage with our Extra-Curricular programme, and I thought Parents and Carers would be interested to learn of the breadth and variety of activities which have taken place since September.

Sport: there is nothing quite like a full programme of fixtures on a Saturday morning, but it has been extra special this term with welcoming spectators back onto site. Large numbers of boys have represented the School this term, in numerous sports, whilst a good number have also engaged in sporting activities for leisure or wellbeing purposes during the week. Since September, our pupils have been involved in 160 fixtures: 56 Rugby, 64 Football, 22 Hockey, 9 Tennis, 4 Table Tennis, 5 Basketball, 2 Cross country and 1 Swimming Gala. I am also pleased to report that our Esports squad continue to be a national force.

Drama: the production of a Little Shop of Horrors was a great success and it was marvellous to see the pupils on stage again after an absence of 19 months.

Music: The inaugural Year 7 'Concert in the Quad' back in September was very successful and last week we received the news that both our Big Band and Concert Band have made it through to the NCBF National Finals which take place at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester in April. This is an outstanding achievement considering they were competing against some of the top independent schools and University bands in the country.

MUN: it was wonderful to witness the return of MUN conferences this term and AGSB enjoyed great success at both the Cheadle Hulme School MUNCH and the MGS MUN Conference.

House system: The House system continues to flourish and pupils have had several opportunities this term to renew House rivalries, be it on the sports field, in debates, or on stage.

We do not know, at this stage, what the New Year will bring but I hope that we will be returning on the 10th January as planned. And so, on behalf of all of us here at AGSB, all that remains is for me to say thank you for your support through what has been a very full and successful term, and to wish you all the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Year's. Stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright – Head Master



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AGSB Model United Nations



students throughout the weekend.

Congratulations to the AGSB MUN Team who enjoyed an extremely successful day at the Manchester Grammar School MUN Conference recently. They won outstanding delegation, highly commended delegation and a number of highly commended delegates. Well done to all and thanks to Mr Davies and Miss Chapman who supervised the



AGSB Mathematics

Two of our Year 13 students, SS (13SM) and MJ (13WY) have recently won the National Ritangle Maths' competition which is a Maths' team competition for Sixth Form students who complete two rounds of 32 problems over the course of 10 weeks and one final task. Their submitted work was described as very impressive by the judges. Well done to both the students.

Ritangle 2021 winners



Congratulations to the winning team from

Altrincham Grammar School For Boys

Miss K Potter
Head of Maths

AGSB Philosophy Society



The Philosophy Society enjoyed a captivating discussion led by Adi over the matter of free will. He talked us through what free will entails, as in the ability to make free choices irrespective of past circumstance (socioeconomic, biological or even, at a base level, chemical etc.), and the three groups of opinion on the matter. The libertarians, who claim we do possess free will, the determinists who claim that none of our actions are

free at all and the compatibilists who attempt to take the middle ground between the two extremes.



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Over the discussion we were forced to ask ourselves:

- ‘Are all of our actions freely made?’
- ‘Do we really ever have the option to go against the choices we ultimately make?’
- ‘Do we need to be composed of more than just our chemical brain to have free will/ do we need a non-physical soul?’
- ‘What effect would the conclusion that we don’t have free will have upon the way we conceive of morality and criminal culpability?’

All in all, it was a captivating session that provoked a lot of deep questions about our conception of the world and a thoroughly enjoyable one also.

Thomas Coates 12MG

AGSB Alumni Talks



It was a pleasure to welcome back to AGSB Old Alt Matthew Scullion who is founder and CEO of Matillion, who delivered an inspiring talk about his journey from leaving AGSB to building a “Unicorn status” start-up business.

Careers at AGSB



Please follow this [LINK](#) to read the latest Careers Newsletter.

*Mr Gallamore
Head of Careers*

School Council



Lunchtimes are always busy but last week, the students were in the New Library involved in Form Discussion Groups formulating the agenda for the forthcoming first School Council Meeting of the year which took place on Wednesday. We are very excited to see the fruits of this group’s discussion.



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Sodexo Christmas Lunch



We enjoyed another successful Christmas Lunch this year. Many thanks to Sodexo for all their hard work in preparing this for the students.

Thanks also to Mr Monument, Sheen, Sam and Bertie for providing the excellent Christmas Music!





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Classical Studies



The pictures above show 7HI engaged in tactical training, to understand how the Athenians, in 490BC, adapted their hoplite phalanx, normally an unbroken shield-wall of fighters working as one team, as well as utilising the geography of the location, to deal with an enemy outnumbering them 3 to 1.

In doing so, they preserved their new and slightly chaotic system of 'people-power' government (called 'democracy') in its infancy, and changed the face of civilisation ever after.

The students had a great time.

Mr P Ellis
Head of Latin





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AGSB Musicians spreading Christmas Cheer



Many thanks to the staff and residents of Wyncourt Nursing Home for hosting our carollers last week. Mr Monument, Mrs Jarrett and our Year 12 students turned out to add some festive cheer.

Merry Christmas one and all!





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House Football

Years 7-10 enjoyed playing House football this week on the Astro.



Citizenship

We were so pleased to hear from a member of the public that four of our students went to the aid of an elderly gentleman who took a tumble last week. They looked after him and stayed with him until the ambulance arrived. We are very proud of Isam P (12MD); Jack R; Jithu S and Leo P (all in 7SI).

Articulate National Competition



Congratulations to Lewis (13SM) (left) who delivered an amazing presentation for the National Art competition, ARTiculate. Lewis's work was inspired by Radiohead and the artwork by Stanley Donwood. He now goes on to the Regional final in January at

the Whitworth Art Gallery.

Well done also to Year 12 students Charlie L and Rameez P for their impressive pieces of analysis.





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Cross County Fun

It was great to see our cross-country runners out last week in their best fancy dress and Christmas outfits! Thank you to Mr Gooch for leading the boys.



Rugby Success



	REPLACEMENTS
15 Leo Zheng	16 Charlie Bancroft
14 Ben Verbickas	17 Gareth Parry
13 Aaron Pope	18 Patreece Bell
12 Ben Motamed	19 Frank Chatterton
11 Owain Williams	20 Patrick Jones
10 Charlie Wardle	21 Niall Povall
9 Will Wootton	22 Fin Rogers
1 Jack Ellam	23 Alex Whitfield
2 Harry Thompson	
3 Theo Bishop	
4 Oscar Walsh	
5 Ellis Causey	
6 Yande Nkonge	
7 Tristan Woodman	
8 Huw Davies (Captain)	

Congratulations to Charlie W in Year 13 who was selected to play for Sale Sharks Academy vs Worcester Warriors at the weekend, well done Charlie, we are all very proud of you.

Success Stories



Congratulations to Josh R (7RH) (left) who recently made his debut for the Greater Manchester U14s Hockey squad - playing against East Cheshire at Sandbach School.



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Chad's Challenges

Certificate of special thanks to

**Altrincham Grammar
School for Boys**

Raising
£2,196.30

From the AGSB Own Clothes Day
and Chad's Challenges Bake Sales

Signed:

Date: 9th December 2021



Thank you to all who donated to Chad's Challenges Own Clothes Day and Bake Sales recently, the amount raised was an amazing £2,196.30.

Mrs G Williamson
Sixth Form Officer

Reminder - Lateral Flow Testing at Home

Please remind your son(s) to continue with Lateral Flow Device Testing twice weekly on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** morning. Don't forget if your son has a positive test, please notify us via email to covid@agsb.co.uk.

Mr M Soulsby
Assistant Head – Development

Christmas Jumper Day



A very big thank you to everyone who kindly donated to Chad's Challenges '**Christmas Jumper Day**' on Thursday which raised an amazing £850. This should take the total raised for Chad's Hope Fund to £95,000 which is absolutely fantastic!

O What a beautiful morning

Thank you to Mrs Lord for taking this lovely photograph of the early morning sun rising over the AstroTurf as we approach the run up to Christmas. Simple pleasures!

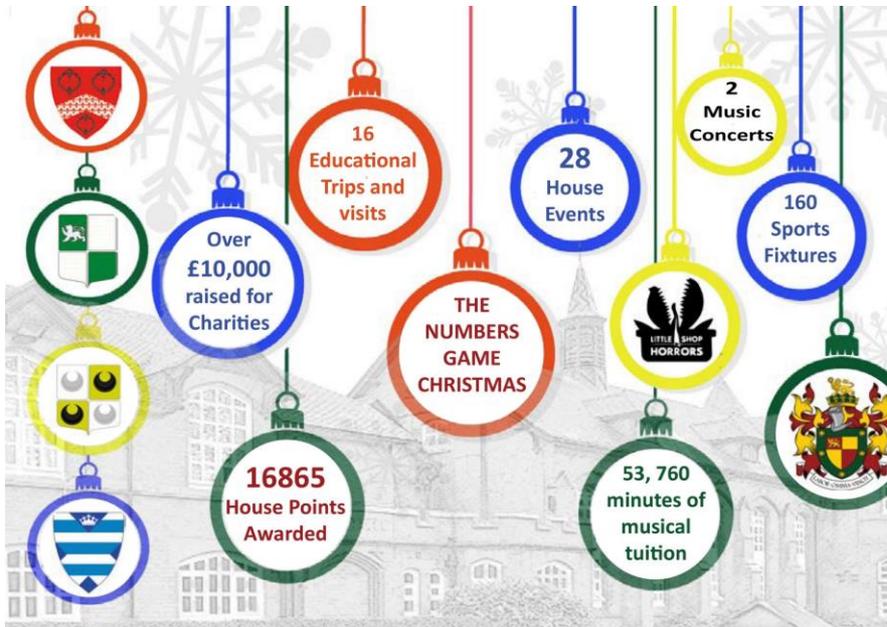




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Round up of the Year in numbers



We are coming to the end of a busy and successful term. Here is the term in "Numbers". Well done to staff and pupils for all their efforts over the past three and a half months.

Noticeboard for Parents

Vaccinations and LFD testing

- 12-15-year olds who have not been vaccinated can book an appointment out of school on the National Booking System, and from 20th December, those eligible for second doses will be able to book.
- All eligible students to be aware of the latest information on the booster programme and how to book a booster and parents and students to be aware of the vaccination offer for students
- All students of secondary age and above continue to test twice-weekly

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Once notified by Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [online reporting system](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.

Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow [national guidance](#). This approach should also be adopted over the Christmas holiday and on return in January.



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AGSB Inclusion

AGSB offers a weekly virtual SEND Clinic on Wednesday 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

January 2022 Student Mass Testing

Parents and Carers have received Mr Soulsby's letter detailing full instructions for the return to School on the 10th January 2022. To be clear, Years 13, 11, 10, 7 & 9 return on Monday and Year 8 return to school on Tuesday, 11th January.

- Students in Years 7 to 11 should take a lateral flow test at home, up to three days before the return to school.
- In addition to this, students will also take a lateral flow test in school on Mon, 10th January 2022.

Students will not be able to join lessons until they have completed their lateral flow test. As soon as students have been tested, and a negative result returned, they will be free to go to the lesson on their timetable.

We will be using the same consent gathered as part of our previous lateral flow testing process. This consent list is cross-referenced with our 90-day exemption records. Unfortunately, we may not be able to keep this database 100% live over the Christmas break ready for the 10th January and so if you son tests positive whilst school is closed, please report the positive case to covid@agsb.co.uk and also send him into school with evidence of a positive PCR test. If your son presents evidence of a positive PCR test, he will not be tested.

Pupils should only arrive for their allotted testing day and time and not before. Please also note that any students being tested after lunch will not have access to the dining facilities and therefore must either bring a packed lunch or eat before they arrive at school.



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Monday 10 th January 2022			
11	11CC	27	8.40 am
	11CE	29	8.50 am
	11CO	29	9.00 am
	11EE	30	9.10 am
	11KD	27	9.20 am
	11ST	30	9.30 am
10	10BL	31	9.50 am
	10BY	29	10.00 am
	10CK	30	10.10 am
	10FN	29	10.20 am
	10LS	30	10.30 am
	10RW	30	10.40 am
Break			
7	7HI	30	11.20 am
	7MO	27	11.30 am
	7OL	30	11.40 am
	7PG	29	11.50 am
	7RH	25	12.00 noon
	7RN	30	12.10 pm
	7SI	29	12.20 pm
Lunch			
9	9AS	30	1.20 pm
	9BZ	32	1.30 pm
	9CX	31	1.40 pm
	9FB	31	1.50 pm
	9JM	30	2.00 pm
	9MK	28	2.10 pm
Tuesday 11 th January 2022			
8	8CM	30	8.40 am
	8ES	29	8.50 am
	8GA	29	9.00 am
	8GH	30	9.10 am
	8MA	28	9.20 am
	8PS	27	9.30 am
	8WL	30	9.40 am



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And the New Library has all been set up in preparation



Forthcoming dates for January 2022

Mon 10.01.2022

School Opens after Christmas Holidays

Wed 12.01.2022

Y8 HPV Vaccinations

Fri 21.01.2022

Session Orchestra Concert 7.30pm TBC

Thu 27.01.2022

School Photographer Y11 & Y13 – Individual & Yr Gp

Thu 27.01.2022

Y8 Parents Evening – Online



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*Merry Christmas
Best wishes from all at AGSB*



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