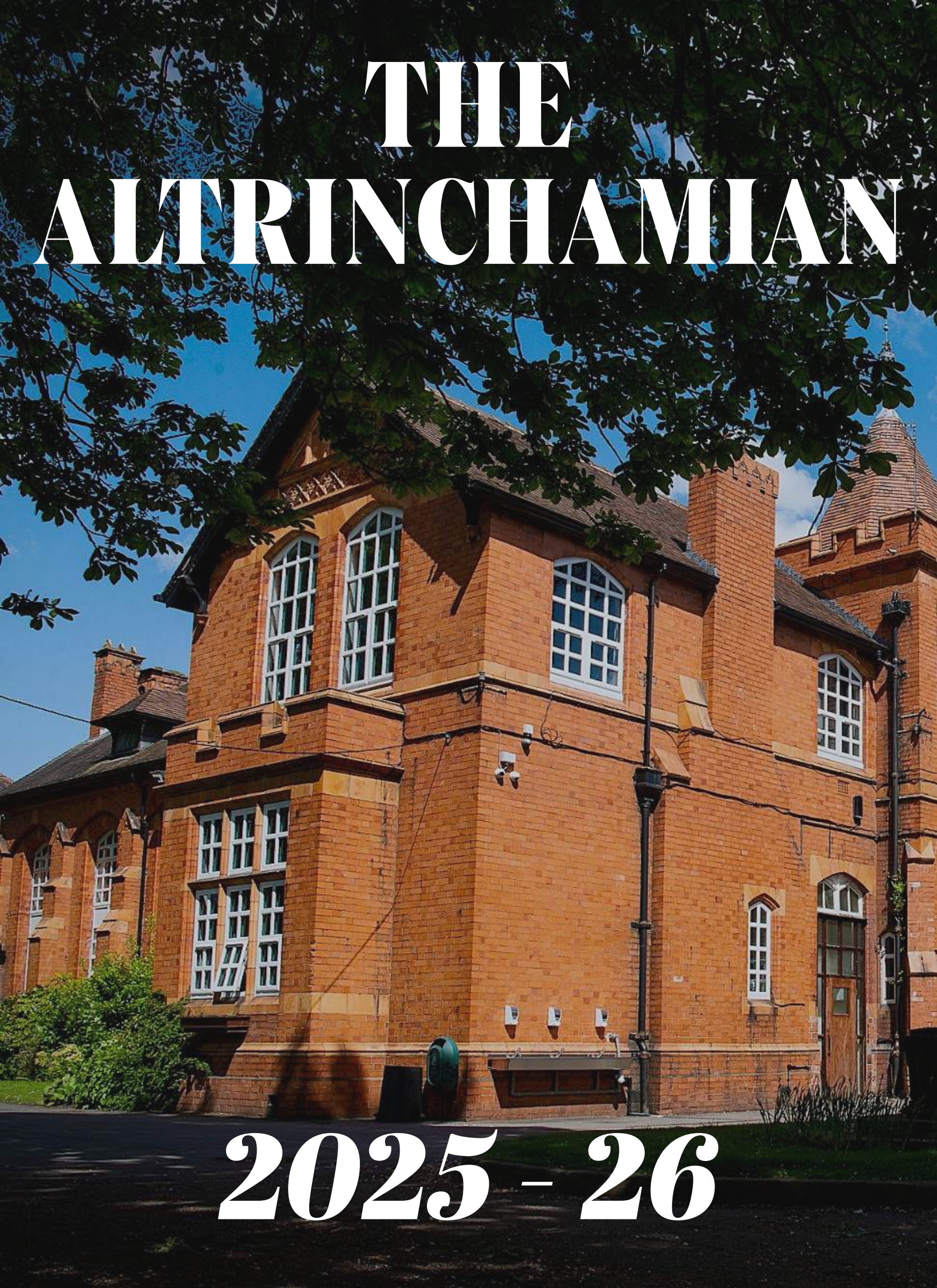




THE ALTRINCHAMIAN

2025 - 26

A Word From the Head Master...



As I sit down to write these reflections in the final weeks of my time as Head Master of AGSB, I am struck by how quickly eight years have passed - and by how profoundly a place can shape a life. I hope it has been evident to our whole community just how much I have loved being here and what a privilege it has been to play a part in AGSB's remarkable and seemingly unstoppable journey.

Leading this exceptional school has been the greatest privilege of my professional life. I was fortunate that AGSB was my first headship, and I will always remember the warm welcome I received from students, staff, parents and carers, and governors when I arrived. The friendships I have made and the memories I will take with me are too numerous to mention.

AGSB is a school that continues to thrive because its ethos and values remain at the heart of everything it does. While it is rightly recognised for its outstanding academic standards, it has never lost sight of its commitment to providing a truly holistic education - one that develops not only high-achieving young

people, but thoughtful, compassionate and well-rounded individuals. Today, the school is in a position of real strength, respected for its academic excellence, outstanding pastoral care, extensive co-curricular opportunities, and its enduring commitment to serving others through charitable endeavour.

As I leave, I do so with great confidence in the future. It is now time to hand over to the tenth Head Master, Ian Dicksee, and I wish him every success and happiness as he leads AGSB into its next chapter.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made these eight years so special: our students, colleagues, parents and carers, governors, Old Alts, and the wider AGSB community. Thank you for your kindness, your support, your friendship, and for allowing me the privilege of serving this remarkable school.

It has been an honour.

Thank you, and goodbye.

G.A. Wright
Head Master

EDITORIAL

A warm welcome as you join us for our End of Year update. You may notice things look a little different! In the spirit of upholding tradition, we have reverted the name of our magazine back to its original: The Altrinchamian.

This is a particularly significant edition for us as the editors, but also for the school. This marks the final edition for the three editors; myself (A Sadiq), T Ariyo and E Sajjad, and will also mark the final edition for the Headmaster. After eight years of dedicated service to Altrincham Grammar, Mr G A Wright will be taking up a new headship role from September 2026. More details are enclosed in the next pages of the magazine.

The school has undergone many changes throughout the editors' seven years, with the growth of the House system under the direction of Mr M Soulsby, the development of the new English block and the New Library, and the slight improvement in the offerings of Sodexo!

At the same time, our team has also evolved, with the most notable change being the transition to becoming a student-led committee. However, the one constant throughout this entire journey has been the unwavering commitment of our members, without whom this magazine would not be possible. It really is rewarding to see the eagerness of the younger years to join the group and for them to use it as a platform to manifest their curiosity about the world around them, as well as to develop the 'soft skills' that are being increasingly valued by the world of employment. The whole team deserves a massive thanks for their efforts.

There is a great paradox that as our world is becoming more divided with rising global instability, our students have continued to come together and have made many great achievements that have been highlighted in this edition, from our Model United Nations delegations taking both first and second place at their last conference through to our U15s cricket team qualifying for the semi-finals of the Barclays Knight Stokes Cup. It has truly been a highly successful year for AGSB.

With the significant prevalence of AI-Generated or at least AI-assisted content, we wish you a rare retreat to exclusively human made content*.

*We are about 99% confident.

The Editors of The Altrinchamian

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COMMUNITY

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VALETE



Mr Matthew Soulsby
Sept. 2018 - March 2026

Matthew Soulsby arrived at AGSB as Head of Sport in September 2013 and has played a significant role in shaping the development of the school.

In 2019 he was appointed Assistant Head – Development and his leadership has driven numerous improvements across recent years, all underpinned by his energy, positivity, and unwavering commitment to the AGSB community.

One of Matthew's most notable achievements has been the successful reintroduction of the House System, which has created fresh opportunities for students at every level to get involved, express their talents, and feel part of something unique within school life.

Matthew's organisational and leadership skills have also left a lasting mark. During the COVID pandemic, he played a crucial role in guiding the school through unprecedented challenges—including immunisations, testing, and the coordination of social distancing measures—helping ensure that students and staff remained safe and supported.

Matthew will be greatly missed by everyone at AGSB. We thank him sincerely for his many contributions and wish him every success as he begins his new chapter as Deputy Head at Knutsford Academy.

G.A. Wright



Dr Julian Marsden
Sept. 1998 - July 2026

After nearly 30 years, Dr Marsden has decided to hang up his test tubes and move into retirement.

Originally from near Leeds, Julian brought his no-nonsense Yorkshire style across the M62 where he has been a stalwart of the Chemistry department since 1998.

Never one to underestimate his own abilities, when asked at interview how he would teach a disinterested Y10 class on a Friday afternoon, Julian replied that they wouldn't be disinterested if he was teaching them. The standards that he demands of his students are always very high. Students over the years have been encouraged and cajoled into work that they did not know they were capable of. He regularly tops the tables within the department for grade 9s and A*s.

His work supporting University admissions has seen hundreds of students gain entry into Oxford & Cambridge. Many boys have been given Medicine interviews thanks in no small measure to the UCAS reference and guidance provided by Dr Marsden.

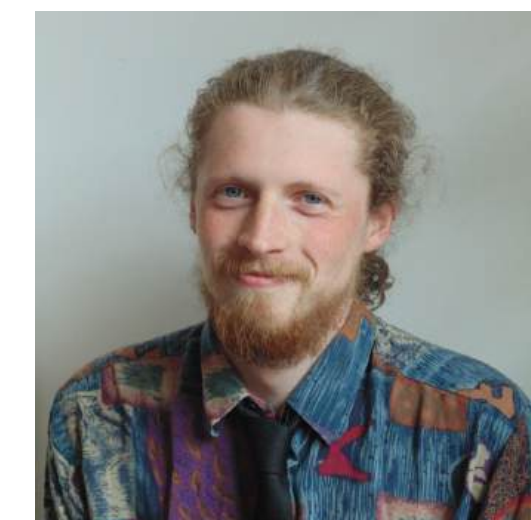
Outside of the classroom he has been a mainstay of the staff cricket and football teams. He still enjoys the Thursday night football training sessions. They'll need a new name for the team, as Julian is the last remaining member of staff who regularly shows for training.

He is quite the globetrotter with numerous school trips over the years. The World Challenge trips to far flung places such as Vietnam and Argentina

are highlights. There are students in these places who are able to go to school thanks to work of the staff and students who contributed to building their schools. Closer to home, Julian has accompanied trips to Greece, Italy and Cyprus.

Everybody in the Chemistry department will miss his insights and support a great deal. Enjoy your retirement, and I am sure that we will see you at the various Chemistry social events.

C Rawson



Mr Owen Roberts
Sept. 2025 - July 2026

Owen joined us twelve months ago as a young, fresh-faced teacher of Chemistry. In this short time, he has thrown himself into teaching, developing good relationships with the groups he has taught, and brought a fresh insight into the department. He joined a department that has been stable for a long time which can be quite daunting, but Owen took it all in his stride.

Those that were there, will never forget the first (and last) performance by 'AG/SB' and their rendition of Highway to Hell, with Owen on the bass guitar.

We shall miss the hair, the shirts and his unique style, but what we shall miss the most is his good humour, great teaching and a willingness to try anything to bring Chemistry to life. Owen has decided to leave teaching, but we wish him all the best for his next steps.

C Rawson



Mr Alfie Gathercole
Sept. 2025 - July 2026

Mr Gathercole joined the Physics department as a trainee teacher and quickly proved himself to be an outstanding addition to the school. In fact, he impressed us so much that we offered him a job.

He has been hugely popular with students thanks to his enthusiasm, dedication, and ability to build such positive relationships in and beyond the classroom. His passion for Physics and commitment to helping students succeed have made a lasting impression on many.

We are all very sorry to see him go. However, with his love of travel and adventure, it is perhaps no surprise that he is now heading to Hong Kong to continue his teaching career. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Mr Gathercole, and we thank him for all he has contributed to the school community. We wish him bon voyage and every success and happiness in the future.

G Reeder



Mr Paul Wilkinson
Sept. 2025 - July 2026

In September 2025, we were incredibly fortunate to welcome Paul to our department. Bringing an impressive 16 years of experience as the former Head of Maths at Tottington High School, Paul hit the ground running as an expert teacher of both KS3 and KS4.

His deep enthusiasm for the subject shines through in every single lesson. This year, his pupils have truly benefited from his vast breadth of knowledge and seasoned experience. Always searching for creative ways to engage students, Paul ensured there was absolutely no passive learning in his classroom - maths was always an active, dynamic experience.

Paul quickly built a fantastic rapport with all his classes, deeply appreciating the humour and personality that the pupils brought to their studies. A particular highlight of his year was teaching the Further Maths GCSE to Year 11; he frequently shared his admiration for their incredible drive, engagement, and determination to excel.

Reflecting on his time with us, Paul shared that he has thoroughly enjoyed his year, noting what a wonderful school this has been to bookend his teaching career. As he closes this chapter to start an exciting new one in retirement, we thank him for his dedication and wish him the absolute best!

K Potter



Mr Warren Baker
Sept. 2024 - July 2026

Warren joined AGSB in May 2024, bringing a wealth of experience as a Head of Maths from a variety of 11–18 schools. From day one, his enthusiasm for both mathematics and teaching has shone through in every interaction. His energy and positivity are tangible to pupils and staff alike.

Warren believes students should be given the space to explore the subject deeply. His lessons regularly spark lively discussions, while his calm and supportive classroom environment encourages pupils to step out of their comfort zones without fear of failure. It is not uncommon to hear a spontaneous round of applause from his room celebrating a student's contribution. Building meaningful relationships has been at the heart of Warren's approach. He invests time in getting to know his pupils, maintaining high expectations while offering extra support whenever needed. Many boys will fondly remember his handshakes at the classroom door as lessons draw to a close.

Beyond the classroom, Warren established the hugely successful Happy Puzzles Club for KS3 and organised a Year 9 brainteaser competition in aid of Manchester Central Foodbank.

Warren has made a tremendous contribution to AGSB and will be deeply missed by all who have worked with him. However, his legendary laugh will undoubtedly continue to reverberate through the corridors of the school for years to come.

K Potter



Mrs Liz Jarratt
Sept. 2015 - July 2026

Liz Jarratt joined AGSB in 2015 and has been an instrumental member of the Music Department ever since, known by colleagues and pupils alike for her ever-present smile and infectious enthusiasm. A dedicated teacher and wonderful colleague, she has made an enormous contribution to the life of the school, both in and beyond the classroom.

Mrs Jarratt took on the leadership of the Music Theatre Society, where her passion, commitment and encouragement helped countless pupils flourish on stage. Through her dedication, hundreds of students have created unforgettable memories in the school's productions. Her role as a producer for shows such as Les Misérables, West Side Story and, most recently, Guys and Dolls has elevated our productions to a professional quality. In championing the performing arts at AGSB, she has hundreds of students build confidence, friendships and a lifelong love of performance.

We wish Mrs Jarratt every happiness for the future. There is no doubt it will be filled with plenty of rugby, theatre trips, long dog walks and many more incredible holidays. Thank you, Liz, for everything you have given to AGSB - you will be greatly missed.

M Monument



Mr Sam Nero
Sept. 2025 - July 2026

Mr Nero has made a huge impact in a remarkably short space of time at AGSB, both within and well beyond the History & Politics Department. His energy and commitment to our students was evident from the moment he arrived in September 2025 from William Hulme's Grammar School. Mr Nero has this year successfully overseen the expansion of the History & Politics Society, which has provided great opportunities for students across Y7-Y13. He's also shown enormous commitment to expanding the department's enrichment programme, organising and leading visits to A Level Conferences and a 'Discovery Day' at the University of Manchester for our Sixth Form students.

Beyond History, Mr Nero has proven invaluable to the PE Department, leading the Y10 Rugby team and accompanying the Y9 Rugby Tour to the Netherlands and the Y8 Cricket Tour to the West Midlands. He's even managed to squeeze in an admirable 2 not out for the Staff Cricket Team and a fine public rendition of John Barnes' rap in 'World in Motion' for the benefit of Mr Wright. Most importantly though, Mr Nero has brought an enthusiasm, an authenticity and an integrity to everything that he has done in manner that has been widely appreciated by his students and his colleagues. He will be much missed by the AGSB community but we do of course wish him the very best as he now embarks on his new adventure teaching at the Canadian International School in Milan!

N Croxton

IN MEMORIAM



Ms Andrea Welsby
Head of Biology: 2008 - 2026

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our much-loved and highly respected colleague, Andrea Welsby, who died on Sunday, 15th March.

Andrea served AGSB with exceptional dedication as Head of Biology for 17 years, during which she led and nurtured a thriving department with remarkable passion, warmth, and enthusiasm. She was an outstanding teacher who inspired countless students, and she exemplified the AGSB value of resilience throughout her career.

Even in recent months, Andrea remained devoted to her pupils, continuing to support them in their studies as recently as January 2026.

Andrea will be profoundly missed by colleagues, students, and the wider AGSB community. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with Andrea's family at this incredibly difficult time.

The flag was flown at half mast for a month to commemorate her passing, and a tree will be planted in school to pay our deep respects to a much loved member of our community.

G.A. Wright



Name: Mr Sam Nero

Birthplace: Ashton-Under-Lyne and hometown nearby in Dukinfield

Department: History & Politics

Favourite Local Football Team: Droylsden FC or Abbey Hey FC. However, now that Antonio Valencia has signed for Wythenshawe Vets, it may have to be them!

Best World Cup Team: Italy, 2006

Favourite thing about AGSB: The thriving extra-curricular life of the school.

Most Embarrassing Moment: Back in September, I drove the U15 Rugby Team to Bolton in our first away fixture of the year, and stalled the minibus about 3 times!

Fun Fact: I am (unfortunately) leaving the school to go and teach History in Milan. I will be really gutted to leave, as AGSB is such an amazing school, and the students and staff are all wonderful, but it is a very exciting opportunity.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Thank you for being an all round legend, for the music recommendations, the support on the rugby pitch, and most importantly, the brilliant impressions of me and the mockery of my footwear on a near-daily basis!



Name: Mr Alfie Gathercole

Birthplace: Sandy, Bedfordshire

Department: Physics

Favourite Local Football Team: Liverpool

Best World Cup Team: England

Favourite thing about AGSB: Having a dedicated physics block makes a really exceptional place to teach and it makes physics feel much more exclusive!

Most Embarrassing Moment: In my first ever lesson teaching English in South Korea, I thought the lesson had gone really well because the students were so well behaved. I only found out afterwards that they didn't understand a single word of my southern accent, and I had to start teaching with an American accent.

Fun Fact: Before teaching at AGSB, I taught in South Korea and Taiwan where I managed to pick up some of the language. Plus, it allowed me to travel to over 50 out of 198 countries!

Final Message to Mr Wright: I hope in my time at AGSB I will be able to make physics both fun and memorable, and dare I say, even *enjoyable* to learn!



Name: Mr Paul Wilkinson

Birthplace: Manchester

Department: Mathematics

Favourite Local Football Team: Manchester United

Best World Cup Team: England

Favourite thing about AGSB: The students and staff, particularly their commitment to supporting each other to be successful.

Most Embarrassing Moment: What happens on tour, stays on tour...

Fun Fact: I have a twin brother who has impersonated me on occasion.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Wishing you all the best and continued success in your new post.



Name: Dr Iris Fiendt

Birthplace: Hamburg, Germany

Department: MFL

Favourite Local Football Team: FC St. Pauli

Best World Cup Team: Germany (and Serbia)

Favourite thing about AGSB: The people

Most Embarrassing Moment: None

Fun Fact: Difficult to answer for a German - we are famous for being serious.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Good luck!



Name: Mr Stephen Rawlings

Birthplace: Bournemouth

Department: Mathematics

Favourite Local Football Team: AFC Bournemouth

Best World Cup Team: The 1970 Brazil World Cup Team.

Favourite thing about AGSB: The students are great.

Most Embarrassing Moment: Dressing up as a hip hop cow on the last day of term in my previous school and doing "Last Christmas" karaoke in the Sixth Form Common Room.

Fun Fact: I lived in Hong Kong and Japan for 12 years.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Good luck for everything to come.



Name: Mr Richard Hobson-Williams

Birthplace: Hull City

Department: Inclusion / Biology

Favourite Local Football Team: Hull City

Best World Cup Team: Hmm... my family are from Wales so I am not sure I can put England down...

Favourite thing about AGSB: How friendly and supportive everyone is; they have really helped me settle in.

Most Embarrassing Moment: There are too many to list...

Fun Fact: I enjoy running and have done quite a few 10ks and half marathons across Europe (Prague was my latest one). I've also been to watch two Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro and Paris.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Thank you for appointing me to the Head of Inclusion last year. I am very lucky to be working at such an amazing school. Good luck in the future!



Name: Mr Mike Stiles

Birthplace: Collyhurst, Manchester

Department: Business & Economics

Favourite Local Football Team: Manchester United

Best World Cup Team: A few contenders - Brazil 1970 and Holland 1974, maybe. Overall, has to be England 1966 for personal and patriotic reasons!

Favourite thing about AGSB: Watching the Bollywood Dance troupes from my Year 12 classes! The Year 10 footballers who look a good team. Just the privilege of teaching so many gifted and committed students!

Most Embarrassing Moment: Too many embarrassing moments to mention! Although I will confess I used to sell match day programmes at the old Maine Road for a Saturday job as a teenager!

Fun Fact: I used to catch the bus to school with now famous guitarist of the band The Smiths , Johnny Marr. I used to tease him as he was a Manchester City fan and nicknamed him "rock star " on the bus because of his boyhood obsession with becoming a famous guitarist - he's the one laughing now!

Final Message to Mr Wright: Very sad to see Mr Wright leaving - a fantastic leader who combines a stiff-backed military authority and projection with a kindness, respect and empathy. I wish him well!



Name: Mr Owen Roberts

Birthplace: Crewe, Cheshire

Department: Chemistry

Favourite Local Football Team:
Everton FC

Best World Cup Team: England

Favourite thing about AGSB: The range of extracurricular activities available for staff and students.

Most Embarrassing Moment: I once came into work with odd shoes.

Fun Fact: I can play the guitar.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Good luck with everything in your future!



Name: Mrs Catherine Hotchin

Birthplace: Manchester

Department: Sixth Form

Favourite Local Football Team:
Manchester City

Best World Cup Team: England

Favourite thing about AGSB: Everybody is so welcoming and the view from my office window in the spring!

Most Embarrassing Moment: I once appeared on TV in the audience of Stars in Their Eyes.

Fun Fact: I speak four languages, and I used to live on the same road as Timperley legend Frank Sidebottom.

Final Message to Mr Wright: Thank you for making me feel so welcome at AGSB and good luck in your new school. Remember us fondly when you wear your AGSB leavers hoodie.



Name: Mrs Rajeshwari Devadiga

Birthplace: Mangalore, India

Department: Administration

Favourite Local Football Team:
Mnacheater United

Best World Cup Team: Argentina

Favourite thing about AGSB: The community.

Most Embarrassing Moment: None so far!

Fun Fact: I enjoy travelling, watching movies, listening to music, having good meals...

Final Message to Mr Wright: It has been a privilege knowing you. Your humility and leadership have truly inspired us. I wish you all the very best for the future - you will be missed.



HEAD PREFECT

On my final day of term, as per tradition, I adorned my green blazer to find that it fit perfectly. Be that a signal of my losing battle with height over the last seven years, there is much I look back on with pride. Whilst I may not have grown much in stature – growing a respectable 3 inches since Year 7 – it is my personal growth that I cherish most about my time here.

I have benefitted immensely as a thinker, learning that asking the right questions is just as important, if not even more so, than getting the right answers. Although I am an innately curious person, AGSB has given me an outlet to feel brave enough to ask difficult questions and seek the answers. This drive for discovery and learning is at the heart of the school's ethos and is a quality I will never let go of. Thinking critically and wholistically about the world and my place in it has been an opportunity afforded to me by an AGSB education. Even though we are a state school, such an education is priceless.

Whilst I have thrived academically here (taking up a place at Cambridge in the Autumn to read Economics, Law and Environment), it is beyond the classroom that I have learned the most. Rugby, Musical Theatre, ESU Public Speaking, Anti-Racism and being the editor of this magazine – to name but a few – have all shaped me into a well-rounded person, with leadership and communication skills that will help me to continue serving communities long after AGSB.

With AI technology getting more capable and graduate prospects on the decline, these are the skills and experiences that will set me apart in the working world.

A human edge in the age of the machine.

My advice to younger students would be to sharpen these inherently human skills by getting involved. Engage with the House System. Compete, try, fail, and try again. Because respect, responsibility and resilience are character traits that will stand the test of time.

My final year at AGSB, though dominated by A Level exams, was made so much more enjoyable thanks to my amazing Senior Prefect Team, as well as the staff that supported me academically and otherwise. From Mr Sampson's iconic A3 sheets in History (he must have killed half a rainforest to teach the nine of us) to Ms McCourt's "bog standard questions" in Further Maths (they often were the opposite), these are all memories I will look back on with great fondness.

My advice to those still at AGSB is to grab opportunities and don't be afraid to fail. Don't let life pass you by, because much like your time at this school, the next chapter of your lives will open and close as well. And all that's left will be memories.

T Ariyo



GOODBYE MR WRIGHT

After eight successful years at AGSB, Mr Wright moves on to lead Old Swinford Hospital School. We sat down to reflect on his time here...

When you think back to the day you started here versus today, what are the changes in the school you're proudest to have been part of?

There have been many positive changes across the AGSB community over the past eight years, and I'm immensely proud of what we have achieved together. If I had to highlight a few, I would point to the expansion of the school through the new teaching block, which means an additional 30 boys each year can benefit from an AGSB education. I'm proud that the House system has created countless leadership opportunities and enriched our co-curricular programme, and that our Sports for All campaign transformed our facilities so that training and fixtures are no longer regularly disrupted by the weather.

I'm equally proud that Horizons has opened doors for disadvantaged children across Trafford, and perhaps most importantly, that we've worked hard to create a genuinely inclusive community where everyone who walks through our doors is known, valued and cared for.

What is something this job asked of you that you didn't expect when you took it on?

I don't think I fully appreciated just how much of my time would be devoted to fundraising. Grammar schools remain among the most poorly funded schools in the sector, so securing additional resources has been a constant strategic priority throughout my time as Headmaster.

I'm incredibly grateful to our parents and carers, alumni, governors and local businesses, whose generosity and support have enabled us to continue providing outstanding opportunities for our students.

What would you consider to be your most testing episode as Headmaster, and what lessons did you learn from it?

I've always believed in leading collaboratively, but there are moments when the difficult decisions ultimately rest with you. Without question, the greatest challenge was leading the school through the Covid pandemic.

Balancing the safety of students and staff, delivering high-quality remote learning, managing school closures and responding to constantly changing government guidance was extraordinarily demanding. Looking back, what stands out most is how our whole community responded—with resilience, humour and compassion. It reinforced my belief that schools are at their strongest when people work together with kindness and purpose.

How have pupils changed since you started - in what they worry about, what motivates them, or how they see the world?

One thing I've learned over the past eight years is that young people are far more complex than the public narrative often gives them credit for. The stereotype is that they're confident, carefree and endlessly resilient. What I see every day is that many are carrying a significant mental and emotional load, often quietly.

At a high-performing school like AGSB, the pressures are considerable: achieving top grades, making the 'right' choices about the future, building an impressive CV, fitting in socially and managing family expectations. They don't always need more advice; they need time, patience and adults who genuinely listen without judgement.

I have enormous respect for young people today. They are thoughtful, resilient and inspiring - and that's why I've always loved working in schools.

What is something about being Headmaster that pupils and parents never see, but probably should understand better?

People often associate the role with assemblies, school events and dealing with day-to-day issues, but a significant part of the job is strategic planning. The Senior Leadership Team, governors and I spend a great deal of time thinking about the future - developing a clear vision for the school and ensuring we have a plan to make that vision a reality.

One of the questions we regularly ask ourselves is: how do we ensure AGSB remains relevant in the middle of the 21st century? Students joining us this September are likely to begin their careers in the late 2030s. We need to prepare them for a world where artificial intelligence, climate change and rapid technological change will shape almost every aspect of life and work.

Is there a particular stand-out moment from your time here that you are most fond of?

There have been many memorable moments, but if I had to choose one it would be our 'Outstanding in All Areas' Ofsted inspection in 2022. The school hadn't been inspected since 2007, and I was immensely proud of how the entire AGSB community came together. The inspection gave us the opportunity to showcase what makes this school such a special place, and everyone—staff, students, governors and parents—played their part.

If you could give your successor one piece of advice that nobody gave you when you started, what would it be?

"Be authentic" has become something of a leadership cliché, but it's advice that really matters. Be yourself, trust your instincts and have confidence in the people around you. No Headmaster succeeds alone, and AGSB has exceptional staff who care deeply about the boys and the school. Trust them, support them and enjoy the privilege of leading such a remarkable community.

If you were to return to AGSB in ten years' time, what would you want AGSB to look like?

I hope the values, ethos and culture of AGSB will remain exactly as they are today. There is no secret formula behind the school's success. Academic excellence is important, teaching is of a very high standard, and lessons are characterised by pace and challenge. But the co-curricular programme is equally central to who we are.

Perhaps most importantly, I hope AGSB continues to be a happy school. Standards are high, but we don't take ourselves too seriously. There is warmth, humour and enjoyment in the day-to-day life of the school, and I hope that never changes.

Looking ahead, I believe a coeducational Sixth Form would be a positive step for the future. I'd also hope to see the new Reception building completed and a new Music Centre finally become a reality—both projects that would further enhance what AGSB can offer future generations.

G.A. Wright & T Ariyo



MEETING MR DICKSEE



INTERVIEW

Mr Ian Dicksee has been appointed the tenth Head Master of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. A deeply experienced teacher and educational leader, Mr Dicksee will undoubtedly bring expertise and fresh vision to his new role. We sat down with our new Head Master to find out a bit more about him:

Congratulations on your appointment as Headmaster at AGSB! How did it feel when you got the role?

I was thrilled when I received the call offering me the position. I feel both humbled and excited at being given the opportunity to be the School's next Head Master, and look forward to getting started in September.

What drew you specifically to AGSB? What stood out to you about the community?

I think any teacher or school leader will tell you that they want to work in a school that has an ethos that resonates with their own. What initially drew me to AGSB was its holistic ethos to education: a school doing remarkable things academically, but balanced by a focus on values and character development, as well as a thriving co-curricular offer.

In all my experiences of AGSB to date, the staff have been very warm and welcoming, and the students have been kind, articulate, good-humoured and very proud of everything about their school community.

What is the worst experience you have had in a previous job?

The impact that Covid had on students at my current school, as well as across the country as a whole, was pretty difficult for everyone in education. The constant uncertainty for students of being in school or lockdown, the disruption to their learning, and the measures put in place that led to students being sent home to isolate for lengthy periods of time; this all had a significant impact on student wellbeing, and was tough to be part of as naturally, as a teacher and a school leader, you just want the best for your students.

What were your favourite subjects at school?

I enjoyed reading and writing, so my favourite subjects were, inevitably, English and History, both of which I did at A Level; settling on a degree in History at University. I also enjoyed sport at school too, particularly rugby, football and cricket.

Are there any changes that students can expect in the first year?

You have to be respectful of where a school already is on its own journey, and I know that AGSB is currently working towards the conclusion of its 'Developing Excellence' strategy. A key focus will be to ensure that we see any remaining developments from this strategy implemented and embedded into school life; for example, in September, we will be launching the Digital Literacy Strategy in the Sixth Form.

What do you think the hardest part of the job will be?

The hardest part about starting any new school is understanding how it runs, its culture and systems, and most importantly getting to know the students and staff. It's always a bit of a steep learning curve, but I've been lucky enough to have a few days at AGSB before September, which has given me the opportunity to get to know the school in more detail already.

Have you got any hidden talents?

In my University days I used to DJ in student venues across Fallowfield in South Manchester; however, it was less about my technical ability and more the variety of popular music that people seemed to enjoy!

Finally, moving to Manchester, we have to ask: City or United?

Unfortunately, I'm neither a blue or a red, I'm a lily-white, and feel very relieved that we avoided relegation this summer! I did, however, live in Manchester throughout my 20s, and continue to watch and support Sale Sharks, who like Spurs, will be hoping for a better start to the new season.

I Dicksee and T Ariyo

“What initially drew me to AGSB was its holistic ethos to education: a school... balanced by a focus on values and character development...”



HOUSE REVIEW

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BRADBURY

What a fantastic year for Bradbury. We have had great year house leaders for every year group – I Qazi and H McMillan, Y7, S Pattisapu and L Adu, Y8, N Davis and M Osinowo, Y9, R Pillai and M Hilal, Y10, S Tahir and E Wrathall, Y11, G Braddock and E Hayes, Y12, and O Fryar and L Marsh-Patrick for Y13. They have done a great job getting involved and encouraging others to participate in all of the activities. They have worked tirelessly to get full teams for events and have been a real credit to the school and to Bradbury House!

Our House Captain, Ollie and Deputy Captain, Leo, rallied students from all year groups and got the big events moving forward. As a result of their hard work, as well as the other amazing performers, musicians and singers in the house, we enjoyed great success at both the House Shout and the House Drama competitions this year. We had joint first in the musical theatre element of the House drama, which for me was a definite highlight!! What amazing performances our house gave for this.

The House has enjoyed success in many different events across different sports, such as football, cricket, winter sports, as well as chess, public speaking, debating, maths and science, subject quizzes, to name a few, as well as gaining lots of house points over the course of the year.

I have been amazed over these two years of how committed students are to the house system, how confident they are to participate in different events, showcase their skills and talents and try something new. I hope this continues next year!

S Morgan-Khan

innov8



MASSEY

Following last year’s record-breaking victory – the largest winning margin in House Competition history – there was always going to be a challenge to maintain those exceptionally high standards. However, once again, the boys of Massey House have risen to the occasion and produced another outstanding year.

The foundation of our success has always been participation. Whether in sport, academic competitions, music, chess, or the many other House events throughout the year, the willingness of Massey pupils to get involved and represent their House has been nothing short of exceptional. Every point matters, and every pupil who steps forward to compete contributes to the collective success of the team. Last year’s Sports Day triumph epitomised everything Massey stands for: determination, teamwork and a desire to give our very best for one another.

Our House motto, “A team above all and above all a team,” perfectly captures the spirit that continues to define Massey. Individual successes are always celebrated, but it is the collective effort, encouragement and support shown by pupils across every year group that makes our House so special.

This year, I have been fortunate to work alongside an exceptional team of student leaders. My sincere thanks go to our Year Group Leaders: Year 7 – O Diver and A Gore; Year 8 – A Kumar and R Kamal; Year 9 – V Renjit and K Cui; Year 10 – S Ihimoyan and A Bhattacharya; Year 11 – S Ali and M Chaudhri; and Year 12 – H Ali and R Jegatheeswaran. I would also like to recognise our outstanding House Captain, K Gupta, and Vice-Captain, M Inegbu, whose enthusiasm, organisation and commitment have been exemplary throughout the year. Their leadership has helped foster an inclusive and positive House culture, encouraging pupils of all ages to contribute and take pride in representing Massey.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of Massey House. Your enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to support one another continue to make our House something to be immensely proud of. Regardless of the final standings, the values you have demonstrated throughout the year embody everything House competition should be about. I look forward to seeing the Massey spirit continue to flourish in the years ahead.

S Meakin



STAMFORD

As we near the end of another academic year, I am delighted to be reflecting on what has been an excellent year for Stamford in a variety of events, demonstrating the wide range of talents that Stamfordians possess.

TheHouse events commenced with Cross Country – a mass participation event and an opportunity to race into the lead, with 50% of points awarded for participants. It was pleasing to see Stamford represented so well, with over 40 runners from Years 7–10.

This year, Public Speaking and Debating continued to be events in which Stamford excelled, with Years 7 and 13 claiming 1st place in Public Speaking and Year 9 securing 1st place in Debating. The participants demonstrated outstanding confidence and composure, delivering their ideas with clarity in front of an audience and showcasing their ability to think critically with well-reasoned arguments.

October brought the first of the Headmaster’s Big Three: the House Shout, an event which runs deep in the history of Stamford, with the added pressure of remaining unbeaten since its launch. The standard from all Houses was extremely high and reflected the months of hard work and commitment of all participants. 1st place finishes in Choral Harmony and Unison, and 2nd place in Ensemble, meant that Stamford maintained the title for an impressive sixth year in a row.

In sport, Year 7 achieved success in the Winter Sports Festival, with two 1st place finishes in Hockey and Badminton and 2nd place in Table Tennis, finishing 1st place overall. House Football continued to be an extremely popular event amongst students - congratulations to Years 7, 10 and 11, who were all crowned champions.

The turn of the year brought the commencement of House Chess, an opportunity for students to display their problem-solving and strategic skills. Congratulations to N Sirasanambeti and V Fikhter, who were crowned champions of their respective years.

Similarly to the House Shout, the standard across all Houses in the House Drama competition was excellent. 1st place in the Duologue and Musical Theatre enabled Stamford to secure a second of the Headmaster’s Big Three. Looking ahead, we are preparing for Sports Day, where we aim to complete a clean sweep of the Big Three.

In addition to the musical, creative, personal development and sporting successes mentioned, our Year 12 mathematicians achieved academic success in a series of solutions, with a 1st place finish.

All Stamford participants should be extremely proud of what has been an outstanding year. Each participant has given it their all and represented Stamford with pride and commitment. There have been excellent examples of teamwork, sportsmanship and humility in defeat.

As the year draws to a close, I hope to see many more of you participating in the remaining events. In addition, I would like to express my thanks to all of the house leaders for their time, organisation and leadership. They have played a pivotal role in ensuring that team sheets have been full and that students have been given the opportunity to represent Stamford.

M Smyth



TATTON

What a year it's been for Tatton! From the final few events of June to July 2025 to the writing of the article in May 2026, it's clear that it's been just as much of a roller coaster ride of emotions, thrills and spills as any previous year. Even though the two most prized pieces of silverware may have just slipped from our grasp at the start of the year, it doesn't mean we haven't fought tooth and nail for our shot and that's something I hope to see us continue in future.

First of all, I'd like to start by congratulating our newest members in Year 7 for making an incredible start to their time in Tatton. The commitment, energy and enthusiasm of our youngest members have been particularly palpable this year.

Whilst we have not seen tremendous success in previous Hose Shouts, this time, we were adamant that this was not going to be another Stamford steamroll of the competition. In the end it was our unison performance of "Something just like this" which almost snatched a win from the 'boys in blue.' There was also a nice change in pace from our usual – let's say... shenanigans – with a more controlled and surprisingly rehearsed performance. A first for House Tatton.

Moving onto some of our Sixth Form events, namely the House University Challenge, and after five and even six years of study, it's clear that our Year 12s and 13s could do with a few more. After an 'interesting' performance by all teams, Tatton emerged, not as victors, but as a team that had at least gained more than 5 points. Fortunately, we've managed to excel in the debating and public speaking events, claiming 1st place in a considerable number of year groups and where the team didn't sway general opinions, often, we at least claimed star speaker prizes.

The next event to follow was the House Drama competition. It was certainly an evening to remember, with brothers A. and N. Bhalla delivering a comedic duologue in a cafe and A. Ononye's sassy and, admittedly, half made-up interpretation of "Ain't I a Woman."

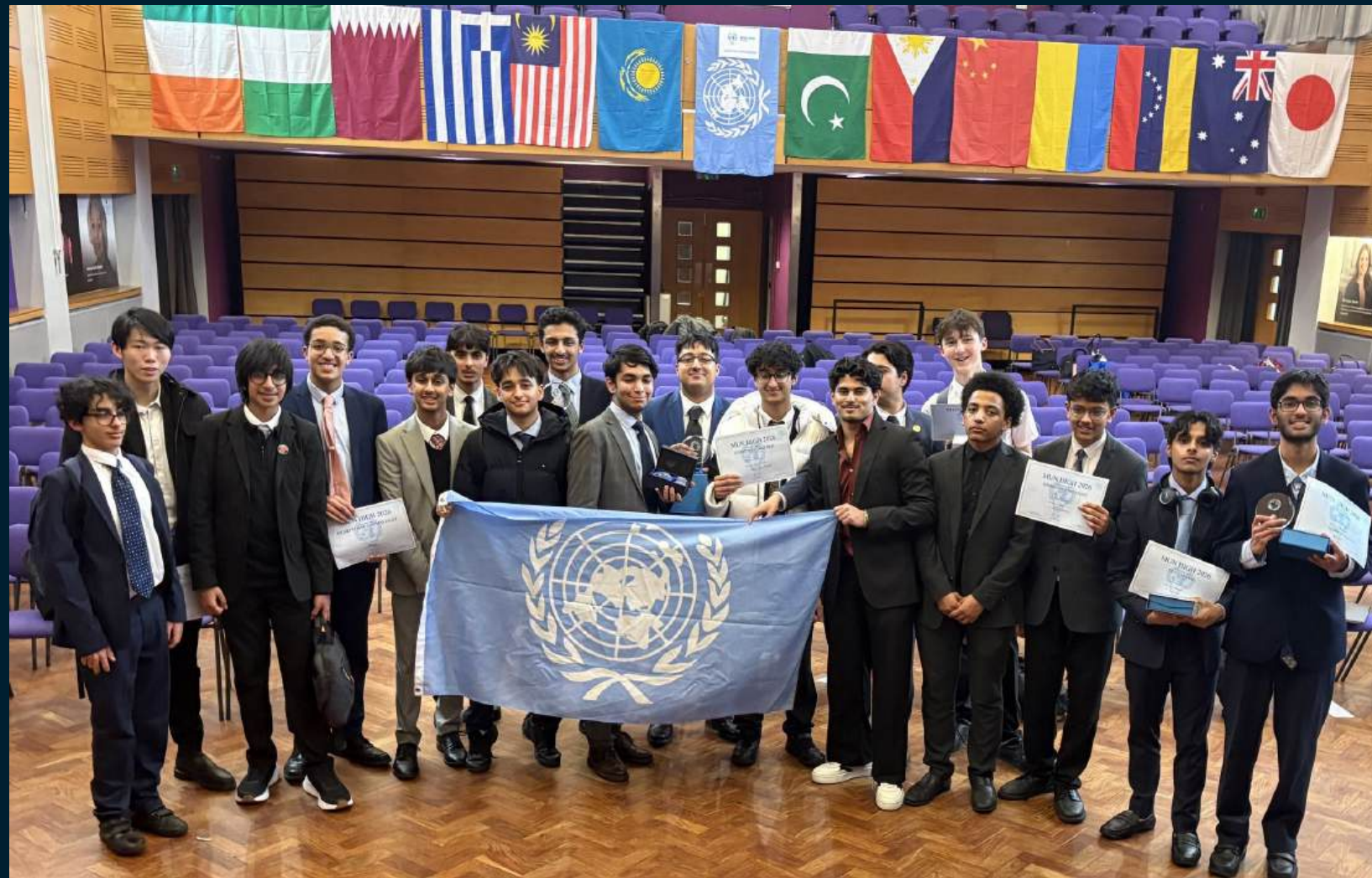
Then came the musical theatre performance, an event where organisation is a word that most certainly does not come to mind and yet we still somehow found a way to put 'something' together. Between skateboarding fairy godfathers in tuxedos confidently voiced by A. Adegoke and K. Wang, brilliant ballroom dancing by V. Song and A. Karamtok, toilet roll being thrown at S. Ononye while screaming at year 7s in a cardboard gingerbread outfit, and me launching celery and cucumber at the stage with some collateral in the audience – sorry about that – our rendition of "Holding Out for a Hero" from Shrek 2 was a little more confusing than one might have first thought.

But a foiled wedding, a dance, a sword/pistol/sticky-taped rose bouquet duel along with buckets of improvisation were enough to capture mahy hearts and land us a spot as either the best or worst performance of the evening. I guess the judges prefer it when the show has some form of choreography, but we'll work on that for next time.

Presently, we are preparing for the next major event of the year – Sports Day: a wonderful opportunity to unite and dominate the competition through a combination of teamwork, peak physical fitness and sheer will-power – all things Tatton has in abundance. Though the sun may be setting on the 2025/26 chapter of Tatton, the sun will rise once again in September '26 and let's make sure it is yellow.

E Aloul





SOCIETIES

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ISLAMIC SOCIETY

The 2025-26 academic year has been another memorable and successful one for the Islamic Society. Through teamwork, dedication and enthusiasm from our members, the society continued to grow and make a positive impact both within the school and beyond. From fundraising and sporting events to educational talks and community initiatives, this year has been filled with achievements that reflect the values of unity, service and faith.

Our journey began with preparations for Week of Change, a campaign set up by the charity One Ummah, dedicated to supporting vulnerable children and orphans. To launch our fundraising efforts, we organised our second in-school FC Tournament in the Coleman Hall, as well as our ISOC Afcon Tournament on the astro turf. Featuring twelve teams battling across the group stages and then later the knockout stage, the tournament showcased skill, determination and sportsmanship, eventually culminating in Somalia victory, a team consisting of year 11 students. The event was an amazing success, with everyone involved filled with enjoyment, including the teachers who kindly offered to invigilate.

One of the highlights of the year was the ISOC Charity Dinner, held at the MyLahore Marquee. The event brought together students, staff, parents and members of the wider community for an evening of generosity and celebration. Guests enjoyed a three-course meal, inspiring speeches, a charity auction, fundraiser, and beautiful recitations throughout the night. Thanks to the incredible support shown, the event raised over £18,900 for orphans and women's education.

In February, we launched our Annual Homeless Project, distributing 40 hot meals, with snacks and water to the homeless in Manchester City Centre. With the help of many sixth form volunteers, the project demonstrated the importance of aiding the local community and having gratitude for our countless blessings.

As the year progressed, preparations began for our largest event of the year: the Asian Food Sale, in collaboration with the PFA for the first time. Months of planning, organisation, and hard work went into ensuring the event's incredible success. Volunteers dedicated countless hours to preparing food, organising supplies, and coordinating logistics. The response from the school community was outstanding, with students and staff showing tremendous support. A wide range of popular dishes were sold, creating a vibrant atmosphere while raising over £8,000 over the two days, contributing to the construction of a multi-faith prayer room.

Alongside fundraising, our society continued to strengthen its educational and spiritual programmes. Regular talks covered a variety of topics, including Islamic teachings, personal development, education, careers and current affairs. Guest speakers from diverse professional backgrounds shared valuable insights, helping students broaden their understanding of both faith and everyday life. Attendance and engagement within the society reached new heights this year. Student-led initiatives, increased participation in weekly activities, and a growing programme of events contributed to a stronger sense of community among students, particularly the younger years who experience the ISOC for the first time.

As we reflect on an exceptional year, we are grateful to everyone who supports the Islamic Society's activities. The dedication of committee members, volunteers, staff and participants has made this year a tremendous success. We look forward to building on these achievements in the years ahead and continuing to serve our school and wider community.

As-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh - May peace be upon you all.

L Ikram



HSJS

Every moment spent within The Hindu Sikh and Jain society has been a vibrant journey filled with learning, laughter and lasting memories. Every moment encapsulates the unique stories and experiences that underscores the strength and unity of our community year on year. Entering its seventh year, HSJS continues to serve as a space where students from all year groups can come together, fostering a close-knit, family-like community. Sessions this year, whether led by younger students and the future generation or older students, have always aimed to inspire as we learnt about a range of topics: from Jain and Sikh philosophy to discussions surrounding the nature of the soul - each session instilling a sense of curiosity and introspection.

With the aim of improving knowledge of Hindu culture, traditions numerous sessions this year have been centered around Dharmic studies. Across a number of sessions we discussed what it meant to be Hindu, as well as some of the core principles of Hindu philosophy, sparking insightful debate as we discussed thought-provoking Hindu doctrines. HSJS creates the perfect environment to cultivate religious and cultural exploration as we aspire to stimulate discussion and debate through weekly activities and competitions. In terms of creativity, this year HSJS has reached new heights with the society's film-making competition receiving several high-quality entries.

While the core purpose of HSJS is to encourage students to delve deeper into their own beliefs, it also plays a vital role in personal development beyond faith. Through organising events, leading discussions, and collaborating with peers, students naturally cultivate essential life skills such as leadership and public speaking skills. During the course of the year this has become increasingly evident, as a number of students have taken initiative in shaping the future direction of the society.

This year HSJS has had the pleasure of inviting several guest speakers. These talks have provided members with opportunities to learn from inspiring individuals, engage in meaningful discussions, and gain new perspectives that complement the society's aims of fostering both personal and collective development.

In summary, HSJS has had an incredibly successful year, both in growing the society and beyond. As one of the first high school Hindu Societies to be officially recognized in the NHSF, this offers the society the opportunity to connect with Hindu societies across the country, laying the foundations for future collaboration. Moreover, this year saw the launch of Sangam, meaning "confluence", an initiative created to broaden the society's outreach and strengthen connections with the wider school community. The highlight of this endeavour was the Sangam Charity Ball, an evening filled with vibrant performances, celebration, and a strong sense of unity. This year, Sangam was dedicated to raising funds for the charity

Mission Africa, supporting its vital work in education, healthcare, and community development across the continent. The event was a tremendous success, bringing together students, staff, and families in support of a meaningful cause.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed to making the event possible, from the performers and organisers to all those who generously donated. Your support has helped make a lasting difference and exemplifies the spirit of service and community that Hindu Society strives to promote. But we didn't just stop there as we have also hosted events that have given us the opportunity to engage with the wider school community such as the house cricket competition and of course our premier event : Utsav, reflecting HSJS' ongoing commitment to both fostering a sense of community and embracing Dharmic values such as Seva (selfless service).

A Renjit



UTSAV 2025



SOCIETIES

CHRISTIAN UNION

Christian Union has continued to be a thriving and welcoming community this year, providing students with a place to explore the Christian faith, build friendships, and encourage one another in their walk with Christ. Through our regular meetings, students have had the opportunity to discuss questions about faith and life, particularly within the context of school, as well as spend time in prayer, Bible study, and fellowship.

A significant development this year has been the establishment of a Christian Union worship band. Students have shown great commitment by meeting every Thursday lunchtime to rehearse and prepare songs, using their musical abilities to worship the Lord and lead others in worship. The group has steadily developed throughout the year and has become an important part of Christian Union life. We are excited to see how this ministry continues to grow in the future.

We have also enjoyed strengthening our relationship with Altrincham Grammar School for Girls Christian Union through joint meetings and events. These gatherings have provided

valuable opportunities for fellowship, worship, discussion, and mutual encouragement, allowing students from both schools to connect with other young Christians and grow together in their faith. The unity and encouragement fostered through these meetings have been a real blessing to both groups.

Throughout the year, members have contributed enthusiastically to the life of Christian Union, whether through leading discussions, participating in prayer, supporting worship, or welcoming new members. Their commitment has helped create a friendly and supportive environment in which students feel comfortable exploring and expressing their faith. We are grateful to all the students and staff who have supported Christian Union this year. As we look ahead, we hope to continue building on the foundations established this year, growing both in number and in faith, and seeking new opportunities to serve God within our school community.

R Subin and P Pindy



E-SPORTS

We fielded two Rocket League Teams, two Valorant teams and a League of Legends team in the British Esports Championships with all making it through to the knockout rounds in their respective divisions. A special mention must go to the League of Legends team, who stepped up to the National Division and finished 3rd in the North having taken some notable victories against the top teams along the way, and the Valorant B team who finished runners up in Div3 this, a fantastic achievement and we look forward to seeing what this team can do next year.

Once again, our fabulous Splatoon 3 team made it all the way through the Digital School House National finals, held in London. Although we didn't quite manage to reclaim our title from two years ago, another amazing year from the team and we will all be looking forward to seeing what this group can achieve in 2026/2027.

As always, AGSB esports punches well above its weight when it comes to esports, regularly besting colleges that routinely put out teams with players older than 18. I am very proud of all the student's attitudes to this growing field and cannot wait for the new season to begin. Many thanks as always go to Mr Timmins, the Computer Science department and the IT technicians for their continued support and Matthew T and Ayaan S for all their help managing teams for me!

We are always on the lookout for sponsors/donations to help our esports community grow and so we can offer esports to more students. If you think you might be able to help us out, please contact rcummins@agsb.co.uk

If any students want us to explore offering different titles or what other tournaments are out there, please let me know.

R Cummins





THE ARTS

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ENGLISH: AWESOME ORACY

Oracy in all its form is a key priority for English, and the power of the spoken word was much in evidence at the English Speaking Union (ESU) competitions this year.

Churchill Champs!

The standard of speaking in the Churchill Public Speaking Competition is intimidating! Students work in teams of three – Speaker, Chair, Questioner – to showcase the skills of powerful, passionate and persuasive speaking on subjects as topical as the threats and opportunities of AI. Both AGSB teams won through to the Regional Finals at Archbishop Beck Catholic High School in Liverpool and the performances of P Madgula, A Adegoke, U Roy, N Mundra, and A Chiu lit up the evening. Our A Team triumphed and competed in the UK National Finals, in which A Adegoke was awarded Best Chair. This is a fantastic accomplishment for the entire team and we are very proud of the boys for their hard work, skill and dedication throughout the competition.

Shakespeareos!

In the younger years, congratulations go to Alex, Jonah and Hugh for their tender, emotive and comedic interpretations at the Performing Shakespeare Regional Competition. It was a pleasure to see them showcase their acting skills and see how they had developed an understanding of their chosen characters.

Mace Combat!

Our 6th Form Mace Debating team (P Nucherla, A Menon, B Kashinath and A Ononye), enjoyed an evening of debates at the University of Law in Manchester. In opposing the motion 'This House Would ban short-haul flights where transport alternatives exist' the team constructed thoughtful arguments packed with compelling anecdotes and relevant statistical analysis. They were praised by the judges for the way in which the first and second speaker's arguments were connected through a clear narrative and all team members spoke with impressive confidence and conviction.

Although we were disappointed not to progress to the next round, the team are keen to demonstrate their learning and response to feedback by taking part in next year's competition. Since the competition, the team have established the Public Speaking Society in school, sharing their expertise and advice with students from all year groups who want to refine their public speaking skills and build confidence. The sessions begin with advice on a particular element of public speaking before

allowing participants an opportunity to put their learning into practice. All are welcome on Monday lunchtimes in E3.

Oracy is at the heart of the government's priorities for schools. What greater life skill is there than to speak with clarity, confidence, substance, purpose and – of course – style?

M Davies



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

This year saw the music department make huge strides in the classroom, with our Year 7 and 8 pupils making the best progress in their playing I have seen in five years at AGSB. Our pupils have clearly been practicing at home, with thousands of hours racked up across the Year 7 and 8 cohorts! – the Summer Concert , taking place on July 3rd will be a showcase of the sheer hard work our pupils have put in in the last twelve months. It should be remembered that not every school asks the pupils to learn an instrument from scratch, it is something unique in the Trafford area. Credit to the pupils, parents and staff who have enabled our pupils to thrive in this challenging endeavour.

As always, we are keen for our pupils to continue with their music making, and Year 9 have worked very hard on a revamped curriculum which has seen the boys make some brilliant pieces of music – composing music for video games, podcasts and more.

Our GCSE and A Level groups have produced excellent results in last year’s summer exam series, and we have continued to see good numbers taking the subject moving forward.

Our extracurricular programme has been vast this year, with several concerts and our production of Guys and Dolls, a production that saw a huge cast performing on stage in front of a gigantic video screen. Pupils will shortly be auditioning for Footloose, which will be our whole school musical for November 2026.

Our bands have gone from strength to strength, as the AGSB

Big Band competed in the National Concert Band National Festival and achieved a stunning platinum award and received a special award for outstanding soloists in the competition. AGSB here are mixing with the very best school-aged bands in the country and should be proud of their achievements.

Our school concert band is sounding brilliant, and my target for next year is to get this band to the national festival with a platinum award being a realistic target. The school is blessed with several hundreds of highly talented musicians, and I would encourage all parents and pupils to do what they can to get involved in the wonderful music making that takes place in our school, as there is always space to grow participation.

Music making takes place throughout the year, in places you may not see us! Our string orchestra performed in Hale village, performing carols, our piano players performed in a piano recital concert, our chamber choir performed a service at Manchester Cathedral, while our new Year 7-9 choir is gearing up for a performance at Stoller Hall at the end of the year. The House shout also saw hundreds of boys from all year groups form their own bands and choirs to delight a packed audience.

This year’s House Solo competition saw over sixty-five pupils performing across the school day, with music performed ranging from Mozart to Megadeath! Credit should go to the dedicated musicians who were willing to support their house.

Our rock bands also took part in AGSB Battle of the Bands, which saw numerous bands performing on stage. Some of these fine musicians will be playing in this summer’s Grammar Fest.

The Music Department will end the year with a trip to London, where we will be taking pupils to see a performance of Hades Town, a superb end to a fun action-packed year!

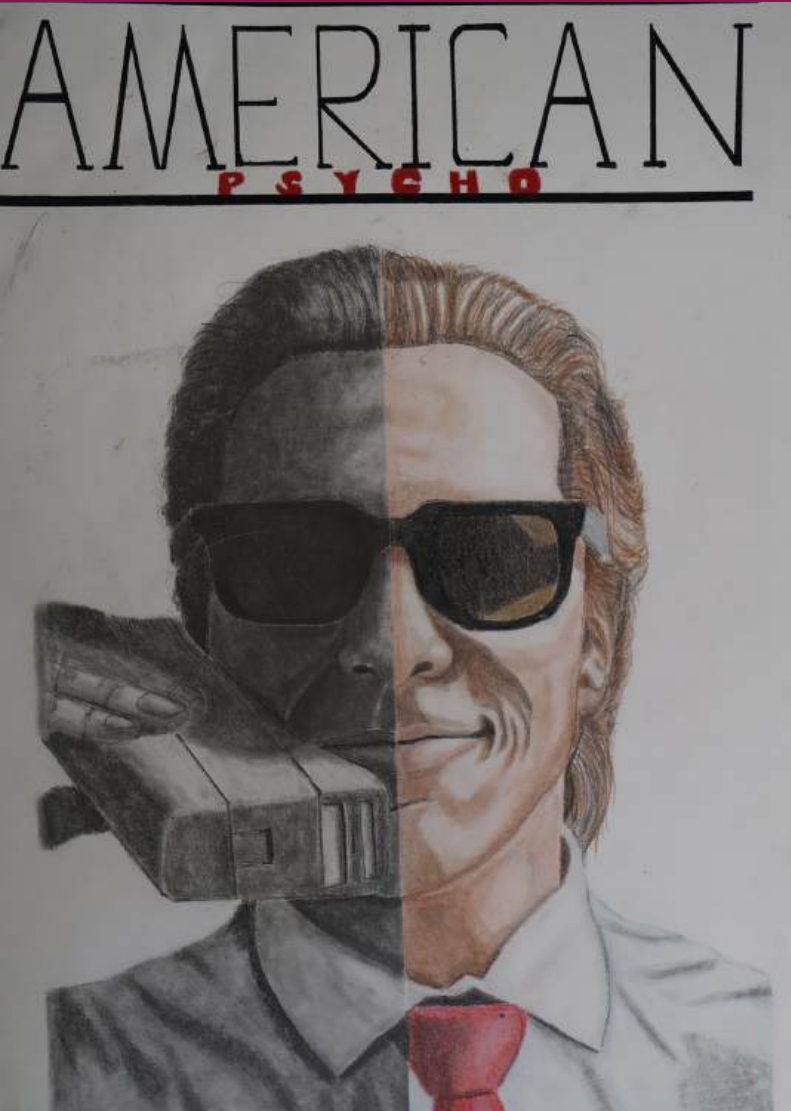
M Monument



ART GALLERY



C Hayward | GCSE



C Cassidy | GCSE



E Rasidi | GCSE



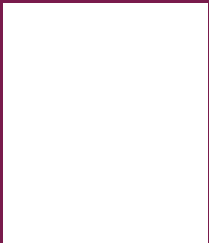
H Fisher | GCSE



F Thoi | A Level



J Zhu | GCSE



J Simpson | GCSE

ART GALLERY



Y Abrar | GCSE



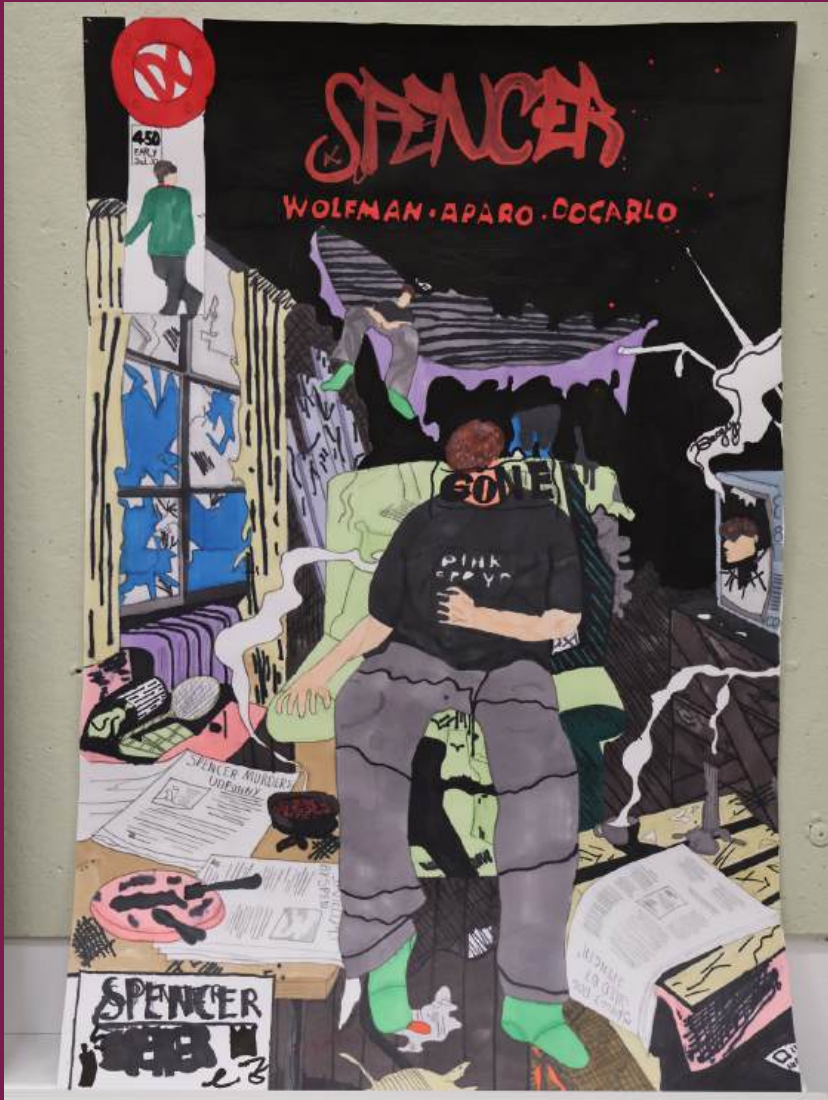
O Baig | A Level



N Khan | GCSE



M McFarland | GCSE



S Plastow-Speight | GCSE



T Barosa-Derbyshire | A Level



F Doyle | A Level

TECH-XIBITION



E Heyworth | A Level



L Shenton | GCSE



T Stant | A Level



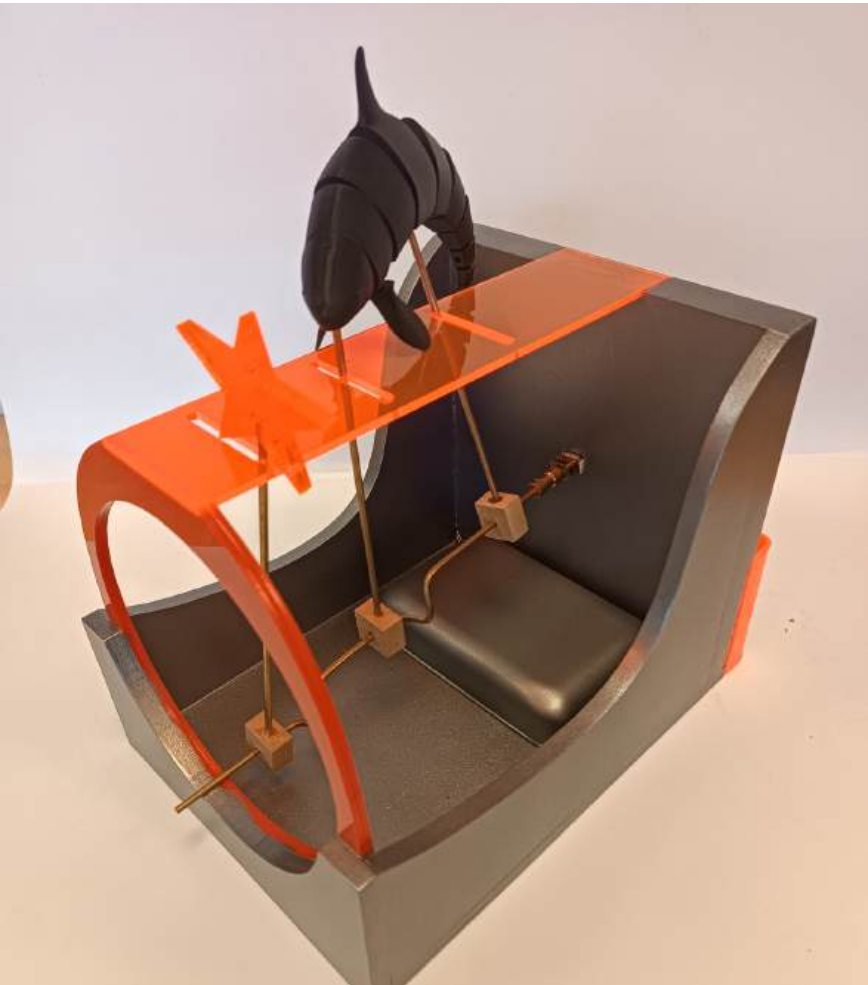
E Clarke | GCSE



J Foran | GCSE



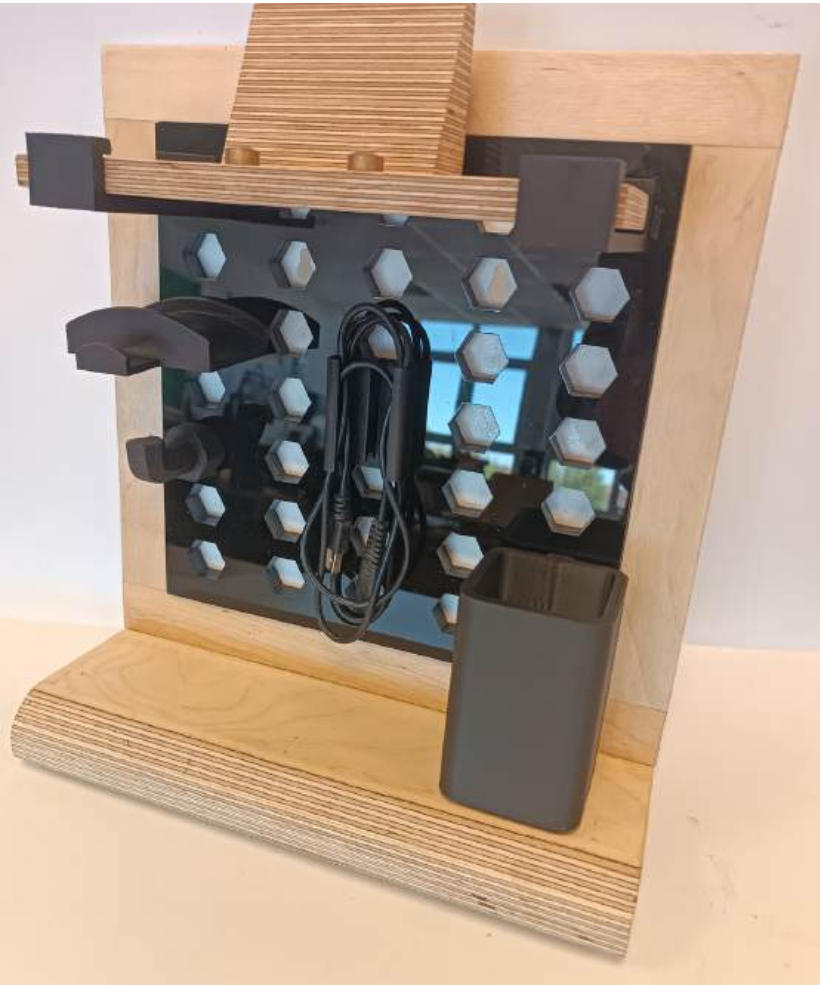
D Chen | GCSE



S Y Hui | GCSE



E Evans | GCSE



K Angadi | GCSE



H Gandhi | GCSE





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HISTORY & POLITICS

The Rest is . . . History and Politics

It's been another action-packed year in the History and Politics Department both inside and beyond the classroom. This has been an extremely busy twelve months with the department welcoming a new colleague, Mr Nero, who has significantly expanded our co-curricular provision. In an unstable world, the core skills at the heart of our subject area - an ability to contextualise current developments, a willingness to engage thoughtfully with diverse perspectives and an ability to clearly communicate our own views - have become increasingly essential.

History and Politics Society

History and Politics Society has continued to attract regular large audiences of eager and passionate historians from across Y7-Y13 this year. Under the brilliant leadership of our History and Politics Prefects: T Hetherington (President), E Higton, A Wigley and E Yunus, the Society has mainly focused on student presentations, allowing students to take the platform each week and present on a wide variety of topics.

Topics this year included: The War of 1812 (Aarush, Y7); 'The growth of multi-party politics in the UK' (Massey, Y12); 'Sorting the fact from myth in The 300' (Joe and Rohan, Y9); The D-Day Landings (Finny, Y8); Nazi Germany (Vihaan, Y11) and many others. It's been amazing to see so many students lead on aspects of History they are passionate about, and even more so how they have also been able to imbue that passion and energy to their audiences.

We also welcomed local University of Manchester student Aleena into AGSB for one of our meetings, in which she explained why she chose to study History and American Studies at Manchester, and what a degree in the Arts and



Humanities at a top UK Russell Group university can entail. This was also well attended by lads from across Y7-Y12.

We leave the History and Politics Society in very capable hands for the coming year ahead, with the new team of prefects: P MacDonald (President), M Cunningham (Deputy), W Churnside-Reed and J Pantling, all passionate and interested in bringing innovation and energy to the Society from September.

KS3 History Quiz

Ms Maguire has continued to oversee a regular and very popular KS3 History Quiz at on Tuesday lunchtimes in C2 with her able assistants E Ward & B Ford from Year 9. It has again been fantastic to see so many students gathering to test their (very impressive!) historical knowledge.

Enrichment Visit to British Association of American Studies Schools Conference, October 2025

In October, we took our cohort of History and Politics students to the BAAS Annual Schools Conference in central Manchester. The day involved lectures and discussion from a range of world-leading academics, led by Dr Mike Collins and Dr Andrew Fearnley. Students listened to presentations on topics such as 'Confronting the Imperial Presidency: Congress and the White House from Nixon to Trump' by Dr Patrick Andelic, and 'Beyond the Trade War: US-China Relations from Truman and Mao to Trump and Xi' by Dr Elizabeth Ingleson. This was not only a chance for students to broaden their knowledge and understanding of modern History and Politics (and their A-Level study), but also to experience university-style lectures from some of the foremost scholars of these areas in the world. Students were also able to take part in a 'Q and A' session at the end and gave some fantastic responses.

Enrichment Visit to Black History Month Lecture, November 2025

In November, we took a group of our Y11 students to the annual Black History Month lecture held by the University of Manchester. Renowned historian, presenter and broadcaster

Professor David Olusoga OBE presented his lecture ‘History reimagined for a changing world’. This was aimed specifically at allowing our students to bolster their knowledge of their Migration AQA GCSE History topic. However, the event also allowed them to consider the significance of history in an ever-changing world, hearing, again, from one of the foremost voices on this topic.

University of Manchester School of Arts, Languages and Cultures ‘Discovery Day’, January 2026
In January, we took our sixth-form students to the University of Manchester to take part in their ‘discovery day’ series held on the main campus on Oxford Road. This was a real opportunity to experience student life, as our students were able to choose from a broad range of SALC courses, attending lectures and seminars. They were also able to interact with current, and former UoM students and gain an insight into the realities of life at university. This was another event which aimed to expose our lads to higher education at a leading UK university, a path which many of them hope to take upon leaving us here at the end of Year 13.

Holocaust Memorial Event at Sale Waterside
In late January, 14 Year 9 boys, accompanied by Mr Croxton, attended the Trafford Holocaust Memorial Service at the Robert Bolt Theatre at Sale Waterside. The event is an annual tradition to commemorate the 10 million lives lost in the Holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis. The event included a speech from the Mayor of Trafford, the story of a Holocaust survivor and personal experiences from local schools. This year’s theme was ‘Bridging Generations’. I personally found the story of Ziggy Landschaft, a Holocaust survivor, very moving as he had shown immense bravery, courage and hope in the darkest of times. I also found the song ‘Ani Ma’amin’ (‘I Believe’) particularly poignant as it is such a powerful and positive song that was first sung in the harshest imaginable conditions. The event powerfully reminded us of the necessity never to forget these dark times in history and caused us to reflect on the troubles that still face our world.’

Holocaust Memorial Assemblies
In February 2026, A Level History and Politics students P Macdonald and A Ononye, alongside Year 9 History student E Ward, assisted Mr Croxton and Mr Nero in delivering assemblies on Holocaust Memorial to students across the school. This year’s assemblies focused on connecting past and present, sharing testimonies and building understanding. The story of local Trafford Resident, former GB sprinter and ex-Man City fitness coach Danny Herman was used as a case study. These assemblies encouraged students to think actively about the value of challenging hatred, promoting tolerance and standing up for others.

A Level Politics Conference at Westminster Central Hall
In late November 2025, Dr Hepden and Mr Croxton accompanied our Y12 and Y13 Politics students to London for the annual A Level Politics Conference at Westminster Central Hall. We heard from a broad range of politicians speak at an unusually lively event. These included the up-and-coming man of the moment Zack Polanski, the Speaker of the House of

Commons Lyndsey Hoyle, Jacob Rees Mogg, Annalise Dodd, Richard Tice, our own Old Boy Graham Brady and many more. We were very proud of the conduct of our AGSB sixth formers; it was a real pleasure to take them to London they were great ambassadors for the school.

Thank you and Welcome!
We say goodbye and thank you this summer to Mr Nero who is departing us for pastures new at a leading International School in Milan. He has made an enormous contribution to the department inside and well beyond the classroom in just twelve months. We also say a heartfelt welcome to our new History & Politics teacher Ms Walsh who joins us in September from Penketh High School in Warrington.

N Croxton, S Nero, Z Hepden & E Ward



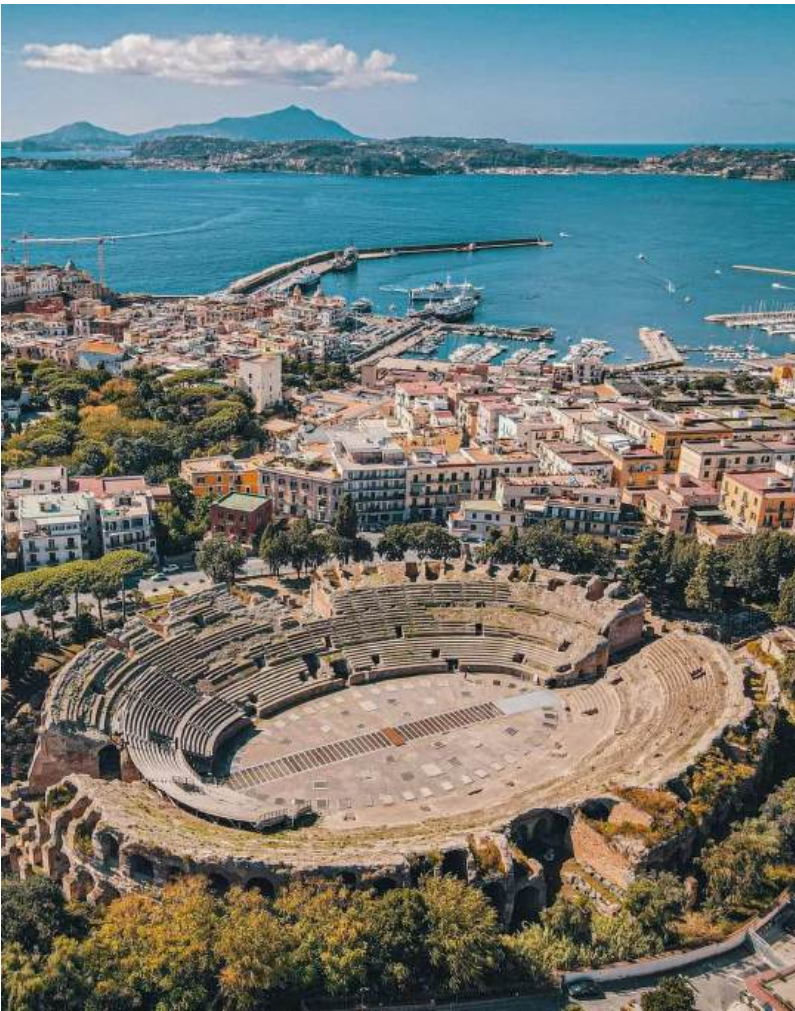
CLASSICAL STUDIES

This year a great team of committed Classicists have been learning Ancient Greek, with seven from Years 9 and 10 bravely taking the exam to earn the Intermediate Certificate in Classical Greek. We hope to build on the great success of two years ago.

After our successful and memorable trip to Italy in 2024 to see Pompeii, Herculaneum, Vesuvius and many other sites, efforts continue to set up the next great Classics Trip.

Finally, this year's Year 8 has been the first to learn Latin with the new and in some ways revolutionary Suburani course. Following the adventures of Rufina and Catia, Gisco and Indus, they are beginning to explore the Roman empire from Rome to Britain, to North Africa and beyond.

P Ellis



GEOGRAPHY

With geography affecting us all in the recent record-breaking heatwave, many of us have experienced the subject's vast topic first-hand. Understanding the root causes of this change of weather to the wider picture about how climate change is affecting both the UK and the world has intrigued many of us in Geography this year. Through a variety of trips over the school year, we observed the many urban and physical influences on the geography of a region to gain a better understanding of these important processes.

We initially underwent human fieldwork both in Manchester city centre and its surrounding areas on the tram line as well as the area of Ancoats. Along the tram line through Manchester and into Bury we carefully collected qualitative data with productive group discussions on a variety of issues and factors that made up each individual, unique area. Furthermore, we managed to insightfully link each key observation to support critical urban geographical models such as the Burgess Model. We also collected survey data by asking members of the public in Ancoats in a professional manner to enhance our understanding of the different data collection methods in human geography.

In our first day in the Lake District, we visited numerous sites across Borrowdale Valley – ranging from deciduous and coniferous woodlands around Frith Wood, to peatlands around Birkett's Leap.

In groups of five, we carried out a series of surveys and sampling techniques. In Frith Wood, we estimated the carbon-storing capacity of a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees using tape measures and clinometers. These measurements allowed us to calculate tree height and volume, helping us estimate the carbon-storing capacity of different types of trees. Our trip also included the study of the coast on Silloth beach, studying many factors that affect beach sediment and profile.

We conducted further study on St Johns Beck to research the river as part of our water scheme of work. We carried out a variety of data collection methods, including measuring the width and depth of the river as well as kick tests, involving kicking the riverbed and collected all the insects on the riverbed. We then we collected them in petri dishes and identified the different types of wildlife, enabling us to see how good the water quality was.

Finally, throughout the year in school also featured the successful geography quiz which we saw amazing participation from Years 7-11, with a competitive challenge ending with victory of just a single point to S Pokala, E Vemulapalli, A Lam and E Loh!

S Joshi



PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

This year has been one of strengthening connections beyond the classroom, with the department continuing to develop links with universities, local communities and student-led initiatives across the school. These partnerships have helped to enrich the curriculum and provide students with opportunities to engage with ideas in real-world contexts.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit from Matthew Duncombe, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nottingham and a former AGSB student. Having studied A Level Philosophy at the school and having been a founding member of the Philosophy Society, Matthew returned to speak to students about his academic journey and the study of Philosophy at university. His visit offered students a valuable insight into the subject beyond school and the opportunities that philosophical study can provide.

Alongside this, members of the department supported a range of events organised by both students and local community



groups, including the AGSB Islamic Society Charity Dinner, UTSAV and a community Iftar hosted by the Altrincham and Hale Muslim Association. These occasions provided opportunities to strengthen relationships across the school community and celebrate the contribution these groups make to the life of Altrincham.

Building on these wider connections, curriculum development this year has placed a particular emphasis on interfaith understanding and dialogue. This has been most clearly reflected in the introduction of a new Year 9 unit on interfaith dialogue, which explores how religious communities respond to prejudice, disagreement and conflict. Through case studies including the Manchester synagogue attack and the unrest following the summer riots of 2024, students examine themes of reconciliation, shared values and cooperative social action. As part of this unit, Year 9 students also welcomed the Altrincham Mosque Education Team, whose visit enabled students to engage directly with Islamic beliefs, community life and the practical role of interfaith dialogue.

Across the year, these experiences have reinforced the role of Philosophy and Ethics in equipping students to engage thoughtfully with complex ethical and religious issues and in fostering the respect, tolerance and critical reflection needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

R Perkins



NICE IMMERSION TRIP

In October 2025, our Year 11–13 students returned from an unforgettable study immersion trip to Nice, France, where they experienced the best of language learning and Mediterranean culture. Each morning, students worked hard in intensive French lessons, sharpening their communication skills and confidence. The afternoons were dedicated to exploration — travelling by train to some of the Côte d’Azur’s most stunning destinations.

In Nice, students soaked up the sunshine along the azure Promenade des Anglais, admired the rainbow decked waterfall at the top of the colline, the colourful markets of Cours Saleya, and practiced their French while ordering fresh crêpes and gelato.



HUMANITIES

A short trip to Villefranche-sur-Mer offered breathtaking views of turquoise bays and pastel houses — a perfect setting to enjoy the beach and hear the rhythms of everyday French life.

In Cannes, famous for its international film festival, students strolled along La Croisette, spotting luxury yachts and imagining the glamour of red-carpet premieres.

Antibes impressed everyone with its charming historic old town, and the huge, vibrant pleasure harbour.

The journey continued to Monaco, where students marvelled at the Prince’s Palace, the old town, and the dazzling Monte Carlo district — a glimpse into a world of elegance and history.

We were blessed with gorgeous Mediterranean weather, which made every outing a joy. It was inspiring to see students remarking on their growing knowledge and using French confidently in a variety of real-life situations — from chatting with locals and ordering gourmet food to helping and teaching one another. Commendable efforts and immersion all round!

The trip was not only a linguistic success but also a cultural adventure that brought the classroom to life.

V Brennan



‘EIFFEL IN LOVE WITH PARIS’

Last July, a group of 40 Year 8 students embarked on an exciting journey to the French capital, ready to experience the Parisian sites. Staying at the picturesque Château de Grande Romaine, just outside the city, students enjoyed a perfect balance of cultural and sporting activities.

The programme followed a well-loved route. Our adventures took us from the historic heart of the city at Notre-Dame along the Seine, all the way to the Eiffel Tower. A stop at the Louvre Pyramid offered the perfect opportunity for photos, capturing memories in one of the world’s most recognisable settings.

One of the striking moments of the trip was discovering part of the legacy of the 2024 Summer Olympics. Seeing the Olympic cauldron in person felt very special.

The trip was full of highlights. A relaxing cruise along the River Seine allowed students to take in Paris from a different perspective, while the climb up to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower tested both stamina and determination but was rewarded by not only spectacular views across the city but also ice-cream for some. At the Musée des Sciences et de l’Industrie, pupils explored interactive exhibits, engaging with science in a fun and immersive French-speaking environment.

Montmartre provided another unforgettable experience. Students enjoyed sampling local treats while some chose to have their portraits sketched by street artists. An exciting day was spent at Parc Astérix, where students sought the thrill of the rides.

This year’s trip to Paris was a fantastic mix of learning and adventure. But, above all, it created lasting memories and I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Brennan, Mrs Farrell, Mrs Mahony and Mrs Crowther for their valuable help.

F Blakeley



NEW HORIZONS: SEVILLE TRIP

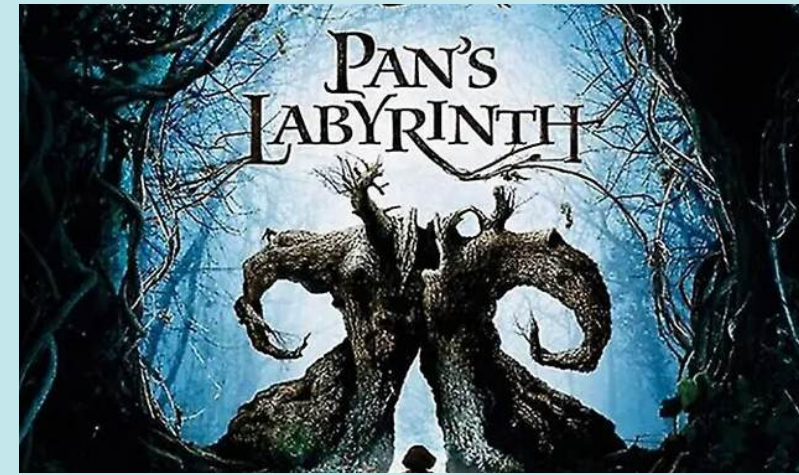
July 2026 sees the launch of the Spanish department's brand-new trip to Seville in the beautiful Andalusian region of southern Spain. We bid a fond 'adiós' to our long-standing Barcelona trip and an enthusiastic 'hola y bienvenido' to our new venture which proves to be the perfect introduction to Spain for our intrepid Yr 8 'alumnos'.

With tours of Seville, Córdoba and Málaga all included, and mocktails by the pool after a tough day's sight-seeing, we look forward to reporting back after our inaugural visit – watch this space!

J Wallwork



SPANISH ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP



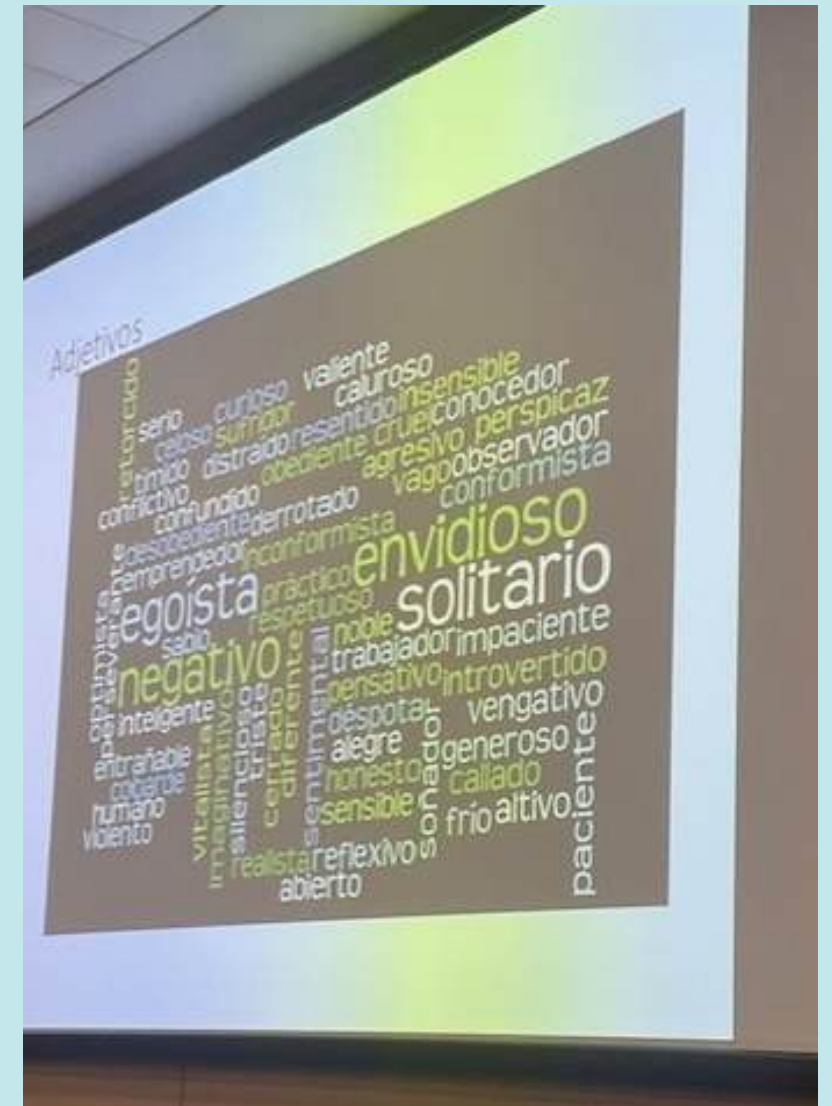
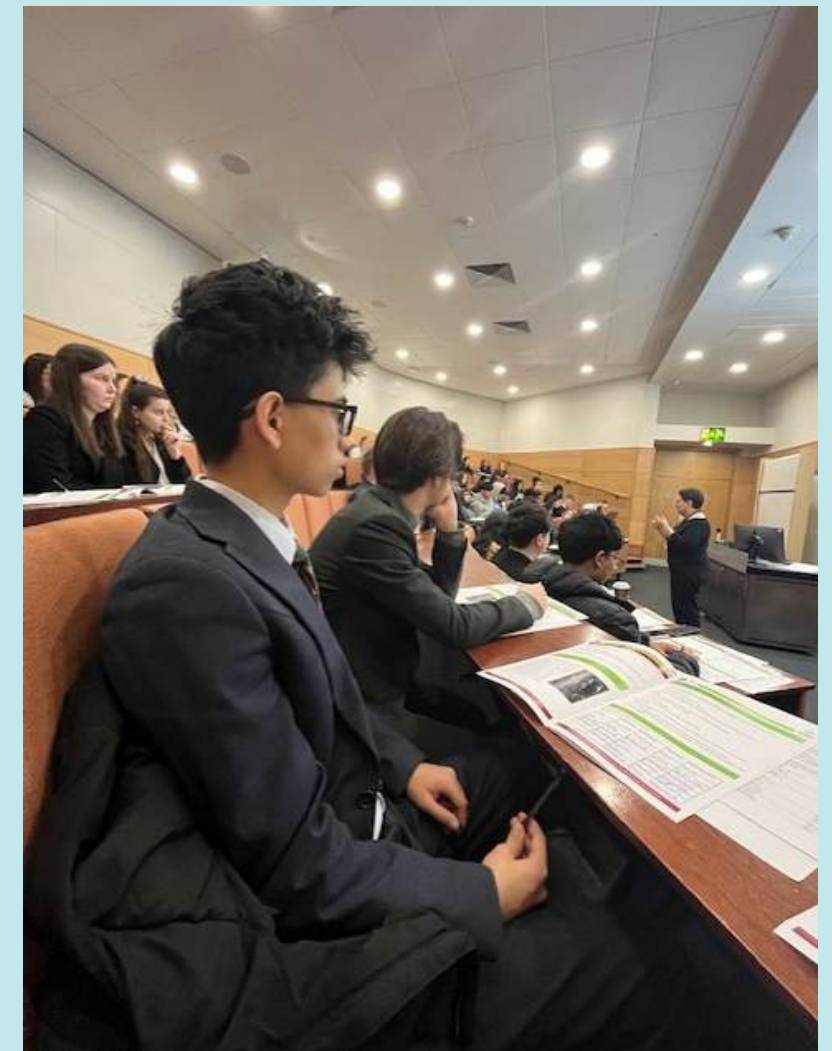
In February, our Year 12 Spanish group and Ms Mattison visited Manchester Metropolitan University to attend an essay writing workshop for our Spanish film, “El Laberinto Del Fauno” (Pan’s Labyrinth), which we are studying for our A Levels. It was a highly engaging and insightful workshop.

We began by covering the key details on how to make an outstanding essay. Including structural techniques, references to the movie, and facts about the troublesome period in which the film is set, 1944, Spain.

We were given an informational booklet containing high-level Spanish vocabulary, with over 250 advanced connectives, which will be especially useful come exam time. After that, we discussed the characters in the movie and their contribution to the unfolding of the film.

We then had a brief lunch break, and post lunch, the professor introduced us to cinematography and how Pan's Labyrinth utilises it to display relationships between characters, the colour gradients, power differences, etc. My favourite part of the talk was when we went through the many different camera shots, including extreme close- up, American and panoramic. I was heavily invested in the use of the shots throughout the film since it revealed so much as to what the director, in this case Guillermo Del Toro, wished to convey.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed my time during the trip, and I ended up learning so much about a movie that I found amazing. I also believe that this will greatly benefit our Spanish group when it comes to writing up our extensive essays for our actual A Level exam. A very special thanks to Ms Mattison for organising and supporting us through the workshop by attending it alongside us.



MFL SPELLING BEE

Year 7 took part in the Routes into Languages' Modern Foreign Language Spelling Bee competition in Spanish, French and German. It is a challenge to find the country's fastest MFL spellers, with just one minute to spell as many words as possible, including accents and different letter combinations particular to that language. Clarity of pronunciation, as well as speed, are key elements to success in the competition. It involves a lot of practice and independent learning, and we are immensely proud of our students, who have shown dedication and commitment.

The school finals were held in February in the Coleman Hall and the regional finals for the North of England were held at Liverpool University on the 23rd March. Representing the school were Y Al-Qubtan in Spanish, B Isles in German and S Parmar in French. All three boys did exceptionally well as were amongst 29 finalists out of 1791 students from schools across the Northwest. Yazen performed particularly well, placing within the last 92 out of the 15,592 competitors nationwide!

He went off to Cambridge University on the 23rd June to represent the school in the National finals of the Spelling Bee Competition. He performed extremely well in this highly competitive event and should be immensely proud of this achievement, well done Yazen!

All our students tackled this challenge with enthusiasm and determination, impressing judges with their accuracy, speed, and pronunciation.

L Mattison



MFL TRANSLATION BEE

We are delighted to celebrate the continued success of our students in the prestigious Routes into Languages Translation Bee competition, an event that continues to showcase the dedication, resilience, and outstanding linguistic talent within our school.

In July 2025, Jayden achieved an extraordinary milestone by being crowned National Champion for German and Arnav got third in Spanish.

This year, Lucas secured the title of Regional Champion at Lancaster University, demonstrating exceptional linguistic ability and commitment at an earlier stage of the competition.

Ezra and Muhammad-Isa competed in the Translation Bee finals held in Cambridge, where they demonstrated outstanding skills, composure, and determination under extreme summer heat. The competition took place in a historic lecture theatre famed for hosting Stephen Hawking's 60th birthday celebration and visits from John Lennon and Yoko Ono. Ezra went on to win 3rd place, while Mo achieved an outstanding 2nd place in Mandarin.

It was particularly significant, as it marked the first time Mandarin had been included in the Translation Bee. Ezra and Mo have therefore truly made history as pioneers.

Competing against an impressive field of 14 631 students, Ethan, Marwan, Jun and Lucas secured places among the final 67 competitors nationwide, an incredible achievement in itself.

The Translation Bee requires students to translate sentences with both speed and accuracy, testing not only vocabulary recall but also grammar, confidence, and resilience under pressure. Through their participation, our students have developed invaluable skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom, including quick thinking, adaptability, and the ability to perform under challenging conditions.

We are incredibly proud of all our competitors who are inspiring role models for future linguists.

F Blakeley



CHINESE

The Chinese Department has enjoyed an exceptionally successful and memorable year, filled with achievements, cultural celebrations, and opportunities for students to engage with the Chinese language and culture both inside and outside the classroom.

Celebrating Chinese New Year with the Community

To celebrate the Year of the Horse, the Chinese Department worked closely with the PFA to organise a Chinese New Year Fundraising Funfair. The event was a tremendous success, not only raising valuable funds for the school but also strengthening connections between Manchester's Chinese community and the local Altrincham community.

Visitors enjoyed a wide variety of exciting stalls showcasing authentic Chinese culture. These included traditional Chinese street food, arts and crafts, sugar painting, calligraphy, traditional costume try-ons, and classic Chinese games. We were also fortunate to welcome two talented volunteer musicians who delivered outstanding performances on the Guzheng and Erhu, providing visitors with an authentic experience of traditional Chinese music.

The event attracted several hundred attendees and raised over £2,000 for the school. More importantly, it created a vibrant cultural celebration that brought together families and community members from diverse backgrounds.

The Growth of the Chinese Society

This year also saw the continued development of student leadership within the Chinese Department. The idea of establishing a Chinese Society at AGSB was first proposed by Sixth Former H Hau. Following its launch, the newly founded society was successfully merged with Mrs Ding's popular Mahjong Club, creating a lively and inclusive space for students interested in Chinese language and culture.

Meeting every Monday lunchtime in C18, the Chinese Society has hosted a wide range of activities, including Chinese festival celebrations, debates, cultural discussions, and traditional games. The society is now led by Y Plucinski (12CU), a fluent Chinese speaker whose enthusiasm and leadership have helped the club continue to flourish.

Year 10 Visit to Manchester Chinatown

For students seeking a real-world experience of Chinese culture, Manchester Chinatown offers one of the most authentic cultural experiences available in the UK. As the second-largest Chinatown in Europe, it provides a unique opportunity to experience Chinese food, language, and traditions firsthand.

HUMANITIES

On 5th June, our Year 10 students embarked on an exciting educational visit to Manchester Chinatown. The day included a traditional Chinese hot pot meal, followed by the opportunity to sample some of the city's most popular bubble tea. One particularly memorable moment came when a group of ten boys managed to set what may well be a school record during lunch, consuming an astonishing eighteen large plates of thinly sliced beef and lamb, alongside a huge variety of other ingredients to dip into the hot pot!

The students also explored local Chinese supermarkets and demonstrated great confidence and courage by conducting street interviews in Mandarin with members of the public. These authentic interactions provided invaluable opportunities to put their language skills into practice and gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture within a British context.

This year has demonstrated the growing enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture across the school. Through competitions, cultural events, community engagement, and student-led initiatives, our students have continued to embrace new challenges and opportunities. We look forward to building on this success and creating even more exciting experiences in the years to come.

J Ding



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WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UN TODAY?

In the current world order, institutions such as the United Nations were founded on the belief that collective security could tame the international anarchy that followed two world wars. Yet, as the global system becomes increasingly defined by geopolitical fragmentation, this assurance has dimmed drastically. A persistent pattern of futile intervention attempts to prevent small-scale escalation into full-blown humanitarian catastrophe has exposed a major weakness of the United Nations’ peacekeeping framework. This vacuum of influence has often been filled by global superpowers acting independently, raising questions about whether the institution itself has become structurally paralysed. With overwhelming spheres of influence spread across the globe, repeated exploitation of veto power by the five permanent members has contributed to this paralysis. Nevertheless, the question remains whether a world devoid of such institutions would be any more stable.

A widely cited explanation for the UN’s limited effectiveness lies in John Mearsheimer’s theory of structural realism. Mearsheimer argues that great powers seek regional hegemony in an anarchic international system driven by self-interest and security maximisation. Under this framework, international institutions lack autonomous power and merely reflect the interests of dominant states. Cooperation, therefore, only emerges when the interests of the permanent five align; once they diverge, collective action collapses. From this realist lens, the UN is inherently constrained, as it cannot compel powerful states to act against their strategic priorities.

The Syrian civil war illustrates this paralysis starkly. Since the conflict erupted in 2011, Russia’s sustained backing of Bashar al-Assad was rooted in its strategic interest in securing the Tartus naval facility, a rare warm-water port that extended Moscow’s geopolitical leverage in the Mediterranean. To preserve this alliance, Russia exercised its veto power repeatedly, blocking resolutions ranging from independent investigations into alleged chemical weapons use to proposals for peacekeeping intervention. Over a fourteen-year conflict, approximately 656,000 civilians were killed and millions displaced. The UN’s failure to act collectively in Syria underscores a core structural

FEATURES



flaw within the Security Council, where national interest repeatedly overrides humanitarian imperatives. As Mearsheimer suggests, the UN does not transcend power politics but instead codifies them.

Understanding this failure requires examining why veto power exists. The United Nations was founded in 1945 on the explicit condition that major Allied powers would retain veto authority. The San Francisco Conference made it clear: “No veto, no United Nations.” This concession was shaped by the failure of the League of Nations, which collapsed partly due to the absence of commitment from major powers. The veto was therefore a pragmatic mechanism to ensure continued participation. However, this framework now appears outdated in a multipolar world where emerging powers such as India and Brazil wield significant influence yet remain excluded from permanent membership. The post-1945 power hierarchy no longer reflects contemporary geopolitical realities.

Despite these limitations, the UN’s value should not be entirely dismissed. The case of Namibia demonstrates how the convergence of great-power interests can enable effective intervention. Between 1989 and 1990, the United Nations Transition Assistance Group successfully supervised elections, mitigated violence, and supported Namibia’s transition to independence from South Africa. Using a constructed peace effectiveness index incorporating repatriation rates, voter turnout, peacekeeping strength, and veto activity, Namibia achieved a score of 0.897 on a scale from 0 to 1, indicating high effectiveness. This quantitative lens highlights how UN intervention can foster political stability when geopolitical incentives align.

Yet Namibia remains an exception rather than the rule. In contemporary conflicts such as Darfur and the persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar, the scale of human suffering has not translated into decisive UN action.

Instead, intervention appears dictated by geopolitical leverage rather than moral urgency. This implicit hierarchy of importance exposes the institution’s enduring weakness. While the UN continues to coordinate humanitarian aid and establish political norms, its peacekeeping mandate remains constrained by an outdated veto system. In this sense, the United Nations increasingly reflects the irony embedded within its own peacekeeping framework, as unresolved conflicts continue to define the unsettled global order.

S Joshi





“The greatest challenge facing a Prime Minister may no longer be winning power. It may be keeping it.”

WELCOME TO NO. 10... AGAIN

In the wake of Burnham being elected Prime Minister, T Ariyo unpacks what is behind the seeming impossibility of the top job in British politics, and what consequences this may have for our political climate.

The front door of Number 10 has seen plenty of action over the last decade.

Since David Cameron stepped onto the famous black doorstep to announce his resignation in 2016, Britain has become accustomed to political arrivals and departures. Theresa May came and went. Boris Johnson swept in with a landslide and left under a cloud. Liz Truss barely had time to unpack. Keir Starmer’s premiership has now given way to Andy Burnham’s.

Seven Prime Ministers in ten years.

For a country that likes to think of itself as a model of stable government, it is a striking record. Britain’s political system was built on the assumption that governments would have time: time to settle, time to legislate, time to persuade voters. Westminster feels different now. Faster. More impatient.

And so, Burnham inherits a question that has haunted each of his predecessors: why has the top job become so difficult to hold down?

Let us start with the parties themselves.

For much of the post-war era, both main parties operated with a kind of internal discipline. Leaders were challenged, yes, but rarely removed quickly. That rhythm has changed. Parliamentary parties are now more fragmented, less patient, more willing to move against their own leader when the political weather turns. Confidence can drain quickly. Often, it takes only a few bad polls, a difficult budget, a revolt that starts small and then spreads.

Then there is the job itself.

Prime Ministers now arrive to a brief that feels permanently overloaded. Economic pressure. Health service backlogs. Housing shortages that have been building for decades. A foreign policy environment that has become less predictable. Each issue demands attention. Each one competes with the others. The diary fills. And a lukewarm approach, as ‘cautious Keir’ soon

realised, will not strike the right chord with either the Party or the electorate.

This brings to the surface a quieter, yet critical point. Prime Ministers struggle to survive due to expectations.

Voters have grown used to being promised change at speed. Fix the NHS. Cut waiting lists. Bring down bills. Level up regions. The demands are not unreasonable in themselves. They are simply heavy, and they arrive all at once. When progress is slow, impatience builds quickly. Governments feel it. MPs feel it too. Recent times have shown the power of the Parliamentary party in bringing down a leader. High expectations alongside impatience can quickly lead to exit out of the revolving door of Downing Street.

So what? Why does this matter? Well, the political instability of No.10 carries deep-seated consequences.

Firstly, investors value predictability. Public services often require years of consistent reform. Major infrastructure projects can take decades to complete. When leadership changes repeatedly, long-term planning becomes harder. Ministers change, priorities shift and policies are rebranded before they have had time to succeed - or fail. Britain risks becoming trapped in a cycle where every new Prime Minister promises transformation while inheriting too little time to deliver it.

There is also a democratic concern. Many voters increasingly feel that Prime Ministers are selected by party mechanisms rather than by the public. While Britain elects governments rather than individuals, frequent mid-term leadership changes can create a perception that political decisions are being made further and further from the electorate itself.

This is the challenge now facing Burnham. His supporters argue that he represents a fresh start, bringing a record of regional leadership and a focus on devolving power away from Westminster. Critics counter that the problems facing Britain are structural and will not disappear simply because a new occupant moves into Number 10.

Either way, his arrival highlights a striking truth about modern British politics. The greatest challenge facing a Prime Minister may no longer be winning power. It may be keeping it.

For a country famous for stable government, that is perhaps the most extraordinary development of all.

T Ariyo



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IRIS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Within STEM at AGSB, one of the highlights of this year has been the IRIS initiative, ran by Mrs Blaize for the Year 12 cohort. Back in October 2025, my close friend and classmate, A Suryawanshi and I got the chance to participate with an independent research project, something completely different from what we'd been covering in lessons.

Our project sat at the intersection of Computer Science and Particle Physics. We were analysing whether machine learning could be used to classify certain particle collision events, using real data from CERN's "Large Hadron Collider". We tried a range of approaches, involving deep neural networks, gradient-boosted decision trees, and dimensionality reduction techniques, attempting to differentiate Higgs boson decays from background noise. Although our original hypothesis didn't pan out the way we initially expected, we enjoyed figuring out why it didn't work and this became one of the most valuable parts of the experience.

IRIS gave us a real taste of what research actually is and how it is carried out. What started as simple curiosity about the subject quickly morphed into long nights reading research papers we barely understood and getting comfortable with open-ended problems, with no immediate solution. What made it feel different from normal class projects was the freedom. There was no predefined assignment or conditions which we had to follow, we were allowed to ask the questions we wanted to ask, not adhering to a constrained criterion. Choosing our own methodology and independently evaluating our results, allowed us to develop our academic maturity, reflecting upon the process as a whole and enjoying the

uncertainty involved. Of course, many of our assumptions turned out to be wrong, but that was more instructive than if we'd just been right from the onset.

Beyond the technical side, our project pushed us to communicate ideas clearly, manage deadlines across a long-term time frame, and think more critically about evidence and conclusions. It provided as an honest picture of how research actually works and overall, was a lot of fun!

Our project's lifespan culminated in mid-June when we presented at the regional IRIS Manchester conference, providing a rounded ending to our endeavours. Getting to talk to researchers, professors and students from other schools, made the project feel much more tangible. It was a reminder of the centrality of communication within research.

It's not enough to do the work if you can't explain it.

A massive thank you must go to Mrs Blaize for her support throughout and to Dr Squire for supervising us (alongside Mrs Blaize of course) on the day of the conference. It's been one of the most worthwhile things I have done this year, providing a nice change of perspective from our standard school curriculum and allowing me to explore the subject's I love. Of course, it's not just Physics, many of the students from our school did research into DNA Origami and presented intricate and detailed posters on cutting-edge and creative research within the fields of Biology, Chemistry and Medicine. I would definitely recommend taking a wander in the Biology department where Mrs Blaize will have soon put up the posters from this year.

If you want to take one lesson from my experience, it's to stay curious and follow your passion.

V Saini



SCIENCES

GEOLOGY

The 2025–2026 academic year has been another outstanding and inspiring year for the Geology Department, combining exceptional academic success with a wide range of fieldwork and enrichment opportunities that have brought the subject vividly to life.

We began the year celebrating excellent examination results from Summer 2025. At GCSE, an impressive 70% of students achieved grades 8–9, while at A Level, 64% of students secured grades A–A*. These results reflect not only the hard work and commitment of our students, but also their growing enthusiasm for understanding the dynamic Earth systems that shape our planet.

Fieldwork continues to be at the heart of our department. In November, Year 11 students visited Ecton Mine in Staffordshire, a site of major historical importance in British mining. Here, students explored the relationship between mineralisation and geological structures, gaining insight into how copper deposits formed and were exploited during the Industrial Revolution. As well as a guided tour of the mine, the student’s put their engineering Geology skills into practice planning an extra entrance to the mine through the limestones at Apes Tor. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to connect classroom learning on economic geology with real-world applications in mining and engineering.

Back in school, we were delighted to host our 4th Annual Christmas lecture by Joshua Griffiths from the UK National Nuclear Laboratory. His talk on the complexities of nuclear waste disposal challenged students and guests to consider the long-term geological stability required for safe storage, highlighting the vital role geologists play in addressing some of society’s most pressing environmental issues. With the silos at Sellafield due to come to the end of their useful life in the next 50 years, this is a pressing problem which needs to be resolved. Solving this problem represents a potential full career for some of our young geologists in planning, designing, constructing and utilising deep storage facilities in the UK.

Our Year 13 students embarked on an unforgettable international field course to Cyprus, where they studied the world-famous Troodos ophiolite. This remarkable geological feature represents a rare and exceptionally well-preserved slice of ancient oceanic crust, formed around 90 million years ago on the floor of the Tethys Ocean. Today, due to tectonic uplift linked to the interaction between the African and Eurasian plates, students can walk from rocks that once formed deep within the Earth’s mantle up through the entire oceanic crust sequence. The experience of observing pillow lavas, sheeted dyke complexes and mantle rocks in situ provided a powerful illustration of plate tectonic theory and seafloor spreading processes.

Year 12 students also demonstrated their academic curiosity by entering the Geology Schools Challenge. Their project focused on the Borrowdale Valley in the Lake District, an area shaped by ancient volcanic activity and glaciation. Although they were not selected for the final in London, their work showed excellent analytical depth and a strong understanding of geological processes.

Looking ahead, the summer term promises further exciting opportunities. Year 12 students will travel to the Vale of Eden. During this three-day trip they will have the chance to put what they have learnt in the classroom into practice, analysing rock exposures, recording structural data and interpreting Geological Histories. All this will help develop and refine their skills in preparation for year 13 and beyond. Meanwhile, Year 10 students will visit Anglesey, an area renowned for its complex and varied geology. From ancient Precambrian rocks to volcanic sequences and mineral-rich deposits, Anglesey offers a fascinating introduction to the diversity of geological environments found within the British Isles, including economically important sulphide mineralisation associated with volcanic activity.

Overall, this has been a year defined by academic excellence, rich field experiences, and a continued passion for geology across all year groups. From exploring ancient ocean floors in Cyprus to investigating tectonic landscapes in northern England, our students have developed both their scientific understanding and their appreciation of the Earth’s history. We look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

M Parker



‘TURN IT UP’

MUSIC AND YOUR MIND

Most people think music is just an ears thing — sound goes in, ears pick it up, job done. But neurologically, that’s barely the opening scene.

Music does activate the auditory cortex (no surprises there). But it also lights up the amygdala and prefrontal cortex - the brain’s emotional centres - and gets them firing in sync when the music carries some emotional weight. It even reaches into the motor system, which is exactly why you end up tapping your foot or nodding along without really deciding to. Basically, music gets more of your brain working at once than almost anything else you do — the only real rival is socialising.

So why does that matter? Think of it like muscles at the gym: stop using them, and they shrink. Neural pathways work the same way - strengthened by use, weakened by neglect. The brain doesn’t waste energy maintaining circuits that sit idle. So when music activates this much of the brain at once, regularly listening to it helps keep a whole web of networks switched on - which feeds into better emotional intelligence, sharper cognitive function, and

“Music gets more of your brain working at once than almost anything else you do - the only real rival is socialising”



even how well you learn. This is also exactly why music and memory are so tightly linked. Remember the alphabet song from primary school? That’s not a coincidence — music and memory share a genuinely powerful connection in the brain. It’s the same reason a song from your childhood can instantly transport you back — suddenly you’re flooded with the people, places, and feelings tied to that exact tune.

Now, all of this has been pretty glowing so far, but it really depends on what you’re listening to. There’s a growing wave of sad, melodic music dealing with heavy stuff: addiction, depression, that kind of thing. For people working through trauma, anxiety, or low mood, these songs can actually be therapeutic — helping process emotions and feel less alone. But if you’re someone who tends to ruminate (overthink everything on loop), that same music can backfire, reinforcing the very thoughts you’re stuck in and pulling you into a downward spiral. Sad music can genuinely make you more sad. The flip side is just as true: fill your day with upbeat, positive music, and it can lift your mood, motivation, and overall wellbeing. Humans have used music to feel connected to each other for centuries. So maybe the takeaway is simple: keep using it that way.

H Rekhi



PARTICLE PHYSICS

MASTERCLASS

On the 10th of March, ten Physics enthusiast Year 12 students attended the annual Daresbury Laboratory Particle Physics master class, accompanied by Mr Gathercole and Mr Giles. The day consisted of a variety of activities and lectures from experts in the field of particle physics, and a tour of their cutting-edge facilities and equipment.

The masterclass was an intriguing and detailed exploration of physics in which we were introduced to the vast field of particle accelerators. We were introduced to the Accelerators Science and Technology (ASTeC) department which studies all aspects of the science and technology of charged particle accelerators, and we were shown the ALICE and EMMA particle accelerators and received talks on the specialised medical and industrial applications that particle accelerators can have. We were also lectured on the engineering challenges that come with building such complex devices and the real world constraints that the teams behind them must consider and work around.

At the end of the day we participated in a fun escape room activity where we had to use the physics knowledge we had gained throughout the day to complete interactive puzzles before the timer ran out. It was an enjoyable way to end the day and overall the trip was highly informative and useful.

A Gautam



STEM RACING

The past year was a remarkable one for engineering, filled with outstanding achievements by our AGSB students on the racetrack. From the design labs to the competitive circuit, the school successfully fielded three formidable teams at the regional stage of the prestigious STEM Racing competition: Velox Racing, Rebellion Racing, and Draco Racing. This rigorous tournament challenges students to design, manufacture, and race miniature cars powered by compressed air, while simultaneously managing corporate sponsorship, verbal presentations, and professional pit displays.

The regional qualifiers proved highly successful for all AGSB Teams, with all teams securing major honours. Velox Racing demonstrated outstanding ingenuity and collaboration, earning a coveted regional award and the prize for ‘Best Pit Stand’. Rebellion Racing performed exceptionally in all categories, placing 4th regionally and placing higher than other strong teams. Meanwhile, Draco Racing delivered a powerful performance, combining exceptional track reaction times with a flawlessly engineered chassis, Draco secured first place overall at the regionals, earning a qualification for the National Finals.

At the National Finals, Draco Racing advanced to the professional bracket—the highest and most competitive tier of the tournament. Competing against 37 of the elite STEM racing teams from across the country, the team faced intense scrutiny from the judging panels in a field where race margins were decided by milliseconds. Draco Racing performed admirably under pressure, ultimately placing 29th nationally. Notably, they secured a significant local victory by finishing ahead of regional rivals Manchester Grammar School within the professional bracket.

Advancing to the national level, securing awards, and ranking within the top 30 teams nationwide represents a resounding success this year, with our students' breaking records and achieving all-time highs. The dedication and hard work exhibited by the members of Velox, Rebellion, and Draco Racing have set a new benchmark for STEM excellence at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, creating a sense of pride and inspiration for our school community on every occasion.

Once again, many thanks to the Physics Department for creating a platform for so many teams to bloom and blossom into extraordinary times for all contributing members.

We look forward to what happens next year!

S Hussain





SPORTS

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A Note from the Head of Sports...

As another busy and successful year of sport at AGSB draws to a close, it is a pleasure to reflect on what has been another outstanding twelve months for our pupils. Reading through the captain's reports, one theme stands out above all others: the commitment, resilience and enjoyment shown by our boys, regardless of the result.

This year has seen teams compete with distinction across a remarkable range of sports. We have celebrated county and national success, reached numerous cup finals and semi-finals, enjoyed memorable tours to Barcelona, Holland and the Midlands, and welcomed visiting schools from Australia and India. Our pupils have embraced every opportunity to challenge themselves, creating friendships and memories that extend far beyond the playing field.

While victories and trophies are pleasing, what impresses me most is the way our pupils represent the school. Whether competing against local rivals, travelling overseas or hosting international visitors, they have consistently demonstrated humility, resilience, respect and outstanding sportsmanship. These qualities are at the heart of AGSB sport.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, coaches and volunteers, who give countless hours before school, after school, at weekends and during the holidays to provide such a wide range of opportunities. Their enthusiasm and commitment enable our pupils to experience sport at the highest level while developing the teamwork, leadership and character that will serve them long after they leave AGSB.

Finally, I would like to congratulate every pupil who has represented the school this year. Whether you wore the shirt once or throughout the season, your contribution has helped make AGSB sport something we can all be incredibly proud of. I hope you enjoy reading the captains' reflections on another memorable sporting year.

S Meakin

U14 Badminton

The U14 badminton season has been an excellent one, with the team demonstrating skill, determination, and fantastic teamwork throughout the year. From the opening fixture to the final stages of national competition, every player consistently showed commitment in both training and matches. The season was filled with memorable victories and significant achievements that reflected the hard work put in by the squad.

We began the season with a friendly victory over Wirral Grammar School for Boys, giving the team confidence heading into the competitive fixtures. A mention to A Kumar who played an incredible game of badminton to win his game. This momentum continued with an excellent win away at Tytherington High School in Round 2 of the National Plate, followed by an outstanding 5–1 victory against Newcastle-under-Lyme School in Round 2 of the National Cup. These performances highlighted the strength and depth of the team, with P Badgujar and A Pabby producing confident displays in both singles and doubles matches.

One of the highlights of the season came in the Regional Finals, where we defeated The Grammar School at Leeds to become regional champions and secure our place in the National Cup semi-finals. A mention to Y Polisetty who

won a competitive game. Reaching the last four of a national competition was a fantastic achievement and a reward for the team's dedication throughout the year. Although our journey came to an end with a defeat to Wilson's School in the National Cup semi-final, the result does not take away from what was an outstanding season and an impressive accomplishment.

We also came second in the Badminton England Regional section. A mention to V Ramachandran and J Fosbrooke who nearly made us win the Badminton England Regional Section.

Every member of the squad played an important role this year, whether by winning crucial matches, supporting teammates from the sidelines, or maintaining a positive attitude during training. The team's commitment and resilience were evident throughout the season and were key reasons behind our success.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Rawson and Olivia Frankland for their dedication, encouragement, and countless hours spent helping us improve. Overall, this has been a highly successful year for U14 Badminton, and we look forward to building on these achievements in the future.

Y Polisetty



U16 Badminton



This season has been a fantastic one for our team, filled with hard work, determination, and memorable achievements. Every player showed commitment and enthusiasm, which helped us improve both individually and as a team. Through training sessions and competitions, we developed strong teamwork and resilience, allowing us to perform at a consistently high level.

One of the highlights of the season was reaching the National Finals. This was a huge achievement for the team and reflected the effort that every player put in throughout the year. Competing against some of the best teams in the country was an incredible experience and one that we will all remember. The journey to the finals included many exciting matches and outstanding performances from our teammates, who supported each other every step of the way.

A huge thank you must go to our coach, Olivia, whose guidance, encouragement, and dedication have been invaluable throughout the season. Olivia has continually motivated us to work hard, improve our skills, and believe in ourselves. Her support has played a major role in our success, and we are extremely grateful for everything she has done for the team.

Finally, I would like to thank my teammates for their effort, commitment, and positive attitude throughout the season. The friendship, teamwork, and memories we have created together have made this year truly special. We should all be proud of what we have achieved, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the future.

S Eldi

U14 Basketball

For the U14 boys basketball team, we started off the season beating by 24 points, 16:40. After that we faced North Cestrian. We won this too, by 35, 57:22. Finally we played St Ambrose. We unfortunately lost this, by 11, 42:53. This made us finish second in our group. We sadly did not progress further due to this.

Overall, we had a good season, with a 2:1 win rate.

S Gnanapragasam

U16 Basketball

The basketball season was one of growth, resilience and determination. Throughout the year, the team showed great commitment in training and matches, developing both individually and collectively.

A particular strength of the team was the front court, led by D Fleming. and J Lin. Daragh was a consistent scoring threat throughout the season, regularly contributing important points and helping to drive the team forward in key moments. Alongside him, Jason's impressive ball handling, court vision and composure under pressure allowed the team to play with confidence and fluidity. Together, they provided strong leadership on the court and set high standards for the rest of the squad.

The season brought a mixture of emotions. Narrow defeats, including a hard-fought 24–22 loss to St Ambrose, were disappointing and showed just how



fine the margins can be in competitive basketball. However, the team's response to setbacks demonstrated maturity and character. The highlight of the season came with an outstanding 64–18 victory over North Cestrian, a performance that reflected the hard work and progress made throughout the year.

Beyond the results, the players developed confidence, teamwork and a stronger understanding of the game. There was a genuine sense of pride in representing the school, and the season leaves the team with plenty of positive memories and valuable experience to build upon in the future. While there was disappointment after some results, there was also a strong sense of achievement and optimism as the team recognised how much progress had been made over the course of the season. Well done to all players for their effort, commitment and sportsmanship throughout the season.

P Pindy



U12 Cricket

We went into the season with a very capable team, looking forward to challenging fixtures.

We started up against Cheadle Hulme High School in County Cup Road 1. We batted first and made a very defendable total of around 120, a brilliant batting performance by D Ampolu making 47 backed up by a decent innings myself of 48. We didn't get off to a good start with the ball but made heavy inroads thanks to some brilliant bowling by I Qazi and good all-round fielding. Unfortunately, thanks to a nice partnership at the end they got the win. Reflecting on that performance I would say at start and end of innings we were very sloppy in the field letting balls through us, but this was a good learning lesson for our upcoming fixtures.

We played MGS next; we bowled first and personally I thought we did exceptionally and restricted them to 90. Brilliant bowling performance by S Jagarlapudi and some great catches and run outs by D Vadigepalli. We went out to bat and lost early wickets, which slowed down our run rate. But some stability came through I Qazi and D Vadigepalli each making scores in the 20's, but due to a lower order batting collapse we couldn't chase the target down.

Up next we played Stockport Grammar; they batted first and made around 70, brilliant bowling by S Sen, D Vadigepalli and I Qazi who even got three wickets. We went out to bat and got off to a good start thanks to D Ampolu and I, after that both R Bakkachenna and D Vadigepalli retiring eventually finished off by I Qazi, we rounded up a brilliant performance.

I would like to thank our coaches, Mr Meakin and Mr Cammack for giving up their time and giving us this wonderful opportunity to play the sport we love

S Parmer

U13 Cricket

Our first match was a tough one away at Manchester Grammar School. Here we bowled first and kept them to a respectable score of 127-7 after their 20 overs. We got off to a good start as we were ahead of the run rate but then a heap of wickets fell around the middle over which set us back and then we ended up finishing on 117 all out. It was a tough loss considering it was only our first match of the season, but we learnt from our mistakes and were ready for our next opponent.

Our next game was against The Kings School, Chester in the County Cup Round 1. These were a very strong opponent but with great opening bowling from R Usman and A Stephens, we kept them to a low score 101-8 after their 20 overs. We got off to a solid start with the bat and A Jayagovarthanan ended proceedings with a solid 30, winning us the game with a great comeback after the previous loss to MGS.

After the Kings game we played against The Grange School. Here we batted first and put up a mammoth score of 207-4 with 5 of our batter retiring on 30*. We later bowled them all out for 24 and beat them by 183 runs. The standout moment in this game was when J Bristow took a hat-trick! This was a great way to win the game and put another win on the board.

In the next round of the cup, we played against Birkenhead School. Here we batted first and posted a decent score of 168-4 in our 20 overs. With tight bowling and great catches, we defended our score and kept them down to 61-9 after their 20 overs and won by 107 runs. A performance like this gave us great confidence and were ready to take on the next team in the cup.

The next game brought us on to our first game on tour in Birmingham against Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. We had bowled very tight with the help from V Peram and R Usman. Our openers set us up for the chase with one of them

ended on 56 (54). The standout moment of the game was when we needed 3 runs off the last ball. With A Pullagujju on strike, he strook it over mid-off and with the large boundaries, easily managed to run 3. He eventually ended on 25* (18) and with A Vaishampayan anchoring the whole run chase with a brilliant 49* (44).

The next game on tour brought us against Queen Mary's Gramar School. We batted first and posted 137-7 after our 20 overs. Our number 4 batter came in and managed to hit 53*(22) and upped the run-rate during the current time. With tight bowling during the middle overs from people like A Mallya and M Farooq, we bowled them out for 68 and won by a total of 69 runs. This was a great way to end the tour as we had won every match. We would like to thank Mr Meakin, Mr Rawson and Mr Nero who kindly took us on tour.

The next game was the County Cup Semi-Final. Here we were away at Cheadle Hulme School. We bowled first and restricted them too only 99-5 after their innings. With tight bowling from A Mallya and a wicket on the first ball from O Karkhanis, this was able to happen. Our opening batter hit 42 (20) to get us off to a flier start and S Parmar 32* (23) and A Vaishampayan 13* (15) ended proceedings and took us to the final of the County Cup. We will now play The Kings School, Macclesfield in the final.

The following Saturday we played against Stockport Grammar School. Here we batted first and our opening batter hit 53* (25) and A Vaishampayan came in at number 3 and hit 50 more to add onto our mammoth total which ended on 193. The game ended getting too close for comfort as our fielding wasn't our best and they managed to get to 188 with one of their batters hitting 50. Overall, we did win the game which was a positive and we are ready to take Kings Macclesfield in the final. We would like to thank Mr Rawson for organising our cricket matches.

A Kumar

U14 Cricket



We started the season with a close match against Manchester Grammar School, narrowly losing by 10 runs in what was an incredibly competitive game. A big mention to S Sheth who scored a solid 30 to nearly win us the game. However, we bounced back immediately with an impressive 38-run victory over The King’s School, Chester in the County Cup. A mention to D Ashwin and A Kumar who batted incredibly.

We got another impressive win against Cheadle Hulme, winning the game by 43 runs. A mention to Y Polisetty who scored 83. There was also a great bowling spell by B Filoboss who got 3 quick wickets which made us take control of the game. After this we played Alsager School in the semi-final of the cup, where we got another big victory, winning by 57 runs.

One of the biggest strengths of our team this year was the way everyone contributed. Whether it was scoring important runs, taking wickets, fielding brilliantly, or encouraging teammates, every player played their part. We also had a lot of new people in our team including one year 9, two year 8s and even a year 7. The team’s positive attitude and willingness to support one another made the season enjoyable and helped us achieve success in the Cheshire Cup.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Smyth for all the time, effort, and encouragement throughout the season. His dedication at training and during matches helped us improve both individually and as a team. Overall, this has been a successful and enjoyable year, and we look forward to building on these achievements next season.

Y Polisetty

U15 Cricket

This year, in spite of the weather, has been a rather successful one for the AGSB U15 cricket A team, full of outstanding achievements and stellar performances across the competitions we have participated in. These include becoming Cheshire Cup winners and the best school in the North of England, the highest position ever reached by a non-fee-paying school. This is how the packed schedule looked for the boys.

The season started with a trip to Sedbergh for the North Nationals Round 2 after receiving a bye following last year’s Cheshire Cup victory over Birkenhead. Persistent morning rain reduced the game to 35 overs. We won the toss and chose to bowl on a spin-friendly wicket. J O’Brien made the most of the conditions, taking 4/14 from 7 overs, while C Rourke claimed two wickets as Sedbergh were dismissed for just 114. This was comfortably chased in 23 overs, with K Rangaraju scoring a half-century.

We then travelled to Scarborough. After losing the toss, we restricted the home side to 220/8 from 40 overs thanks to a disciplined team bowling display. K Rangaraju and S De Silva gave us a solid start before C Rourke (84) and Y Polisetty (63*) shared a match-winning partnership to secure victory with seven overs to spare. AGSB were crowned North champions, the furthest the school has ever gone in this competition.

A week later we faced Shrewsbury School at Bowdon CC in the ESCA National semi-final. After reducing Shrewsbury to 78/3, they recovered to post 206/8. AGSB were well placed at 188/5 thanks largely to C Rourke’s superb 92, but a late collapse left the team eight runs short, losing by just three. Nevertheless, everyone should be immensely proud of reaching such a high level in this competition.

We are also progressing well in the newly launched Barclays Stokes-Knight Cup, with the exciting prospect of playing at Lord’s Cricket Ground on 13th September.

The opening round, hosted at AGSB, saw

us comfortably defeat North Cestrian and Wellington before overcoming St Ambrose in the Trafford Final. After posting 144/0 from 10 overs, powered by half-centuries from C Rourke and Y Polisetty, we secured a 98-run victory to become Trafford champions.

The second round at Brooklands CC began with a convincing win over Wilmslow High School before another dominant performance against Lymm High School secured our place in the Cheshire final. At Alderley Edge CC, after recovering from 4/2, half-centuries from J O’Brien and S De Silva helped us post 156/4. AGSB won by 26 runs, with Joe earning Player of the Match after scoring a fifty and taking 2/18.

Our first opponents in the Cheshire County Cup were The Grange, who were bowled out for just 34 before we secured a nine-wicket victory. In the quarter-final against Stockport Grammar School, centuries from K Rangaraju and C Rourke powered AGSB to a record-breaking 254/0, the highest total by any AGSB team, before dismissing the opposition for 61.

The semi-final against Sandbach School saw us post 141/8 before restricting the hosts to 107/6 to reach the final. Against Fallibroome at King’s School Macclesfield, AGSB bowled superbly to dismiss the opposition for 71 before chasing the target in just 5.4 overs, becoming Cheshire Cup champions for the second consecutive year.

The boys then returned to Sedbergh for the National T20 Cup semi-final, posting 177/4 before restricting the hosts to 141/5. In the North National T20 final against Scarborough, AGSB chased 129 with four balls remaining, thanks to another fine innings from C Rourke. The victory crowned AGSB North National champions in both formats, a remarkable achievement. The national semi-finals and finals now await in September at Kibworth CC.

We have also enjoyed two Saturday friendly victories against Manchester Grammar School and The Grange. A special mention goes to D Popat, whose five-wicket haul against The Grange was a superb display of pace, maturity and

deception.

The biggest positive is that there is still plenty of cricket to come during the summer break, with the boys hoping to add even more silverware before the season ends. This year will be unforgettable, and a huge thank you goes to Mr Birtwell and Mr Cammack for supporting us throughout our journey.

A Dash



U12 Football

This season has been special for me as captain and for the entire team. I believe the Year 7 team is very strong on and off the field, and we have made bonds between the entire group. This has helped with starting friendships and confidence within the team.

We got off to a shaky start losing our first game to Kings Chester 2-1 and drawing to Manchester Grammar School 2-2, but this was only the start and our team was just starting to grow.

Once our team ‘clicked’, we started to not only win games but really dominate. This was shown through our 5-0 win to Bolton School and our 16-0 against Oswestry. We had started playing with key players (Chimi and Joshua) and our playing style was starting to develop.

By the end of the season, we had won both the Manchester Cup 3-0 and the Trafford Cup 1-0. Notably, we also beat formidable side Wright Robinson in the semi-finals 3-2.

Every player this year has played well but I want to give a special mention to the players that maybe didn’t start every game but still contributed massively: Kit and Artarv and everyone who has supported us along the way. I also have to thank the coaches who have been on the side lines for every game and have helped get us up to where we are now. Their guidance has helped us in games and has given us passion to win.

I hope we can carry on this run next year and hopefully do the same again!

T Miller



U13 Football

During the season, we had our highs and lows like any team: a six-game winning streak followed by three consecutive defeats and a Saturday draw. However, those setbacks helped us develop as a team and learn how to compete against bigger, stronger opponents. We finished the season by reaching the quarter-finals of the Trafford Cup and the final of the Greater Manchester County Cup.

On our run to the final, we defeated last year’s runners-up, Cannon Slade, 6-4 before facing reigning champions Wright Robinson in the quarter-finals. Rather than accepting defeat before kick-off, we produced one of our best performances of the season, winning 4-0.

We then edged past West Hill 1-0 in the semi-final to set up a final against Wellacre, our toughest opponents of the season. Having already lost 5-0 to them earlier in the campaign, we produced a far stronger display in the final. Although the game finished 5-2, two late goals as we searched for an equaliser made the scoreline harsher than our performance deserved.

We had many excellent individual displays this season, but three players stood out: H Ofonagoro, R Anand and J Ju.

H Ofonagoro was instrumental throughout the season, consistently scoring crucial goals. Whether from inside or outside the box, he had the ability to find the net from almost anywhere, making him one of the most feared forwards we fielded.

R Anand dominated games from midfield, combining disciplined defending with excellent ball progression and an eye for goal. His standout performance came against West Hill, where he controlled the midfield before scoring the winning goal with a superb volley into the far corner.

J Ju was outstanding between the posts all season, but his display against St Monica’s RC High School was exceptional. After a thrilling 3-3 draw,

he produced several crucial saves before stopping two penalties in a dramatic 7-6 shootout victory to send AGSB into the quarter-finals.

Many thanks to our coach, Mr Smyth, who pushed us throughout the season, teaching us new skills and tactics that helped transform the team from first-round exits in both cups last year to Greater Manchester County Cup finalists.

H Francis



SPORTS

U14 Football

This season has been a great learning experience for our team, with our tactics evolving significantly from the beginning of the year to the end. We started the season playing a 4-3-3 formation, with me and Zach at centre-back and Zayan and Salah playing as our full-backs. In midfield, Musab and Rickels were joined by either Yashmit or Amir, while Soham and Dan played on the wings. As the season progressed, we switched to a 5-2-3 formation, bringing Yashmit back into a wing-back role. This change gave us much more defensive stability while still allowing us to attack effectively. The new system brought us far more success and helped us compete against stronger opposition, highlighted by our impressive performance against Wellington, where we came close to getting a result after losing 4-0 to them earlier in the season.

One of the highlights of the year was our football tour to Barcelona. In our first match abroad, we produced an outstanding 7-1 win. Although we lost our second game, the result was mainly because we were playing against adults, making it an excellent challenge and learning experience. There were also plenty of individual achievements throughout the tour. Kyi won Goal of the Tour, while Musab and I were both awarded Player of the Tour. Zayan received the Clubman of the Tour award for his fantastic attitude and commitment throughout the trip, and George and Rickels both earned well-deserved Man of the Match awards for their performances.

Overall, it has been a fantastic season representing AGSB. We have grown as a team, created lasting memories and embraced every challenge along the way. A huge thank you goes to Mr Cammack, Mr Smith and Mr Birtwell for giving up their time to take us to Barcelona and making the tour such an unforgettable experience. Finally, a special thank you to Mr Irlam, who has coached us over the past two seasons. We are all incredibly grateful for everything he has done for the team, and his commitment has played a huge part in everything we have achieved.

H Bonnici



U15 Football

We started the season with one goal: to win the treble. Despite some early injury problems leading to a couple defeats on Saturday fixtures, we managed to bounce back stronger with standout fixtures including a 5-0 victory over Bolton and a 7-0 win over rivals, MGS.

A tactical formation change saw us find immaculate form throughout the early stages of the Greater Manchester and Cheshire cups, despite tough away games at Cardinal Langley and Upton-by-Chester, eventually qualifying us for both semi-finals. Now into the spring term, the Trafford cup started, in which, we progressed without complications into the semifinal as well.

Our first semi was in the Cheshire cup against Calday Grange where we narrowly lost the game on penalties. We knew we had to bounce back strongly, which we did perfectly seeing us comfortably beat Hazel Grove 6-1, advancing our age group to the Greater Manchester Final for the first time. Furthermore, we advanced to the final of the Trafford cup as well, beating local side Sale Grammar.

Unfortunately, we came agonisingly close in both finals and ended the season with no silverware. However, the boys should still be very proud of our efforts this season and big thanks to Mr. Simon and Mr. Cammack.

A Bobin

First XI - Football

The first XI for the 25/26 season finished with a record of 7 wins, 4 draws and 5 losses, scoring an impressive 34 goals over the course of 16 matches. It can only be described as a chaotic season, with multiple members of the team unfortunately suffering season ending injuries early on. Despite this, the resilience and camaraderie of the players allowed us to have success following these setbacks.

Notable wins include those against Cheadle Hulme High in the County Cup quarter-finals when the team came back from the brink of defeat, overcoming a 4-1 deficit with last minute drama and winning on penalties to reach the semi-finals. We also had strong performances against Oswestry (A) and Crompton House, displaying dominance against physical opposition.

Standout individual players include D Stevenson (defender) and Z Thompson (GK), who both showed consistency and moments of brilliance throughout the season, helping the team to win games thanks to an impressive goal tally of 7 for Dan, and acrobatic brilliance from Zach in-between the sticks. M Hopley-Catalan's vice captaincy and interim stint as captain for the last 4 games of the season also helped the squad to finish strongly, due to his leadership and experience as a player in the first XI since year 11.

On behalf of senior football, we would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Cammack for his dedication towards senior football both this year and over the past years as well.

J Spencer



U12 Hockey

For a team who had never played together before this year, the U12 hockey team produced some impressive performances against strong opposition from across Trafford, Cheshire and the North West. Although many boys had previous club experience, the season was about learning to play together, understanding each other's strengths and developing as a team.

Training was both enjoyable and challenging, with Alex and Mr Meakin putting the squad through their paces. Accurate passing, the diamond press and short-corner routines all featured heavily, and we were incredibly fortunate to benefit from the expertise of a New Zealand international player.

The team worked brilliantly in every area of the pitch. The forwards created plenty of chances and scored some excellent goals, the midfield linked defence and attack with intelligent passing, while the defenders stayed composed under pressure and made crucial tackles. Special mention must also go to goalkeepers Roy and Darren, who had never played hockey before this season but made a series of outstanding saves throughout the campaign.

After some close defeats against strong schools, including King's Chester, the highlight of the season was a superb 2-0 victory over Sandbach School in the North West semi-final. Although we narrowly lost 2-1 to King's Chester in the final, reaching that stage was a fantastic achievement for such a newly formed team.

A huge thank you goes to Alex and Mr Meakin for their excellent coaching and support throughout the season. Their encouragement and expertise helped every player improve, and everyone is looking forward to building on this year's success next season.

A Leach and R Mcwhirter

U14 Hockey

In the Under 14s Hockey team, we had a good run this year, with 4 wins and 2 losses. There were many good moments where players excelled past their capabilities. There were particularly strong moments from players such as H Rickels and others, in which good play led to strong victories against opponents like Harrogate Grammar School. Although we had some tough matches against good schools, our fairly young school team (with four Year 7s who bravely stepped up to older hockey to be a critical part of our team) held our own. To that end, a very special thank you to Arthur, Robbie, Connor and Kit for stepping up and helping with our matches. They have played an undoubtedly positive role in our performance this year.

This would not be possible without the amazing help we have been getting all season from Mr Meakin and Alex, without whom we would be nowhere. Mr Meakin took us to all our matches, coached during the match and set up the teams. Moreover, Alex, put her all into helping people in every training session. It will be very saddening to see her moving back to her home in New Zealand and we wish her best in her journey.

Finally, we would like to thank every member of the squad for their contribution this season. A special mention goes to Tom, who stepped up as goalkeeper in his first year of playing; Henry, for captaining the team and supporting the younger players; Niam, for pushing beyond his previous limits and developing throughout the season; Zack, for his consistent performances; Ben, for leading the attack so effectively; and Lex, for his consistently strong displays and encouragement of the younger players. We would also like to recognise Luca, whose performances as a Year 8 pupil showed tremendous potential for the future, and the four Year 7 players who stepped up and became an invaluable part of the team.

Thank you to everyone for making this such an enjoyable and successful season

L Cummins

U16 Hockey

The U16 hockey team came into the season full of confidence after a strong season last year.

We faced an extremely strong Kings Chester side in our first cup game of the season and went 1-0 down early in the game before snatching an equaliser towards the middle of the game. We battled hard throughout the second half and the game ended in a deserved 1-1 draw.

We then faced Bradford Grammar School in the quarter final of the North Championship where we lost in a thrilling 4-3 game which was full of strong performances defensively and going forward.

Moving onwards, we played a well drilled and a very structured St Peter's School, York in the North plate quarter final where we dominated throughout and comfortably won 6-3. Standout performance include C Rourke and C Ridley both scoring and creating countless opportunities.

After a few weeks of no fixtures, we faced a powerful Calday Grange Grammar School where – due to poor focus – suffered a punishing 5-1 loss.

Despite a previous defeat, when we faced Calday again, but this time in the North Plate semi-final, we were not fazed by the previous result and put in an unbelievable performance where a 4-3 win got us progressing to the final. Star performances include R Misslebrook who charged up and down the sidelines and helped not only defensively but also going forwards.

The last game of the season was shaping up to be an entertaining final. In the North Plate final, we faced Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and conceded two early goals that we know should have been prevented. However, we came out fighting in the second half and after relentless pressure we were rewarded with a penalty stroke. The captain stepped up however he put a mild effort

towards the corner of the goal which the keeper saved well. As we had done all season, we continued to battle on until the end however we just couldn't reverse the scoreline and the game ended with a 2-0 loss.

As a team, we would like to give a massive thank you to Mr Meakin who organised all of our games and sacrificed hours of his time to ensure we had the best opportunities possible. Another huge thank you to our coach Alex who gave us a great system and foundation over the last two years to go and play some flowing hockey and will be deeply missed by all those involved in the hockey section at AGSB as she moves back to New Zealand.

To conclude, it was a successful season for the AGSB U16 hockey team, and we hope next year reaches and exceeds the peaks of this year.

J Booth



First XI - Hockey

This year, the 1st XI hockey team has seen a range of results, both positive and negative.

In the outdoor season, our first few games were ones to forget, we began with a difficult 9-0 loss to Kings Chester, with a few goals from our defenders in the wrong goal followed, by a close battle with Sandbach which finished 2-0 against us. Despite this, as the season progressed, results began to go in our favour. Some impressive attacking play from L Beesley (POTS) and D Stevenson earned us our first few wins as we started in the National Cup. This cup run continued, with memorable wins against King Edward's and a competitive Rossall team. This run came to an end, however, in the North Semi-final, when we were defeated 2-0 by a well-drilled Uppingham side after a difficult four hours in the minibus.

In the indoor season, despite our best efforts, we fell short of group qualification in the North West tournament at MGS. The day started with a strong 3-1 win against Caldý Grange, with T Hayton playing a key role in securing the win. Our next game against King Macclesfield was incredibly close - neither team was able to come out on top with it finishing 2-2. Our final game against a strong MGS team resulted in an undeserved 2-0 loss, which resulted in a 3rd place placement in our group - not enough to qualify for the semi-finals.

A special thank you has to go out to Alex, our hockey coach who is sadly leaving this year. Despite only being here for 2 years, she has left a lasting impact on Hockey at AGSB and on the players she has coached throughout the year-groups. We all wish her the best for the future as she moves back to New Zealand.

The team is also thankful for Mr Meakin. We are all incredibly grateful for the hard work he puts in to making hockey at AGSB possible and are looking forward to his continued support into next season.

R Hatton



U12 Rugby

At the start of the year, I decided to join the rugby team because I thought it would be fun, even though I had never played rugby before. At our first training session, Mr Soulsby asked who had played the game previously, and only two players had any experience. Although we were inexperienced at first, we improved quickly through training and teamwork.

Our first match was a 0-0 draw against AKS, which gave us confidence and helped us grow as a team. As the season progressed, our performances continued to improve, leading to better results.

The season ended with the Rugby Sevens tournaments. I missed the first one because of hockey commitments, but I was able to play in the second tournament, where the team finished seventh. It was a fantastic experience and a great way to end an enjoyable first season of rugby.

R Mcwhirter



U13 Rugby

This year was a season of ups and downs for the AGSB U13 rugby team, but overall, it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The team included experienced players who play club rugby for Bowdon RUFC – H Q Chan, Y Hau Ni, T Edwards and M Cheung – all of whom made a major contribution. However, rugby is a team sport, and many others played key roles in our progress. J Lynch and J Ju were consistently outstanding, with several Man of the Match performances. A special mention also goes to A Brunt, who was new to rugby at the start of

SPORTS

Year 8, but quickly developed into a key player, using his pace and agility to score and create numerous tries from the wing.

The sevens season was a particular highlight. After some disappointing early tournaments, we won our group in the final tournament against strong opposition. This was a proud moment for the entire squad and a reward for the progress we had made throughout the year.

A huge thank you to all the teachers and coaches who gave up their time to support us in training and matches. Their dedication and encouragement helped us improve our understanding of the game and develop our skills throughout the season. Overall, while results did not always go our way, we grew significantly as players and as a team. We are now looking forward to the upcoming rugby tour to Holland and returning next season stronger, more experienced and ready for the challenges ahead.

S Farooq



U14 Rugby

The U14 rugby season kicked off in late September with an away game against Liverpool College. We were thrown in the deep end, facing a strong mixed team of year 9's and year 10's, yet we managed a respectable draw of 25-25. This was our third year of playing together as a team and we've developed a good understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses.

The season has consisted of a mixed bag of results, with several draws and losses. However, the team has shown huge moments of resilience and lots of signs of improvement, this being particularly evident with our first win against Lymm Grammar in early October. AGSB scored a total of nine tries in this match, with significant contributions from our centres Max and Jun.

The Year 9 rugby tour to Holland on 19th October gave us a fantastic opportunity to spend some time together as a team. During the tour, we played two matches against clubs the school has faced regularly over the past 15 years. It was an honour to continue this long-standing tradition. We played two matches against Oystervijk (The Oysters) and RFC Gouda, claiming two decisive victories. The trip concluded with a celebratory award ceremony where D Goralski-Kelly received the Player of the Tour shield.

Buoyed by our overseas success, the season continued with a series of tough games against schools including Cheadle Hulme, Manchester Grammar and The Grange, which tested our perseverance. However, a particular highlight was our game against Stockport Grammar where in the face of a potential 30-0 loss, our number 8, M Maher, went on an incredible solo mission, scoring a hattrick of tries in the final moments of the game.

Throughout the season a few of our players were offered the opportunity to play alongside the AGSB year 10 team in a number of matches. This was a great learning experience, from which we came away with new ideas for

warmups and on how to improve our communication.

There was a change of pace in March, as we moved into the Sevens season, where we competed in two tournaments, Wirral 7s and County 7s which was held at Sandbach RUFC. One of our most memorable games in the tournaments was against The Grange. AGSB made up for our loss earlier in the season with a convincing win, knocking them out of the tournament and securing us a place in the finals.

In summary, it was an enjoyable and certainly memorable season for us all. We developed significantly as a team and were able to build our skills ahead of the 2026-27 season. A huge thanks to Mr Rawson for all the time he's given up to coach and support us as a team throughout the year.

H Dean



U15 Rugby

This season has been a huge step forward for our team and one that everyone involved should be proud of. At the start of the year, we were struggling to put out a full team each week, but thanks to the hard work and commitment from our new coach Mr Nero, everything changed. He brought in several new players and instead of worrying about whether we had enough players, we reached the point where not everyone could be selected every week.

The new players settled in quickly and made a massive impact especially with A Kashkash who showed lots of potential and has moved on to trial for the U16’s Sale Shark squad. They worked hard in training, fitted into the team brilliantly, and played a huge role in the success we enjoyed throughout the season. The whole squad became much stronger, and everyone pushed each other to improve week after week.

However, this would not have been possible without our older returning players who showed the ropes and guided the newcomers through the matches. There are two special mentions for X Lee and B Moss who together scored countless try’s inside of Union and Sevens and put in hard work and incredible amounts of effort to persevere and eventually get us to both the finals in sevens.

Our season included some fantastic performances. We played some great rugby and achieved victories against Birkenhead School (17–10), Bishop

Heber High School (27–0), and Bolton School (43–7), showing the progress we had made as a team. While we suffered heavy defeats against Sandbach School and Wirral Grammar School for Boys, the squad never gave up and always looked to learn from every game ever helped by tactics from our coach.

We also enjoyed success in the 7s tournaments, reaching the Plate Finals at both the AKS Lytham 7s and the Bolton 7s. Finishing as runners-up in both competitions was a great achievement and reflected the determination and resilience shown by the squad throughout the year. Those tournaments were definitely highlights of the season and showed how far we had come since the beginning of the year.

A huge thank you must go to our coach for everything he has done this season. His effort in rebuilding the squad, bringing in new players, organising training, and believing in us made a massive difference. He created a competitive environment where everyone wanted to improve and gave us the opportunity to enjoy a successful season together.

Finally, thank you to all of my teammates for their hard work, commitment, and support throughout the year. Everyone contributed to making this a memorable season, and the friendships and experiences we shared will stay with us. With the progress we have made and the potential in the squad, there is every reason to be excited for next season.

J Bellemy

First XV - Rugby

Although the season didn't produce the results we had hoped for, it was one that was defined by the character and commitment of the squad. Every player continued to train and compete with determination, showing resilience and outstanding team spirit throughout both the 15-a-side and Sevens seasons.

There were plenty of positives to take from the year. As a group, we developed both individually and collectively, supporting one another through the highs and lows of a challenging fixture list. The effort shown at training and the pride everyone took in representing AGSB never wavered, regardless of the scoreline.

The future of AGSB Rugby is certainly bright. The Year 11 squad enjoyed an outstanding season, winning the Rydal 7s Cup and producing an excellent performance to defeat Wirral Grammar School in the County Cup. Their success gives confidence for the seasons ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the players for their commitment throughout the year. A special thank you must also go to Mr Meakin, whose dedication, time and enthusiasm have been invaluable. The countless hours he gives to coaching, organising fixtures and developing players are hugely appreciated by everyone involved. It has been a privilege to captain the 1st XV, and I look forward to seeing AGSB Rugby continue to go from strength to strength.

F Doyle

U13 Table Tennis

The AGSB U13 table tennis team has had an enjoyable and successful season, with all of us showing commitment, enthusiasm, and a willingness to improve throughout the year. The team worked hard in training and represented this school with excellent sportsmanship and determination. Each player brought different strengths to the team, and together we developed into a competitive and supportive group. There were many close matches during the season, and we showed resilience by continuing to fight for every point, regardless of the score. Our confidence grew as the season progressed, with noticeable improvements in consistency, movement, serving, and match tactics.

Our school team included M Fung, A Leung, V Hong and E Choi with an addition of C Andrew Robins who played in our first match to send us to Halton against Manchester Grammar School. An important stage of the season was reaching the Under 13 National School's Teams Championship where we competed against some of the best school teams in the country. This was an amazing experience and an opportunity for us to have a go at these types of intense competitions. This was a great reward for all the hard work we put in together throughout the season. As the players continue to develop, the focus for next season will be on improving serve and receive, increasing consistency under pressure, developing match tactics, and building confidence against stronger opposition. With continued hard work and dedication, this group has great potential to achieve even more in the future.

We would like to thank our brilliant coaches, Mr Meakin, Mr Rawson and Brian Keane for their continuous support and coaching advice for us at AGSB. Their coaching has inspired us to work hard through the highs and lows of the season, whether we lost or not. We are extremely thankful to them for their dedication and experienced guidance, and we look forward to having a successful season next year as well.

M Fung

U16 Table Tennis

The 2025–26 season has been a memorable and highly successful one for the AGSB Under-16 Table Tennis team. Throughout the year, we trained together regularly at Flixton Table Tennis Club, where we developed our skills, teamwork and match experience.

Our school team consisted of O Chow, A Kim, R Tang and J Pachigolla. One of the highlights of the season was reaching the Under-16 National Semi-finals of the Butterfly National Schools' Team Championships. Competing against some of the strongest school teams in the country was a fantastic experience and a great reward for all the hard work the team had put in throughout the season.

The same group of players also enjoyed success representing Flixton Table Tennis Club in the British Clubs Leagues. Our Junior Team were crowned Division 3 Champions, while our Cadet Team also won the Division 2 Championship. These competitions provided valuable experience and helped strengthen our performances as a school team.

The season also brought individual success. Orlando won the Greater Manchester Regional Qualification Event to qualify for the English Schools' Butterfly Individual Championships National Finals in the Under-13 category. Several members of our U16 team also climbed to become some of the highest-ranked cadet and junior players in England for their age groups through their performances in Table Tennis England national ranking tournaments.

We would like to thank Mr Meakin and Mr Rawson for their continued support of table tennis at AGSB. We are also extremely grateful to our coaches at Flixton Table Tennis Club — Brian Kean, Adam Thompson and Phil Biggs — for their dedication, encouragement and expert guidance throughout the season. Their coaching has played a huge part in our development, and we look forward to building on this successful season next year.

O Chow

U13 Tennis

This academic year has been a fantastic one for the U14 tennis team. Throughout the year we showed great commitment and i could see that we put a lot of effort into all of our fixtures.

We won all of our fixtures apart from one, giving a great overall record. I felt like every player contributed to the team's success; we had a consistently high standard of play and a positive attitude which had a large effect on our performance.

Despite the defeat, it made us stronger as a team and allowed us to think more together. It also allowed us to reflect and think about how and which areas of play we could improve in.

I would like to thank Mr Rawson for driving us to and from the tennis club, arranging and managing fixtures for us, supplying equipment and being an excellent coach. I would also like to thank the two new year sevens who joined the school in September and have since then shows a positive and have grown to be confident and to be great tennis players. Congratulations to the team and I look forward to having a great year of tennis next year.

L Frost

U15/16 Tennis

This season for the U16 School Sports Magazine may not have gone exactly how we wanted after our win last year, but it was still a good experience for everyone involved. We didn't have much luck, with one match given to us by Lancaster as a walkover and the national qualifiers match being against a very strong Repton School side. Although we lost 5–1, everyone gave it 100% and competed very well. The team stayed positive throughout the season giving us experience that we'll be able to take into future seasons.



In the Under 15s, however, things have been much better. We've had a brilliant season so far, winning all three of our LTA matches, beating Calday Grange 10-2, Sale Grammar School 12-0 and Cheadle Hulme School 12-0 which took a lot longer than it should have because of the pouring rain meaning we had to evacuate the court at least twice. Everyone played really well and worked hard as a team and as individuals, which helped us keep unbeaten through the competition.

This competition carries on, our next match being in September against MGS who have been our fated rivals in the past few years in the area and regional final. After beating them last year in the school sports magazine U15s 5-1, we're pumped to do it again.

A big thanks goes to our coach and motivator Mr Rawson, and all the PE department for all the time they put into helping us get the best chance we can and the great effort they have put for us throughout the season. I'd also like to thank all of my teammates T Kwong, G Okeke, C Cassidy, V Kshirosagar and A Singh for making it an enjoyable and eventful season despite some tough results. Hopefully we can take what we've learned this year and come back even stronger for September.

V Urs



U18 Glanville Team - Tennis

The senior tennis team has had a memorable and highly competitive campaign in this year's LTA Glanville Cup (the most prestigious U18 school tournament in the UK). From the earliest qualifying rounds, the team has built momentum with excellent victories including wins against Calday Grange Grammar School and Stonyhurst College. Those performances set the tone for the season, leading to us reaching the Glanville Cup National final. The competition has 350 schools to start, with us getting a spot in the last 16.

On day 1, we suffered defeat to Merchiston School from Scotland. This was a tough fixture with their team all highly ranked in the country for under-18.

On the second day, we reset and everyone played really well in close to 35°C heat. This was against Ewell Castle School. I won my singles, but we unfortunately lost the closely

contested tie after missing out on two match tiebreaks in the doubles. This was an unfortunate way to start the finals, but both the schools we played progressed all the way to the final of the competition, highlighting the exceptional standard faced.

On day 3, we played Clifton College. V Urs and I won our singles with Z Thompson and T Kwong narrowly missing out. This meant all the eyes were on the doubles with Vish and J Cuddy battling hard getting the win, but Z Thompson and I lost in a close match tie break. So, to decide who won, it was down to a shootout (a 10-point doubles match) of which Vish and Zach were victorious. This was a defining moment of the season as the incredible shootout victory came on Z Thompsons' final appearance for the school, a fitting end to an era for him at AGSB.

We maintained our good run in day 4 managing to beat Millfield. Well done to everybody for maintaining their level even when playing one place higher in the team and getting 3 singles wins taking us to the doubles. Vish and I managed to win our doubles in dramatic fashion,

getting it done 12-10 in the match tie break. Great win for Tyron in the singles who held his own.

This meant overall, AGSB finished 13th in the country, achieving the joint second-best finish in the school's history—an outstanding accomplishment that reflects the team's resilience and high level of performance throughout the Glanville Cup.

A very Special mention must also go to Joe Spencer, who selflessly came along to the finals as assistant coach due to him being unable to play because of a knee injury. He offered great leadership and advice from the sidelines throughout the competition. He also leaves AGSB on a high.

Thank you very much to Mr Rawson for putting so much effort into organising all the fixtures and supporting us every match on our journey to the national finals. I hope we can do it all again next year. And thank you to Mrs. Haines for giving up her time to support us and look after us over the last two days in Nottingham.

G Okeke



STAFF LIST 2025-26

NAME	DEPARTMENT	CODE	RESPONSIBILITY
Mr Graeme Wright	Biology	HM	Head Master
Mr J Whiting		JW	Deputy Head (Pastoral); Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Weil	Geography	SW	Deputy Head (Academic)
Mr R Baker	Technology	BK	Head of Technology
Mr W Baker	Maths	BA	
Mrs F Bates	Learning Support Assistant	FB	
Mr L Bergin	Business: Economics	BI	
Ms J Billington	English	BG	
*+Mr D Birchall	Maths: PE	BH	Interim Asst Head (Dev)/Assoc Asst Head (Character Educ); Head of Year 8
*Mr D Birtwell	PE	BL	Head of PE (Curriculum)
*Ms S Blaize	Biology	BZ	Head of Biology/Head of KS3 Science
Mrs F Blakeley	Languages	BY	
*Mrs V Brennan	Languages	BN	Head of French
Miss E Bridge	Learning Support Assistant	EB	Y7 SEND Link
*Mr M Bromley	Geography	BM	Head of Geography
Miss M Callisto	English	CS	
*+Mr R Cammack	PE	RC	Head of Year 11
Mr W Carr	Computer Science	CR	DofE Co-Ordinator
Mrs S Chancellor	Maths	CO	KS3 Maths Co-Ordinator
Mrs E Chapman	English	CP	
Mrs R Chapman	Languages	CN	Head of German; Head of Languages
Miss F Cooke	Art	CE	Head of Art
Mrs K Crowther	Biology	CT	Outreach Co-Ordinator
Mr N Croxton	History: Politics	CX	Head of History; Politics; ITT Co-Ordinator
Mr R Cummins	Maths: Computer Science	CU	Temporary Second in Maths Department
Mr M Davies	English	DV	Head of English
*Mrs J Ding	Languages	DG	Lead Teacher of Chinese
Ms M Di Mauro	LSA/Cover Supervisor	DO	
Ms H Drake	Technology: Art	DE	
Mrs K Duffy	Learning Support Assistant	DY	Y10/Y11 SEND Link
Mr P Ellis	Languages	EL	Lead Teacher of Classics
Dr L Eyers	Chemistry	EY	
Mrs M Farrell	Learning Support Assistant	MF	Assistant SENDCo, Lead Teaching Asst; Y12/Y13 SEND Link
Ms N Farrelly	Languages	FA	
Mr A Flanagan	Chemistry	FN	
Dr I Feindt	Languages	FT	
Mr A Gallamore	Careers	AG	Head of Careers
Mr A Gathercole	Physics	GL	
Mr A Giffen	Geology: Physics	GA	House Manager (Tatton)
Mr A Gooch	Maths	GH	Timetabler/Responsibility for Activities Week
*Mrs V Gordon	Food and Nutrition	VG	
Mrs H Haines	English	HL	
+Dr Z Hepden	Philosophy & Ethics: Politics	ZH	Head of Year 13
Miss R Hildage	English	RH	Second in English Department
Mr R Hobson-Williams	Biology	WS	Assoc. Asst Head of Inclusion (SENDCo)
Miss E Jackson	Geography	JK	
Mrs L Jarratt	Music	JT	LAMDA Co-Ordinator
Mr C Kidd	Biology	KD	Head of Year 12
Mrs K Lee	Art	EE	
Mrs C Lightowler	D&T	LE	Head of Year 9
Mr J Lockwood	Music	LD	
Mr T Lowe	Philosophy & Ethics	LW	
Mrs C Maguire	History	MG	
Mrs C Mahony	English	CM	Library Co-Ordinator
Dr J Marsden	Chemistry	MD	Higher Education Officer
*Ms L Mattison	Languages	MA	Head of Spanish
Mrs B McCann	Maths	CC	Second in Maths Department
Miss J McCourt	Maths	JM	
*Mr S Meakin	PE	MK	Head of PE (Sport) and House Manager (Massey)
Mr N Mohammad	English	MH	
Mr M Monument	Music	MM	Director of Music
Mrs S Morgan-Khan	Maths	MO	House Manager (Bradbury)
Mr T Murray	Business: Economics	MR	Assistant Head; Head of Sixth Form (DDSL)
Mr S Nero	History	NO	
Mrs C Newton	Business: Economics	NW	Head of Business and Economics
*Mr G Olney	Maths	OL	
*Mr M Parker	Geology	PA	Head of Geology
Mr R Perkins	Philosophy & Ethics	PS	Head of Philosophy, Ethics & PSHE
Miss C Pickering	Learning Support Assistant	PG	Y8/Y9 SEND Link
Miss K Potter	Maths	PT	Head of Maths
Mr S Rawlings	Maths	RG	
*Mr A Rawson	PE	RW	
*Mr C Rawson	Chemistry	RN	Head of Chemistry
Mr G Reeder	Physics	RD	Head of Physics
Mr O Roberts	Chemistry	RS	
Mrs A Sacks	Biology	SK	
Mr A Sampson	Philosophy & Ethics	AS	Head of Year 10
+Mrs H Short	Maths	SH	Admissions/Induction; Head of Year 7; Dep. Child Prot. Officer/DSL
Mr C Shrewsbury-Davis	Technology	DS	
*Mr D Smith	Technology: Computer Science	SM	
Mr S Smith	Business: Economics	SI	ACE Co-Ordinator
*Mr M Smyth	PE	SE	Ass HoY 9/House Manager (Stamford)
*Mr M Soulsby	PE	SB	Assistant Head (Development)
*Dr S Squire	Physics	SQ	Head of Science
Mr M Stiles	Business: Economics	SS	
Dr V Sully	Chemistry	SY	
Mr L Suthard	Physics	LS	
Dr E Thomas	Biology	TS	Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)
Mr J Timmins	Computer Science	TM	Head of Comp Science (AGSB); Head of IT Operations (HET)
Mrs J Wallwork	Languages	WK	
Mrs A Ward	Biology	WD	
Mr P Williams	Geography	WL	
Mr P Wilkinson	Maths	PN	

Administration Team

Mrs H Armstrong	Payroll Officer
Mrs L Blann	Development Co-Ordinator
Mrs J Brennan	HET Finance Director
Mrs S Brett	HET Business Support Manager
Mrs M Brickell	Head Master's PA
*Mrs V Carpenter	Finance Analyst
Mrs O Champion	Admissions Manager
Mrs B Clift	ARR, Examinations & Cover Administrator
Mrs A Coale	Systems & Processes Administrator
Mrs R Devadiga	Reprographics Technician
Mrs S Dickerson	Admissions Officer
Mrs F Harding	Admissions Assistant
Mrs C Hotchin	Sixth Form Administrator
Mrs P Howell	Exams Officer
Mrs J Hutchinson	UCAS Co-Ordinator
Mrs J Jackson	HET Chief Finance Operating Officer
*Mrs L Jackson	Finance Analyst
*Mrs A Jolly	Attendance Administrator
Mrs J Lacon	HET Finance & Planning Manager
Mrs A Lavin	Examinations & Data Assistant
*Miss N Leitch	Receptionist
Mrs G Marson	Library Assistant
*Mrs P Mullin	Administration Assistant
Ms F Munir	Cover Supervisor
*Ms A Passey	Administration Assistant

Estates Team

Mr C Adams	Grounds Maintenance
Mr N Brown	Grounds Maintenance
Mr S Drinkwater	Grounds Maintenance
Mr P Hadwen	Assistant to Site Manager
Miss C Higginson	Assistant to Site Manager
Mr J Lacon	Compliance & Maintenance Manager
*Mr P Lee	Site Manager
Mr I Taylor	Assistant to Estates Officer
Mr S Yeates	Estates Officer

IT Technicians

Mr A Alsaadi	Network Manager
Mr J Hawksworth	ICT Technician
Mr B Moss	ICT Technician
Mr P Simpson	ICT Technician

Science Technicians

Dr J Ferguson	Science Technician (Lower School Biology)
*Miss O Frankland	Science Technician (Chemistry) & Health & Safety Co-Ordinator
* Mr M Gilks	Science Technician (Physics)
Mrs H Sharples	Science Technician (Lower School Biology)
*Miss R Watts	Science Technician (Biology)

Technology Technicians

Mrs S Embleton	Technician (Food & Art)
Mr S Naish	Technician (D&T)

Peripatetic Music Teachers

Miss C Atack	Saxophone & Flute
Mr A Bold	Drums
Mrs Z Burke	Cello, Double Base & Music Theory
Ms E Burkhardt	Saxophone & Flute
Mr A Dineen	Electric Guitar & Bass Guitar
Mr R Harold	Jazz Piano
Mr N Hodges	Violin, Viola
Mr J Hulme	Upper Brass
Mr H Lewis	Lower Brass
Mrs S Lewis	Woodwind
Mr B McNamee	Vocal
Ms H Peller	Bassoon
Ms B Reynolds	Classical Guitar
Mrs H Tongue	Violin

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