



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

22nd October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we come to the end of this half of term, I would just like to express my sincere thanks to all AGSB students for their perseverance and hard work across the last term; Year 7 students have all settled in very well indeed and I hope are now flourishing at AGSB. Thank you to our 6th Form students for welcoming those new into school and to staff for their support of each and every student in our care.

After holding both GCSE and A level Prize Giving virtually last year, it was good to welcome prize winners and parents into the Coleman Hall on Wednesday for our annual GCSE Awards Evening.

Although a little pared down this year, it was pertinent to be reminded that celebrating success is at the heart of what we do, and it was a pleasure to recognise the hard work, tenacity and achievement of so many of our students. We may have only had a third of our usual numbers in the Hall for the event, however, it was a splendid evening. It was a great pleasure to welcome back Paul Allott to the School as Guest of Honour. Paul, an old boy of the School, played 13 Test matches and 13 One Day Internationals for England. When Paul retired he became a commentator for Sky Sports and in 2017 took on the role of Director of Cricket at Lancashire. Paul delivered an inspirational speech focusing on how his education at AGSB had been seminal to his success in cricket and beyond.

Our journey to become an Anti-Racist school continues to gather pace; this term we have held Assemblies delivered by the Anti-Racism Ambassadors and over the past few weeks we have been celebrating Black History Month which culminated in a very popular African-Caribbean food sale on Tuesday. Earlier in the term we took part in an anti-racism survey which was conducted by an external company. We have had our survey results back and I am pleased that it has shown that the work we are doing on anti-racism is the right approach to take. We are making progress with our strategy and remain committed in our journey to becoming an anti-racist school. We are organising further training for pupils from all year groups after half term.

In sport, the 1st XI hockey side won emphatically this week 7-1 against Sandbach in the Cheshire Cup and on Wednesday the 1st XV defeated St Mary's College, Crosby in a tight game to reach the 3rd round of the National Schools Cup. Next up are Cheadle Hulme School; victory would put AGSB into the last 32 schools in the country.

Dates for your Diary

On the 3rd and 4th November we welcome Year 11 parents and carers for our first (virtual) Parents Evening of the year and we are hugely excited to announce that our School production "A Little Shop of Horrors" will take place on 10th to the 12th November – tickets are now available. Only this morning a huge mechanical plant was wheeled into school – it looks absolutely terrifying!

Finally, can I encourage all students to continue to test twice-weekly over the half-term break, and preferably the night before term resumes on 1st November. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Please accept my warm best wishes for the Half Term break ahead.

Yours faithfully

Mr G. A. Wright
Head Master



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Year 7 and Year 8 Bushcraft 2021



Some people thought we were a little mad to take approximately 400 boys on the same trip at the same time but thanks to some fantastic work by Mrs Short, and many other members of staff, we were able to organise this very smoothly.



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The excitement on departure day was palpable as boys were relishing the opportunity to enjoy a residential trip for what felt like the first time in forever. Several boys on bus 5 (out of 7!) even felt the need to chime the famous; *"Are we there yet?"*

As we arrived, we were enthusiastically greeted by the Bushcraft Company staff who were excellent throughout the course of our time in the Castle Howard woodland. From there we were straight into action - building shelters, carving tent pegs, mass producing bracelets, practical first aid training (to assist some unfortunate staff members), camouflage and concealment and building fires were enjoyed by all.

Finally, and arguably most importantly, we were catered for in expert fashion with wood fired pizzas and burgers, campfire marshmallows and some expertly deboned salmon.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable expedition and many thanks to all involved!

Mr D Birchall
Head of Year 8





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AGSB Model United Nations



Every year, more than 400,000 people from primary schools, secondary schools, universities, and beyond take part in a Model United Nations (MUN).

By role-playing meetings like the Security Council and General Assembly, participants get a unique insight into how the United Nations works. They research, debate and try to solve some of the world's most pressing problems just like the real thing.

We are very pleased to announce that the AGSB Model United Nations Team won the 'Outstanding Delegation' at the first Conference since 2013 at Cheadle Hulme School last week. Well done to A Sharp, W Kashif, G Bhalla and A Atassi who each won the 'Outstanding Delegate' award in their Committees.





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European Day of Languages 2021



This year our Year 7 students were as ingenious as ever with their hat creations to celebrate the annual European Day of Languages. Students create or decorate a hat to represent the culture and language of a country of their choice and there was an impressive array - from a self-lit Eiffel Tower to fabulous hats representing China, India, Pakistan, Egypt to name but a few. The best five hats in each form won Competition House Points to contribute to the grand tally in July. The

MFL Department would like to extend a huge 'thank-you' for the efforts of all students and parents in making our 'Hat Day' a hugely enjoyable celebration of languages.



Mrs G Gordon
MFL Department



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World Mental Health Day



Mr Hall, Deputy Headteacher, delivered some powerful Assemblies last week to all students, focusing on the importance of mental health.



D&T Electronics



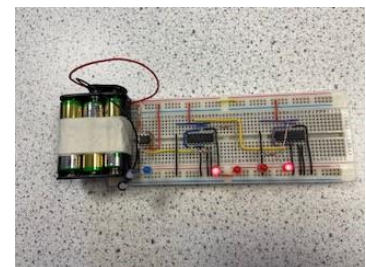
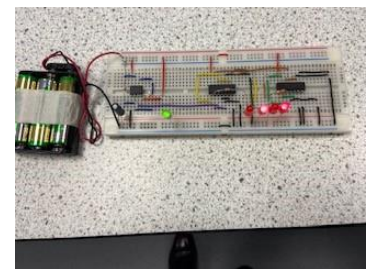
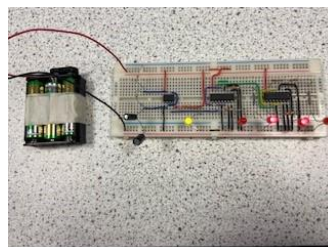
The annual GCSE Electronics circuit competition was held last week with Vishal A being named the overall winner. Mr Wright, Mr Baker, Mr Meakin and Mr Binns were all judging the competition where boys had to build a counter circuit as accurately and as neatly as possible. This has now become an annual tradition for the Year 11 students as it helps with their coursework.

It was a highly competitive competition with many of the students building noteworthy breadboard circuits.

The results are as follows:

- Vishal A – 1st place (Massey)
- Max M – 2nd place (Bradbury)
- Paco L – 3rd place (Stamford)

Mr D Smith
Teacher of Electronics & Comp Science





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Chad's Challenges



Many thanks to all those who contributed to Chad's Challenges Own Clothes Day and Bake Sale last week in aid of The Christie Hospital. Thank you to all the students who baked or bought cakes to sell in school.

The two days of Bake Sales raised £450 - a big thank you to the amazing baking team and also to Sainsbury's in Altrincham for a donation of fresh cookies.

Own Clothes Day - Thanks to all those who donated on ParentPay, this alone raised a staggering £1,486, but also thanks to former students, friends and family who have donated directly to the Hope tribute fund. If anyone still wishes to contribute you can do so by clicking on this [LINK](#) here.

We are pleased to announce that over £2,150 was raised. Well done to Arran and the 6th Form Team.

Mrs G Williamson
6th Form Officer

AGSB Careers



The latest Careers Newsletter has now been sent out to all students and parents but you can click [HERE](#) to view it. You can also catch up with all Careers information through the School Website - <https://www.agsb.co.uk/about-us/careers/>.

Mr A Gallamore
Head of Careers



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AGSB Philosophy & Ethics



The Philosophy and Ethics Department has set up a new Philosophy Society, where students from Years 9-13 can discuss a vast array of philosophical questions. Some examples are:

- Should animals have rights?
- What is Art?
- Can we ever be truly altruistic?
- To what extent do we have free will?
- What is time?
- When does conformity become immorality?

Philosophy Society is held every Wednesday in S4 between 12:30-1:00pm.

Mr A Sampson
Philosophy & Ethics Teacher

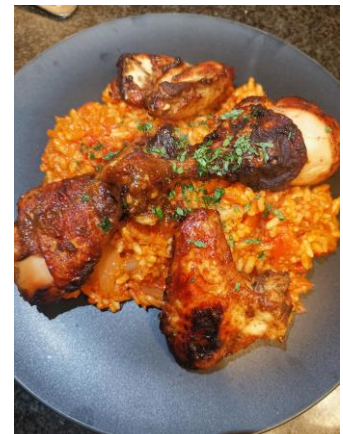
AGSB Food & Nutrition



This week the Food & Nutrition Department welcomed Yetti from Yettis Kitchen as part of Black History month. Yettis Kitchen specialises in Nigerian and Caribbean food. Yetti showed the Year 10 GCSE class how to prepare Jollof rice, fried plantains and Jerk chicken.

They really enjoyed the session and the food at the end. In the words of Year 10 *'The food was delicious, the best chicken they have ever eaten'* <https://yettiskitchen.com/>

Mrs E King
Food & Nutrition





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Campaign Office Co-Ordinator



The 'Making a Difference - Sport for All' campaign is taking shape, managed by our exciting new Campaign Manager, Jan Hinde, who has recently returned home from New Zealand. We are getting ready to host our first event where parents will hear first-hand about Phase 1 and our exciting plans for a new Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), Tennis Bubble and improved cricket facilities that will transform the School's outdoor sporting provision. The Campaign Office is in the Gallery Room, the campaign is really heating up.

We are now actively looking for a **Campaign Office Coordinator** in a paid role, ten hours per week, who can start immediately. The ideal person will contribute ten hours per week, with a minimum of six of these hours spent Tuesday-Thursday in the School Campaign Office.

Purpose of the Post

- Manage a database, recording all information accurately.
- Help to co-ordinate the efforts of a network of volunteers.
- 'Onboarding' new events and new volunteers and tracking the progress of these.
- Other office admin, working with the Campaign Manager.
- Respond to enquiries and incoming communications.

How to Apply

To apply, please contact recruitment@agsb.co.uk and request an application form.

Deadline for applying: Thursday, 28th October 2021

Hours & Salary: £10.00 per hour, 10 hours per week term time only

Duration: From 9th November 2021 – 26th July 2022

Additionally, we're looking for volunteers who can be available to make telephone calls in the evenings, or to assist with office administration in the daytimes, or to assist with running events. This is an amazing opportunity to work with a highly skilled team of fundraisers, to learn new skills, and help make a real difference to sports provision in school. If you would like further information, please email recruitment@agsb.co.uk.

ARTiculate

ARTiculation National Competition 2022
<http://richesourcetrust.co.uk/articulation-write/31nov/>

What is it?
ARTiculation, a public speaking competition for students aged 16-19 years old's. They are invited to deliver ten-minute presentations in front of an audience, about a work of art, architecture or an artefact of their choice.

What is involved?
Independently finding your chosen piece of Art, Sculpture or Architecture, researching it and preparing a 10min presentation with power point. You will deliver this to a selection of teachers and selected students in school. The winner will then go on to the regional final in January.

Why should I enter?
Excellent opportunity to develop your understanding of art. Practice your public speaking skills. Something you can talk about in your UCSE statement or at a university interview.

How do I enter?
Email Miss Lee, she will then arrange a time to expand on the format and give you some further resources.

Key dates
School heat Week
Commencing 29th Nov.

ARTiculation

LOOKing THINKing SPEAKing

AGSB, for the first time, are taking part in ARTiculate. This is a National competition where students publicly speak for 10 minutes on a piece of Art, Sculpture or Architecture of their choice. For more details, students please email Miss Lee.



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House Art Pumpkin Competition

The AGSB Art Department are holding a House Pumpkin Competition. Please see below for full information. Any student can enter via Microsoft Forms by clicking on the link [HERE](#).

House Pumpkin Competition

Over the half-term are you going to be carving or painting a pumpkin?

- Carve or paint a pumpkin that is inspired by a famous piece of Art, sculpture, designer or culture.
- Once your creation is completed. Take a photograph of it with and without a light inside.
- The examples shown show inspiration from - Pop Art, The Scream by Edvard Munch, Mandalas (Patterns from Indian Culture), Yayoi Kusama's 'Pumpkin', Blue Women by Matisse, The Great Wave by Katsushika Hokusai



How it will be judged:

- Similarity to the original artwork.
- Complexity of the carving/painting used.
- The accuracy, precision and refinement of the skills used.
- The quality of the photography of the pumpkin – not blurred, the pumpkin is fully in the picture, the background is clear, so the pumpkin stands out.

Closing Date
3rd November
Via Forms

Please be careful if carving your pumpkin.
Get assistance from an adult for areas that are tough to cut through

Miss K Lee
Art Department

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship



Congratulations to Kai C, Monsoor S and Rees S-B, all from Y12 on being awarded the coveted Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. The programme is administered by The Smallpeice Trust, the UK's leading STEM Education Charity, and is the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK.



Mr R Baker
Head of D&T



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AGSB Extra-Curricular Fair



This week the Year 7 and Year 8 students were invited to the annual extra-curricular fair in the new Library where a representative from each extra-curricular Club or Society was available to promote the individual Clubs. We had a great turnout and hopefully each student found something of interest to participate in at lunchtimes.

Miss Mahony
Library Co-Ordinator

Year 11 House Public Speaking Competition

The Year 11 House Public Speaking Competition was held today and the motion was *'The Government should put mental health funding on an equal footing with that provided for physical health'*.

The participants produced an excellent competition and it was very well-supported by staff and Y11 students in the New Library. It was won by a very accomplished Opposition team, consisting of Jacob R & Ibrahim J (Stamford) and Raphael S & Huo S-F (Bradbury), who argued that mental health funding should in fact be prioritised over physical treatments.

Stamford was awarded first place by virtue of Jacob's highly impressive opening speech. The defeated proposition team consisted of Labib A & Affaan S (Tatton) and Zen K & Callum H (Massey). The judges felt that Zen was particularly calm and astute as Responder so Massey gained third place. Many thanks to Head Prefect, Adham S, Cameron Mc & Kiran D (Y13) for judging the competition, Ms Marson & Ms Chapman for hosting and to all other staff and students who came along in great numbers to support the students.



Mr N Croxton
Head of History & Politics



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Black History Month Food Sale



As part of our Black History Month Celebrations, we held a very successful African/Caribbean Food Sale this week in the Coleman Hall.

A big thank you to those parents who kindly cooked and donated the food which was sold out very quickly!

Mrs R Chapman



AstroPi Mission Space Lab Competition



On Tuesday lunchtime this week, some of the sharpest minds at AGSB gathered in the Physics building for the hotly contested AstroPi Mission Space Lab Competition. Over 30 super keen space scientists from Year 10 to Year 13 gathered to battle it out, pitching their ideas for an experiment, that if they are successful, could end up on the International Space Station!

Programmers, 3D modellers, Scientists and Engineers formed teams of 3 to 6 pupils and produced some incredibly well thought out and designed experimental proposals. The questions after each presentation were insightful and challenging, with each team demonstrating an excellent understanding of the Science behind their plans.

Each group ranked all the other team's entries to decide upon a winner and it is such a shame that AGSB are only allowed to enter two teams to the next round of the competition. Massive congratulations to all who took part, the entries really were of exceptional quality.

Our two successful teams were the PiHeads who's project focusses on predicting how vegetation coverage of the Earth will change over time and the Gravtions who's project is looking to identify the exact centre of mass of the Earth.



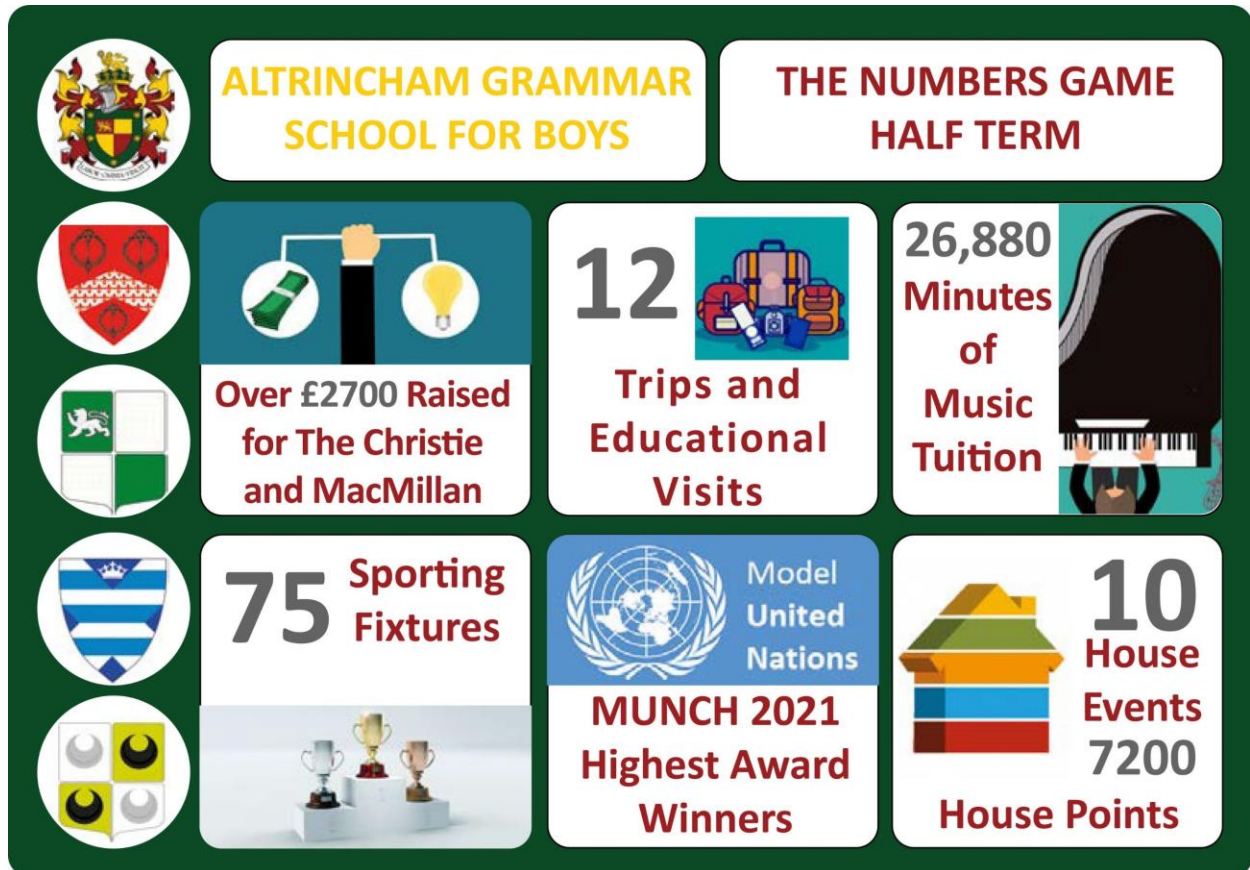
Dr S Squire
Head of Science



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Half Term Numbers



Many thanks to Mr Williams and the Publications team for creating this infographic summarising the last seven weeks at AGSB.

School Production - Little Shop of Horrors



We are now pleased to announce that tickets are on sale for *Little Shop of Horrors* – our School Production for 2021-2022.

Set in a decade not too long before our own, *Little Shop of Horrors* tells the story of Seymour Krelborn, a down and out florist who is offered a route to fame and fortune. The deadly cost, and Faustian bargain that he must strike, leads to an ethical dilemma that reaches a chilling climax. Based on the hit Broadway show, *Little Shop of Horrors* is a cult classic.

Our show dates are:

- **Wednesday 10th November:** 7pm
- **Thursday 11th November:** 7pm
- **Friday 12th November:** 7pm



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Due to Covid restrictions, our maximum capacity will be **150 seats** per show and **all tickets must be booked in advance**. We anticipate that some nights will sell out quickly, so please do order as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



Tickets are now on sale via ParentPay. Make sure you get your chance to see Altrincham's only Man Eating Plant in action!

AGSB PFA



All Parents will have received a SchoolComms regarding the PFA 'Auction of Promises' which takes place between the 8th and 18th November 2021. This fantastic event will help raise much needed funds for school equipment, and specifically contribute to 'Navigating Teens' workshops and continued Mental Health Programmes, plus the AGSB PFA Auction of Promises will also be supporting The Teenage Cancer Trust.

We have already received over 30 donations which is fantastic. If anyone wants to donate, please contact Ms Irene Tse via email - pfaagsb@gmail.com but if you click on the [LINK](#) here you can see the donations.

Thank you.
AGSB PFA



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AGSB Sport



Well done to the Year 7 Football team who won 5-1 last week, progressing into the next round of the Greater Manchester Cup.



Many congratulations to the 1st XV on making it through to the third round of the National School's Cup with a victory over St Mary's College, Crosby yesterday. It was a great game of rugby.

If you want to see the full Sports Programme, with details of all AGSB's fixtures, results, match reports, results and more, then you can visit <http://socs.agsb.co.uk>.

Always look on the bright side of life



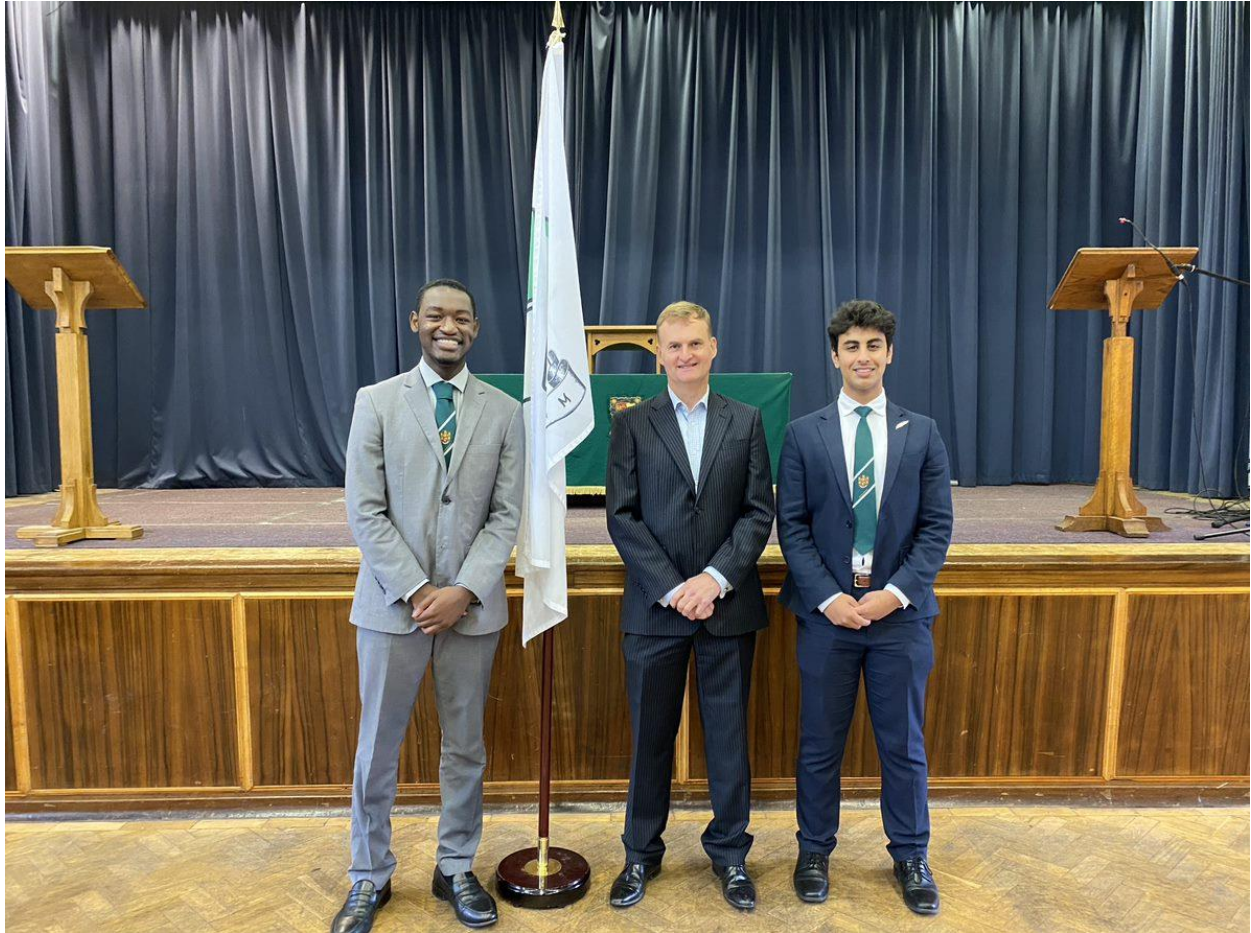
I saw the lovely arch, Of Rainbow span the sky, The gold sun burning, As the rain swept by.
Many thanks to our Site Assistant, Phil Hadwen, for this amazing photo taken last week.



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New House Sponsor – D Wardle (Plant) Limited



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys secures new sponsor for House system

D. Wardle (Plant) Limited is to sponsor one of the Houses at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. The Appleton based plant hire firm will sponsor 'Massey House' and will also be professional partners of the School.

Scott Wardle, Managing Director of D. Wardle (Plant), visited the school for a photo shoot with the Head Master, Massey House Manager, Mr Meakin, Massey House Captain Hasanat and his Deputy, Ayo.





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GCSE Awards Evening 2021

It was great to welcome ex England Cricketer and former old boy, Paul Allott, into school this week. Paul was the guest speaker at the GCSE Awards Evening. It was marvellous to celebrate the success and hard work of our current Year 12 students and a big thank you to all those parents who attended in support.



SEND Department



Many thanks to the families who took up our invitation to attend our first SEND Drop-In Evening last night. We launched the Drop-In in response to feedback from our SEND survey last year, in which families expressed a desire for more opportunities to discuss progress and support. The evening was targeted at families whose children are on SEN Support. We hope that families who booked appointments found it productive and helpful!

Now that the Drop-In Evening is complete, we will be offering weekly virtual SEND Clinics. If any families have concerns about existing or possible SEND, please email me at acathcart@agsb.co.uk and I will arrange an appointment with you directly. Clinics will be held on Wednesday afternoons between

1:30pm and 3pm. Should you be unable to attend during these sessions, I will of course endeavour to arrange an alternative time which works for you.

Miss A Cathcart
Assistant Head - Inclusion



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Reminder - Lateral Flow Testing at Home

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore reminding all parents to encourage their children to test on Monday and Thursday in order to help us to keep AGSB open.

Please remind your son(s) to continue with Lateral Flow Device Testing twice weekly on a Monday and a Thursday morning.

To summarise:

- Please look at the instructions in the pack on how to perform testing
- Carry out testing every Monday and Thursday morning, preferably before breakfast is eaten
- Report the result to school and NHS via website
- If the result is positive please arrange for your child to have a [PCR test](#) and report this result to school using the covid@agsb.co.uk address.

Dr E Thomas
Assistant Head – Teaching & Learning

Noticeboard for Parents

Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for a Temporary Teacher of German and a Temporary Teacher of History and if there are any interested teachers out there, you can find the advertisements on the two links here:

[Temporary Teacher of German](#)

[Temporary Teacher of History](#)



Please remember that the clocks go **back** one hour at 2am on Sunday, 31st October 2021.

School re-opens on Monday, 1st November 2021 at 08:40am



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Forthcoming dates for November 2021

Mon – 01.11.2021	School Opens after October Half Term
Wed – 03.11.2021 & Thu 04.11.2021	Y11 Parents' Evening Online
Fri – 05.11.2021	School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Development
Wed 10.11.2021	Autumn Cooking 3.30pm-5pm
Wed 10.11.2021 – Fri 12.11.2021	Little Shop of Horrors Production
Wed 17.11.2021	6 th Form Open Evening Online
Thu 18.11.2021	Diwali Event 7pm to 10pm
Wed 24.11.2021	PFA Curry & Quiz Night 7pm
Thu 25.11.2021	Y13 Parents' Evening
Fri 27.11.2021	National Concert Band Festival

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

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