



# 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

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The US baseball player Yogi Berra had something of a way with words. He once said: *"It's like deja vu all over again"*. On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B](#) of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19. However, the Government remains clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open. To that end, we have again been asked to provide an on-site test for pupils on return in January. We are aiming to return all of our pupils to school staggered across our first day back (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January). Mr Soulsby will be in touch with Parents and Carers with our plans next week.

Yesterday we were informed that both the AGSB 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. Congratulations to Mr Monument and all the pupils involved.

Last Wednesday, we held the 'House Shout' Music Competition in the Coleman Hall. It was warming that so many parents attended the evening and they certainly did not go home disappointed. The House spirit that was on display was quite amazing and it was wonderful to see pupils from all age groups working together to create some memorable musical moments. I believe that the evening fully showcased what a house system can do in breaking down age barriers and instilling positive cohesion across the student body of the entire school. In terms of leadership opportunities, the Senior boys revelled in the opportunity to lead and manage the younger boys in their House. Many thanks to Mr Soulsby and his team for organising and delivering such a memorable event and well done to Stamford House for winning the Gartside Trophy. Thank you also to our House Sponsors - Myersons Solicitors, D Wardle (Plant) Ltd, ABC Warranty and Sodexo for their continued support.

It has been another full and successful fortnight of sport. Today the U16 and U18 indoor squads played some excellent hockey to win their respective regional competitions and will now compete in the National Finals at Whitgift School, London in 2022. In football, five age groups have made it through to the latter stages of the Manchester Cup.

Rugby and football fixtures have been decimated by the weather of late and unfortunately our fields remain under water. Our fundraising campaign to improve outdoor sports facilities has begun well. A reminder that all parents and carers will be invited to attend a reception over the next few months and with your support, our facilities for rugby, football, hockey, cricket and tennis will be vastly improved and will provide our pupils with excellent 'all year-round' sporting facilities.

Next Thursday, pupils are invited to come into school wearing something festive with their uniform. We would encourage all students to wear a Christmas jumper to school on that day and make a voluntary donation to Chad's Challenges. Parents can donate via ParentPay.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright - Head Master



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## National Concert Band Festival



The AGSB Big Band and Concert Band recently travelled to Warwick for the National Concert Band Festival and we are absolutely delighted to announce that the only Platinum Award of the day went to the Big Band and the Concert Band received a Gold award!

The boys had a brilliant time and were an absolute credit to the School and we have just learnt that both Bands have made it through to the National

Concert Band National Finals which take place at the Royal Northern College of Music in April 2022.

Well done to all those who took part and a big thank you to Mr Monument, our Director of Music, for organising.

You can watch both performances on the AGSB Music Instagram account.



## AGSB Hindu, Sikh and Jain Society

After two hectic nights of AGSB's **first** multicultural performance event, the Hindu, Sikh and Jain Society are proud to announce that an amazing **£2,800** was raised for the Veerayatan Charity.

All the money raised from this event will go to building a new library within a school in rural India.

Utsav 2021 turned out to be a tremendous success, surpassing any expectations we had. A huge thank you to all the teachers, staff and students who volunteered and performed across the two nights!

See you next year!

*Soham Bhansali - Hindu, Sikh and Jain Society*



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## Year 8 House Public Speaking Competition

The Year 8 House Public Speaking Competition was held on Friday of last week and the motion was '*Due to surging gas prices, now is the best time to invest in renewables*'. The students addressed a wide variety of relevant issues and competition was very tightly-contested. The competition was well-supported by staff and Y8 and Y7 students. It was won by the Proposition, consisting of Reyansh B & Adhitya K (Massey) and Ahmad A & Ali D (Tatton). Massey was awarded first place by virtue of Reyansh's excellent contribution as Seconder. The defeated opposition team consisted of Bhargav K & Ebbe A (Stamford) and George B & Vishakh S (Bradbury). The judges awarded third place to Stamford on the back of Bhargav's superb performance as Questioner. Many thanks to Mr Williams (Geography), Head Prefect, Adham S (Y13) and Cameron Mc (Y13) for judging the competition, Kiran D (Y13) for judging and Ms Marson and Ms Mahoney for hosting. Thanks as well to other staff and students who came along to support the participants. The final House Public Speaking competition, for Year 7, is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December when the motion will focus on the legacy of Michael Jordan.



Mr Croxton  
Head of History & Politics

## AGSB Philosophy Society



Last week's meeting of the AGBS Philosophy Society took a political turn, focusing on if the state was justified. Led by Sulay C (12HP), we discussed the various justifications and arguments against the state eg. social contract theory and anarchism. Sulay led us chronologically through these theories with a clear understanding which made these somewhat dense topics easy and enjoyable.

The session was fantastic and quite interactive as we had people of both views, making for quite the debate!

Adhav Chidambaram 12DV

## AGSB Alumni Talks

Old Altrinchamian, Alan Cheung, came into School last week and gave a very insightful talk about careers in Civil Engineering. The students enjoyed hearing of the many projects Alan has been part of as well as his career progression so far.







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*Mr Gallamore*  
*Head of Careers*

We were also very pleased to welcome back Old Alt and Dentist, Bilal Ahmad last week who gave a fascinating alumnus talk to students about his career pathway and gave them many tips on how to succeed in gaining entry to Dental School.

We are very grateful to all of the speakers who give up their time to share their experiences with learners.

## Alumni Careers Talks



Next Monday will see the culmination of the series of Career talks delivered by ex-students from the school. We have had a great variety of speakers from recent leaver Alex Cockx who owns Hale Karate club to 72-year-old Jim Armour who had a very successful career within global logistics.

On Monday lunchtime we have CEO of Matillion, Matthew Scullion, coming in to talk about his journey from leaving AGSB to building a "Unicorn status" start-up business. Matthew's company helps agile enterprises convert raw data into actionable, analytics-ready data in the cloud in minutes for new insights and better business decisions. Their current client list includes Microsoft, PWC, Siemens and Sony amongst many others and upon a recent sale of shares the company was valued at \$1.5 Billion.

Matthew is very kindly giving up his time to do a Q&A with the students who have already submitted the questions they would like to have answered. This talk is accessible to all students, and we hope for a bumper turnout to make the most of this opportunity to hear first-hand from one of our most successful old boys about his career.

## COP26 House Competition



The House COP26 House Competition took place last week and the winners are listed below. The standard was incredible. Congratulations to Maksim M (7SI) who spoke at COP26 in Glasgow! He is campaigning with his mum for better air quality across Greater Manchester, and the School community should be very proud of him.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Maksim M (7SI) (Stamford)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Ben F (7S1) (Massey)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Ryan S, Mohammed A, Aidh S and Nish P (9GA) (Tatton)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place - Ehsan A, Yuufy A, Mohammed A (7OL) (Tatton)

### **The following boys received Highly Commended:**

- Ehan S (9FB) (Tatton)
- Prosper O (7RH) (Bradbury)
- Ben F (7SI) (Massey)
- Leo P (7SI) (Bradbury)
- Jacob L (7RH) (Massey)

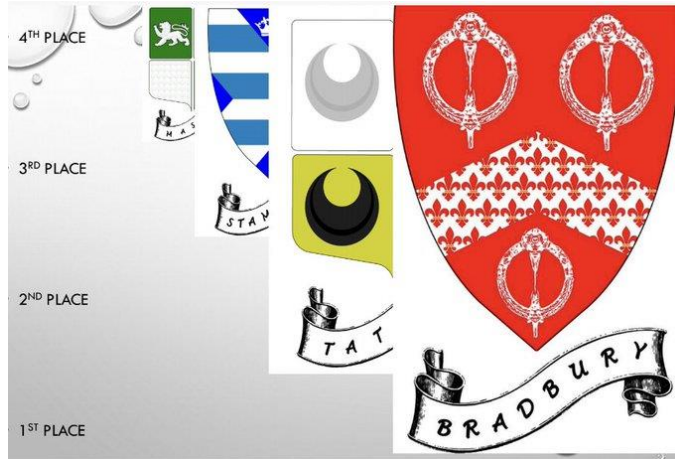




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## AGSB House System



The Christmas standings for the Saville Laver Cup are as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Massey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stamford
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tatton
- 1<sup>st</sup> Bradbury

## Design and Technology



Year 8 were proud to test their Medieval Siege weapons recently with an 80% success rate. The Trebuchet designs were manufactured with precision and accuracy and it was the best year ever with 12 out of 15 shots on target to strike the castle wall. This is a popular project where pupils can apply Mathematics and Physics to create a catapult with range and power. Well done to the "Wall Wasters" team who were victorious overall.

*Mr R Baker*  
*Head of Technology*

## ESU Public Speaking Competition



Great news! Both ESU Public Speaking Competition teams made it through the regional heats last week and will now compete at the national level after Christmas.

Y10 team - Laurie M, Amr T, Manthan D (a last-minute addition to the team) and Y11 team - Jamie L-B, Jacob R and Yusuf N.



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## AGSB PFA



The AGSB PFA were invited to Radio Alty last week to speak about mental health. Head Master, Mr Wright, Anna Jones, Chair of the PFA and other PFA members and student Adam Byrne were all live on air. To listen to the podcast, click on this [LINK](#).

## AGSB House Shout

A fantastic evening was had by all at the Annual House Shout event. All four Houses put together some fantastic performances but the deserving winners in all three categories was **Stamford House** – congratulations to all the students who took part.

## *Musical Ensembles*







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***Unison (Left)***

***Choral Harmony (Right)***



***The Winners – Stamford House***







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## AGSB PFA Christmas Fair – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021







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

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, an Art & Tech Club stall, Asian food stall and much more, not to mention the ever successful tombolas. 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 boys who were entertaining everyone throughout the course of the day.

My final thanks go to the boys and the fabulous teachers that turned up to support them: the music was outstanding and the House Stalls were just absolutely brilliant. Together we have raised over **£7,800** for AGSB.

**Anna Jones**  
**Chair, AGSB PFA**

## Year 7 Creative Writing Showcase



The Year 7 Creative Writing Club hosted its first showcase performance today. Students were given the opportunity to perform one of the short stories, descriptions, poems or comics they had been working on over the last half term.

Some of the students felt strange reading their own work aloud but the audience was so impressed with each contribution. The characters and settings were all so intriguing. We are planning lots more fun



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creative writing activities for the new term so any new members are very welcome on Friday lunchtimes in E1 from January 21<sup>st</sup> 2022.

*Mrs Haines*  
*English Department*



## Sporting Successes

Well done to the U16 indoor Hockey team (right) for progressing to the North West Finals with wins over Calday Grange, Cheadle Hulme School and Sandbach School.



Well done to Max P (8ES) (left) who recently passed his Black Belt in Taekwondo. He has been working hard to complete his assessment with all his practice paying off. Well done Max!



## AGSB Football

The Y11 Football Team fought hard for a great 4-3 win against Cardinal Langley RC High School last week to make it through to the semi-final of the Greater Manchester Cup.

Well done boys!

### **Football Update:** **Greater Manchester Plate:**

U16 through to the semi-final  
U15 through to the quarter-final  
U14 through to the semi-final  
U13 through to the quarter-final  
U12 playing in the quarter-final next Wednesday







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A very confident 5-0 win for the Year 9 AGSB Football Team yesterday against Thornleigh Salesian College in the quarter final of the Greater Manchester Plate. Well done.



## AGSB Hockey



Well done to the AGSB U16 Hockey Team who played today in the North West Indoor Hockey Finals. They had a great winning performance against King's Macclesfield and Sandbach followed by a draw against MGS. It went down to goal difference but we are very pleased to say that the team are now through to the National Finals! Great tournament.

## AGSB Esports



A good week to round out the British Esports Winter Qualifiers with three of our teams remaining undefeated. Not quite finished yet – AGSB Valorant will be playing in the semi-finals next Wednesday so good luck to them.

*Mr R Cummins*  
*Head of Year 12*



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## House University Challenge



Another exciting House University Challenge this week. The final score was Bradbury 75 – 75 Stamford and Bradbury won on a tie break! Next Wednesday's final will be Tatton vs Bradbury, may the best House win!

## Well Done

Well done to James L (7RH) who has been selected to represent Altrincham FC's U12 team at a tournament in Ireland next summer.

## 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.

Mr M Soulsby  
Assistant Head – Development

## Christmas Jumper Day



Our Chad's Challenges team has arranged a '**Christmas Jumper Day**' on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

Christmas Jumper Day is an annual tradition and coincides with Christmas Lunch. Please note that normal uniform rules apply, except for you wearing your Christmas jumper of course.

Donation will go to Chad's Challenges (suggested donation of a £1 please) and Parents and carers can donate via ParentPay.

Some of you may have recently joined the school and so we thought we should share some information about Chad and where all of the funds raised go to. The Team are made up of students from many year groups and our aim is always to "have fun, make people smile and raise loads of money".

This was written by Chad's Mum, Michelle:

*Chadwick Mulholland was born on 3rd September 1990. He was a quiet, caring, loving and very intelligent boy. In January 2005 at the age of 14 he discovered a lump on his neck, it was then when our lives changed drastically and in the 3 and half years that followed Chad suffered relapse after relapse, but never lost his enthusiasm for life. In May 2007 he not only had a bone marrow transplant, which we thought was the answer to our prayers, but, somehow finding the strength from (I don't know where) managed not only*





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*to take his GCSE's, albeit in isolation in hospital and at home, but gained 10 A\*'s. Then after the Hodgkin's Lymphoma came back for the fourth time in September 2007, he still found the strength to sit an A Level in Further Maths obtaining an 'A' the week before he died on 18th August 2008.*

*He was our star and now our angel, he is much loved and will always be remembered by all his family and friends.*

*In September 2008 with the help of his old school, Altrincham Grammar for Boys, we set up Chads Challenges, for anyone wanting to set a personal challenge for themselves, whilst having fun and raising much needed funds for The Young Oncology Unit (now renamed the Palatine Treatment Centre) at The Christie who do a fantastic job in making the worst of situations into a comfortable one".*

Thank you.

Mr T Murray  
Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

## AGSB Cultural Calendar



The Cultural Calendar is situated in our school reception area and created by the students in our Anti-Racism Club to highlight events throughout the school year.

If you have an event that we could share with the rest of the school community please let us know at [agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk](mailto:agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk) or speak to Mrs Jolly in the Reception Office. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Cultural Calendar is created by  
the students for the  
**Anti-Racism Club**  
in school.

We would be grateful to anyone who  
can provide us with events they  
celebrate throughout the year to highlight  
to the school community.

So,  
if you have a cultural event you would  
like to share please let us know to  
[agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk](mailto:agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk) or see  
Mrs Jolly in Reception





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## Noticeboard for Parents

### Last Day of Term Arrangements

Unfortunately, this year we are unable to take the whole School up to St Mary's, Bowdon, for the annual Christmas Carol Service due to Covid restrictions and only Years 7 and 8 will be attending Church. If you are a Parent/Carer of a Year 7 or Year 8 pupil and prefer your son **not** to attend, please pass a letter signed by you, to your son's Form Tutor by the **end of School on Tuesday, 14th December**. **Please note: if a signed letter is not received by School by 14th December, your son will be required to attend the service.** Following the Church Service, the pupils will be dismissed and may go home.

The students who are remaining in School (with the exception of Y11 who are sitting their last day of Trial Exams), will be in school as normal but there will be Form time and Head of Year Christmas Assemblies during the morning. The students in Years 9 to 13 will be dismissed at 12.20pm and School will close for the Christmas Holidays.

## Big PFA Christmas Raffle 2021

**Parentink**

**THE BIG PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Bring a little sparkle and festive cheer this year!

**WIN UP TO £5,000**

£5 ticket enters you in all 12 draws

- \* Help boost PFA fundraising - 50% of ticket sales go to our PFA for our boys!
- \* Tickets cost just £3
- \* 12 chances to win up to £5,000
- \* PLUS! A special prize draw worth £2,500 for all PTAs selling 120 tickets or more!

**BUY TICKETS**

*Don't delay - buy your tickets today!*

It's illegal for anyone under 16 years of age to purchase or sell raffle tickets. Anyone under 16 years of age who buys a ticket for the Big PTA Christmas Raffle will immediately forfeit the right to any prize. Closing date: 12th Dec 2021. A raffle is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a gambling problem, please call GamCare on 0800 5000 123 or visit [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)

The PFA would like to give Parents and carers the opportunity to enter the **BIG PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**.

Tickets are only £3 each and for every ticket you will have 12 chances to win up to £5,000!

To buy tickets, please click on this [LINK](#).

**The closing date is the 12<sup>th</sup> December, so please buy your tickets TODAY!**

Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!

**The AGSB PFA**

## The Colin Myers' Retirement Concert – Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December



The AGSB Music Department would like to invite you to a very special evening of big band music, in an event celebrating the retirement of Colin Myers, our former Director of Music. Mr Myers was Director of Music at AGSB for over 17 years before his retirement in 2020 but unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, we were unable to say farewell to him.

The event will take place here in the Coleman Hall on **Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** and will feature the AGSB Big Band and music from an ensemble especially put together, featuring old boys, staff and current pupils directed by Mr Myers for a farewell performance.

You can register for tickets by logging on to [Eventbrite here](#).



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Tickets are priced at £8 each and can be paid for via ParentPay.

The PFA have organised a licensed cash bar and food is also available on the night. All proceeds raised by the PFA for this special event will be donated to the AGSB instrumental scheme, a system where musical instruments are given to every boy in Years 7 and 8.

## AGSB SEND CLINIC

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](mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk) to arrange an appointment. If the Clinic hours do not suit, we can of course arrange an alternative time.



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](mailto:acathcart@agsb.co.uk).

More information can be found [HERE](#)

### Important Information from Trafford Council regarding School Holiday Food Support

Trafford Council is committed to supporting vulnerable low income families who are struggling and need help to pay for food, fuel or water.

#### **School Holiday Food Support**

As part of the Government's national Household Support Fund, all families who have a child in receipt of free school meals will be given £30 per child, per school holiday week in December. This is usually £15 per week per child but the Council has recognised the additional cost of food during Christmas time. If you are eligible for free school meals you may have received Supermarket vouchers previously. This is changing. The School Holiday Food Support will now be a 'cash-first' scheme, meaning that you will be paid the cash equivalents of the vouchers directly into your bank account. If you do not have a bank account you can request a voucher instead but you will still need to apply online.

**\*\*\*\*You must apply by 3 January 2022 \*\*\*\***

**The link to the application form will be sent out on 14 December 2021, please keep an eye on your inbox.**

This new form means you will get an instant decision for claims relating to the Free School Meal Holiday Award. If you need support in completing the online form, please visit your [local library](#). Children must be in receipt of free school meals in order to receive an award.

#### **Fuel and Water Support**



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In addition to support with food, Trafford Council offers support to families and vulnerable adults who are struggling to heat their homes or pay their water costs.

The Trafford Assist Scheme has a range of support: [www.trafford.gov.uk/traffordassist](http://www.trafford.gov.uk/traffordassist).

*Ms A Cathcart - Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco*

## AGSB Christmas Lunch

**Christmas at AGBS**

Yr 7 – 10 in Stamford Hall  
Yr 12 & 13 in 6<sup>th</sup> Form

**Join us on**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December for**  
**Our Festive Lunch**

**Roast Turkey Breast (H),  
Chipolata Sausage & Sage & Onion Stuffing**  
**or**  
**Filo Basket with  
Creamy Garlic Mushrooms  
Topped with Feta**

**Roast Potatoes  
Carrots  
Sprouts  
Roast Gravy**

**£3.85**

Reminder for all students that it is **Christmas Lunch** next **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

Please can parents and carers ensure that students have enough money on their Sodexo cards.

Christmas Lunch is the hot food choice but there will be a limited selection of sandwiches available also.





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## Forthcoming dates for December 2021 and January 2022

Wed 08.12.2021 – 21.12.2021	Y11 Exams
Thu 16.12.2021	School Christmas Lunch
Thu 16.12.2021	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 suggested donation
Fri 17.12.2021	Colin Myers' Farewell Concert 7pm
Tue 21.12.2021	School Carol Service for Years 7 & 8, St Mary's Bowdon
Tue 21.12.2021	School Closes for Christmas Holidays
Mon 10.01.2022	School Opens after Christmas Holidays

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

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