



# 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

24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As I write, the AGSB site is basking in glorious sunshine. As public examinations come to an end, we are all expressing our admiration for the way our Year 13 and Year 11 pupils have approached this examination season. This is a generation whose experiences of school suffered greatly due to the pandemic. In a sense, the experience for them was a new one. They have, however, all conducted themselves brilliantly.

On the subject of exams, it would be remiss of me not to mention the sterling work of both our Exams Office and the AGSB invigilation team. The Exams Office, led by Mrs Howell, have done an amazing job of overseeing all internal and external exams over the past seven months. Thank you also to the AGSB invigilators who have offered their services free of charge, and in turn, saved the School a considerable amount of money.

Last week, we interviewed for the role of Head Prefect. This year, as per usual, there were a number of outstanding applications, however, I am delighted to announce that George Thornicroft will be our Head Prefect for 2022-23. Next week we begin the selection of the Senior Prefect Team, including the appointments of House Captain and Deputy House Captain. The selection process begins with 'House Hustings', which include presentations from the applicants. This is followed by interviews with myself, Mr Soulsby and the House Managers. Remaining on a 'House' theme, there are two exciting events coming up soon: House Music and, of course, our annual House Sports Day. I do hope that your son will be taking part.

As exams come to an end, our music program comes back to life. On Wednesday evening, the inaugural Year 6 Music Concert took place. It was marvellous to see a number of Year 6 pupils (who are joining us in September) perform some excellent vocal and orchestral arrangements to an audience. In addition to House Music, we have the Summer Concert which is taking place in our new Quad on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July from 7pm and on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, we look forward to the Year 7 and Year 8 Musical Showcase which begins at 6.30pm. I hope to see many parents in attendance.

On the sporting front, Cricket is dominating the headlines. AGSB won 3 out of 4 matches against King's Chester last Saturday and on Wednesday the Under 14's made it through to the semi-final of the Cheshire Cup after prolific victory against Sale Grammar. AGSB Athletes were in action in the Trafford Cup last week and many congratulations to the Year 7 squad who are now Trafford Champions and to the Year 10 squad who are runners up. I wish our Cricket XI's the best of fortune against Stockport Grammar School tomorrow. A reminder that all parents are very welcome to come into School to support their son during sporting fixtures.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright  
Head Master



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## AGSB's Gardening Club



Over the past couple of months everyone at **GROW** has been very busy. Over the winter we dug the new raised beds, a wildlife pond and built a compost area out of old pallets. We also planted some seeds ready for Spring and the Summer to grow.

In March, we started planting wildflower seeds to attract bees, bugs, and butterflies. As it was so cold and wet at that time, we sowed lots of seeds indoors and have now planted out our peas, strawberries, sweet peas, French beans, lavender, mint and lots lots more!

Now that Summer has arrived, we have seen our garden spring into life, spotting robins, butterflies and lots of bees, attracted by our wildflowers. We are looking forward to seeing all our flowers bloom and enjoy eating some tasty fruit and vegetables!

In the future we have exciting plans to purchase and build a greenhouse, extend our compost making area and create a bug garden too! We are trying to also achieve our RHS School Gardening Awards! Who knows next year we might even apply to exhibit in the School Garden category at RHS Tatton.

Our aim is to create a calm and relaxing environment where you can be close to nature and, of course, to grow our own fresh organic food! Thanks so much to all the Parent and PFA donations that have allowed us to purchase new equipment, our new greenhouse and tools.

If anybody has any questions, then email or pop along to have a chat with any of us the **GROW** Team (Josiah H; Harrison F; Jack; Miss Frankland; Mrs Jackson; Mr Gilks and Mrs Drake).

Gardening club is always on each Monday outside in the garden or in C7 if too wet, but sometimes you can see us out there on any other sunny day! 🌻

Josiah Harrop (7SI)

## Year 7 House Debating Competition



The Y7 House Debating Competition took place last week and it centred on the motion *'This House Believes That: It should be a legal duty to take care of your aging parents'*.

A well-prepared and wide-ranging debate was won by the proposition, consisting of Shayan D & Adeen R (Massey) and Cameron S & Arjun M (Stamford). Stamford was awarded first place by virtue of Arjun's calm and articulate contributions during the floor debate. The defeated opposition put up a very enthusiastic performance. It consisted of Ademide A & Tahmeed R (Tatton) and



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Arthikan K & Joseph S (Bradbury). Bradbury was awarded third place due to the gusto with which Arthikan responded to questions from the audience and judges' panel.

Many thanks to the judges Ms Clark, Ms Chapman and Mr Davies. Thanks as well to Ms Mahony & Ms Marson for hosting and all those staff & students who supported the event & participated by asking some very perceptive questions. That concludes our programme of House Public Speaking & House Debating competitions for this year, so finally a big thanks to the wide range of staff who have enabled so many students to develop their oracy and advocacy skills by proposing motions, recruiting participants, attending competitions and acting as judges.

*Mr N Croxton*  
*Head of History & Politics*

## AGSB Gardening & Wildlife Clubs' Plant & Cake Sale



A massive thank you to everyone who helped set up, run a stall, bake cakes and support the Plant and Cake sale on 11th June. We raised almost £1000 on the day which was beyond our expectations!

The money will be split three ways. Gardening Club have a new greenhouse bought by the PFA that needs fitting out. (The PFA had successfully applied for a £100 grant from Forever Manchester that helps support community events in Greater Manchester). A solar irrigation system is on the wish list as well as lots of compost. Wildlife Club are buying equipment and accessories for the aquarium that has been gathering dust over the last few years and I am going to buy large planters for the front of school that I will plant with colours from all four Houses and create a visual link with the planting around the flagpole.

There have been lots of requests for another sale next year. I think this might become an annual event!

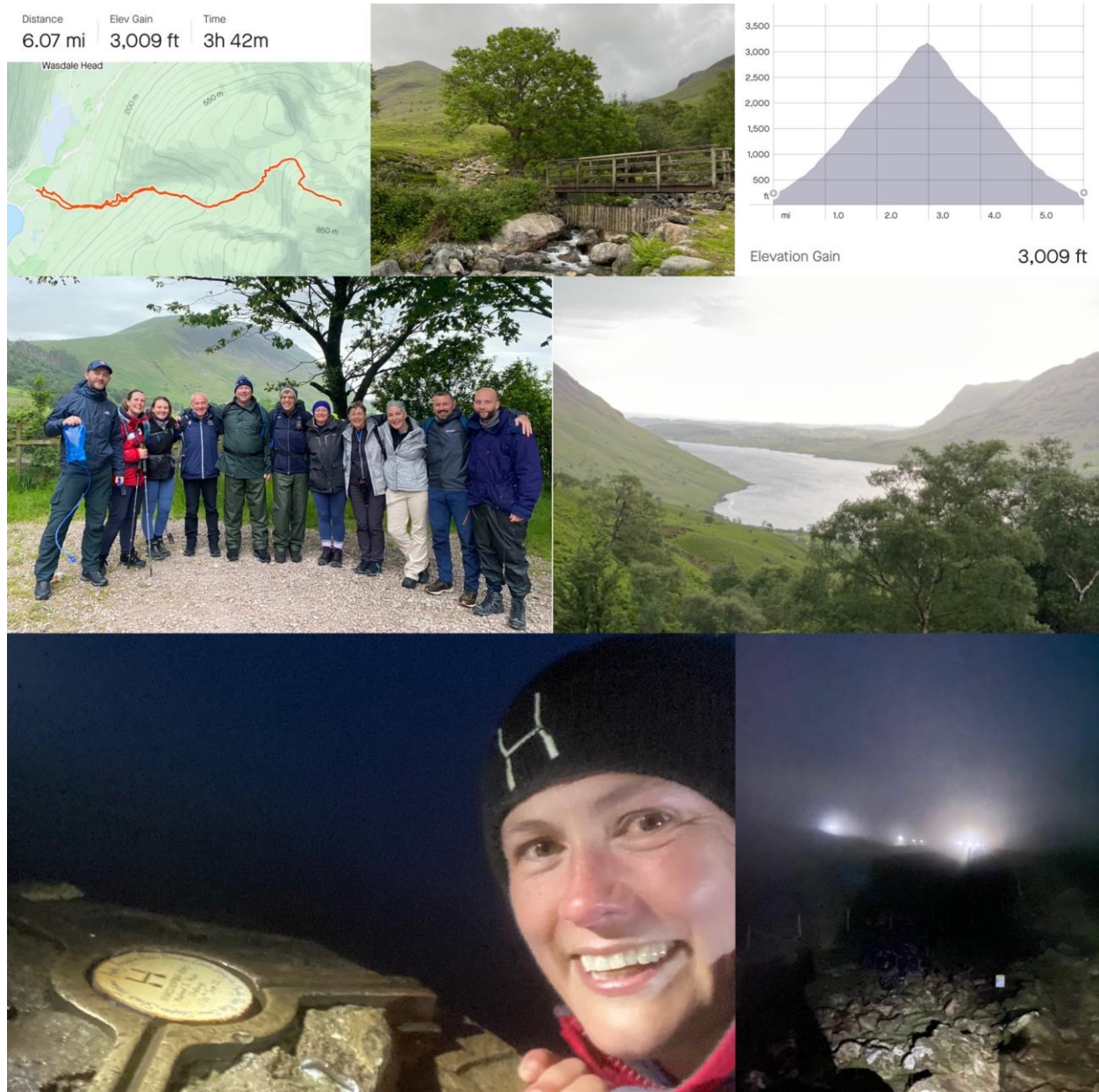
*Mrs H Drake*  
*Gardening Club*



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## Mrs Jarratt's 3 Peaks Challenge



I have been asked by a few folk how this weekend was, so I thought I would share a few photos. Sadly, the nice weather didn't follow us up to Scotland, Ben Nevis delivered 80km winds, ice rain and snow, whilst Scafell Pike decided to wait for us to arrive at nightfall before throwing it down! Snowdon in the early hours of Sunday finally delivered a bit of sunshine which was very welcome!!

70,000 steps taken in 24 hours! Huge thanks to those who have donated, it really is appreciated ❤️  
[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/macclesfieldruffc?utm\\_id=26](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/macclesfieldruffc?utm_id=26)

Mrs E Jarratt  
Music Department



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## Y8 MFL Translation Bee 2022



The MFL Department are very proud of Aadith and Sumedh (left) who have made it through to Routes into Languages Foreign Language Translation Bee 2022 which will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Cambridge University. They are amongst the last 18 of the 4299 students who started the competition in the North of England.

In this final stage of the competition, they will have one minute to translate as many sentences as possible from English into their target language (German for Aadith and Spanish for Sumedh). The sentences will be in different tenses and selected at random by the computer. Clarity of pronunciation, as well as speed, is key. They have been very busy preparing for this final stage and their commitment is faultless and we wish them all the best!

Félicitations also go to Tri-Nam V (8ES) from Queen's Collège Oxford! Tri Nam has received a Certificate for his translation of a French poem in the Anthea Bell Prize for young Translators.

Pupils were allowed the use of a dictionary only in just one lesson. Each school could choose just 5 entries for submission. The competition had over 3,200 submissions from more than 260 schools and over 14,000 pupils took part in the competition task alone in 2022.

A team of undergraduates and professional translators judged entries to the competition and the judges were very impressed by the standard of entries, they read some excellent translations. Congratulations to all Year 8 students who took part, it was a pleasure and not easy to choose our entries.

*Mrs Blakeley & Mrs Brennan, MFL Department*

## AGSB Library



**WIN £1,000/€1,000 to help your school rebuild their library – plus a £100/€120 National Book Token for yourself!**

Schools everywhere are doing their best to help children catch up with the months of learning lost during the pandemic, and yet reading for pleasure – which has been shown time and time again to be the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – is falling off the agenda. A study by our friends Read for Good – a charity which raises money for books for schools and children in hospital by getting children reading for fun – found that 81% of schools didn't have a separate budget for reading for pleasure, while almost three quarters of schools reported decimated library stocks due to unreturned books during lockdown or library resources being diverted elsewhere.

It's time to get serious about reading for pleasure, and start rebuilding our schools' libraries. We're giving five schools £1,000/€1,000 of National Book Tokens each, plus membership to the School Library Association, to help them rebuild their range of books and encourage reading for pleasure now and for generations to come.

Nominate your school using the form below, and if yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll also win a £100/€120 National Book Token for yourself!

Winners will be drawn at random after Friday 29th July and announced in September 2022.

[Enter now](#)

"We have lost over 800 books since the first lockdown in March 2020. This is due to misplaced items in homes or pupils moving schools etc. We would like to start replacing the items we have lost."

If you have got a spare 5 minutes, please click on the [Nominate your School and Win National Book Tokens Link](#) to enter a competition to win £1,000 to spend on books for the School Library. The more entries the greater the chance of winning.

Many thanks for your support.

*Mrs G Marson  
School Librarian*



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## AGSB Philosophy Society

Last week's Philosophy Society meeting saw Sulay from Year 12 present the question of AI Intelligence to the group in a stimulating discussion that covered much ground.

Beginning with an enquiry into what makes us intelligent, the group discussed humans' emotional capacities and self-awareness. Furthermore, attendees highlighted how humans' learning process is remarkably similar in some respects to that of AI, in gathering data through experience and generalising from our limited set to an infinite set. However, Sulay highlighted a key difference between human understanding and AI actions, by discussing Searle's Chinese Room thought experiment. He outlined how the depth of human understanding is much greater than an AI's.

The discussion also brought into consideration topics discussed in a previous session on free will, and whether it is humans' free will that separates us from AI, *ie* the ability to choose what they think about in contrast to AI being given input and 'forced' to think about it. This raised questions regarding whether we truly do govern what we think about.

*Gaurav Bhalla (12GH)*

## Food & Nutrition



Last week was healthy eating week and as a Department we are always promoting healthy eating!

We therefore had activities taking place to support the BNF's campaign. The main aim is to help everyone take simple steps to **'Eat well for you the planet!'** 🌍



On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we had naturally flavoured waters in the Department for staff and students to fill up their water bottles. On Wednesday lunchtime our cooking club made Mexican pockets and salsa and we also ran a competition to support the advice **eat more fruit, vegetables and fibre rich** foods.

Check out @foodagsb on Instagram for regular updates and information.

*Mrs E King*  
Lead teacher in Food and Nutrition



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## AGSB Art Exhibition

Many thanks to the Art Department for putting on a wonderful Exhibition showcasing GCSE and A Level Artwork on Thursday evening of this week. There was some talent on display.



A big thank you also goes to our wonderful Year 10 GCSE pupils who produced and served some fantastic canapés to parents at Exhibition which included mini fruit tarts, spinach and feta filo parcels, vegetable sushi, chocolate covered strawberries and homemade sorbets (raspberry and toasted coconut and yogurt)! Thank you and well done to you all.

*Mrs King & Mrs Embleton*  
*Food & Nutrition Department*



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## AGSB Anti-Racism Society



Thank you to representatives from Sainsbury's who had a meeting with the AGSB Anti-Racism Ambassadors to discuss the importance of everybody feeling safe in their stores.

## Head Prefect 2022-23

Congratulations to George T (12DV) who has just been appointed as the new Head Prefect for 2022/23! We wish George all the very best for the year ahead.



## Congratulations



Congratulations to Tom C (12MG) (left) who received a Highly Commended prize in the Cambridge University Fitzwilliam College Land Economy Essay Competition. Tom will receive his prize at the prizegiving ceremony at Cambridge University in July.

## Sporting Successes

Very well done to Jason L (7SI) (right) who has been chosen to represent Trafford Rowing Club in the Chester Regatta in June and won the John Doman trophy for J12, the youngest contestant, single race.







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Good luck and well done to Rory H (8CM) who has been selected to play in the Tensworth Hockey Tournament, Nottingham representing the North West England A Team.

An AGSB alpine ski team of Alex T (7MO), Theo C (9FB) and Rees S-B (12BK) competed in the British School's Ski Championships on Monday 20th June. The racing took place at the indoor Ski Centre at the Chill Factor at Trafford Park.



An excellent performance from the team resulted in AGSB finishing 2nd in the National School's team category and Alex T finishing 2nd in the Under 14 category. Congratulations to the boys, some of whom were racing on a full Alpine slalom ski course for the first time.



## AGSB Sports Report

### Cricket

In Cup Cricket, our Year 7's narrowly lost to King's Macclesfield in the quarter-finals and our Year 9's beat Sale Grammar in the quarter-finals which means they are now playing King's Macclesfield in the semi-Finals. A win would see us play King's Chester in the final.



On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June we hosted two fixtures against King William School Isle of Man. The Year 8's narrowly lost by 20 runs and the Year 10's won by 6 wickets.





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## Trafford Athletics



Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 all competed in the Trafford Schools' Athletics Championships on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Longford Park. The day was very successful with the Year 7 team winning and the Year 10 team coming runners up. Once all scores were collected from each year group, AGSB were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Special mention to the following pupils who won their individual event.

- Year 7: Albert A - 200m
- Year 8: Neil R - 100m (new school record); Rory L – Hurdles; Rory H - 300m; Kuba J - Discus
- Year 9: Ali A - Shot
- Year 10: Archie Y - High Jump; Noah K - 1500m; Finn S – Shot; Arjun A - Hurdles & Javelin

### AGSB Inclusion

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.



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

More information can be found [HERE](#)

Ms A Cathcart  
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco



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## The Big PFA Summer Raffle

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Big PFA Summer Raffle – tickets can be bought by clicking on this [LINK](#).

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

Yours sincerely

*The PFA team*

## Old Alts



It was great to welcome back Old Altrinchamian and Educationalist, Dylan Wiliam last week. Dylan led our Staff Development Day here at AGSB on the 13<sup>th</sup> June.

## St Mary's Church, Bowdon

We are sad to announce that Reverend Ian Rumsey, Vicar at St Mary's Church Bowdon, will be retiring in July. Staff, parents and students are invited to attend his last service before he retires on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10am followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards.

Reverend Rumsey has played an integral part in all of our Christmas Carol Concerts at St Mary's over the last six years and we wish him all the very best in his retirement.





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## Community Support in the Local Area

An organisation called THK Together has been collaborating with a lot of local organisations to try and build better community cohesion.

They have been running litter picks and garden tidies at Stamford Park. Disappointingly, we have been advised by members of the public that some pupils from this school are causing problems by riding their bikes over the bowling green and using the locked bowling green as a football pitch as well as leaving litter behind when they leave.

It would be great if students and their families could go along to the Stamford Park Cleanup on either the 26<sup>th</sup> June or the 24<sup>th</sup> July to put something back into the community and to show that our students really do care about the environment.

For more details contact [info@friendsofstamfordpark.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofstamfordpark.org.uk) or [THKTogether@gmail.com](mailto:THKTogether@gmail.com).

Friends of Stamford Park THK cfc | The Counselling & Family Centre

Join in the

# STAMFORD PARK CLEANUP

Stamford Park Road, Hale, Altrincham, WA15 9EW

3-4pm Meet at the bowling pavillion

Sunday 22nd May 2022  
 Sunday 26th June 2022  
 Sunday 24th July 2022

We have some children's tabards, litter pickers and bags but please bring gloves and your own equipment if you have them.

Children with our special litter sticker will get a treat from Cafe in the Park when an adult buys a drink.

For more details contact: [info@friendsofstamfordpark.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofstamfordpark.org.uk) or [THKTogether@gmail.com](mailto:THKTogether@gmail.com)



## Forthcoming dates for June and July 2022

- 27.06.2022 Y11 Transition & Book Return Day 9am to 11am
- 27.06.2022 – 29.06.2022 Shine Awards Final, London
- 27.06.2022 MFL National Spelling Bee Final, Cambridge
- 30.06.2022 Junior Sports Awards for Years 7-10
- 01.07.2022 Y10 Enterprise Day
- 04.07.2022 Sports Day (Field Events)
- 05.07.2022 Sports Day (Track Events)
- 06.07.2022 Review Day (Students working from home)
- 08.07.2022 Music For Youth National Festival Big Band, Birmingham



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<b>11.07.2022 – 15.07.2022</b>	<b>Y10 &amp; Y12 Work Experience</b>
<b>12.07.2022</b>	<b>Y7 &amp; Y8 Showcase Music Concert 6.30pm In The Quad</b>
<b>13.07.2022 – 15.07.2022</b>	<b>Years 7 to 9 Activities Day</b>
<b>14.07.2022 – 17.07.2022</b>	<b>Music Trip to London</b>
<b>19.07.2022</b>	<b>School Breaks for Summer 12.20pm</b>

## Noticeboard for Parents

Yet again, we are receiving complaints from local residents regarding parents stopping on double yellow lines in the local area to drop off and collect their children every day. A resident on Peel Avenue has been in touch with the Local Parking Enforcement Agency who have agreed to hand out parking fines to those parents who are caught stopping.

Where possible, students should be encouraged to walk to school and if you must drop them off, please remember to be courteous to the local residents.

Please also avoid driving into the Grammar Gym Car Park as this is for staff only during school hours.

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Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: [agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk](mailto:agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk)

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