



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

11th March 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Last night we held our first whole School Music Concert since January 2020 and the AGSB Session Orchestra certainly did not disappoint. The Concert Band, Big Band and String Orchestra performed a number of contemporary hits with a host of amazing vocalists. It was a wonderful evening of music and it was marvellous to see so many parents and families in attendance.

The contrast between the musical joy of last night and the images coming from Ukraine could not be greater. Suddenly, peace, prosperity, and freedom seem more than abstract concepts. Our thoughts and prayers go to all who are affected in whatever way by the war in Ukraine. We have been focusing on the Ukraine situation across the curriculum over the past two weeks and on Friday 25th March we are hoping to join other Trafford schools in a live online event - *Unite for Ukraine*.

One of the great strengths of our pastoral system is peer on peer mentoring. We currently have 21 fully trained Year 12 students working with, and offering guidance to, younger pupils across the School. The mentors support their mentee in a bespoke way with work, behaviour and organisation. It is heart-warming to see the mentors 'at work' each week and this provides another important layer of pastoral support for our pupils. Many thanks to Mrs Wey Goodman (School Councillor) and Dr Hepden (Head of Year 13) for their support of this programme.

This week the AGSB Islamic Society held their Unity Through Charity food sale with the focus on raising money for the water crisis in Pakistan. As per usual, the event was extremely well organised and I am confident that the target will be met. Many thanks to Sohail S (Year 13) for leading this important campaign.

One of the objectives of the School Vision is to develop our community and last Friday we held the annual Old Altrinchamian Dinner at Blanchflower's in Altrincham. Sixty-five Old Alt's were present and it was excellent to catch up with a number of our Alumni and reminisce about their years at AGSB.

In sport, our Under 16 and 18 Hockey XI's continue to advance in Tier 1 of the National Cup and now play Abingdon School and QEG's Wakefield respectively in the Quarter Final of the National Cup. I enjoyed watching the Year 7 football team defeating BTH 3-1 in the Trafford Cup on Tuesday. The Year 8 and 9 XI's also won in the Cup this week and well done to the Year 10 XI who reached the Quarter Finals of the MGS tournament. We have also been busy on the Rugby 7's circuit with some determined performances across all age groups.

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G.A. Wright', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr G. A. Wright
Head Master



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AGSB New Library



Congratulations to Sir Ian Livingstone, a former pupil of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys who was knighted in the 2022 New Year's Honours List for services to the online gaming industry. Our student librarians are holding some of the 'Fighting Fantasy' books co-written by Sir Ian Livingstone. A series of role-playing gamebooks, choose your own adventure, that have recently been republished for a new generation of children.

Sir Ian Livingstone has had an incredible career which includes the co-founder of Games Workshop launching 'Dungeons and Dragons' and 'Warhammer' in Europe and the launch of Lara Croft Tomb Raider in 1996. He has worked with the Government to introduce the new computing curriculum in 2014, the Livingstone Academy and various Non-Executive Directors, and he recently appeared on 'The Apprentice'.

Mrs G Marson
Library Assistant

Romeo & Juliet



Form 7SI recently had great fun acting out the masked ball in 'Romeo and Juliet' and I was very impressed with the masks they created and their understanding of the characters. Well done to all students.

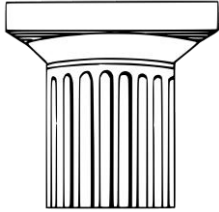
Mrs H Haines
English Department



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AGSB Agora



AGSB News By Students, For Students

In recent months, students, staff and parents alike may have seen signs and announcements for the new student newspaper, the [AGSB Agora](#). *Agora* is an Ancient Greek word meaning 'public space' or 'forum' and much as the old Athenians used the term, the Agora is aimed to be a gathering of students to collect their ideas, input and opinion and present a view of the world and school that is written by students and for students.

As the paper is online there is none of the traditional need for enough content to fill a week or a fortnight's worth of paper- instead it is far more open and dynamic. Whilst there are regular updates (for instance for the Sixth Form Senate, or for clubs like Philosophy Society), most of the content published is individual analysis, opinion or cultural comment that is not requested specifically but is simply the outflow of students' creative minds.

What this has entailed so far has been manifold and wonderful in nature. Both from direct requests from our editorial team and from individual contributors, the paper has seen reviews of bands, books and films, discussion of climate change and its future impact, F1 analysis and even interviews with some former students about life beyond school. These have arisen from a multitude of places- we have seen science scholars write about Batman for instance and contributions from all year groups, on all different subject matters.

Currently we have a committed group of editors from the upper school and a large range of sub-editors and regular correspondents who meet to discuss ideas and plans every Monday. The guiding principle however is that this be an open flow for all students to partake in, so if any student reading this wishes to get involved, please come to E1 on Mondays to participate, or alternatively you can email the group at agsbagora@outlook.com. If there is anyone who wishes to submit an article or become a regular contributor or even a sub-editor, provided your article is appropriate and your attitude positive and with some light-touch editing or some minor editorial advice, you can almost always be certain that we will publish it or get you on the team - this is your opportunity to have a voice.

If however, you are not so keen on writing but wish to check out the newspaper itself and the work that we and fellow students do, please go to www.agsbagora.co.uk or follow us on Instagram www.instagram.com/agsbagora/. It is free to view and every time you read an article, you are making sure that another student's hard work is rewarded through its reach and keeping this project - a student based source of news and insight- well and truly alive.

Thomas Coates
12 MG



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English Department



The live zoom with author Emma Carroll went well last week. A number of classes across the English Department were participating. The author was explaining her writing process and inspiration and the plot of her recent book which is about the Cuban Missile Crisis. She also answered questions from the pupils. Her latest book is now available in the Library.

We will be holding our annual "Readathon" again shortly and Year 7 will be doing their readathon before Easter to raise money to support sick

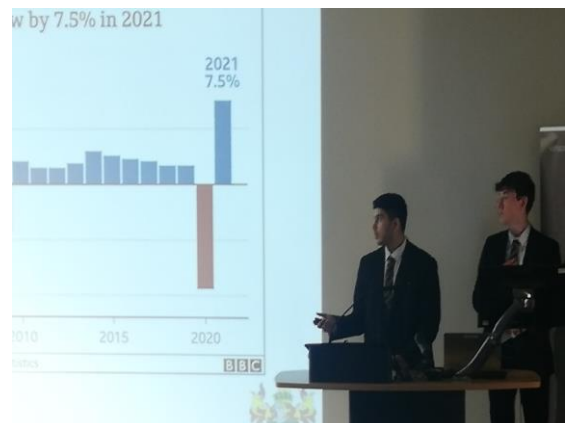
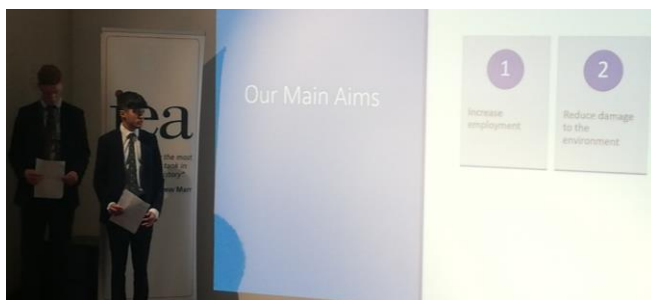
children in hospital by providing books and storytellers. We have raised over £10,000 for this so far as a School.

Mrs Mahony
English Department &
Library Co-Ordinator



IEA Budget Challenge

Back in October, we launched the IEA budget challenge for Year 12. Teams of 4 from across the country were tasked to write a 5,000 word budget to explain how they would address the economic issues of the country.



Several teams from the School submitted budgets to the IEA but only one made it to the

final. On Wednesday Bruce B, Yusef DY, Aaron A and Tom D presented their budget to a group of judges from the IEA. Despite an excellent presentation they unfortunately did not manage to win to incredibly tough competition. They have however, all been offered a place on the IEA Summer Internship Program. Congratulations to all.

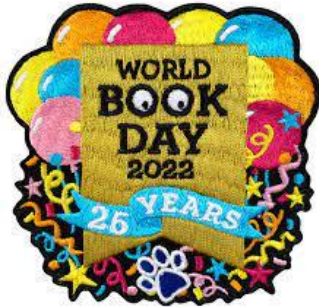
Mr S Smith
Bus Studies & Economics



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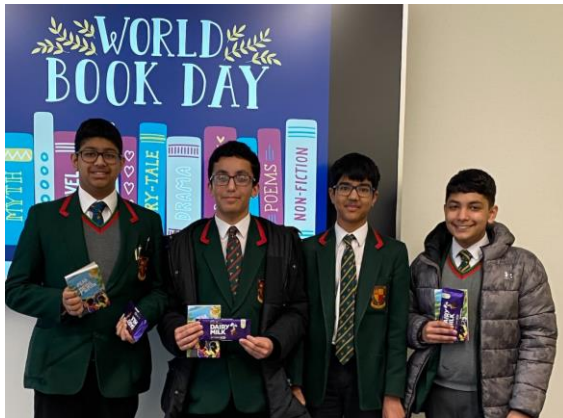
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World Book Day 2022



To celebrate World Book Day, there was a Book Bonanza Quiz, Masked Reader Competition, Ask Me What I'm Reading and Blind Date Competitions. There was also a brilliant Kahoot Book Quiz prepared by the Library Monitors. Great fun was had by all!

Mrs C Mahony
English Department &
Library Co-Ordinator



LGBTQ+ History Month



The School LGBTQ+ flag is flying high at AGSB and we are looking forward to our Assemblies next week in support of LGBTQ+ History month.



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AGSB Scholarships



Many congratulations to Taiyyib A, Shrevas A, Arjun J and Ahmad A from Year 12 who have all been awarded a Full Scholarship in Cardiac and Pulmonary Medicine by BioGrad. This is the first time that one School has received four Scholarships in the same year.

BioGrad is committed to delivering the best practical science experience to students who need it the most. The BioGrad Bursary programme is funded by Dr Natalie Kenny as a way of offering engineering, laboratory and clinical experience to students who would not otherwise be able to cover the course fees. Bursaries are available to students in receipt of financial assistance including college bursaries or free school meals from partner schools.

AGSB Islamic Society Charity Fundraising

The fundraising this week for the Pakistan water crisis has been truly inspirational with Assemblies taking place all week to raise awareness and the Asian Food Sale which took place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes was a huge success which saw students queueing outside the Coleman Hall to get in to buy the delicious food served by members of the Islamic Society and volunteers. The 'Own Clothes Day' by the end of the day has also raised a staggering £1,217. A very big thank you to all students and parents for supporting this very worthwhile cause.





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You will remember that this year, the Society are partnering with **Salam Charity** to help fund the construction of deep water wells in Pakistan. They also intend to donate some of the money raised towards cardiac surgeries of children in particular, who have developed or inherited heart problems due to malnutrition and/or poor drinking water quality.

Sohail Sheikh 13WK

Year 11 House Debating Competition

A packed new Library witnessed an excellent Y11 House Debating Competition this week. The motion was *'THBT: The commercialisation of space travel should be encouraged'*. The high-quality contest, with plenty of rhetorical flair, was ultimately won by the opposition, consisting of Aayan A & Gautham R (Tatton) and Hugo S-F & Krish C (Bradbury). Tatton was awarded first place by virtue of Gautham's targeted and highly engaging concluding remarks.

The defeated proposition also put up a very creditable performance who were Zan K & Callum H (Massey) and Jacob R & Aiyush G (Stamford). Stamford was awarded third place on the back of Jacob's incisive contributions in the open debate. Many thanks to the judges Ms Clarke, Dr Squire, Kiran D & Miles N. Thanks as well to Ms Mahony & Ms Marson for hosting and all those staff and students who supported the event in great numbers & participated from the audience.



Mr N Croxton
Head of History & Politics

Congratulations



(Left) Year 7 student, Noah H (7RH) has managed to accumulate 100 House Points so far this year which is a fantastic achievement. Well done Noah.

(Right) Many congratulations to Isaac L and Stephen E (Year 11) who have been awarded a place with Stockport County Football Club Academy for the 2022-23 season.





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Congratulations to Theo B-D who successfully auditioned for 'Gypsy', performing at the Buxton Opera House in July. He will be appearing with the double Olivier award winner, Joanna Riding who is playing Madame Rose. In addition, Theo has also won gold in musical theatre in a competition spanning across the North West which is a great achievement.

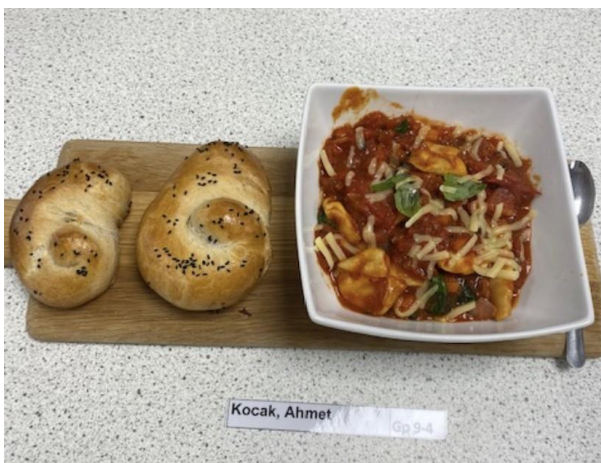
Food & Nutrition

This week in the Food & Nutrition Department, our Year 9 pupils have been carrying out their practical assessments. They have been working on a "Traditional Food" project. We have seen some fantastic dishes including a perfectly executed Beef Wellington by Alex W and home-made soup dumplings with a liquified centre by Sahil M, handmade tortellini with flavoured and shaped bread by Ahmet K, and handmade clay pot noodles by Ryan S, all made from scratch. Great work from everyone!



We have more practical assessments next week. The classroom as truly been a gastronomical show this week. Well done Year 9, fantastic cooking!

We are hoping some of the recipes will make it into the school cookbook we are working on with the PFA.



Mrs E King
Food & Nutrition Department



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Session Orchestra Concert



What a night! Congratulations to everyone involved in the Session Orchestra Concert, super performances from all and many thanks to Mr Monument, Mrs Jarrett and Mr Smith for organising. We are also grateful to the PFA for providing tea, coffee and refreshments.

Thank you also to all those parents who came along to support, watch and sing!





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English Literature



Our Year 11 students enjoyed a live performance of Macbeth in School this week. Many thanks to the Footlights Company from Manchester for the performance.

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 to arrange an appointment. If the Clinic hours do not suit, we can of course arrange an alternative time.



If you think your son may be eligible for means-tested Free School Meals, you can apply through Trafford Council by visiting the following [WEBSITE](#). We will be notified by Trafford if your application is successful and we will also receive additional Pupil Premium funding to support your son's learning.



If your son already receives Pupil Premium and requires any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cathcart at acathcart@agsb.co.uk.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

Ms A Cathcart
Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco



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AGSB Sports Report



Football

In football, Years 7, 8 and 9 are all through to the quarter finals of the Trafford Cup.

(Above) Another great win for the U16s 4-0 away at Manchester Grammar School. Well done to all involved.



(Left) Great win for our Year 7 team this week, beating a very strong team from Blessed Thomas Holford School in the Trafford Cup. Well done to all involved.

(Below) Well done to our Year 8 team who made it through to the next round of the Cup with an excellent 2-1 win against a strong Ashton on Mersey team. Well done boys!



(Left) Our Year 9/10 MGS tournament team performed excellently this week making it through to the Cup Quarter Finals only to be knocked out on penalties. Well played boys.

Tennis

Our U18 team tennis has been crowned runners up in the North of England Championships, beating Bradford Grammar but narrowly losing to Stoneyhurst.



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Hockey



We have had continued success in Hockey with our U16's playing in the National Knockout quarter final against Abingdon School.

The U18's have reached the same stage and are playing QEGS Wakefield

Looking ahead, we have Felix S (Y12) and Joseph C (Y8) both qualifying for the individual regional finals and our

U13's have also reached the team regional finals.

Cricket

The U15 cricket team are set to play MGS in the Inspiresport one day cup on Tuesday 26th April.

Well done to all that have represented the school recently and good luck to those performing in the future.

Mr S Meakin
Head of PE (Sport)

AGSB Alumni

AGSB ALUMNI - MARCH 2022

We are now gathering data to create a network for our Alumni.

If you were a student of AGSB, it will take approximately 5 minutes of your time to complete the form and you will be added to our Alumni Database. Please share this with family and friends who are former students and encourage them to join the network. For more information and to access the Form, please go to our Alumni webpage [HERE](#).

We now have data from Alumni across many decades – here are their leaving dates below.



Mrs G Williamson
Alumni Relations Manager



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Forthcoming dates for March and April 2022

14.03.2022	Y9 Options Deadline
23.03.2022	Spring Concert – 7pm
24.03.2022	Y12 Parents' Evening – 7pm
25.03.2022	Whole School Photograph
29.03.2022 – 08.04.2022	Y10 Exams
04.04.2022	PFA Meeting - 7pm
06.04.2022	1 st XI Football & 1 st XV Rugby v Old Boys
06.04.2022	9 th Annual Senior Sports Celebration Evening 7pm
08.04.2022	School Closes for Easter Holidays
25.04.2022	School Opens (Week A)
25.04.2022 – 28.04.2022	Y9 Exams
29.04.2022 – 10.05.2022	Y12 Exams

Noticeboard for Parents

Sodexo Cards

Another polite reminder to Parents/Carers to please keep your son(s) Sodexo card topped up with money for School lunch. Our Reception staff are once again receiving large volumes of students every lunchtime with requests for IOUs which puts a strain on Reception at what is already a busy time and also creates a lot of work for the Sodexo staff.

Care when Crossing Roads

We have recently received several phone calls from members of the public who have witnessed some of our younger students crossing roads when it is obviously dangerous to do so. The pupils are rushing for their bus and crossing roads without looking where they are going. Please can parents and carers remind their sons of the importance of crossing roads sensibly and with caution.

Lost Property

We are again receiving lots of calls regarding lost property. Your son(s) are responsible for looking after their things and at the moment, PE kits, coats, jumpers, wallets, glasses are regularly "going missing". Please emphasise to your son that he must take responsibility for his personal possessions. Staff cannot be expected to go looking for lost items on behalf of the students and we would dissuade parents from coming into school asking the staff for assistance with this. It would also greatly assist if parents could ensure that all possessions are clearly labelled with their son(s) name and form.



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Deputy Head Clinic



If any parents have any concerns or issues regarding their son(s) which they would prefer to discuss with Deputy Head Mr Hall, rather than the Head of Year, then they can make an appointment on a Friday, Week A, from 2.30pm onwards. In the first instance, please telephone the school number and ask to speak to Mrs Passey and she will arrange a meeting for you. The next date is Friday, 18th March.

CURRENT VACANCIES



We are currently recruiting for a Temporary Teacher of Art. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining our busy Art Department, full information and application details can be found [HERE](#).

Forthcoming Event



AGSB Spring Concert - Wednesday, 23rd March 2022 at 7pm in the Coleman Hall

Following on from our fantastic Session Orchestra Concert this week, our Spring Concert featuring performances from students who are involved in the Music for Youth and the National Concert Band Festival will take place on the 23rd March. Tickets cost £6 and will be available via ParentPay next week so watch out for further information.

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Telephone: 0161 928 0858. Email: agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

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