



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

30th March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we approach the end of a busy term, I would like to thank you all for your support of the School over the past few months.

There have been some notable highlights over the past few weeks, including the success of our Year 12 students in the Institute of Economic Affairs Schools Budget Challenge and the National Schools Geology Challenge. As I write, Year 7 are spending 3 days in North Yorkshire on a PGL adventure trip which will offer the students opportunities to enjoy adventurous activities in an amazing setting.

AGSB Alumni are playing an increasing role in the day-to-day life of the School. Head of Careers – Mr Gallamore (an Old Alt himself) has organised several visits from Alumni this term and it is wonderful to observe former students imparting their knowledge and wisdom to benefit our current students. Yesterday we held the Old Alt's sports afternoon. Our current senior teams competed against former students in rugby, football and hockey. The games were competitive but were played with tremendous spirit.

On Thursday evening, the Senior Sports Awards were held in the Stamford Hall. Current students, former students, parents, alumni and staff were in attendance to celebrate another outstanding year of AGSB sport. Former Head Prefect and now international hockey player – James Mazarelo, delivered an inspirational main address. Many congratulations to Year 13 student Ted Graves (England Under 21 hockey, Captain of the AGSB football and hockey 1st XI) who was awarded the Dunkerley Cup for best all-round sportsman.

It has been another busy term for the House System. Many students from across all Year Groups have competed for their House in House Chess, Translation Bee, Debating, AGSB's Got Talent and Future Chef. I am sure that we are in for another tight contest with all four Houses performing well.

Looking forward, I know that those students who have public exams approaching will also be using the holiday for revision, and they have been given lots of advice on to how to structure this to ensure that they are revising in an active and productive fashion. We also encourage students who are revising to ensure that they make time for exercise and social activities; the key to success here is balance.

On behalf of all of us here at school, all that remains is for me to say thank you for your support through what has been a very full and successful term and to wish you all a very Happy Easter break.

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright
Head Master



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AGSB – Go Club



For the past four weeks we have been welcoming visitors from the British Go Association. Martin Harvey, Helen Harvey and Chris Kirkham have kindly given up their time to teach our students the basics of Go. We now have around 25 regular players each Friday and we have now started to award our first gradings to those who have learnt the basics of the game. Gradings start at 40 Kyu for beginners and go up to 9 Dan for international professional players of the game.

If you have not yet played the game, please feel free to come along to N2 on a Friday lunchtime (you can bring your lunch). We have students who can introduce you to the game. If you have played the game before please come any Friday; we have students of differing abilities who you can test yourself against.

Go is one of the world's great strategy board games and originated over 3,000 years ago in China. It is part of popular culture today in Japan, China and Korea, and known as Igo, Weiqi or Baduk respectively in these countries. While strategy and tactical calculation both play a part, intuition and judgement are at least as important; this is why only a huge advance in AI has enabled computers to play Go at the top level.

Mr T Murray
Head of Sixth Form



Year 13 ACE Talk



On Tuesday the 21st March, we invited Emma Cole into school from 'Positive Voice' to talk to the Year 13 students about HIV. Emma led a fascinating talk, which centred on her story of living with HIV since the early 90's. Through this lens, Year 13 were able to understand the reality of the disease, and not what the stigma may lead people to believe.

After regaling Year 13 with her experiences, the students had a chance to ask Emma about her life and HIV, which resulted in some powerful and thoughtful questions. A big thanks to Emma Cole for coming into school and thanks to Year 13 for their openness and maturity.

Mr A Sampson
Teacher of Philosophy



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IEA Schools Budget Challenge



After a successful semi-final, we arrived at the IEA intent on success. The competition was fierce and had clearly upped their game since the semi's. We were the last group to go and delivered our presentation to four judges which included former Bolton West MP, Ruth Kelly, and Baroness Helena Morrissey.

The presentation went exactly as planned and the questions were difficult, but we were well prepared and answered confidently.

The judges deliberated for a nerve-racking 20 minutes and then delivered their thoughts on everyone's presentations. Many of our policies were mentioned in their round up including our land-value tax, our dramatic reduction in corporation tax and, our special economic zone. After the judges finished their talks, Mr Smith thought we had won, however we were the first runners up - which is still a great achievement but heart-breaking to be so close to victory. It was later revealed we got the vote from one judge but unfortunately that was not enough!!

The runners-up prize was £250 and a place on the IEA's future thought leaders' program in July which will be a great experience for the group.



Ollie Paterson, an old boy who competed in the same competition five years ago, took a break from his job in Parliament to come and watch and then he gave us an exclusive tour of Parliament where we got to sit in

on discussions in the House of Commons and Lords which was a fantastic opportunity.



Overall, it was a good day out and thank you to Mrs Newton, Mr Smith, and the school for making it possible.

Harry Reed 12NW



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English Speaking Union Public Speaking



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
discovering voices

Last week Year 10 students Tosin A, Zach T and Yuvan V competed against eight other schools in the regional final of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition. This was the third round and was extremely competitive. Unfortunately, only one team progresses to the final at Cambridge and the victory went to AGGS.

The students were superb, in particular Tosin fielded a very sexist question from a member of the audience in a way that truly did our school proud.

Mrs E Chapman
Head of Year 10

Swire Chinese Language Conference



On Friday 24th March, students from our Year 11 Chinese class attended a Swire Chinese Language student Conference at The Manchester Grammar School accompanied by Mrs Ding and Mrs Wallwork.

Over 250 delegates were present with students from as far afield as Glasgow, Norwich and Oxford. Professor Peter Gries (Professor of Chinese Politics at The University of Manchester) delivered a powerful speech about the importance of studying Mandarin. We then learned more about the Chinese film industry from Professor Chris Berry (Professor of Film Studies at Kings College London).

Cindy Yu (Assistant Editor at The Spectator and host of the bi-monthly podcast Chinese Whispers) presented us with a very nuanced picture of the social media landscape in China. The final speaker was Timothy Cho who gave a deeply personal talk about the power of education. Imprisoned four times in China and his native North Korea, Timothy had just returned from giving a speech at the UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva. It was an extremely thought-provoking afternoon and very motivating for students to meet with peers from around the UK.

The levels of student engagement during the panel discussions following each speech were very high. Apart from the inspiring speeches, we also loved the freshly made bubble tea! Many thanks to MGS and Swire for organising the conference.

Mrs J Ding
Teacher of Chinese

AGSB Sport for All Campaign



Click on this [LINK](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding the AGSB Sport for All Campaign: Moving to Delivery.



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Schools Geology Challenge



The Schools Geology Challenge is a competition where students showcase their interest in geology, learn more about the way geoscience impacts our lives, and put their teamwork and presentation skills to the test!

Last week five Year 12 students, Ed, Alex, Elliot, Harvey and Will travelled to London to take part in the Schools Geology Challenge which took place at the Royal Geological Society. Unfortunately, they didn't come home with the trophy but had a fabulous day and the boys did the School and themselves proud.

Mr M Parker
Head of Geology





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Auditions are now Open!

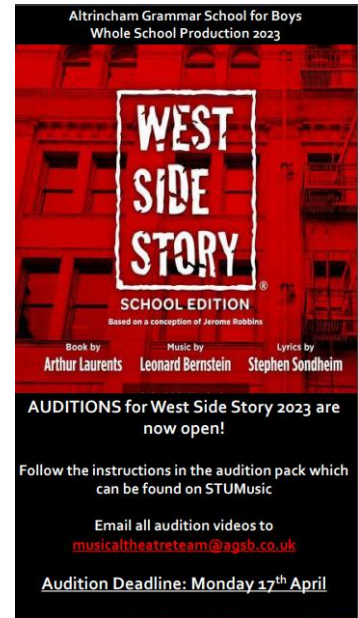
We are pleased to announce that AGSB's next large Musical Production will be 'West Side Story', one of the most iconic shows ever seen. Unlike 'Les Misérables', not every role in the show requires performers to sing, there are roles that will suit actors, singers and dancers within this production. Please follow the link to the Audition Pack and read the AUDITION INFORMATION Document carefully, before deciding how many different auditions you'd like to submit. The show will be staged week commencing **Monday 20th November 2023**.

A reminder to Y12 students that unlike previous years, this show has roles that require NO singing (as well as those that require singing & dancing!), so there really is a role to everyone! Please read the instructions below carefully and get practising 😊. As you will be Year 13 at the time of the show in November, we're looking to you all to get involved both on stage and behind the scenes and this is a fantastic opportunity to do something different before you leave school.

If you'd rather be behind the scenes, please get in touch if you feel you may be able to help us with backstage/tech/marketing etc. Please read the instructions below carefully and get your auditions in! ↓

(We are also auditioning Girls from local schools for the female roles so if you know of any students who may be interested, please get in touch).

[West Side Story AUDITION PACK](#)



KS3, don't forget you can also audition for our June performance of Joseph - again details below ↓

Students currently in Years 7,8 & 9 can audition for our one hour production of 'Joseph & His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' that will be staged on **Tuesday 27th June 2023**.

Information for this can be found in the pack below - read the Audition Information sheet first.

[Joseph AUDITION PACK](#)

Mrs E Jarratt
Music Department



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Year 7 Study Skills



Many thanks to Deputy Head, Mr Hall, who has taken all Year 7 classes through a session on Revision Strategies ahead of their exams in the Summer Term!

Year 7 MFL Spelling Bee



At Liverpool University our three Regional finalists, Rohit K, Aryan D and Arush B, faced strong competition from schools across the North West. Of an original 2,752 competitors, the best 43 (or 1.5% !) raced against the clock to spell as many words as possible in French, German and Spanish respectively.

The speed and ability of the students was astonishing, and the competition was very close. In the end Rohit and Arush missed out by a whisker, but Aryan was awarded Regional Champion in German after a tie-break and nail-biting re-match. Aryan now goes on to represent AGSB at the National Finals at Cambridge University in July.

Well done to all our talented competitors and Good Luck to Aryan!

*Mrs Gordon, Mrs Blakeley, Mr Locker
Languages Department*





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2023 Islamic Society Food Sale



Assalamu Alaykum

The earthquakes first struck on Monday, 6th February. When we heard of the devastation and suffering throughout Türkiye and Syria, we knew we had to help. The Unity Through Charity Campaign was the perfect way to achieve this.

Founded in 2016, the UTC Campaign aims to unite students, teachers and parents in raising money for some of the most deprived communities around the world – this is done through a variety of events such as football tournaments, own-clothes days and most notably the Asian Food Sale – where we sell contemporary Asian and Arab meals, desserts and drinks to the AGSB School community.

As part of this food sale, we built upon the successes of previous years – reintroducing meal deals, card donations, auctions and an own clothes day. This, coupled with new initiatives such as a simplified meal deal token system, helped us better manage the event. We also worked closely with caterers to increase the amount of food sold, as well as maintaining high food safety standards.

The Food Sale took place in the Coleman Hall on the 13th and 14th March, with hundreds of students attending to purchase food and competing against each other to bid the highest in the auction.

All of this culminated in our highest Unity through Charity Campaign total ever! After months of planning, preparation and hard work we were able to raise a phenomenal **£10,513.64**. This was added to by the money raised by the North Cestrian School ISOC, bringing the overall amount to **£11,713.64!** These funds will be instrumental in helping better the lives of numerous people in Türkiye and Syria who have been affected by these disastrous earthquakes.



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It is important to note that none of this would have been possible without the amazing support of school teachers and staff who allowed us to use the Coleman Hall as well as help manage the event itself. We are extremely grateful for the continued support of parents and carers whose cash and food donations made this event a reality. Finally, we would like to thank all the students who got involved, whether through volunteering or donations – the amount raised is a testament to our school community overall!

Jazak Allahu Khairun
AGSB Islamic Society

Pi Digits Reciting House Competition

On Friday 17th March, we had our annual Pi Day competition where students had to memorise as many digits as they could from the number Pi.

Pi is a non-recurring irrational number with many amazing properties and no patterns in the numbers. This tough task was attempted by 16 students, who all did amazing. All participants will get a share of the House points, with the biggest share going to:

- 1st: Jani D, Bradbury: 122 digits
- 2nd: Ayan A, Massey: 120 digits
- 3rd: Charantej A, Massey: 88 digits

(Right) Photo of the three winners and photo below is of some of the other competitors. Congratulations to all involved.

Special thanks to Sammy B (Y13) for recording the scores.

Miss S Morgan
Maths Department





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Senior Sports Award Dinner



On Thursday night, the Stamford Hall was packed with current and former pupils, staff and parents who enjoyed a splendid evening celebrating another outstanding year of AGSB Sport. Former Head Prefect and now international hockey player – James Mazerello, delivered an inspirational address.

Many thanks to Sodexo for providing a wonderful meal and to Mr Scott Meakin (Head of Sport) and his team for organising such an excellent evening.

LEGO League Tournament



The FIRST LEGO League Tournament at the University of Manchester was an unforgettable experience for us all.

The tournament comprised of various challenges that required students to build and program robots using LEGO Spike & Mindstorms kits. The challenges ranged from navigating through obstacle courses to performing specific tasks such as sorting and delivering objects. Our two teams had to work together and use their technical and creative abilities to achieve success.



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The atmosphere on the day was fantastic, buzzing with energy, we were all excited to see our robots in action. The competition was tough, and each team had put in a lot of effort to make their robot stand out. However, the spirit of sportsmanship was evident throughout the event, and everyone encouraged and supported each other.



Apart from the challenges, we also had the opportunity to interact with experts from the field of robotics and electrical engineering. The experts shared their knowledge and insights, inspiring us to pursue our passion further.

Overall, the first LEGO League Tournament at the University was a huge success. The event was well-organised, and the judges were fair, impartial and encouraging. We are already looking forward to next year's tournament! Click [HERE](#) to watch the video from the day!



*Y8 Lego League & Mrs Lightowler
Design & Technology*



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Design & Technology



This week Y12 Design & Technology students visited the Virtual Engineering Centre (VEC) in Daresbury.

It was an exciting experience that introduced some of the most cutting-edge technologies in the field, including Computer Vision, Automated Robotics, and Virtual Reality (VR). During the visit, we were taken on a tour of the VEC facilities, which were equipped with top-of-the-line labs and software. The Computer Vision systems were particularly fascinating, as they were able to capture and analyse real-world data to create digital models of physical objects. We also saw how Automated Robotics were being used to optimise manufacturing processes and increase efficiency. However, the highlight of the trip was when we were able to try out VR technology ourselves. Wearing headsets and using hand controllers, we were able to move around and manipulate objects in a virtual environment. It was an immersive experience that left us all feeling inspired and excited about the possibilities of future technology.

Click for more photos <https://youtube.com/shorts/h9bziBnYTO4?feature=share>

Mrs C Lightowler
Design & Technology



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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



AGSB Sports

Football



Well done to the Year 7 football team who go into the semi-finals of the Trafford Cup with a convincing 9-2 victory over North Cestrian!

Hockey

(Left) The U16 hockey team had a great game at King's Macclesfield and came away with a win!





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(Right) The U18 hockey team also put on a strong performance this week to ensure a win over King's School, Macclesfield!

To read the new edition of our half termly round up of Sports at AGSB, please click on this [LINK](#).

Sporting Achievements



Well done to Omi D (7LR) (left) who played in the U15 Lancashire Badminton England tournament and won Bronze in the Boy's Singles category. Omi also won gold medals for all events when he participated in the U13 Northumberland Badminton England tournament recently in the singles, doubles and mixed events.

Congratulations to Joseph S (8CD) (right) who has attained the grade of 6th Kyu in Karate with Sale Karate Club.



Many congratulations to Ted G (13BK) (left) who has been selected for England's U21's for a three games series vs Scotland – good luck Ted!

Very well done to Jamie R (13CU) (left on the photo) and Alex V (12SM) (right on the photo) who both became Regional Champions last weekend at the North West Regional Swimming Championships held at Liverpool Aquatics Centre.



Jamie took Gold in the Open Age 200 Butterfly Final and Alex won several medals. Both Alex and Jamie have also qualified for British Championships and are heading over to Sheffield next week to compete in these World Championship Qualifiers.



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AGSB Vacancies



We are currently recruiting for a Part-Time Teacher of Music (0.4) from September 2023. If you know of anyone who would be interested in applying for the role, further information can be found [HERE](#).

Forthcoming dates for March and April 2023

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



Key Dates are:

Mon 03.04.2023 – Fri 14.04.2023	School Closed for the Easter Holidays
Mon 17.04.2023	School Re-Opens for the Summer Term
Tue 18.04.2023 – 28.04.2023	Year 12 Exams
Fri 28.04.2023	Biology Trip to University of Leeds
Mon 01.05.2023	School Closed for Early May Bank Holiday
Tue 02.05.2023 – Tue 09.05.2023	Spanish Exchange to Barcelona
Tue 02.05.2023	Y12 Oxbridge Evening – 7pm
Wed 03.05.2023	Y10 GCSE PE Practical Moderation
Thurs 04.05.2023	School Closes at 12.20pm for Open Evening
Thurs 04.05.2023	School Open Evening – 5pm to 7.30pm
Mon 08.05.2023	School Closed for Bank Hol for Coronation of King Charles III
Tue 09.05.2023 – Fri 12.05.2023	Year 9 Exams
Mon 15.05.2023 – Wed 28.06.2023	External Exams
Tue 16.05.2023	Y8 – Second Dose HPV Immunisations
Wed 24.05.2023 – Fri 26.05.2023	Y10 Geology Field Trip to Anglesey
Fri 26.05.2023	School Closes for Summer Half-Term Holidays

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



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