

A Grammar School with Academy Status Head Master: Mr G. A. Wright MA (Hons) FRSA Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, WA14 2RS

28th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I hope you are well and looking forward to the Easter break.

As is the case every year, we have spent the last two weeks interviewing potential Head Prefects, Senior Prefects, House Captains and Deputies. Following a rigorous and extended process, the new Senior Prefect Team for 2024-25 was announced. Congratulations go to all the successful candidates, and I am delighted to announce our new Head Prefect, Anoop J. He will be supported by the House and Deputy House Captains of our four houses: Ben C and Will J (Bradbury); Piyush K and Barny W (Massey); Laurie M and Dan K (Stamford); Abhi E and Bhavdeep K (Tatton). We will formally welcome all new prefects to their roles and say farewell to the outgoing body (who have done a magnificent job) at the beginning of the Summer term.

March has been a busy month for the creative arts at AGSB. The School's musicians delivered amazing performances as they impressed an enchanted audience at the 2024 Spring Concert. This was followed up with a Gold Award being awarded to the Big Band and Concert Band at the NCBF finals which took place at Warwick School. The inaugural House Drama competition took place in the Coleman Hall with each House presenting both a monologue, duologue and a group musical theatre performance. Congratulations to the overall winners Bradbury House. The strength of piano playing at AGSB was once again in the spotlight with over 40 pianists from across Years 7-13 taking part in the annual Piano Recital. To cap things off, the Year 11 English Speaking Union Public Speaking team competed in the Regional Final and won! They are through to the Final in Cambridge in May.

The return of the annual debate against Altrincham Grammar School for Girls (AGGS) caused much excitement across both schools. The turnout was incredible - with a full assembly hall at AGGS and well over 100 students in the AGSB New Library to watch the live stream on the big screen! The motion "Single sex schools are unsuitable in the modern world" proved to be one which both teams sank their teeth into. The judges found it incredibly hard to decide on a winner and unfortunately AGGS won by one point! Many thanks to Jacob, Abdulrahim and Will for putting on such an outstanding performance. A date for a home re-match has been set. Watch this space....

March has also been an extremely successful month for sport. In Hockey, the Under 18 squad have made it through to the National Final (for the second year running) after defeating The Perse, Cambridge 4-3. In Badminton, the Under 16 squad faced Reading School in the National Finals. In Tennis, the Senior squad defeated Merchiston Castle School and were crowned North of England champions. In Football, the Year 7's, 8's, 9's & 10's are all through into the Trafford Cup quarter finals. Finally, in Chess, the Under 18 squad are now Regional Champions and have made it through to the National Finals.

Everything that happens at AGSB would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of my colleagues. They genuinely go above and beyond to ensure the best experience for our pupils. All our staff deserve a massive thank you and well-earned rest.

It remains an honour and a privilege to be the Head Master of this wonderful school.



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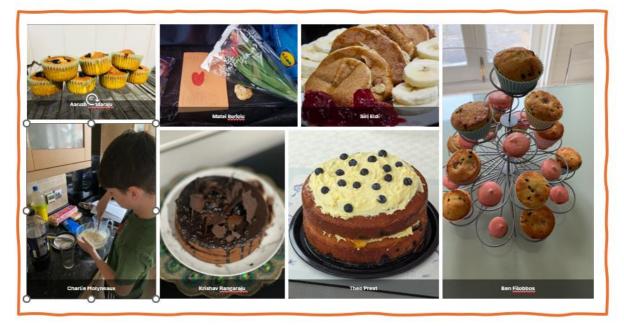
Wishing you all a very Happy Easter break.

Yours faithfully

GA Wint

Mr G A Wright Head Master

Food & Nutrition Department



A big well done to some of our Year 7 & Year 8 pupils, who have been using the skills learnt in their Food and Nutrition lessons to produce some beautiful cakes and pikelets for Mother's Day

Remember, If you remake any of the dishes learnt in school, please do send in photographs to the F&N Department.

Mrs V Gordon Food & Nutrition Department



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ARTiculation Prize



Congratulations to Ben E (13CN) who competed in the Regional Final of Articulation last week. The annual Articulation Prize invites those aged between 16 and 19 to deliver a 10 minute presentation to an audience about a work of art, architecture or an artefact in a museum or gallery setting.

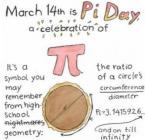
Priyesh Mistry who is the Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Projects at the National Gallery, London, congratulated all the speakers on their brilliant

presentations, stating how amazing it had been to see all of the works that the participants chose to speak about, adding that he had learnt so much.

It was a great pleasure to hear Ben speak and we all hope that he is feeling very proud of his amazing achievement.

Ms K Lee Art Department

Pi Day Competition



March 14th, or 3.14 as our continental neighbours might write, is known as International Maths Day.

Every year, our students compete to memorise as many digits of Pi as possible and I am amazed at their abilities. We had over 30 entries from Year 7 and Year 8, with Ewan W being the overall winner, correctly reciting Pi to an incredible 65 decimals. Well done everyone!

all holding the digits that Ewan memorised!



Mrs B McCann Second in Maths Department



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English Speaking Union



Congratulations to the Year 11 ESU Public Speaking team who competed in the Regional Final last week and won, which means they are now through to the Final in Cambridge in May, which they are very excited about.

They won very narrowly against superb teams from Manchester High, Bury Grammar, Archbishop Beck, Balshaw's CE and Bolton School Girls' Division.

Well done to Leo B, Tosin A and Yuvan V.

Mrs E Chapman Teacher of English/Head of Year 11

National Dharmic Games

On the 17th February 2024, three teams of teenagers from AGSB, AGGS and SGS, two Kho-Kho teams and one football team, went out to conquer the best of the best and compete against top Universities in the National Dharmic Games organised by the NHSF (National Hindu Student Forum).



The games kicked off with football and the team remained undefeated until the final against Portsmouth which ended in a 3-0 defeat. However, the boys put on a commendable performance beating some stiff competition.

Kho-Kho was next and unfortunately, they just fell short of one point which would have enabled them to qualify. Still, they put on a great performance despite the team consisting of lastminute new players.





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We had to endure many injuries, close games and extreme pressure however each team did their very best and we finished with a National Champions

title in Kho-Kho, as well as runners up in football.

We are not only the first non-University team to compete against this level of sport in NHSF but also the first non-University team to have the title of National Champions. Having to go up against top Universities such as Sheffield, Warwick, Cambridge and Imperial and winning speaks for itself.



Pranav K (Y11)

AGSB House Drama Competition



We had an amazing evening of House Drama a couple of weeks ago! All four Houses competed superbly. Amazing performances from everyone – so much talent.

Special shout out to Harry, Jacob, Dhruv and all the Stamford team for picking up the individual titles and to Bradbury who were overall Champions for 2024!

Well done to all involved and many thanks to the House Sponsors for their continued support.



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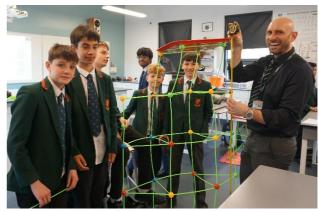
British Science Week 2024



A couple of weeks ago, our Year 8 pupils took part in an awesome day of science activities in support of British Science week 2024.

In the AGSB engineering challenge, the winning team managed to construct a 2.4m high freestanding tower! All towers were fully planned and costed and built of sustainable, reusable materials.





Pupils were amazed in the pop-up Planetarium with a satellite's eye views of the planet and a tour of Earth's night sky.



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Things got hands-on in the Geology labs where they worked their way through a series of Earth Science experiments. In the New Library, Dave Shaw "the Rainforest Guy", told fascinating tales about his time spent living with indigenous tribes in the Amazon and their respect for their environment and nature. Pupils were crawled on by giant armoured stick insects and a foot long millipede. The highlight was when Dave used his 8 foot long blowpipe and poison dart to explode a balloon!



The day was rounded off by an amazing Flash Bang show hosted by Dr Frank



Mair from Manchester University, looking exactly how you would expect any mad scientist should look, in the Coleman Hall!

We were joined by the Year 7 pupils from North Cestrian School, who were all in

fancy dress for World Book Day. Frank worked his way through a series of increasingly more dramatic and impressive chemical reactions and explosions. Due to the deafening noise they made, the pupils obviously loved the show.

Overall, the day was a massive success with the pupils able to take part in some unique, stimulating and on occasion, scary experiences!



Dr S Squire Head of Science



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National Concert Band Festival 2024



Congratulations to our Big Band and Concert Band who both achieved Gold Awards at the National Concert Band Festival in Warwick last weekend.

Many thanks to Mr Monument for all his organisation.



AGSB Piano Recital Concert

Two weeks ago the Music Department held their Piano Recital Concert in the Coleman Hall which was attended by many Parents and Carers.

Congratulations to all those students who performed to a very high standard and thank you to Mr Monument, Mrs Jarratt and Mr Lockwood for all their hard work in organising this event.





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Year 7 PGL Trip to Shropshire



201 boys from Year 7 attended their residential adventure trip at the PGL centre in Shropshire last week!

Under sunny skies they, canoed on the river, climbed the indoor wall, swung from the giant swing, fired bullets and arrows at a target, zoomed down the zip wire and fought as a team in laser tag.

The evenings were filled with tuck shop, campfires, and ambush in the dark games.

The students had the chance to make new friends and secure fledgling ones and now have this shared experience forever. Thanks to the students who were engaging and well behaved and to the staff who worked hard to ensure a very successful trip.

Mrs H Short Head of Year 7

AGSB Chess



Many congratulations to the AGSB Chess Squad who have, again, made it through to the National Finals after defeating Wilmslow High in the Regional Finals.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Dr V Sully Teacher of Chemistry/Chess Club



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Y10 House Debating Competition

An excellent debate was held recently with Year 10 students exploring the issue *"Technological progress will not solve society's environmental issues".* The motion was won by the opposition, Bradbury, and Tatton



It was a lively debate with impressive questions from the audience. Well done

to the winning team: Vishakh, Harsimar, Sumed and Ed who all delivered thoughtful and well-researched arguments. The team was dominated by Sumed's confident delivery and challenging questions based around content; supported well with excellent bookended speeches from Vishakh and Harsimar. Star performer was Tatton's Ed with his confident and detailed responses.

For the proposition, again there was excellent research and challenging questions from Aryaman, Prakul, Mazin and Dan. Mazin was highlighted by the judges for his strong performance and excellent challenging questions. Star performer was Stamford's Dan who delivered a charismatic and confident closing statement.

Thank you to Will and Jacob for chairing.

Mrs C Mahony English Dept & Library Co-Ordinator

AGSB ESports

On Thursday 21st March, our four Splatoon 3 athletes set off for Liverpool and the Digital School House Northern Finals. At stake was a place in the National Finals and pride of the North.

After two commanding wins, we found ourselves in the upper bracket semi-final, knowing a win would secure a place at the Nationals. After suffering our first defeat of the day in game 1, the team rallied superbly to reverse sweep Outwood Academy and win 2-1. Mortal teams would rest on their laurels knowing the Nationals place



was secure, but not this team. Outwood made it back through the loser's bracket to once again face off against the mighty AGSB and, with both teams through, this would see who would secure 1st seed for the finals and become the best Splatoon 3 team in the North. This time AGSB secured the first game, but then agonisingly lost a close second game. It all came down to game 3 and what a game! The lead changed hands throughout the contest but in overtime, AGSB prevailed, and we are now the Northern Champions! Every member of the team played their roles fantastically and we were worthy winners on the day.

The National Finals are in London on the 25th April, and we wish them all the best of luck.

Huge congratulations go to TJ Clark (Capt); J Connor; A Chan and M Taylor.

Mr R Cummins Teacher of Maths & Comp Science



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AGSB Inter School Debate (AGSB vs AGGS)



The return of the debate against Altrincham Girls' Grammar School last week was an extremely impressive start for both debating teams. The motion "*THBT single sex schools are unsuitable in the modern world*" proved to be one which both teams sank their teeth into - excellent research from both sides and real showmanship from the AGSB team and we are incredibly proud of what an asset to the school Jacob,

Abdulrahim and Will are!

It was incredibly hard to decide on a winner, but the Girls' School won by 1 point.



The turnout at AGGS was incredible and it looked like nearly every pupil at the School was in the Hall. We hope for similar turnout at our school when we next host the debating team - we definitely need a rematch!





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Geology Trip to Cyprus



Last week the Year 13 Geologists made their annual pilgrimage to Cyprus to complete their Geology fieldwork in style. Staying in beautiful hills outside of Paphos, the 29 students and 4 members of staff travelled all over the island inspecting the rare and varied geology that Cyprus has to offer, travelling over 1,000 km.



Students were able to study recent sedimentary deposits, ancient pieces of the Tethys ocean, now thrust up into mountain ranges, 300 million year old coral reefs as well as calculating the value of some of Cyprus's vast mineral reserves.

The trip serves as a vital part of the Geology A Level course, allowing pupils to complete their practical endorsement requirements as well as serving as an

excellent revision experience prior to their upcoming summer examinations.

Plans are already underway to return to the island next year with our current year 12 students.



Mr M Parker Head of Geology



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Guest Speaker and Old Altrinchamian – Andrew Western MP



The History and Politics Society was delighted to welcome Old Alt Andrew Western, Labour MP for Stretford and Urmston, into school on Wednesday lunchtime.

Andrew provided a packed audience of students from across Year 7 to Year 11 in the New Library with a great overview of his route from AGSB to Parliament via Civil Engineering consultancy work and the leadership of Trafford Council. He was very open and generous with his time in

responding thoughtfully to a wide range of questions from audience, which covered topics as varied as the UK housing crisis, the record of the New Labour Government in office and Keir Starmer's stance on the Israel-Palestine Conflict and selective and independent schools.

Many thanks to Andrew and to History and Politics President Nat Mc (13WK) and Deputy President Hugo S-F (13WK) for leading him on a tour of his former school.

Mr N Croxton Head of History

GSL School's Challenge Finals

On Thursday a group of 6 Year 12 Geology students made the journey to London to compete in the Geological Society of London's School's Challenge Final.

They qualified by making a hilarious and informative Breaking Bad parody looking at the formation of evaporite minerals which can be seen <u>here</u>.

On the day the boys were set a task planning the construction of a wind farm in an area looking to go net carbon zero. They had to navigate issues of where to build the turbines based on the geology



and natural environment and present their ideas to a panel of judges from industry. Unfortunately, we



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didn't return with the trophy, however, many lessons were learnt, both about geology and presenting and public speaking. All of which will stand them in great stead in the future.

Mr M Parker Head of Geology



The Geological Society

AGSB Sports



Very well done to the AGSB Tennis team who have been crowned North England Champions!!

Hockey

Great win for the 1st XI Hockey team, coming away 2-1 winners at Yarm. The team are now into the National Semi-Finals!





The U16 Hockey team have now reached the National Semi-Finals being King's Macclesfield 8-1.

Well done to the team!



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Well done to the U18 Hockey team who won 4-3 on Monday afternoon at AGSB. National Finals next stop!! What a fantastic performance from a special group of players. To reach the Tier 2 Final for the second year running is an amazing achievement. Many thanks to The Perse School Cambridge for a great game.

Badminton



Well done to the U16 Badminton Team who travelled to Aylesbury Grammar School last week to take on Reading School in the National Finals.

Unfortunately, despite playing extremely well, AGSB finished second in the country.



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Football



Our U15 Football team played in the Greater Manchester Cup Quarter Final vs Trinity CofE this week and won the match 2-1 in extra time. Goals were scored by Josh C and Max R.

Well done and good luck to the AGSB U14 football team who are now through to the 3rd round of the Greater Manchester Plate vs Buile Hill Academy on the 16th April.



The team will now play Wright Robinson College or Priestnall High School in the semi-final of the Cup after Easter.



Sporting Achievements

Many congratulations to Alex V (13SM) who was part of the Swim England team competing at the international Swedish Grand Prix in Kungsbacka recently.

Alex raced in three events and came 3rd in the 1500m freestyle and won the 400m freestyle event. He has now qualified for the British Olympic trials in London in the first week of April and we wish him the very best of luck.

(Right) Well done to Vishi U (8FA) who achieved Grade 4 in the U14 Tennis tournament recently.





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13th Annual Senior Sport Celebration Evening



What an incredible night last night at the Senior Sports Awards Evening in the Stamford Hall. To kick off the day, we had the "Old Boys' fixtures on the School field with Rugby, Football and Hockey with many familiar faces in attendance. Old Boys' man of the match in Rugby went to Fin S (12SQ) and Old Boys' man of the match in Football went to Zain H (13EY).

The evening was a great success and celebrated what the boys have achieved over the course of the season. Special mention to those who won individual awards:

Yuvan S (13CN) – Les Cope Memorial Trophy for Cricket Oliver H (13WK) – Rea Trophy for Hockey Dan W (13NW) – John Hughes Trophy) (Outstanding contribution) Rhys H (13NW) – JW Brown Trophy for Rugby Will S (13NW) – JR Thompson Memorial Trophy for Football Stephen E (13CT) – Esprit De Corps – Football Charlie C (13WY) – Esprit De Corps – Rugby Ed L (13CN) – Victor Ludorum Dunkerly Cup

The team of the year who received the Roy Coleman Trophy went to Hockey.

Many thanks to all those Parents and students who attended and a big thank you to Sodexo for serving a delicious two course meal.



Vacancies

Sodexo are now hiring. A Cleaning Manager is required at AGSB to start as soon as possible (information can be found <u>HERE</u>) and a casual cleaner is also needed to work from 3.30pm-6.30pm Monday to Friday.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Patricia Bowden - patricia.bowden@sodexo.com.



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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.

Charity Fundraising

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 <u>acathcart@agsb.co.uk</u>

Ms A Cathcart Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco



We are very happy to announce that the total raised for this year's UTC Sudan 2024 Campaign is a massive £7,767.48!

The money raised was in support of those who were caught in the unfortunate conflict of the Sudan Civil War. AGSB ISOC SUDAN Food Sale Total 5000 Sale Total 5000

In addition to this, we are pleased to announce that since the beginning of the Unity Through Campaign, we have been able to accumulate over £100,000 through all charitable events since 2015!

A very big thank you to everyone who has been involved, from teachers, students and parents and for your immense support. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

AGSB Islamic Society



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PFA – Save The Date: Saturday, 29th June 2024



The AGSB PFA are pleased to announce the return of AGSB Grammarfest! This event will take place on **Saturday, 29th June.**

Last year, the event was a huge success and was attended by many Parents, Carers, Staff and Students.

More information is to follow but please put this date in your diary and keep your fingers crossed for the weather!

Many thanks.

AGSB PFA

Reminder – Change to Thursday School Day Timings

Just a reminder regarding the forthcoming change to the School day from **Thursday**, **18**th **April 2024** for Staff training. Every Thursday, the new School Day will look like this:

Thursday		
08.40am - 09.25am	Staff Training	
09.25am – 10.20am	Period 1 – Students arrive and go straight to their first lesson	
10.20am – 11.15am	Period 2	
11.15am – 11.35am	Break	
11.35am – 12.30pm	Period 3	
12.30pm – 13.30pm	Lunch	
13.30pm – 14.25pm	Period 4	
14.25pm – 15.20pm	Period 5	

This therefore means that students should only arrive at School every Thursday in time to go straight to Period 1 at 9.25am. However, as per the current arrangement, Sodexo will be open for students to purchase food before school from the Stamford Hall. We appreciate that the buses will run according to their normal timetable and therefore there will be supervision of those students who arrive early.

Dr E Thomas Assistant Head (Teaching & Learning)



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AGSB House Sponsors – Myersons Solicitors



House Sponsors, Myersons Solicitors, have just released their Spring edition of the Myerson Private Client Magazine which you can read <u>HERE</u>. There are some great articles which make fascinating reading.



Noticeboard for Parents

Yet again, we have a great deal of lost property in school without names.

Please can you ensure that all School uniform, PE bags and PE kit, water bottles and pencil cases etc are fully named/labelled, with first and last names. Surnames are crucial for identification.

If your son has lost anything this school year, please ask him to check in the Bag Room near the Stamford Hall. We have dozens of unnamed water bottles just sitting on a shelf!

Please can we ask Parents not to bring forgotten items into School. We are receiving constant daily traffic from Parents bringing in pencil cases, PE Kit, Food Tech items, mobile phones, exercise books, homework, etc etc. Our Reception Staff are not responsible for ensuring that these things are delivered to your children and ultimately, this does not teach your child to remember to pack everything in his School bag that he needs for the day.

Going forward, we will be refusing to accept anything which has been left at home!





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Calendar Dates

Remember to keep an eye on our <u>School Calendar</u> for information on upcoming events.



Forthcoming Key Dates are:

* * * * *	28.03.2024: 15.04.2024: 17.04.2024 - 26.04.2024: 22.04.2024 - 26.04.2024: 24.04.2024 - 26.04.2024: 26.04.2024: 29.04.2024: 30.04.2024:	School Closes for Easter Holidays Summer Term Begins Y12 Exams Y11 Language Speaking Exams Y10 Geology Field Trip to Anglesey A Level PE Moderation Day GCSE Art Exam Bookfest – Author Steve Camden in School
*	30.04.2024:	Y10 GCSE PE Moderation Day
*	30.04.2024:	Y10 GCSE PE Moderation Day

We wish all Parents, Carers, Students and Staff a very Happy Easter 😊



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

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