



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

27th January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The weather has not been kind to us in the first few weeks of term, with access to the playing fields not possible due to heavy rain which was succeeded last week by snow and hard frost. Pupils have remained cheerful nonetheless and the term has continued at a relentless pace.

This week we were informed that 19 students from AGSB had received offers from Oxford or Cambridge Universities. It is no mean feat to receive an offer from a world class Oxbridge College when you are competing with an international field. As Head Master, it is warming to see that our students' ambition and hard work have been realised by the top universities in the world. I am delighted for those who have received offers, a testament to their hard work and the support provided by their teachers.

Congratulations must also go to the students who took up the challenge of applying to Oxford and Cambridge but did not get an offer. It is important that unsuccessful applicants look forward to the next opportunity coming their way. This is, of course, an exciting time for all Year 13 students who have received offers or are waiting to hear from other excellent Universities, both in the UK and further afield. Many thanks to the 6th Form team who have prepared and sent 226 university applications (in time for Thursday's UCAS deadline).

On 13th January, we held the AGSB Session Orchestra evening, and it certainly did not disappoint. The Concert Band, Big Band and String Orchestra performed a number of contemporary hits with a host of amazing vocalists (including students from AGGS, Loreto GS and Sale GS). It was a wonderful evening of music, and it was marvellous to see so many parents and families in attendance.

In sport, the AGSB Under 18 football and hockey sides have been in National Cup action over the last two weeks. Our indoor Hockey team travelled to London to represent the North West at the National Finals. They were superb all day and missed a semi-final spot by one point but coming in the top 5 in the Country is still something to be very proud of! In football, our 1st XI travelled to Shrewsbury School in a last 16 Cup tie. They played extremely well, however, the game ended 1:1 after extra-time and unfortunately, we lost the penalty shootout. Well done to the 1st XI, who did the School and themselves proud.

On 2nd February, we are looking forward to inviting Parents and Carers of pupils in Year 10 to discuss with their subject teachers how their child is progressing so far this year at their Academic Parents' Evening.

Over the next few weeks will be communicating to the AGSB community our exciting plans that have been made possible by the parents who have supported the Sports for All - Making a Difference Fundraising Campaign.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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AGSB Session Orchestra & Friends!



What a night! Another fantastic evening watching the Session Orchestra recently and brilliant to see so many old faces back to play alongside our current students. There were some incredible performances including appearances from our wonderful guest stars from AGGS, Loreto GS and Sale GS.





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AGSB Chinese Department



We were very pleased to welcome Mrs Lu into school last week as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations, who did some Classic Chinese Ink Painting entitled 'Water Town' with our Year 8 students. The Year 7 students also had similar workshops with Mrs Lu.

Mr J Ding
Teacher of Chinese





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Chess Club



The AGSB Chess A team were successful this week in the Cheshire Region semi-final, beating King's Chester 4-2. The team are away to Cheadle Hulme for the finals, date tbc.

Dr V Sully
Teacher of Chemistry

Guest Speakers



Last week our Y13s had a session on managing money, delivered by two experts in the field – Jenna and Ben Mulrone. Having these key skills moving into the next stage of their journey is essential to building a fulfilling and successful life.



We were also delighted to welcome Old Alt, Daniel Jones (founding Associate at Kennek) and Chris Tottman (Partner at Notion Capital) who talked to a packed Library about their experiences of entrepreneurship and having the confidence to think big in their careers.

Mr A Gallamore
Head of Careers



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Geography Fieldwork in Ancoats



On Friday 13 January and again on Tuesday 17th, GCSE geographers embarked to Ancoats, aiming to investigate how sustainable its regeneration had been. After taking the tram to New Islington, we walked alongside the canal, taking it in. It was interesting to see a blend of historic, preserved buildings and more modern, exciting ones. Once we arrived at George Leigh Street, we undertook an Environmental Quality Survey to see whether Ancoats was environmentally sustainable. We tracked the environment's quality as we went further from the CBD, finding it decreased. However, the friendliness was off the charts, with people approaching to crack a few jokes and talk about their experiences living there. I was shocked to learn one resident preferred science to geography, when geography is clearly the best!

We then broke off into groups for lunch and were allowed to explore the Northern Quarter- a vibrant area that had been transformed by gentrification. We were enticed by the independent shops and bohemian cafes, though McDonalds was clearly the popular choice! Following this, we did a land use survey. Despite the initial moans and groans, we all enjoyed it so much. We got to enter all sorts of buildings and talk to people to see how the area was being used. We finished the fieldtrip by doing a sustainability audit, with everyone contribution their views and engaging in the spirited discussion, before returning back. Thanks to Mr Bromley and the Geography department for a brilliant experience!

A Gadekar (11RW)

Annual Holocaust Memorial Trip



Around the 27th January every year, students from across Trafford gather to commemorate the millions of lives lost in the tragic events of the Holocaust. People pay their respects to the lost family members of individuals and to the heroes who put their lives on the line to save innocent victims. The 27th is an extremely important date as it marks the liberation of the concentration

camp Auschwitz by the Soviets and is the reason the memorial is held on this date.



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AGSB takes two students from each History class to represent the School's support and regard for the people who were affected by the horrific incidents of the Holocaust. The memorial this week took place at the Robert Bolt Theatre at the Sale Waterside Centre where students from a large variety of schools, both primary and secondary, perform dramas, poems, and songs and share their accounts about their experiences. This was accompanied by speeches from prestigious members of the Jewish community alongside those closely affected by the events. The memorial concluded with the Jewish Memorial Prayer and the lighting of Three Candles of Remembrance, symbolising both the victims of the Holocaust, Jewish and otherwise, and the victims of all other tragic genocides.



The trip was eye-opening for the students, and it allowed them to empathise with the victims of the Holocaust and build a deeper understanding of the saddening events. I am sure that all of us thoroughly enjoyed the trip and have thus been able to broaden our understanding of the Holocaust.

V Saini & S Dasgupta (Y9)

Oxbridge Offers



Congratulations to the 19 AGBS students who have received offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge University. The offers have been made across eleven different subjects ranging from Fine Art and History to Medicine and Earth Sciences. We are very proud of our students.



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University Update January 2023



The Sixth Form team have now sent off the final application to UCAS for this academic year. In total 196 applications were sent off for the current Year 13 students and 28 for students who left last year.

Our current Year 13 students have applied to 953 degree courses across 79 different Universities. So far, our students have received 402 offers and will be waiting for final offers over the next few months.

The Sixth Form team all pull together with various roles and areas of expertise to provide a high degree of support to our students. An extensive process ensures that every student's application is thoroughly checked to ensure that it is as strong as possible. We are delighted to welcome Jane Hutchinson to the team this year. She brings both experience and capacity to support our students effectively. I am sure students will benefit from this over the years to come.

We were delighted with the number of successful offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. In total 19 offers were received from a broad range of courses from Arts and Humanities; such as PPE, History, Music and Fine Art to STEM related subjects; such as Earth Sciences, Medicine, Physics and Maths.

The Sixth Form team is also supporting students who are applying for degree level apprenticeships, with students already preparing for interviews from employers such as PWC and Airbus.

Oxbridge Evening for Year 12 students – Change of Date

Please note that there is a change of date for this event. This event will now be held from **7pm to 8pm in the Coleman Hall on the 2nd May 2023**. We will be inviting parents and students of Year 12 students from AGSB and other local schools. The event will cover an introduction to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and also some expert guidance on what students should consider when applying.

We are really pleased to have senior representatives from both the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford to speak to students and parents. These are Dr Richard Partington who is Senior Tutor at St Johns College, University of Cambridge and Dr Peter Claus who is the Access Fellow at Pembroke College, University of Oxford. We look forward to seeing Year 12 Parents and Carers there.

Mr T Murray
Head of Sixth Form

Year 7 House Public Speaking Competition



The Year 7 House Public Speaking Competition was held last week and the motion was *'This House Believes That: The UK government's target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 is unrealistic'*.

The students were unphased by some initial technical challenges and provided an excellent competition which encompassed a range of well-expressed ideas and arguments. The competition was ultimately won by the opposition, consisting of Ritvik N & Rishi M (Massey) and James F & Charlie W



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(Bradbury). Ritvik just edged out Rishi for star performer for his well-informed contributions as seconder, which gave Massey first place. The defeated proposition team consisted of Yusuf S & Kanav G (Stamford) and David D & Andrew C (Tatton). With Andrew unable to take part remotely due to our technical issues, we were very grateful to Arush B for reading out his opening statement in his absence. The judges chose Yusuf as Star Performer for his engaging speech as Seconder and so Stamford was given third place. Many thanks to Mr Bromley, Ms Clark & Jacob R (Y12) for judging the competition. That concludes the House Public Speaking competitions for this year, but the programme of more interactive Debating Competitions begins on Thursday 2nd February. The motion is 'THBT: UK government terms should be increased to 10 years to facilitate more positive long-term change'.

Mr Croxton
Head of History/Politics

AGSB House Competitions – Tickets are Free!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Monday 13th March 3:30-5pm.
NOT A HOUSE COMPETITION!
-Two songs per band
-Email Mr Monument by 20th Feb to enter.
-The winning band will also play an encore to close the show.
-sound check on Friday 10th March @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 20th Feb.
-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.

*There will be bonus house points for the house with the most (loudest) audience members.
Get your FREE tickets here! Submit your entry here!

On Monday, 13th March (3:30pm - 5pm), AGSB will host two competitions combined into one spectacular event. We are looking for entries!

Battle of the Bands and AGSB's Got Talent

Battle of the bands 3:30pm -4:15pm

AGSB's Got Talent 4:15pm - 4:50pm

Results announced at 4:55pm and the winning band will close the show at 5pm.

Tickets are free – but you must reserve one. Click [HERE](#) *Students must book their own tickets.

We are looking to fill the Coleman Hall with pupils to watch this event. **(Parents and Carers may come too!).**

*There will be bonus House points for the House with the most (loudest) audience members.

AGSB's Got Talent - A House Competition!

Have you got a talent? Open entries to the competition, House points awarded for every entry.

Upload an audition video [HERE](#) by Monday, 20th February.

House Managers will select two performances per house to perform at the show.

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 maximum of one traditional music performance per House at the actual show.

There will be a winner for each of the separate competitions which will be decided by an online vote at the end!



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Battle of the Bands – Not a House competition

Each band will play two songs to open the show and students should enter by e-mailing Mr Monument as soon as possible, or by Monday, 20th February.

The winning band will also play an encore to close the show.

There will be a sound check on Friday 10th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm. Bands must be represented at this sound check.

Bands of all age and abilities will be accepted.

Mr M Soulsby
Assistant Head (Development)

AGSB Sports

Hockey

A fantastic but disappointing trip to Whitgift School on the 13th January. Not what we wanted but 5th place is still an amazing achievement. Well done to all involved in the U18 Indoor Hockey Squad who took part in the National Finals.



The U13 Hockey team had a fantastic win this week. They were away to Manchester Grammar School – well done to all involved!



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There was a lot of fierce competition throughout the MGS Powerplay tournament on Wednesday which resulted in a brilliant Plate final between AGSB and Sandbach with the Altrincham team eventually winning 2-1. What a fantastic result!



Another great game for the U18 Hockey side. AGSB managed to get the win against Bradford Grammar School.

Rugby

Well done to the following boys who have been selected for Sale Sharks U14 DPP: Louis P-W; Charlie M; Rory L and Angus S, fantastic achievement.

Table Tennis



three age groups at this stage of the competition. Congratulations to all the boys.

The U13s have joined the U19s Table Tennis team in the National semi-finals after winning the zonal finals in Blackburn last weekend. The under U16s also qualified as runners up and will also play in the National semi-finals. We are the only school in the country that has a team in all





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Football Update



English Schools National Cup

Unfortunately, our 1st XI squad were knocked out on penalties in the last 16 of the National Cup to a strong Shrewsbury side. To make the last 16 in the country is a huge achievement and one we are very proud of. Congratulations to all 16 pupils – T. Williams, M. Comber, N. Donachie, S. Choudhry, I. Lawson, T. Graves, D Udewku-Amata, R. Hobbs, A. Mehmood, O. Barber, S.Dodd, E. Paisley, F. Goodjer, B. Shaw, S. Kayali, L. Giovanni

Greater Manchester

U18's into the semi-finals of the Cup

U16's into the semi-finals of the Cup

U15's into the quarter finals of the Plate

U13's into the semi-finals of the Cup

Trafford Cup Football will start after February half term for all age groups.

Sporting Achievements



(Left) Well done to Yusuf R (12NW) who recently got 1st place in his weight class at a 54KG bodyweight achieving a 140kg squat, 72.5kg bench press and a 187.5kg deadlift which is very impressive!

Congratulations also to Dan W (12NW) (right) who competed in the 83kg weight class achieving a 140kg squat, a 127.5kg bench press and set a new North West record with his deadlift at 260kg! Both boys have qualified for the Nationals with and will be competing in April.



Old Alts

We have some news regarding three former AGSB students. Tom Ross who left in July 2000 is now the leader of Trafford Council.

Charlie McDonnell who left in 2017 has written his first book, a 500 page fantasy fiction based on Irish mythology, first of a trilogy published on Amazon and can be found - <https://amzn.eu/d/0earDWI>



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Anthony Taylor has been selected as a referee for the FIFA club World Cup in Morocco and flies out next week - <https://www.fifa.com/technical/refereeing/media-releases/match-officials-appointed-for-fifa-club-world-cup-morocco-2022-tm>

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

Well Done

Congratulations to Yuvan V (10CX) who has recently achieved a Distinction in his Grade 8 Piano exam.

Invigilators Required!



We Need You! – Volunteer Invigilators Required

Many thanks to those Parents and Carers who have already been in touch to offer their time for the 2023 Summer exam season. We are looking for volunteers to help with invigilating the public exams and any time you may be able to offer during the exam season (15th May to 26th June) would be very much appreciated.

We will be holding an informal information meeting in the Coleman Hall on Tuesday 7th February starting from

6.00pm. The Exams Office team will be available to explain what is involved with regard to invigilating and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

If you are interested in volunteering as an exam invigilator, would like to attend the information event, or have any initial questions, then please do contact Mrs Lavin in the Exams Office at alavin@agsb.co.uk.



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The Hale 10k

Katy Horrocks Marketing are working with Sensation Group who are based in Altrincham and who are organising [The Hale 10k](#). As part of this event, there is a 3k Junior event earlier that morning which it is hoped will appeal to AGSB students and everyone who takes part gets a medal - participants don't need to be super fit as they can walk/jog it too if needed. Full details can be found [HERE](#).

Noticeboard for Parents

Yet again, the amount of 'forgotten' items that are being dropped off on a daily basis with the ladies on Reception is increasing. Please note that school policy is that if a student forgets to bring something to school which he needs for lessons, he must speak to the relevant class teacher to explain and endeavour to complete the school day without it. Whilst your son's item may be a 'one off' there may well be several other students doing the same thing.

A reminder to parents and carers that school should be advised of any medical appointments in advance of the date. We are receiving an increasing number of last minute phone calls asking for staff to go and get students out of their classroom. It is the student's responsibility to inform their teacher at the beginning of the lesson that they must leave early and to arrive in reception in plenty of time to sign out.

Forthcoming dates for January/February 2023

Mon 30.01.2023	Y9 Immunisations
Tues 31.01.2023	Y7, Y8 & Y9 Flu Vaccinations
Tues 31.01.2023	Y9 Options Evening
Wed 01.02.2023	NEU Strike (Yr.11 only in School)
Thurs 02.02.2023	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Sat 04.02.2023 to Fri 10.02.2023	Football Tour to Barcelona
Mon 06.02.2023	Y12 Higher Education Evening @ 7pm
Fri 10.02.2023 to Sat 18.02.2023	Ski Trip to Oberlungau, Austria
Mon 13.02.2023 to Friday 17.02.2023	School Closed for Spring Half Term
Mon 20.02.2023	School re-opens 08.40am
Thurs 23.02.2023	Piano Recital Concert 7pm
Fri 24.02.2023	School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Development
Tue 28.02.2023	Y11 & Y13 Parents' Revision Skills Workshop @ 5pm



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Mindfulness

Two very different photographs this week; one taken of the School field on a very grey and misty morning and the other taken of the English block bathed in the fabulous morning sunrise.

Don't give up, Spring is on its way!



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