



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

2nd February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I would like to firstly congratulate all students (and staff) who took part in last Friday's annual Session Orchestra Concert. The Concert Band, Big Band and Session Orchestra performed a number of contemporary hits with a host of amazing vocalists (including students from AGGS). It was a wonderful evening of music, and it was marvellous to see so many parents and families in attendance.

The Year 13 Trial exams have continued throughout this week, and I hope that they will prove a useful learning experience for the students. The UCAS process has now closed and this time of year is always a mixture of some disappointment and some celebration. Where there is disappointment, students should be assured that other doors will open.

In terms of celebration, I would like to congratulate all those who have received offers from their chosen Universities, including 16 for Oxford and Cambridge. Students have been successful in gaining places in a wide range of subjects and we extend our gratitude to Mr Murray (Head of 6th Form), the 6th Form team, the Exams Office, Departments, Tutors, and all individuals who played a crucial role in supporting the students' applications this year.

We have had another good fortnight in sport. In boys' hockey, three teams have progressed through National Cup stages: the 1st XI secured a convincing 8-1 win against Ratcliffe College to take them into round three, the Under 16's also reach round 3 after a hard-fought victory over Bishop Vesey and the Under 14's have progressed into the fourth round after beating Cheadle Hulme 3-2. We have a number of football teams remaining in the Greater Manchester Cup and well done to the Under 16 Badminton squad on reaching the National semi-finals. We are absolutely delighted with the news that, once again, AGSB has been named in the Top 50 of all sporting schools in the UK by School Sport Magazine.

Finally, well done to the Year 10 & Year 11 Debating teams who competed in the second round of the English-Speaking Union competition at Bolton School on Monday evening. The Year 11 team made it through to the next round, unfortunately the Year 10 team just missed out.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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Chinese Cultural Immersion Day



I am delighted to announce that we are having a Chinese Cultural Immersion Day on Thursday 8th February to celebrate Chinese New Year - the Year of the Dragon! All Year 7 pupils will be off timetable for the entire day to attend a range of workshops at school. These workshops include lantern making, Chinese classical ink painting, Chinese calligraphy, and Chinese sports, etc. On the day, Year 7 pupils will attend a keynote speech during Period 1 and will then

be assigned to four different workshops.

If you celebrate Chinese New Year / Lunar New Year at home and would like to share your experience at Year 7 Assembly on Thursday 8th February, please contact me - your participation would be greatly appreciated!

Mrs J Ding
丁老师(Ding laoshi)
Head of Chinese

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024



On the 25th January, thirteen Year 9 students accompanied by Mr. Croxton, departed school to attend a Holocaust Memorial Service at The Waterside Arts in Sale.

Beginning at 1pm the memorial opened with a poignant speech delivered by a member of the local Jewish community, setting a powerful tone for the

event. Presentations, including speeches, dramas, poems, and songs, were delivered by various Primary and Secondary Schools from across Trafford, each leaving a strong impression. Particularly noteworthy was the heartfelt sharing of personal stories by students from Lostock High School, showcasing immense courage in front of approximately 200 attendees.

The memorial not only honoured the Holocaust but also shed light on subsequent genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia, Sudan, and Cambodia. Concluding with a speech promoting hope, kindness, and the acknowledgment of shared humanity, the event left a lasting impact, prompting reflection and a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and its significance.

Pratham Malavalli (9RN)





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AGSB Annual House Talent Show

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Thursday 22nd February 4:30-6.30pm.

-NOT A HOUSE COMPETITION!

- Two songs per band
- Email Mr Monument by 29th Jan to enter.
- The winning band will also play an encore to close the show.
- sound check on Wednesday 21st Feb @3:30
- Bands of all age and abilities will be accepted.

AGSB'S got TALENT

- Open entries to the competition, house points awarded for **EVERY ENTRY!**
- Upload an audition video below by 29th January.
- House Managers will select two performances per house.

-We are looking for a variety show (comedians, juggling, gymnastics, dance, magic, didgeridoo, sitar, poetry, a skit, cultural performance, yo-yo, etc).

There will be a winner for each of the separate competitions, which will be decided by a vote on the evening.

Let's fill the hall with spectators on the **22nd February @4:30-6.30pm!**

Get your **FREE** tickets here!

We are looking forward to the Battle of the Bands and AGSB's Got Talent on the **22nd February** and **FREE** tickets can now be reserved.

To reserve your free tickets, you can scan the QR code on the poster on the left but be warned, there are only limited numbers available!

STUDENTS - Do you have a talent that can win points for your House? If so, record your audition video and upload it to the Form via this [LINK](#) (entries must be in before the 5th February).

Battle of the Bands

STUDENTS - you can enter by emailing Mr Monument direct to enter your band (mmonument@agsb.co.uk).

Details of both competitions are included on the attached posters.

Mr M Soulsby
Assistant Head (Development)

English Speaking Union

The Year 10 and Year 11 teams competed in the second round of the English Speaking Union competition this week at Bolton School.

The Year 11 team made it through to the next round but unfortunately, the Y10 team just missed out.

Well done to everyone who took part.





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Oxbridge Success



Congratulations to the sixteen AGSB students who have received offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge University. The offers have been made across eleven different subjects ranging from Philosophy, Politics and Economics to Medicine and Earth Sciences. We are very proud of our students.

Sessions Orchestra & Friends!



What a great night! The 2024 Session Orchestra Evening proved to be another amazing event, showcasing so much talent across the full range of age groups.

Thanks also to our wonderful guest performers from AGGS and to Mr Monument and his team for organising.



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Vespa Academy Study Skills Workshop for Parents of Year 11 & Year 13 Students



In preparation for the external examinations in the Summer Term, Year 11 and Year 13 students will receive a Study Skills session within School delivered by Martin Griffin of the VESPA Academy. Martin has 20 years' experience teaching GCSE and post-16 students in colleges as a Sixth Form teacher, Head of Faculty, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. He was the Director of Sixth Form at a twice Ofsted-outstanding comprehensive Sixth Form in Manchester, where student progress is among the top 10 per cent in the country. Over the last five years Martin has worked with more than three hundred colleges and schools in the UK and abroad to develop effective study-skill development systems.

There will also be a session for the Parents/Carers of students in Years 11 and 13 where Martin Griffin will explore five key non-cognitive skills – vision, effort, systems, practice and attitude – and share tools and strategies for their effective development, discussing strategies for embedding a culture that focuses on the development of non-cognitive learning skills at KS4 and KS5.

Parents of Students in Years 11 and 13 can therefore book their **FREE TICKETS** by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Dr E Thomas
Assistant Head (Teaching & Learning)

AGSB Chess



Congratulations to the AGBS Chess squad who played in the Ivan Gromov league this week and defeated Tiffin School 5-1 and Holyport College 6-0.

The squad now play Manchester Grammar School next week in the semi-finals of the Cheshire Regional round for the U19 English Schools Chess Championship. If successful, they will qualify for the final of the Cheshire Regional Finals later this term. Good luck to all involved!

AGSB Art Ambassadors – Comic Club

Calling all art enthusiasts, this is a fun and free roaming club where you can draw your own comics using specialist equipment from the Art Department.

If you would like to come along, the final session is on **Tuesday 6th February** in A1 at lunchtime.

Aran Davenport-Bains 7HI
(Art Ambassador)





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Year 8 Assembly



Many thanks to Tosin, Kavi and Harry from Year 11 who delivered an amazing assembly to Year 8 this week. The assembly focused on being kind and supportive to one another at all times. The values of respect and tolerance were front and centre of their message.

Old Altrinchamian



Last week, AGSB students received a fascinating and thought-provoking talk delivered by Dr Rayyan Zafar who left the School in 2014.

Rayyan has since gone on to complete a PhD in Neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College, London.

AGSB Islamic Society – Asian Food Sale



We are thrilled to announce our Unity Through Charity Campaign 2024!!

For the past 7 years, we have been fundraising for causes across the globe and have raised sums of over £34,000 through our annual Asian Food Sale. This year we are partnering with Human Appeal to raise money to support those in need in the humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

The Asian Food sale will be held on **Monday, 4th March & Tuesday, 5th March** in the Coleman Hall at lunchtime.

Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you soon.

AGSB ISOC



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AGSB Sports

Football



We had a great morning of football last Saturday with five great games against AKS School, Lytham with AGSB coming away with five wins! That's the Saturday season now finished but there are lots of important games coming up!

Great games all round!



Hockey



The U14s Hockey squad had a great win last week against a strong Cheadle Hulme side. Well done to all!

The 1st XI Hockey team had a great 8-1 in the National Cup vs Ratcliffe College this week.





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Basketball



A very convincing win by the Under 14 Basketball squad vs Altrincham College of Arts.

Well done!

Badminton

Well done to the Under 16 Badminton squad who have made it through to the National Semi-Finals this week! Great result.



Sporting Achievements



(Left) Well done to brothers, Harvey and Oscar Payne (13WY) and (10CO) who recently participated in the Shukokai Karate Welsh Open Championships.

Harvey won gold in Kumite (sparring) and gold in Shobu Ippon (adult level). Oscar won bronze in his Kumite group.

What a fantastic achievement!

(Right) Congratulations to Alex T (9CC) who was on the GB Skiing team in the Czech Republic last week. Alex was up against stiff competition from around 40 of the best U14 athletes from 16 countries around the world. He completed all four races, finishing 11th

overall in Giant Slalom and 8th overall in Slalom. He was the most highly placed British athlete in the U14 category. Well done Alex!



Many congratulations to Oscar L (9CD) who has been selected for the next stage of the Sale Sharks Academy which is a great achievement!





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SEND Support at AGSB



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 AGSB

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



External Exam Invigilators Required from 16th May to the 26th June 2024



We Need You! – Volunteer Invigilators Required

We are looking to put together a voluntary invigilation team for the 2024 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 is to be an information meeting for volunteer invigilators on **Wednesday, 7th February at 5pm** in the Coleman Hall where you will be able to ask any questions. Thank you in advance for any contribution you may feel able to make.

The Exams Team



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AGSB PFA Curry & Quiz Night



We are delighted to announce the famous AGSB Curry and Quiz Night will be returning on **Wednesday, 28th February 2024** and tickets are now available on ParentPay. Quiz Master and former AGSB teacher, Mr John Moran, will be challenging your brain with some varied rounds involving some rather tricky questions! Doors open at 7pm for a 7.15pm start. Food will be served promptly at 7.15pm.

As usual, we will have a paid-for bar available selling a range of drinks plus hot and cold beverages.

If you would like to take part in the quiz, please register using this [LINK](#). Each team should have a maximum of 8 people, however, we will happily make up teams, by Year and Form Groups, if possible, if you are short on

numbers or are coming along as individuals.

Everyone is welcome, boys, parents, family, friends...The price is £12.50 per head, to include chicken or vegetarian curry with rice (plain pilau which is also vegetarian)and naan. The chicken is halal. There is a £5 discount for AGSB students and staff. (£7.50 per ticket).

Please note that there are no nuts in any of the dinner served (chicken or vegetarian curry with rice).

The prestigious 'AGSB Quiz Curry Cup' will be awarded on the evening to the overall winning team and the 'Losers Quiz Curry Spoon' (slightly less prestigious) will also be up for grabs!!!

Please make sure you put the date in your diary and submit the online form by **Thursday, 22nd February 2024**. Please note there will be no tickets on the door as we need to have accurate numbers for catering purposes.

Tickets are on sale now on ParentPay so don't delay. Ticket sales will close at the end of the School day on Thursday 22nd February 2024.

Many thanks

AGSB PFA





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Vaping Support for Parents and Carers

TRAFFORD'S YOUTH VAPING OVERVIEW - JANUARY 2024

Secondary schools vaping education & awareness

Trafford's School Health & Early Break Young People's Service are working in partnership to deliver a vaping drop-in at each of the Trafford High School's between January-April 2024. This gives young people the opportunity to speak with a professional and better understand the harms and risks of underage youth vaping.

TO BOOK THESE DROP-IN SESSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEDICATED SCHOOL NURSE AT:

Central Team: Djs-Central.Trafford.School.Nurse.team@mft.nhs.uk or 0161 912 3395
 West Team: Djs-West.Trafford.School.Nursing.Team@mft.nhs.uk or 0161 549 6290
 North Team: Djs-North.Trafford.School.Nursing.team@mft.nhs.uk or 0161 549 6290
 South Team: Djs-South.Trafford.School.Nurse.team@mft.nhs.uk or 0161 912 2340

Young people's 1:1 vaping and smoking support

Young people who are regularly vaping can access 1:1 support with either their school nurse or Early Break. Parents, young people or professionals can make a referral to their local school nursing team. If a young person is found to be using an unregulated vape, smoking tobacco, or other substances, their support will be transferred to Early Break for further support to change their habits.

Parent and Professional webinars on youth vaping

School Health & Early Break will be offering separate webinars for both parents and professionals who live/work or their child attends school in Trafford. The youth vaping webinar aims to challenge the myths and misconceptions around vapes, share the facts on youth vaping, how it may impact teenage behaviour and what support is available.

Trafford Parents Webinars:

- Tuesday 30th January at 7pm
- Wednesday 28th February at 7pm
- Thursday 28th March at 7pm

Trafford professionals webinars:

- Tuesday 20th February at 3:30pm
- Wednesday 14th March at 3:30pm

(Please email tssp.learning@trafford.gov.uk with your name, job title and organisation to book)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS:

Copies of youth vaping educational materials are currently being developed with Trafford Young People to allow school's form tutors to deliver a short vaping education session during pupil's form time.

Trafford's Public Health Team have also been successful in the NHS Population Health Fellowship Programme. This allows Trafford Council to complete a 12-month research project. Trafford is one of only four North West Local Authorities successful in this programme, and the only LA focusing their research on youth vaping.

In consideration of the rising uptake of youth vaping, Trafford Council, School Health and Early Break Young People & Family Service have come together to develop a **Trafford Youth Vaping Offer 2024**.

This includes:

Parent & Professional webinars to help understand the myths and misconceptions around vapes and the support available.

1:1 support to young people who vape, smoke or use other substances.

To book one of the free Parent Webinars, please click on the following links:

- [**Wednesday, 28th February at 7pm**](#)
- [**Thursday, 28th March at 7pm**](#)

Parent Workshops available – Support for Parents in conflict

Positive Steps
Creating Healthy Relationships

Day time or evening workshops available

Evidence clearly shows that a child's well-being is significantly better if their parents are able to resolve their arguments by using respectful, constructive communication skills and find resolution to their disagreements. This course will help you understand...

How our thoughts, feelings and behaviours impact on how we communicate

Why you argue

Healthy relationship development

How to identify the 'real' issue

How you can communicate in a more helpful way

A fully funded six week structured course for parents who are experiencing challenging times in their relationship and struggling to communicate positively. Open for 1, or both partners.

Starts Wednesday 7th February, sessions available 10am-12pm or 6.30pm-8.30pm at The Counselling and Family Centre, Altrincham, WA15 9RP
To book your place visit www.thecfc.org.uk/positive-steps

Parents and Carers who are experiencing conflict in their relationships, may be interested in support being offered by the Educational Psychology Service.

A fully funded six week course is available and starts on **Wednesday, 7th February**.

To book your place visit:

www.thecfc.org.uk/positive-steps.



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'Pie and Pint' Six Nations Rugby Event on Saturday, 16th March



Every year the AGSB PE Department run an event to raise money for the Senior Rugby and Hockey tour. This Summer they will be travelling to South Africa to experience the sport and the culture.

The attached flyer for 'Pie and Pint' is an event we run in order to raise money to further add to the boys' experience. We will be showing all 3 Six Nations Rugby games on the big screen as well as serving up pies along with a bar service.

We do expect all rugby players to purchase a ticket but would also love to see as many parents, carers, friends and family members in attendance also.

Tickets can be purchased from the PE Office at a cost of £15 for an adult and £10 per child.

Many thanks for your continued support for sport at AGSB.

The PE Dept

Noticeboard for Parents



Don't forget, School closes for February half-term next Friday, 9th February at 3.20pm and re-opens on Monday, 19th February for all students.

Calendar Dates

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



Forthcoming Key Dates are:

- ★ 04.02.2024 – 09.02.2024: Y9 Football Trip to Barcelona
- ★ 06.02.2024: Y10 Study Skills Evening – 6pm Coleman Hall
- ★ 07.02.2024: Y8 PSHE Trip to a Gurdwara in Manchester
- ★ 08.02.2024: Y7 Deep Learning Day: Chinese New Year & Cultural Immersion
- ★ 09.02.2024 – 17.02.2024: Austria Ski Trip
- ★ 09.02.2024: Y13 Economics Trip to meet EconPlusDal, Alderley Edge
- ★ 09.02.2024: School Closes for Half-Term
- ★ 19.02.2024: School Re-opens after Half-Term
- ★ 21.02.2024: Y8 PSHE Trip to a Gurdwara in Manchester
- ★ 22.02.2024: AGSB's Got Talent & Battle of the Bands 4.30pm Coleman Hall



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- * 28.02.2024: PFA Curry & Quiz Night – 7pm Stamford Hall
- * 29.02.2024: Y9 Parents' Evening – 4.30pm
- * 04.03.2024 & 05.03.2024: Asian Food Sale – 12.20pm in the Coleman Hall
- * 05.03.2024: Spanish Exchange Trip – Spanish Students to AGSB
- * 08.03.2024: Spring Concert – 7pm in the Coleman Hall
- * 11.03.2024 – 18.03.2024: Geology Fieldtrip to Cyprus
- * 12.03.2024: Y12 Physics Trip to Daresbury Laboratory
- * 14.03.2024: Piano Recital Concert – 7pm in the Coleman Hall
- * 14.03.2024: **School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Training**
- * 16.03.2024: Six Nations Pie & Pint – 12.30pm in the Stamford Hall
- * 18.03.2024 – 20.03.2024: Y7 PGL Adventure Trip to Shropshire
- * 18.03.2024: Y12 Trip to Cambridge Conference
- * 19.03.2024 – 28.03.2024: Y10 Exams
- * 21.03.2024: Y12 Parents' Evening
- * 25.03.2024 – 27.03.2024: Y11 Geology Trip to Ecton Mine Trust, Derbyshire
- * 28.03.2024 – 03.04.2024: Biology Trip to Orlando Florida
- * 28.03.2024: School Closes for Easter Holidays

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HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

