



# 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*



21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to the holiday season.

On Tuesday evening it was fantastic to welcome back the Class of 2023 for A Level Prize Giving where we celebrated their individual and collective success. A fitting tribute to a wonderful year group.

As we approach the final furlong of this term, we greatly enjoyed our Christmas lunch yesterday provided by Sodexo and, as I write, are now looking forward to the Christmas Concert and Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Bowdon.

Once again, it has been a very busy term, and I am certain that all the students are ready for a restful break.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday period and, if you celebrate it, a very Happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Mr G A Wright  
Head Master





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## Mindfulness



The last week and a half of term has been full of interesting things taking place.

Last Monday, Ms Mahony held "Mindful Monday" in the New Library where the students made Christmas tree books.

Great fun was had by all!



## Model United Nations 2023

Model UN simulations engage hundreds of thousands of students each year, helping them to learn more about the principles of the UN and how it functions. Many of today's leaders in law, government, business and the arts – including at the UN itself – participated in Model UN as students.



The United Nations supports Model UN simulations by building and maintaining strong links between the UN and Model UN participants. It does this by sharing first-hand knowledge about the work of the UN at Model UN Conferences; providing guidance with organisers to create accurate and authentic simulations; and encouraging Model UN clubs to take concrete action to support UN values and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The AGSB MUN team enjoyed a successful weekend (9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December) at the Conference which took place at Manchester Grammar School. They were commended across 5 delegations and won a trophy for being "Outstanding Delegate Human Rights Committee".

Well done to everyone who took part.





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## AGSB Chess Club



Last week we had a Year 7/8 friendly at Urmston Grammar School. The final result was 31-5 to AGBS which is a fantastic result for our inaugural 'junior chess squad'. The future's looking bright!



**Dr V Sully**  
**Teacher of Chemistry/Head of Chess**

## The GCHQ National Language Competition 2023



Very well done to Year 9 students Tahmeed R, Eric X, Maanas V and Jun Z, Harshith G and Jacky W who all took part in the recent GCHQ Language Competition and the team were positioned 62<sup>nd</sup> out of 2000 teams across the UK.

The students had to work as GCHQ agents, decoding puzzles in various languages to try and stop criminal activity.

The National Language Competition (NLC) is a virtual competition where teams from schools around the UK compete against each other to solve language-based puzzles and score points. The overall winners are then invited to GCHQ's headquarters in Cheltenham to receive their trophy!

With the NLC, GCHQ aims to inspire language learning by encouraging students to discover their aptitude for learning languages.

**Frau Chapman**  
**Head of Languages**





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## Classics at AGSB



Year 7 have recently been learning about the first democracy in Ancient Athens, 2500 years ago and the battle that had to be fought to preserve it, on the plain of Marathon.

7BY (pictured) were the first to reenact it this year, but the lessons have been about a lot more than tactics and manoeuvres. What is democracy? What are the alternatives? What flaws does democracy have? Why does it actually matter so much? Would the Greeks even agree that our system was a democracy?

The boys have shown great enthusiasm for all these questions and have learnt some of the vocabulary for conceptualising basic political ideas, just in time for our own likely General Election sometime next year.

If you take your son with you to experience voting in the election, it's probably best to leave their shield at home on this occasion!

**Mr P Ellis**  
**Head of Classics**

## The Guest List



The Guest List played to a packed out Deaf Institute in Manchester last Friday headlining the venue, where only a year ago they were the support act. It was a brilliant night where they showcased their own original music, and the audience obviously loved it. I know the band would want to credit the Music Department at School for their advice and practise time.

Y13 Cai A (vocals) Tom Q ( guitar), bass guitarist from SGS, Old Alt Angus G (drums) and Leio Hunter (guitar).

**Mrs V Gordon**





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## Afternoon Tea and Cake!

Year 12 student, Philip M decided that as a thank you to the hardworking Sodexo Staff, he and his friends would buy sandwiches and cake and serve it to them personally.

The afternoon tea party took place last Thursday afternoon and the event was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed the food and drink, as well as the ability to have a conversation with their colleagues in a relaxed atmosphere. There was even a magic show by one of the cleaning staff!

*The*  
**Tea**  
*Party*

Philip was ably assisted by Kylan B (12MG), Luca N (12DV) and Nyal S (12BK).

*"Kindness can make a bad day good, and a good day better".*





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## Free Heads Up Course for Y13 Learners



Old Alt, Ben Pinnock, recently delivered an assembly to the Year 13 students last week to promote this new and free course he has developed alongside other professionals to give students the chance to develop a range of skills and knowledge to help their transition into adult life.

### Details:

Are you on the threshold of stepping into the exciting world of university or your professional career? This one-day course, led by a dynamic team of experts including clinical psychologists, general practitioners, police officers and financial experts, is your bridge to a confident and informed transition. It's a unique opportunity to gain insights that many adults and parents today wish they'd had access to at your age. We offer invaluable knowledge that may not seem urgent now but will undoubtedly be a positive asset for your future.

Clinical Psychologists and General Practitioners will share insights into maintaining optimal mental and physical health. Learn strategies for managing stress, nurturing a healthy lifestyle, and enhancing emotional resilience as you face life's challenges.

Police Officers will guide you on personal safety and security awareness. Understand the principles of crime prevention and learn how to protect yourself and your belongings in new environments.

Financial Experts will provide you with essential knowledge regarding budgeting, managing finances, and making informed financial decisions. Gain the skills necessary to navigate the financial aspects of independence and responsibility effectively. We highlight the common mistakes many make when dealing with matters of finance.

Professionals from the aviation industry offer a unique perspective on many subjects, including communication and team-working skills, that can assist those starting a career. Stress or other mental and physiological factors can affect our performance. Understanding these factors, and how to deal with them, is useful when revising or taking exams. Discussions regarding time & workload management can help focus on, and facilitate planning in, many aspects of life. Used effectively these can reduce the stresses and pressures many experience.

### Why Attend?

- Gain the knowledge and tools to safeguard your well-being and make informed decisions.
- Learn from the experiences and insights of professionals and peers.
- Build critical financial and safety skills for independence.
- Achieve a smoother transition into university or your chosen career, armed with the skills and insights to excel.
- Increase your ability to become a well-rounded member of a team, workforce and society.





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Students: Although you might not sense an immediate necessity, this presents a unique opportunity to acquire invaluable knowledge from a diverse panel of experts, all in one place. We hope many of you will recognise the benefits our course has to offer.

Parents: We know all too well, as your child moves away and becomes more independent, it can often be a time of excitement and apprehension. We kindly request you discuss this course together with your child, and if you consider it of value now or in the future, please encourage and facilitate participation. We are confident that the insights gained from this programme will be an asset to them as they step into this exciting new chapter of their lives.

## Who Should Attend?

- High school students preparing for university life or a career.
- Recent high school graduates already employed, begun an apprenticeship or university course.
- Young professional athletes keen to broaden their development alongside their sporting discipline.
- Anyone aged 17-20 seeking to enhance their readiness for life's opportunities and challenges.

As our course is designed to promote independence, all attendees must be students or young adults aged 17-20.

## Cost?

Thanks to the generosity and support of the REX Cinema Wilmslow, we are offering free spaces for attendees on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**. However, future courses may incur a fee to cover venue costs. We encourage those interested to register as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or need further information about the course, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to support students throughout this process.

Phone: 0161 8 20 50 20 Email: [contact.headsupcourse@gmail.com](mailto:contact.headsupcourse@gmail.com)

**Mr A Gallamore**  
**Head of Careers**

## Festive Christmas Jumper Day 2023



On the 20<sup>th</sup> December, Staff and Students came to School wearing their Christmas or seasonally festive jumpers.

The money will be distributed to local foodbanks, the homeless and the Women's Refuge. A big thank you to all Year Groups who have been raising money for all of the Charities over the last couple of weeks. The final total will be announced after Christmas.

**Mr E Hall**  
**Deputy Head**



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## Sodexo Christmas Lunch



We enjoyed another successful Christmas Lunch this year. Many thanks to Sodexo for all their hard work in preparing this for the students.

Thanks also to Mr Monument and his musicians providing the excellent Christmas Music!







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## Medicine & Dentistry Society



On Monday evening this week, the School Medicine & Dentistry Society organised a mock interview event for the current Year 13 applicants to experience what a University interview would be like.

With many students receiving interviews, we wanted to help the students become more comfortable and confident going into their interviews, so

we decided to set up our own mock interview.

We were supported by Alumni from Medology as well as Haidar J, James L, Parth N and Taiyyib A. In addition, Dr Thomas and Ms Welsby also helped us out with delivering the questions to the students.

Overall, it was a really successful event, which hopefully helped and motivated the Year 13 students to keep working hard and practicing for their forthcoming Medicine/Dentistry interviews.

## AGSB Medicine and Dentistry Society

### AGSB Art



In the Art Department this week, Y12 student, Will D, has been working on his oil painting, focusing specifically on his colour mixing and brushstrokes.

I'm sure you will agree, Will has honed his skill. It is very exciting to see this piece of work come alive. Great work Will.

**Miss F Cooke**  
**Head of Art**

## Charity Fundraising



A very big thank you to everyone that supported the fundraiser last week.

We raised £57.59 for the Wildlife Trusts!

**Miss L Smith**  
**Biology Department**



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## Sporting Successes



(Left) Well done to Leo C (7BY) who recently competed in the British Indoor Rowing Championships and was awarded a Bronze medal in the 500m sprint.

Last weekend, Brian Z (7CE) (right) participated in the Ambition Winter Opener Slalom Races held at Alpin Mountain in Austria and was awarded a Silver and a Bronze medal in the U12 category, marking his first experience in alpine slalom racing. Well done Brian!



## AGSB Sports

### House Football



House Football took place during each lunchtime last week.

Pictured are the Year 8 squad from Tatton House who were victorious.

### Basketball

Our AGBS U16 Basketball team had a fantastic victory last week.

They beat St Ambrose College 33-27 in what was a brilliant game.

Well done to all who took part.







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## Cross Country

A very big congratulations to the Year 8 and Year 9 students who, in tough conditions, travelled to Crossford Bridge in Sale to compete in the Trafford Schools event.

Charlie C (8DO); Archer B (9RN); Ben S (8RW); Charlie Hayward (9PG); James H (8RW); David C (9MH); Lucian J (9MH) and Harry O (9CD).



Thank you to Mr Gooch for all of his team 'prep' in getting them ready and for transporting them to the fixture and to Mrs Blann for her support.

It has been another successful term for AGSB Sport and many thanks to the PE Department for all their hard work over the past three-and-a-half months.

Please click [here](#) to read the full **AGSB Sport Term Review - December 2023**.





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## House Points Autumn Term 2023-2024

For a full round up of all the House events which have taken place since September with some great photos including the House Points Results 2023-24, please follow this [LINK](#).

## 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](#).

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

**Ms A Cathcart**  
**Assistant Head Inclusion/SENDco**

## Calendar Dates

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



### Forthcoming Key Dates are:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| * 08.01.2024:              | School Re-Opens for Spring Term 2024           |
| * 11.01.2024 – 18.01.2024: | Spanish Exchange Trip                          |
| * 12.01.2024 & 16.01.2024: | GCSE Human Geography Fieldwork Trip to Ancoats |
| * 18.01.2024:              | Y8 Parents' Evening                            |
| * 23.01.2024 – 26.01.2024: | Y13 Exams                                      |
| * 31.01.2024:              | Y10 Parents' Evening                           |
| * 04.02.2024 – 09.02.2024: | Y9 Football Trip to Barcelona                  |
| * 09.02.2024 – 17.02.2024: | School Ski Trip to Austria                     |
| * 09.02.2024:              | School Closes for Spring Half-Term             |







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## Annual Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Bowdon



We held our annual Christmas Carol Services this morning at St Mary's Church, Bowdon and it was great to see the Church so beautifully decorated.

Thank you to all those pupils and staff who did readings and to Mr Monument for providing the music, the choir who sang brilliantly, the soloist, who was amazing and the students who were in the band.

We definitely finished the year on a high!





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## Noticeboard for Parents

All that remains is for the Head Master and Staff to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas break and all the very best of fortune for 2024.

A reminder to all Parents and Carers that School re-opens after the Christmas Holidays on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS.  
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