



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



16th December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The frosty weather has certainly played its part in ensuring that a festive feel has made its way across the School in this final week.

Although I am not the greatest advocate of School league tables, it was pleasing that AGSB are positioned in 16th place (out of over 5,000 Secondary Schools) in the recently released Sunday Times Parent Power supplement. The Sunday Times Guide is considered the definitive guide to State and Independent Secondary Schools nationally, based on the most recent academic results. The outstanding results in 2022 were testament to both the talent and dedication of students and to the quality of education maintained by their teachers during the pandemic. Congratulations go to all on this well-deserved recognition.

Year 11 are now coming to the end of their Trial Exams. Trial Exams remain an essential method of assessing current attainment levels for all Year 11 and 13 students. Strengths and areas of development can be highlighted, revision techniques honed and as the students sit exams in a controlled environment, it is good preparation for the conditions they will face for their final assessments in the summer. There is also a tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes and I would like to sincerely thank the examination team, Pauline Howell, Astrid Lavin and Barbara Clift for all their hard work over the past few weeks.

Yesterday, the students enjoyed a marvellous Christmas lunch. There was karaoke in the 6th Form Centre and Christmas classics performed by Mr Monument and his ensemble in the Stamford Hall. I would like to say a huge thank you Trish Bowden and her catering team for preparing an amazing Christmas Lunch – quite the logistical challenge!

In my final assembly of 2022, I reviewed what has been another busy and successful term at AGSB. While success in exams is extremely important, academic results are only one aspect of School life at AGSB and the success we are aiming for is evidenced in the kind of people our students become, as well as the excellence they achieve. If you would like to listen to the assembly, you will find the link overleaf.

And so, on behalf of all of us here at School, 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 Years.

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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AGSB Art

The Art Department have had some festive fun these past few weeks, firstly with the pupils making their own Christmas cards and then the staff creating their own Christmas wreaths.



Many thanks to Miss Cooke, Mrs Embleton and Ms Drake!

Year 8 Lego



The Y8 Lego League Club would like to say a huge thank you to the PFA for funding a third Lego Spike Robot.

This term, teams have been working tirelessly on their robot designs, mission strategy and innovation projects. Next term, competition between the teams will intensify as they prepare to go head-to-head in February for a place at the regional 'FIRST Lego League Tournament' in March. Click here to see the students in action. <https://youtu.be/G3rzqG-qD9g>

Calum Paterson (Y8) and Mrs Lightowler (D&T Dept)



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AGSB Annual Christmas Fair



The AGSB PFA would like to say a huge, big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair last Sunday. It was an amazing afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Thank you also to all Parents and Carers who kindly donated bottles and chocolates. There was a brilliant turnout with “Made at Home” stalls, House stalls, the fantastic award winning Gourmet Jay Mcr, the Pie & Pint stall, Asian food stall and much more, not to mention the ever successful tombola’s. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped to set everything up on Friday and Sunday and to the students who were on stalls and to Mr Monument and the students who were entertaining everyone throughout the course of the day.

A big thanks to everyone who contributed to make this happen, including the PFA volunteers, the wonderful donations from parents, carers and local businesses to support the stalls, as well as the teachers, support staff and boys who helped. Together we have raised an amazing **£8,000** for AGSB which will go towards support the School in providing a variety of resources and equipment to enhance the students’ education and learning.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy holiday from the AGSB PFA!





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AGSB Geology



Last week saw a new phase of AGSB Geology begin by the visit of the reputed Professor Phil Manning. After a hiatus in geological activities in school following the pandemic, the discussion of theories regarding the mass extinction event concerning the end of the dinosaur era by one of Britain's most prominent natural historians pumped innovation and curiosity back into AGSB's geology community. Were dinosaurs already reaching the verge of extinction? Does the presence of extra-terrestrial material indicate one meteorite impact or multiple? Have descendants of dinosaurs survived to the modern day? All these questions were discussed at length by Prof. Manning, punctuated by the ponderous thoughts of our own students, lower and senior school alike.

We explored the importance of indicators of a meteor collision, one example being tektites. Tektites are glassy marbles created from rock that is instantly vaporised by the heat released from the impact. These can travel across massive distances, like the entire North American continent! "How do they tell us when the mass extinction event happened?" you may ask. Well, Phil explained to us how Geologists' study where tektites are found in rocks and can calculate how much time has passed since they fell. The talk certainly engaged the young minds in the audience, one particularly thought-provoking question being "Can we do anything with deformed dinosaur bones?". The answer is yes, we can!

Many thanks to Mr Parker and the Geology Department for organising this very insightful talk.

Talha Siddiq & Yusuf Soydemir
Year 13 Students



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Y8 House Public Speaking Competition

The Y8 House Public Speaking Competition was held last week, and the motion was *'This House Believes That: Video game violence encourages aggressive behaviour'*.

We heard a good range of arguments from Y8 participants who demonstrated some real potential. The competition was won by the opposition, consisting of Shayan D & David Chen (Massey) and Naitik M & Arthikan K (Bradbury). Arthikan was awarded star performer for his wide-



ranging contributions as seconder, which really supplemented the opening arguments made by Naitik, and so that gave Bradbury first place. The defeated proposition team consisted of Cameron S & Ans I (Stamford) and Oliver G & Moeed A (Tatton). Although Oliver was very good as Responder, the judges ultimately chose Cameron as star performer for his engaging opening speech and so Stamford was given third place.

Many thanks to Mr Olney, Ben B-J (Y13) & Jacob R (Y12) for judging the competition.

Mr N Croxton
Head of History & Politics

Model United Nations



After an early start and battling through a blizzard, the Altrincham Boys' delegates arrived safely at MGS for a festive MUN Conference. Three teams debated their way through a range of motions with many of their members being awarded Certificates for their eloquent contributions. Alas, the team were a close second place being highly commended in the final General Assembly. Well done to all who contributed.

Dr E Thomas
Assistant Head – Teaching & Learning



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Sunday Times League Tables

TOP 100 SECONDARY SCHOOLS
 Ranking based on 2022 examination results with A*-B grades at A-level double-weighted: for more details on the methodology go to [thetimes.co.uk/parentpower](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/parentpower)
 S= Selective PS= Partically Selective C= Comprehensive

2022 rank			Admissions	A-Level A-B (%)	GCSE A*/A 9/8/7 (%)
1	The Henrietta Barnett School	Barnet	S	97.3	98.8
2	Queen Elizabeth's School	Barnet	S	98.3	95.7
3	Wilson's School	Wallington	S	97.9	95.4
4	The Tiffin Girls' School	Kingston upon Thames	S	97.1	94.9
5	Altrincham Grammar School for Girls	Altrincham	S	95.0	96.8
6	Pate's Grammar School	Cheltenham	S	95.4	95.0
7	St Olave's Grammar School	Orpington	S	96.4	91.0
8	King Edward VI Grammar School	Chelmsford	S	93.3	93.8
9	Colyton Grammar School	Colyton	S	94.1	90.1
10+	Colchester Royal Grammar School	Colchester	S	95.8	84.0
10+	King Edward VI School	Stratford-upon-Avon	S	92.2	91.2
12	Reading School	Reading	S	93.3	88.7
13	Stratford Girls' Grammar School	Stratford-upon-Avon	S	90.4	94.4
14	Kendrick School	Reading	S	89.6	94.2
15	Dartford Grammar School	Dartford	S	96.1	81.2
16	Altrincham Grammar School for Boys	Altrincham	S	91.5	87.5
17	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	Chelmsford	S	87.5	95.4
18	King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys	Birmingham	S	88.6	92.3
19	Colchester County High School for Girls	Colchester	S	86.8	94.0
20	Tonbridge Grammar School	Tonbridge	S	86.8	94.0

We were delighted to learn this week that AGSB are now ranked 16 out of over 5,000 Secondary Schools in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

This is testament to both staff and students.

Well done to all.

An Evening with Old Alt – Alex Bescoby



AGSB welcomed Old Alt, Alex Bescoby, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer and presenter which turned out to be a brilliant evening of adventure and exploration. Alex told the story about 'The Last Overland', his drive from Singapore to London, recreating the First Overland, in the same 1955 Land Rover! Thank you to all those parents, carers and students who came to listen.



Mr A Gallamore
Head of Careers



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Gingerbread House Competition

The Gingerbread House Competition has been incredibly difficult to judge as all the entries showed some very high skills, like making stain glass windows and royal icing for the piping!
Below are the top 5 winners for the age groups submitted.



(Left) Harry C (10AS) – Stamford

The judges particularly loved Harry's iced trees with baubles and the multi coloured stain glass windows

(Right) Alex W (10 CX – Bradbury



(Left) Owais B (10MK) - Stamford

Special congratulations go to the two pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 who made gingerbread houses that had some wonderful detail, like a woodstack at the side and a gingerbread man to live in the house!



(Left) Tom L (7HI) – Stamford

(Right) Yusuf J (8CC) – Stamford



Well done to everyone who took part – I hope you now

enjoy eating them!

Happy Christmas!

Mrs V Gordon
Food & Nutrition Department



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UKMT Senior Maths Challenge



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

The Senior Team Maths Challenge is a competition giving students the opportunity to tackle a variety of engaging mathematical activities while developing teamwork and communication skills.

Teams of four students from schools and colleges across the UK take part in dozens of Regional Finals and high-scoring teams are invited to compete in the National Final.

So far this year, AGSB entered 60 students into the initial Senior Maths Challenge and the results were as follows:

Participation:	2
Bronze:	10
Silver:	20
Gold:	28 (best grade)

Of these pupils, 23 went forward to the Senior Kangaroo

Qualification:	9
Merit:	14 (Best Grade)

And a further 4 students went forward to the Senior Maths Olympiad Round 1.

Pranav V (13RD)
Alex G (13CU)
Alex V (12SM)
Isaac A-W (12SM)

We are currently awaiting the results of the Olympiad which will mean if any get through, they will be called up in January.

Ms McCourt
Maths Department

HM Commendations

We have three Head Master's Commendations this time and all three of these students are to be applauded for their selflessness and for generally being outstanding in the AGSB community.

Hussain E (12CN) – for giving up much of his free time in the Summer to help refugees write their letters of application to remain in this country.

Nathan T (12EL) – for managing to secure for the School, free use of an NHS Mental Health App that will benefit his peers.

Adam P (12WK) – for performing CPR on a member of the public who collapsed in the shop where he works and for staying with the patient until the ambulance arrived.



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Esports Success



A resounding win for the League Esports team in the last week of the Winter British Esports Student Championships. They secured undefeated status and go top of their group. Well done to all who played!

Mr R Cummins
Maths Department

AGSB Sports Report

Football

U13's through to the Greater Manchester Cup Quarter final.
U15's through to the Greater Manchester Plate Quarter final.
U16's through to the Greater Manchester Cup Quarter final.
1st XI through to the Greater Manchester Cup semi-final.



1st XI through to the last 32 in the Country in the English School's National Cup – game to be played on Tuesday, 10th January vs Wilmslow High School.



STATS

Football stats this term:

Played:	64	Won:	47
Drawn:	3	Lost:	14
Goals Scored:	301	Goals Conceded:	125
Goal Difference:	+176	Win Ratio:	73.4%



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Cross Country



The Senior and Junior Cross Country teams travelled to Leeds Grammar School last week to compete in the English School's Cross Country Cup competition. The Juniors came 16th and the Seniors 23rd, well done to all!

Festive 5K Run 2022



Very well done to Mr Gooch and his festive 5k runners who braved the elements during lunchtime on Thursday – what commitment! Special mention to Joe C in Year 9 who won first prize in the fancy dress.

Window Design Competition

Congratulations to Nakul C in Year 7 who has won the window design competition. You can see Nakul's fabulous design on the window of Coffii22 in Altrincham. Great work!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINDOW DESIGN COMPETITION WINNER ...

NAKUL C!!

Nakul is in year 7 CE and wins a cake! His design very cleverly combined the important elements of Rudolf the red nosed reindeer and a Christmas wreath. It will be in the window of Coffii22 throughout the festive period!



Ms H Drake
Art Department



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Congratulations

Very well done to Leo B (10JM) who has passed his Grade 5 Piano exam with a Distinction.

Congratulations to Edward L (12CN), Will L (12EY), Ollie H 12WK (who has been selected by the sporting National Governing Body (NGB) and England Hockey to enrol on the Level 3 Pearson BTEC Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) qualification at Loughborough College.

AGSB Christmas Lunch 2022



The students enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch this week! There was karaoke in the 6th Form Centre and Christmas classics in the Stamford Hall, courtesy of Mr Monument. Many thanks to Sodexo for the wonderful food and to Mr Monument and the boys who kindly played during lunch.

Thanks also to Mr Monument and his Carollers who have been going around school these past couple of days entertaining staff with some wonderful Christmas Carols





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AGS 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



Festive Jumper Day 2022



On Friday, 9th December, staff and students came to School wearing their Christmas or seasonally festive jumpers and raised a brilliant £744 in support of Chad's Challenge and The Christie Hospital. A very big thank you to everyone who donated, this now takes the total raised over the past few years for The Chadwick Mullholland fund to over £97,000!! For more information on Chad, please click [HERE](#).

Mission Christmas Hits Radio Appeal

An enormous THANK YOU to all the very generous parents and carers who donated to the Mission Christmas, Hits Radio appeal through the School.

We were very lucky to receive so many wonderful gifts, particularly this year when times are very difficult for everyone.

Wishing you all a very happy holidays!

Mrs A Jolly
Attendance Officer





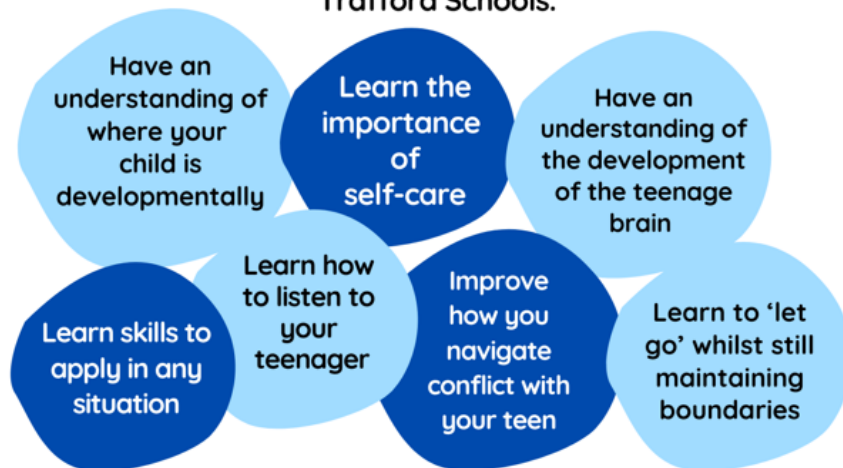
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Useful Information for Parents and Carers

I'm a Parent... *Get me out of here!* 2023

A 6 week course for parents with children 11+
Fully funded for parents and carers of children attending
Trafford Schools.



Join us from 23.02.2023 - 30.03.2022 (Thursdays)
for our early evening online workshop
6pm - 8pm



Contact alison.hambleton@thecfc.org.uk to book

Parents and Carers may be interested in signing up to this 6 week course taking place in February. Please contact Alison Hambleton on the email address above for further information.



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Forthcoming dates for January 2023

Wed 04.01.2023	School Re-Opens for the Spring Term
Thurs 05.01.2023	A Level Awards Evening 5pm
Thurs 12.01.2023	Y11 & Y13 Photographs
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



Noticeboard for Parents

All that remains is for the Head Master and Staff to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas break and all the very best of fortune for 2023.

A reminder to all Parents and Carers that School re-opens after the Christmas Holidays on Wednesday, 4th January 2023.

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Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

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