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# ANNUAL REVIEW

2024 - 2025



# STARTING GRID

A Word From the Head Master	Page 4	ISOC	Page 31	Music. Hitting All the Right Notes	Page 53
Staff Leavers	Page 5	Christian Union	Page 34	The Year in English	Page 55
New Transfers	Page 13	HSJS	Page 35	Cipher Challenge	Page 57
Head Prefect	Page 17	History and Politics	Page 37	The Year in Physics	Page 58
Overall House Review	Page 19	Geography Review	Page 39	The Year in Chemistry	Page 59
Bradbury House Review	Page 20	Philosophy Feature	Page 41	Geology Review	Page 61
Massey House Review	Page 21	German Review	Page 43	PE - Athletics	Page 63
Stamford House Review	Page 23	French Immersion Trip 2025	Page 44	PE - Basketball	Page 64
Tatton House Review	Page 25	Chinese Review	Page 45	PE - Football	Page 65
Checkpoint. Head Master Interview	Page 27	Translation Bee	Page 47	PE - Hockey	Page 69
Anti-Racism Review	Page 30	Biology Success	Page 48	PE - Rugby	Page 72
		Sixth Form Art	Page 51	PE - Table Tennis	Page 76
				Staff Leavers	Page 78





# HEAD MASTER'S BROADCAST

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It is always a pleasure to provide an introduction for our End of Year Review, and this latest edition perfectly captures the vivid, vibrant, and varied life at AGSB. Much like a Formula 1 season, the year has been fast-paced, full of high-performance moments, and driven by the passion and precision of our school community. Warmest congratulations go to our Editors — Ehan S, Ahmed S, Ryan S, Owais B, and Tosin A — and the wider publication committee for compiling such an engaging and comprehensive account of the year gone by.

In August, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of our Year 13 students — the Class of 2024 — whose outstanding A-level results and university destinations reflected their dedication and hard work. We thank them for their enthusiastic contributions to all aspects of school life and for embodying the warm, friendly, and purposeful ethos that defines AGSB.

The 2024–2025 academic year has once again been remarkable for our co-curricular programme. Our music department delivered an ambitious and eclectic calendar of performances across all three terms, including House Music, The Session Orchestra, and Battle of the Bands. In drama, our production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was a resounding success, showcasing the talents of our performers, backstage crew, and orchestra.

On the sports front, our teams achieved notable success at both regional and national levels. Highlights include a national quarter-final appearance by the U15 cricket team, a fourth-place finish in the national finals for the U13 table tennis squad, and a national title for our U14 tennis team. Our first chess team also maintained its impressive record, reaching the national finals for the fourth consecutive year.

Co-curricular life at AGSB continues to flourish, with



students actively participating in a wide array of lunchtime clubs and societies. Special recognition goes to our Model United Nations (MUN) team, who once again excelled at conferences across the North-West.

It has been a truly memorable year at AGSB — one marked by exceptional accomplishments from our students, staff, and alumni. As you turn the pages of this Review, I hope you enjoy reliving a year that raced by with the energy, teamwork, and spirit worthy of any F1 grid.

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who continues to make AGSB such a dynamic, diverse, and uplifting community.

G.A. Wright  
Head Master



# TEAM LEAVERS

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**Terence Ayebare -  
2019**

**L**ook up the name Ayebare in a dictionary and it translates to polymath and gentleman. When he applied to the school in 2019 his colourful CV intrigued me; BSc Electrical Engineering (typical qualification for a Maths teacher), Bachelor and Master of Music (I hadn't seen that before) and part-time chorus member of Opera North. He had my attention. Unfortunately asking someone to recite Verdi's La traviata in an interview is probably unprofessional, although I was tempted.

Mr Ayebare is an outstanding classroom practitioner, observing his teaching is an honour; how he engages his pupils and places them in charge of their learning. His love of Pure Mathematics is apparent and his STEP club for sixth formers is very well attended, with pupils meeting to discuss and problem solve. There are many pupils past and present who have benefited from the time he has devoted to mentoring them through their university entrance exams.

Mr Ayebare has not just had an impact on his Maths pupils, he was a dedicated Head of Year, always there to listen and sing his support. He is generous with his time and always eager to debate Maths teaching and learning with his colleagues, sharing his rich knowledge and innovative approach.

We wish him the best of luck at Manchester Grammar School; the pupils will be lucky to have him.

K Potter

**S**arah joined us 15 years ago as a fresh faced and enthusiastic PGCE graduate.

I remember her resilience during her interview lesson as the carefully crafted plans collapsed around her due to tech issues. It was clear then that we had a good one on our hands.

Sarah has been (and I'm sure will be in the future) a remarkable teacher of chemistry. Every 'i' is dotted, and every 't' is crossed. There are hundreds of students who have achieved their ambitions and gone on to bigger and better things as a result of her unstinting efforts, outstanding teaching and attention to detail. Her skill at identifying the owner of unnamed work from just their handwriting is a skill that impresses every time. Her strike rate is near to 100%.

In her time at AGSB, Sarah has become something of a Y7 form teacher expert. I think she has been in the Y7 team for the majority of her time here. It is a skilled job to get a group of slightly scared and shy 11-year-olds from a wide variety of feeder schools to gel into a group of friends. It may be that she really enjoys trips to Bushcraft or PGL (I've heard from my Y7 group that her moves at the silent disco this year were something to behold), or more likely it is that Mrs Short won't let her leave the Y7 team.

Sarah took on the role as Head of Lower School Science and has made it her own. Lessons that had been allowed to grow stale were reinvigorated and brought up to date. This is very important as it is the first formal laboratory experience for the majority of our Year 7 students. The fact that so many students take A level sciences at AGSB can be partly ascribed to the initial enjoyment and engagement with the subject

that Sarah and her team have worked hard to achieve.

Sarah leaves to enjoy some time away from the classroom to recharge and reassess her future plans. She has been a great friend and colleague, and we will be very sorry to lose her.

C Rawson



**Sarah Hill - 2010**



# TEAM LEAVERS

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**H**aving spent a number of years working as a computer programmer and then project manager at United Biscuits; Gill took the plunge and came to work as Sixth Form Officer in 2006. This was a golden year of recruitment, with Mrs Chapman, Dr Sully, Mrs Mahoney and Mrs Weil all joining in the same year. Unfortunately, that same year Mr Gartside had a limited pool of applicants for the post of Head of Business Studies and Economics, so he had to hire me. Little did we know that in just 8 years' time Gill and I would be sharing every hour of every day in the same small office.

The students and Sixth Form team have really benefited from her care and her energy over the past twenty years. They have also benefited from her singular focus on looking to improve things in the Sixth Form and her organisation skills that have enabled two Heads of Sixth Form (Mr Peason and Mr Murray) to focus on the behaviour and achievement of 400 students, safe in the knowledge that Gill had their back and things would get done. One of these things being the timely submission of UCAS applications, of which Gill will have compiled and sent off over 4,000. Every year I conduct an exit survey with students and every year there is really no competition as to which staff member gets the most praise – It is always Gill hands down.

Where Gill came into her own with the Sixth Form was in working with students in creating events in aid of Chad's Challenges; including Bake Off's, Fashion Shows and Casino Nights. Over the years, Gill and Michelle Mulholland raised over £100,000 for Chad's Challenges – in honour of Chad Mulholland a former Sixth Form student at AGSB. These events provided a real taste of leadership and event management to our students both in the Sixth Form and lower down the school; with Junior Chad's challenges.

Never one to sit back, Gill has started to follow in the footsteps of her cricket-mad husband by joining her local Ladies Cricket Team. Bowdon Vale Cricket Club is lucky to have her as a member of their burgeoning team; she has already started to organise fundraising events and has been known to catch the odd ball.

We wish Gill a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

T Murray



**Gill Williamson -  
2006**

**W**e were very sad to say farewell to Ms Sawamura earlier this year, as she left her role as a Learning Support Assistant at AGSB to embark on an exciting new adventure with a non-profit organisation in the property and regeneration industry.

Ms Sawamura was exceptional in her role as LSA and her work with Year 10 and Year 11 students was particularly valuable. She also gave up countless lunchtimes to run Japanese Club, helping students across all age groups and proficiency levels to share her passion for Japanese language and culture. Ms Sawamura is missed by staff, students and parents alike, but we wish her all the very best for her future.

A Cathcart



**Georgina  
Sawamura - 2021**



**Jonathan Scott -  
2021**

**J**on Scott joined AGSB 4 years ago in September 2021, since then he has worked as a dedicated and successful member of the Physics department. His exam group results have been excellent, and he has been well respected by the students, as demonstrated by the range of cards and thank you 's he receives each year. He also used his football coaching training to coach AGSB football for 2 years. Before retraining as a teacher Mr Scott was an aerospace engineer for 12 years and he has brought a great deal of hands-on examples into his lessons, really bringing the subject to life and inspiring many of his pupils to look more closely at a career in engineering. He leaves us to relocate to the South and to take on a role at The Bishop Stortford High School. All at AGSB wish him all the best in the years to come.

S Squire



# TEAM LEAVERS

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**A**fter ten dedicated years at AGSB, we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Clutterbuck, a truly outstanding member of our Business and Economics department. Throughout her time here, she has inspired countless students with her passion for Business, her encyclopaedic knowledge of companies and industries, and her ability to make complex key concepts accessible and engaging.

Mrs Clutterbuck has been instrumental in the success of our GCSE Economics and A-Level Business courses. Her experience as an examiner and marker has brought exceptional insight into the classroom, allowing her students to understand not just the content, but how to succeed in exams with clarity and precision. Her guidance has empowered so many to achieve beyond what they thought possible.

As an absolute professional, she has been a cornerstone of the department—always generous with her time, wisdom, and support. Her departure leaves a significant gap, both professionally and personally. Her calm presence, dry wit, and unwavering commitment will be deeply missed by myself, her colleagues and students alike.

Although she insists, she won't be back, we very much hope she'll drop in to see us.

We wish her the happiest and most well-earned retirement.

C Newton



**Mandy  
Clutterbuck -  
2015**

**A**fter a high-flying career in industry, Gill Gordon joined the world of teaching and eventually AGSB's Languages Department. Over the past 13 years and after roles in several other local secondary schools—she has become a beloved fixture here.

Colleagues and students know Gill for her industrious approach and her meticulous attention to detail—whether teaching, marking, or crafting lesson resources. Her warmth, patience, and nurturing approach ensure no student is left behind. Under her guidance, pupils thrive. Gill's lessons are characterised by her endeavours to leave no stone unturned in teaching her classes. Her endeavours to embed the learning and support every pupil with such a warm, caring and nurturing approach are endless and pupils have been very fortunate under her tutelage.

Gill is well known for having previously led the annual Year 7 Spelling Bee, spanning French, German, and Spanish. Thanks to her dedication, students have competed at Liverpool and Cambridge universities, achieving both regional and national success. The Spelling Bee has become one of the Department's calendar highlights. September was always a whirlwind for Gill—launching the Spelling Bee and orchestrating European Day of Languages, complete with classroom activities and the ever-popular "hat competition." It is always great to see the cultural creativity she inspires.

Gill's commitment extended beyond the classroom. She enjoyed the Sixth Form German trip to Berlin and was a steadfast support during the French Exchange with Saintes—earning heartfelt appreciation from both staff and students.

Whether teaching French or German, she brings passion, precision, and personality to every lesson.

As Gill embarks on her retirement, we will miss her—but we're excited for her next chapter: days filled with bridge games, gardening, travel, and other leisurely pursuits.

V Brennan



**Gill Gordon - 2012**



# TEAM LEAVERS

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**M**rs Lord, Karen, joined us here in 2004 to manage the reprographics department – not an easy job as it not only involved sorting out the temperamental photocopiers but also managing the even more temperamental users of these machines. She handled us all with aplomb – disentangling jammed paper, ensuring we had our copies for the lesson (probably starting in just a few minutes!) but also easing our tensions with carefully deployed chat. However, the school soon realised that Karen had formidable organisational capabilities.

These were particularly invaluable to myself in the management of the Year 10 work experience programme. Karen built a database of all the placements in the halcyon pre-Unifrog days; she inputted all the information from our paper-based system into the database allowing me to search for student's experiences quickly and accurately. These same skills were also deployed in the Covid pandemic on the numerous logistical challenges that the government presented to the school at short notice. Karen was also a dedicated and hard-working staff governor – she was an articulate and persuasive voice for the support staff, in particular.

Over Karen's 21 years of service to AGSB she has always been hard working and very organised, as well as being warm, friendly and approachable in her manner; a great combination of qualities for dealing with both students and staff alike. We will miss her greatly next year, especially myself during those dark November evenings of the work experience parents' meeting, when we were both waiting patiently for the Coleman Hall to fill up. We all wish her well and for a long, enjoyable and toner-free retirement.

E Thomas



**Karen Lord -  
2004**

**A**fter eleven years of outstanding service, we bid a fond farewell to Ali Cathcart — a colleague and senior leader, who has left an indelible mark on AGSB.

Ali joined the school with a degree in German Studies, but it was as a teacher of History that she flourished. Her lessons were full of creativity and challenge, earning the admiration of her students. It wasn't long before Ali's talents extended beyond the classroom. As Head of Year, she proved a natural pastoral leader — compassionate, insightful, and deeply committed to the welfare of her students.

In 2017, Ali took on the new role of Head of Outreach, bringing to life her vision of widening access for disadvantaged pupils. What began as a modest four-week programme grew, under her guidance, into Horizons — a 12-week initiative that now involves all five Trafford consortium grammar schools and will welcome 60 pupils in 2025. This transformative project stands as a testament to Ali's drive, compassion, and unwavering belief in the power of education to change lives.

Ali's appointment as Assistant Head – Inclusion in 2020 saw her further shape the culture of the school. Under her leadership, Horizons, support for Pupil Premium and Bursary students, and SEND provision all flourished. Her impact on the lives of countless students — both seen and unseen — has been profound.

We say goodbye to an outstanding educator and leader, whose legacy at AGSB will be long remembered. Ali is a great loss to the teaching profession, but we wish her every success in whatever the future holds. She will be greatly missed by us all.

G.A Wright



**Alison Cathcart -  
2014**



# OUR NEWEST TRANSFERS

AGSB's New Trasfers have arrived on the race tracks with a lovely start! Lets meet the crew:



Name	Mr J Whiting	Ms Brindle	Miss Bridge	Mrs K Duffy
Place of Birth	Manchester	South London	Manchester	Dorchester, Dorset
Department	Science: Biology	English	Learning Support	SEND
Favourite Sport	Football	Rugby Union	Football	Showjumping
Favourite F1 Driver	Nigel Mansell	None - it's a tedious sport!	Nigel Mansell	I'm afraid I don't know the names of any current ones. My brother works for Aston Martin F1 though, so whoever drives for them had better be my favourites.
Favourite Car	Classic Mini - Austin Cooper S	1960s Jaguar E-type, ideally racing green	Golf GTI Evo4	I like French cars.
What was your first driving experience like?	Great - I love driving and enjoy a bit of (amateur) mechanics in my spare time	I started learning on the mean streets of Lancashire, gave up, moved to a city, and only passed this year.	Someone crashed into the back of me!	Awful. Let's just say I'm not a natural.
Favourite thing about AGBS?	The culture and history of the school	I've gone for 2 things: the students' enthusiasm for knowledge and the view across the field on a sunny morning.	My Form	Everyone I've met has a good sense of humour.
Any embarrassing moments?	Many. None I'd like to share	My Students seeing me while I was on my driving lessons, especially when trying to park.	Being driven out of school in an ambulance after I fell down the stairs playing Tig.	Loads. That's why I'm pleased that everyone has a sense of humour.
Any fun facts?	I've a geeky Interest in Indian Hill Railway documentaries.	Я немного говорю по-русски.	I'm learning to play the Bass!	I studied five languages but don't test me on them!





Name	Ms Billington	Jenny Brennan	Mr Shrewsbury-Davis
Place of Birth	Wandsworth	Evesham	Shrewsbury-Shropshire
Department	English	Finance	Design & Technology
Favourite Sport	Cricket or tennis to watch; running, cycling, swimming, triathlon to participate in. I love paddleboarding and getting out on the water too.	As a spectator I love to watch Lacrosse and Football.	Cycling / Mtb
Favourite F1 Driver	I'm a cycling fan, although I do like the film 'Rush' about the rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda.	No idea!!	Ayrton Senna
Favourite Car	Bikes over cars any day - better for your health, the environment and your bank balance!	Mini Cooper (I think they are such an iconic little car)	Wiesmann Roadster MF5
What was your first driving experience like?	My first experience of driving was on a tractor in Dorset where I grew up! I didn't drive a car until I was 33.	harder than I thought (it was in an old mini which were quite temperamental in the 90s)	I owned a tatty van used for carting around cattle feed...it was a shed and constantly broke down (Morris Marina)
Favourite thing about AGSB?	The students and staff. Someone makes me laugh or smile in almost every lesson.	the fantastic team of staff	Respect for everyone skilled department
Any embarrassing moments?	Falling off my bike during morning rush hour on the south side of Battersea Bridge while slick City commuters flowed smoothly around me. I wasn't even moving when I fell - I just lost my balance and toppled over while waiting for the traffic lights to change.	Sending a message to someone that was about them and not meant for them....it was a complementary message thank goodness but still mortifying	I once drove miles for an interview before realising I had forgot my trousers; I was wearing shorts at the time... I found a local charity shop with minutes to spare the only thing that fitted me was a pair of bright green tartan trousers ...I took the risk and thankfully got the job ...creating many smiles and laughs both in the interview and down the high street.
Any fun facts?	I was selected for the GB synchronised swimming squad when I was 14. I'd only joined the club a few months earlier for a bit of fun with some friends and then I got 'talent spotted' at a national competition. After a long chat with my father I decided that I had too many other exciting opportunities on offer to commit to spending hours each day upside down underwater in training!	When I was little I was part of a team that was in the Guinness Book of Records for building the worlds largest sandcastle (we didn't hold the record for long...)	I love the outdoors and wildlife



# HEAD PREFECT

## 7 YEARS ON...

**M**y first memory of AGSB was sitting my entrance exam in one of the maths rooms, escorted to the room by my older brother. Back then, the thought that I would one day be escorting new year sixes to their exams never crossed my mind, let alone the thought that I would be leaving the school. The time has flown by, but I most definitely look back fondly on my time here.

Firstly, I'm incredibly grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of all the teaching staff who work extremely hard ensure the best education for us. I never would have expected to enjoy writing about the use of pathetic fallacy in Jekyll and Hyde, but the passion and clarity which Ms Clark provided got me there. I eventually found my passions lay in the sciences, primarily maths, physics and economics. Across my subjects, I enjoyed questioning and discussing problems with some of the biggest names in the business such as Speedy Lee and Mr Ayebare just to name a couple. I'm so lucky to have been truly inspired by my teachers, from Speedy Lee turning us into serial blueberry consumers to Mr Murray's economics "nuggets".

To break away from academia, I always enjoyed partaking in sport, representing both Bradbury and the school. I'd like to think my sporting career at AGSB was moderately successful (although my short-lived basketball career might suggest otherwise) but I most enjoyed being part of the football and cricket teams, winning silverware on a few occasions. That said, I've also contributed to a number of bottle-jobs, so I hope the future footballers and cricketers can make up for my shortfalls. I'm delighted to see such promising cricketers through the lower school, and I wish the best to all the future sports teams.

Alongside sport, music has long been one of the school's

key strengths and I'm glad I've been able to contribute. The session orchestra concert in year 10 will always be one of my favourite school memories. In the dimly lit Coleman Hall, from the back of the 2nd violin section, I appreciated how awesome the occasion really was, especially our rendition of Let Her Go by Passenger. Alongside the established music department, it has been amazing to see the blossoming of drama at AGSB. After watching "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" this year, I have no doubt that drama at AGSB will continue to grow and honestly, I'm a little disappointed I can't be a part of it.

I'm extremely grateful to have found my community and other students to connect with and this is what made my school life so enjoyable. As such, I'm glad to see the school has developed into a more inclusive, accepting place, making it easier for each student to find their own community. I've seen the LGBTQ+ society, Student Welfare committee and the anti-racism ambassadors make strides towards making the school more inclusive and I'm glad to have played my role in through assemblies and the student parliament. After speaking to the incumbent Senior Prefect team, I'm sure this trend will continue.

In my eyes, the most enjoyable aspect of my life at AGSB has always been extracurriculars and I'm glad to have experienced the dawn of the house system, which added countless new opportunities. Every year I have attended the blockbuster event, the House Shout, it has never failed to disappoint. I'm always reminded of the wonderful musical ability at AGSB but also the sheer number of keen students, taking the initiative to participate and co-ordinate their sections. This is what I love most about AGSB. Seeing students take matters into their own hands, whether that's organising their own choir or organising an entire student event. It's students like these that do amazing things for the



world, like raising over £10,000 for those in need through the Asian Food Sale, or Utsav, not to mention the awesome experience they provide for the students at AGSB. This is an AGSB I am proud to have been a part of; where each student is willing to take the initiative, be involved, and contribute to making a better place.

It's a weird feeling to leave the place which has been such a large part of my life for the last 7 years. But I couldn't ask for anything more from AGSB, and I'm sure it will continue to develop and provide for all the students fortunate enough to attend. To all reading, this ends the academic year of 2024/25, but I wish you all the best on your new beginnings in the coming year.

A Jois



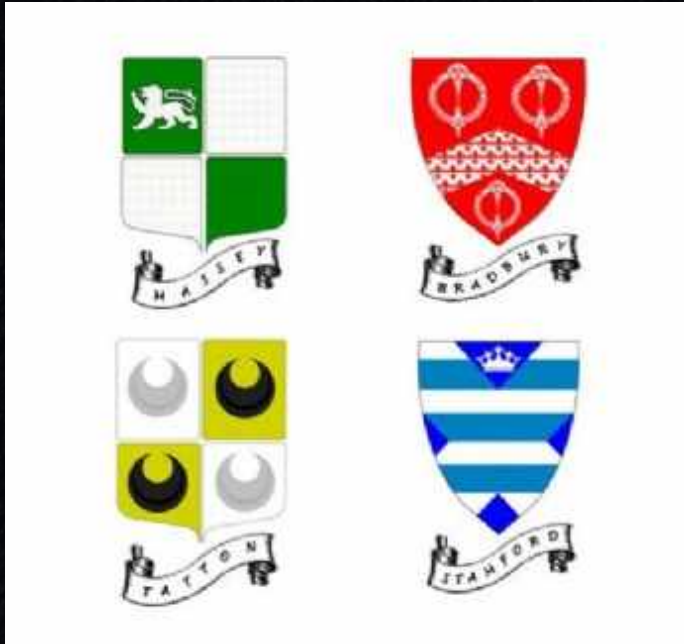


# OVERALL HOUSE REVIEW

This academic year has seen yet another roaring success for our House System at AGSB. With vibrant participation, spirited competition, and a wealth of house pride, students have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into a vast range of events. From Cross Country and Countdown to Public Speaking, Debating, and both Summer and Winter Sports Festivals—our calendar has been packed with highlights.

We've seen passionate performances in University Challenge, paper aeroplane contests, football tournaments, chess matches, the Geography Quiz, indoor cricket, Tug of War, and the Music Solo Competition. And of course, the showstoppers: House Shout, House Drama, and the ever-popular Sports Day.

As is tradition, the final house results will be unveiled on the first day back in September.



As we look forward to them, we want to take this opportunity to thank all those who make the house system such a cornerstone of life at AGSB.

A huge thank you to our dedicated house sponsors, our tireless house managers, and the entire student leadership team—including year house leaders and senior prefects. Most of all, thank you to every student who took part—your bravery, enthusiasm, and team spirit are what make the house system so special.

The house system continues to thrive as a source of friendly competition, underpinned by mutual respect and camaraderie. It forges meaningful connections between year groups and among peers, creating lasting memories and lifelong friendships. Whether through House Shout rehearsals or the thrill of Sports Day, the bonds built here are the heartbeat of our community.

Every year, the standard rises—and that is a testament to the extraordinary dedication, creativity, and effort of everyone involved.

Congratulations to all. Good luck for the final results—and well done!

M Soulsby

# BRADBURY HOUSE REVIEW

What a great year we have had! We started the year by saying a big 'goodbye and thank you' to the wonderful Mr Smith, who has helped shape the house system from its reintroduction to the school over the last few years. B Clark was our Bradbury House captain, putting in a lot of time into the public speaking competitions, amongst other events, and W Johnson, as the Deputy Captain. Both got stuck into the many house events we are lucky to have at AGSB, and they have led our house to some great successes!

We started the year with the House Leaders lunch, where leaders did a bridge building competition, which Bradbury won in terms of style. This was a great opportunity for leaders to get to know each other.

The House Shout, as one of the big three events, was a fantastic night and all that were involved had a great time. We are looking to improve on our third-place overall ranking for this next year!

There have also been many other successful musical performances this year, including a second place ranking for the House Drama, another of the big events, with the truly humbling performances of the Duologue and Monologue pieces by D Patil & J Oates and G Braddock, respectively, as well as the musical theatre piece.

There were fantastic performances for the Public Speaking competitions, with a win and star performers for the Bradbury teams in Year 10 and 11. As well as the House Debating that have taken place, with a win and star performer in Year 13 and Year 11.

We have enjoyed lots of sporting successes, notably with the Year 7 Winter Sports Festival, winning three out of four events, Year 9&10 cross country, Year 7&9 Football. Bradbury have won the Year 9 Chess, Paper Aeroplane competition, the 'Business' of Christmas Quiz.

There is still the big summer sports festival and sports day events to come in the next few weeks, as well as many other smaller events! Remember, get involved in as much as you can and support your friends and house too! I look forward to another fantastic year for the house system for 2025-26.

S Morgan-Khan





# MASSEY HOUSE REVIEW

**M**assey House has once again cemented its place at the top of AGSB's house system with a year filled with outstanding achievements and unforgettable moments. Continuing their incredible run of form, Massey made it a hat-trick of victories on Sports Day, winning the event for the third consecutive year. The determination, energy, and unity shown across all year groups were nothing short of inspiring, as every competitor contributed vital points to secure the win. The team's relentless drive and supportive spirit truly captured the essence of what makes Massey House so special.

However, Massey's success wasn't limited to the sports field. In a remarkable display of creativity and talent, Massey also took the top prize in this year's House Drama competition. This triumph was made possible by the superb efforts of T Ariyo, whose performance and leadership were central



to the production's success. His dedication and dramatic flair captivated audiences and judges alike, earning well-deserved recognition for both him and the house. We wish Tosin the very best as he is promoted to the post of Head Prefect. It is a massive honour to have a Massey student take up the post, an achievement we look on with pride.

Beyond these flagship events, Massey continued to impress across a wide range of competitions. The house claimed victory in the Year 7 Chess Tournament, showing off not just physical but also intellectual strength, while also triumphing in both the Year 8 and Year 9 Winter Sports Festivals, demonstrating consistency and breadth across age groups and sporting disciplines. In the performing arts, Massey delivered a powerful performance in the House Shout – Unison competition, where their musicality and teamwork saw them rise above the other houses to take first place.

Academic excellence was also on full display, with Year 12 and Year 13 students from Massey winning the University

Challenge, showcasing quick thinking and impressive general knowledge under pressure. Meanwhile, innovation and collaboration came to the fore in the House Leaders Bridge Building Competition, where Massey's team engineered a clever and resilient design to claim the win.

Central to all of this success is the Massey motto: "A team above all, and above all a team." It's a phrase that perfectly sums up the unity, commitment, and spirit that run through every year group and event. Many thanks to all the year group leaders that have worked tirelessly this year.

A Kumar and K Sharma (Year 7), Year 8 A Jaiswal and M Noman (Year 8), V Saravan and K Omer (Year 9), H Odell and A Janjua (Year 10), M Gadalla and A Behzad (Year 11), T Ariyo and A Renjit (Year 12), House Captain Piyush Kumar and Vice-Captain Barney Weeden.

With Kavi and Marley stepping up as House Captain and Vice-Captain next year, the future looks incredibly bright for Massey—though perhaps not so much for Bradbury, Stamford and Tatton.

S Meakin





# STAMFORD HOUSE REVIEW

The year commenced with Cross Country - an opportunity to earn valuable house points, with 50% of points awarded for the number of participants. Congratulations to year 8, 11, 12 and 13 who were victorious. September also seen the launch of Public Speaking for year 13, with Stamford claiming first place for their preparation and ability to articulate their arguments.

In October, year 12 continued the success in Public Speaking for their ability to provide current short-term solutions on a relevant topic. Strong performances from year 12 and 13 students, combined with many star performers from years 7-11 throughout the year means that Stamford placed in first place for Public Speaking. The prestigious House Shout launched in October and provided 40 students with the opportunity to showcase their musical talent and commitment to Stamford. Despite



strong competition from the other houses, Stamford were able to retain the title to remain unbeaten! A huge achievement and a strong start to the year.

Year 10 dominated in the Winter Sports competition showcasing their sporting prowess in table tennis, badminton, rugby and hockey, claiming first place in each event and consequently overall. In the popular and competitive house football, Stamford were overall winners in years 9, 10 and 11.

Stamford have experienced large amounts of success in chess. Well done to the representatives from years 10, 11, 12 and 13 who all were crowned champions.

It has been a successful year for Stamford in a variety of events. It has been even more pleasing to see so many students committed to representing Stamford with pride. 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 year 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 awarded the opportunity to represent Stamford.

M Smyth





# TATTON HOUSE REVIEW

Another year has passed for Tatton (and for everyone else) of innovation, charisma and extravaganza, the three simple words which sum up our house to a "T". Speaking of "T", our minds may float to trophies, well, for that, I can say, we have come close: one more willing participant and a dodgy decision by the adjudicator was all that stood between us having our hands on the Sports Day and House Shout awards respectively. Now if that isn't incentive to sign up for more events, I really don't know what it.

Overall, this year has been very promising, starting with our newest members in Year 7 clinching first place in the House Cross Country, congratulations Alex S, followed by Jack B's standout 1st place performance in the Countdown challenge, and finally the MFL hat award once again to start off this year strong. 3/3, a great start!

Now, onto the first major competition: House Shout. A classic David and Goliath tale between us and Stamford. Just like David, we had multiple setbacks, even being forced to change out our chosen song for the main "shout", and just like how David stuck with his trusty slingshot, we stuck with our traditions and kept it as flamboyant and with as much flair as always; after a great performance by both our ensemble and choral harmony the fate of the trophy laid upon the adjudicator's thought on the performance of our Minions. And controversially to everyone, 3rd place was given. Now overall this was massive improvement seeing we were so close to stealing away the coveted trophy from Stamford (minions' joke, get it?) and it leaves a great foundation for us to build upon.

Christmas approached bringing with it Winter Sports where we saw each of our year groups on podium positions. Unfortunately, none of them was 1st place, but a strong performance, though looking at the multitude of talented sportsmen across the house, we are in a strong position for the future years. Our younger years kept doing everyone proud, with our Year 7 and 8s achieving 2nd and



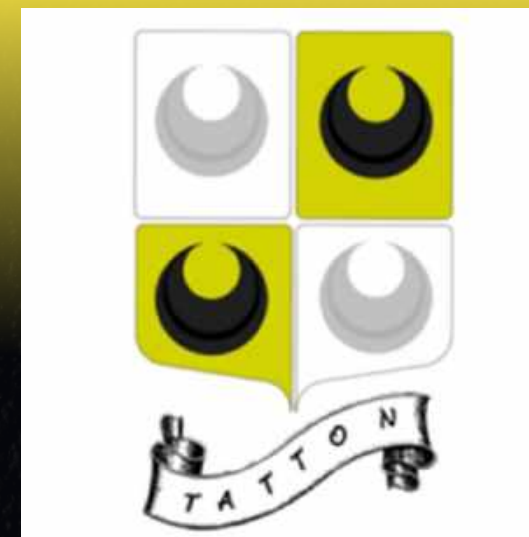
1st respectively in the Christmas Quiz.

This put pressure on our sixth form to perform in University Challenge at the turn of the year, resulting in the Year 13 to achieve a school record of an impressive 5 points (to put into context, the winners achieved 155). We wish our Year 13s well on their future ventures and they have left an excellent example for all of us in various regards, just not in the University Challenge (this is their only record; let's try not to break it please).

Another major event then closely followed in the form of the House Drama competition, with many willing and eager to partake in our rendition of Alladin with a twist, leaving us with quite a few more genies than Will Smith's live action portrayal. Again, our innovation shone through, but once again not as appreciated we believe it should and let's not ponder too long over the final placements, but huge well done to Kevin, Seb and Rory for stepping up to perform the daunting monologue and duologues.

As of writing this article we have two events to prepare for: Sports Day 2025 and House Shout 2026. We've been through a rollercoaster this year, emotionally and literally on the leaderboards, and one thing about rollercoasters are that they made to be exciting, just has our journey. And after getting off a rollercoaster, you feel the thrill to go again, and I hope you all will feel this thrill and embark with us on a fresh journey in the next year.

L Wei





**A**fter 7 years as Head Master, Mr Wright was keen to sit down with us, reflect on his position so far and outline his vision for the future. We sat down in his study to have a chat about what this checkpoint in his AGSB career means to him:

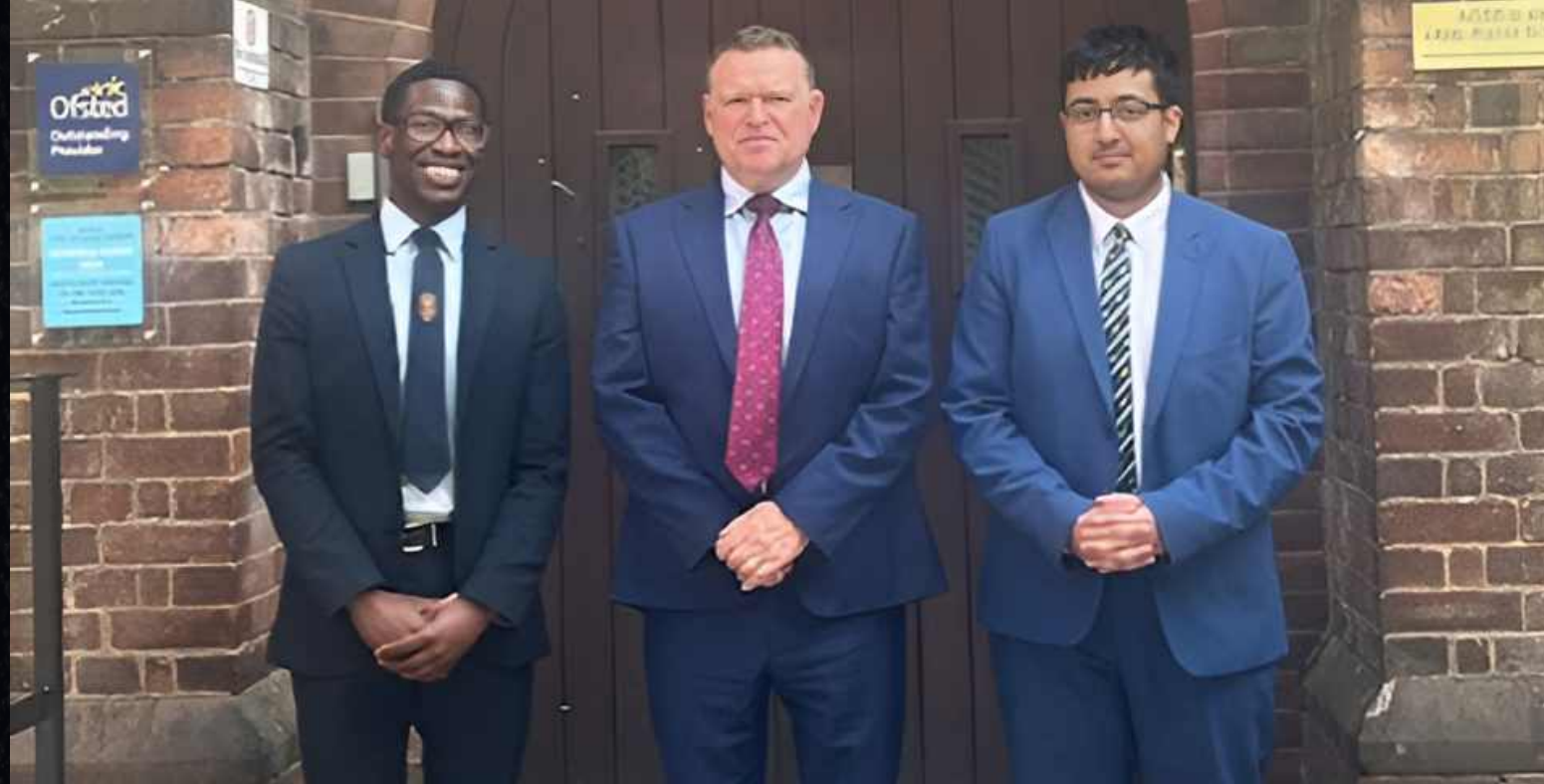
**AS & TA:** "You have now been Head Master at the school for seven years. What change has occurred during those seven years and what are you most proud of?"

**HM:** "Well, I don't think the job of a Head is necessarily to come in and make whole school changes, especially in an outstanding school such as AGSB. So, my plan when I started in the role back in September 2018 was to get 'under the skin' of the school and understand it as fully as possible, in order to make it even better.

I believe that any school Head is a custodian of the ethos and values of the school they lead, but it is certainly the case that all schools need to evolve and develop.

So, in answer to your question, there are four main areas of school development that I am most proud of: AGSB is rightly known for its high academic standards and therefore, it is extremely pleasing that results in GCSE and A levels have improved over the last few years. We are currently in the top 25 of all maintained schools in the UK, and in terms of value added (Progress 8) at GCSE, we are 11th in the country. These results are testament to our hard-working students and excellent teaching and support staff.

I'm delighted with the evolution of the Horizons Outreach Program. What began as a four-week 11 plus familiarisation



course back in 2019 has expanded year on year and now involves all grammar schools in the Trafford Consortium. This summer, 60 students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium will be taking part in a 12-week program to support them and their families as they prepare for the Trafford grammar school entrance exam. My message has always been clear, "if you are talented enough, there should never be any barriers in gaining a place at a grammar school in Trafford."

The Sports for All - Making a Difference Fundraising Campaign (2022-23) raised over £700,000 to improve sporting facilities for all students. The implementation phase of this campaign is almost complete, and the work done to improve our pitches and facilities has been revolutionary. This was a tough campaign which was delayed on a few occasions by the pandemic, however, thanks to the generosity of Parents and Alumni, it was a great success.

And finally, I believe the introduction of the AGSB House

System has benefited the school in a number of ways. Developing on what was already an excellent co-curricular programme, students now have a plethora of additional activities to choose from the House event program and there are now leadership positions within the House System from Year 7 to 13."

**AS & TA:** "Great, we definitely agree. Focussing now on the student body, how has the student experience evolved at AGSB during the past few years?"

**HM:** "I think this school provides an outstanding education for our students both in and out of the classroom.

As a large, multi-ethnic school, we have also placed diversity and inclusion at the heart of everything we do, so I would hope that all students arriving at school each morning feeling known, valued and cared for.

The most important thing for me is that all students at AGSB experience a truly holistic education with a strong focus on

academics, sports and the arts, while also developing and nurturing character traits for the mid-21st Century."

**AS & TA:** "We may only have a year left, but I am sure future generations of AGSB students will have an even better experience. Moving towards our facilities, the school site has evolved a great deal over the last 30 years. What are the plans for the future?"

**HM:** "Well, we have seen considerable development across the site over the last 7 years. The new English block located in the heart of the school was completed in January 2022 and has provided us with nine state of the art classrooms and a new library. The Coleman Hall has been refurbished and now has amazing sound and light system (funded by our amazing PFA). As mentioned earlier, we have also seen extensive improvements to our sport facilities.

Moving forward, we now have planning permission for a much-needed school reception building. Work will hopefully begin in June 2026. The next major project will likely be the building of a Music and Performing Arts centre. However, this project may well not come to fruition for a number of years due to the financial constraints that we are operating in."

**AS & TA:** "Looking ahead, what have you got planned for the next few years?"

**HM:** "A key strategic objective for next year is to gain the ACE (Association for Character Education) Character Education kitemark. As Martin Luther King, Jr. stated "Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

This project aims to ask students to focus on a set of character virtues that will prove key in their development through AGSB and beyond. Our vision is to ensure that building 'Character' is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that helping young people become kind, resilient, and responsible citizens is just as important as academic success. Our mission is to prepare students not only to succeed in school but to thrive in life."



# CHECKPOINT CONT.

**AS & TA:** "Finally, with external examinations preparing to move to a digital format in the next few years, how do you think this shift to a digital era will impact the student experience?"

**HM:** Absolutely, the AGSB Digital Strategy is one of the key objectives within our current Developing Excellence strategic plan that can be found [here](#).

From September 2026, we will move to a Digital 6th Form and a 'one to one' device system. Our aim is to blend the best of digital and traditional teaching and learning, to develop the most engaging lessons possible. By harnessing the possibilities which digital devices provide, our students' learning can extend far beyond the physical classroom.

When it comes to use of technology, each department will develop different ways to make the most of the opportunities it provides; one size won't fit all. But the Microsoft 365 suite will be central to what we do. Teams, Outlook, OneDrive and OneNote will be at the heart of our practice. By using their devices regularly students will develop essential digital skills necessary to succeed in the 21st Century. They will therefore be very well equipped for the transition to higher education and the world of work."

A Sadiq and T Ariyo



# ANTI - RACISM REVIEW

This year, AGSB has continued its focus on anti-racism in line with the Respect Agenda, cementing the school's commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion within the community. The Anti Racism Ambassadors have continued to work on initiatives to address racism and discrimination, most notably the continuation of the Trafford Anti-Racism Alliance (TARA), which now has 9 member schools from across Trafford. The Alliance is an organisation set up by AGSB to take the strategy and successes of anti-racism here and share this with other schools, whilst also learning, sharing resources, and best practice across the schools.

Another annual meeting of the group was held in December 2024, which was a fantastic and fruitful forum for discussion and sharing ideas. From that meeting, we generated some fantastic concepts for events we will be doing soon. One of these was a cross-school assembly, which we were proud to lead in honour of late poet, writer, and activist Dr. Benjamin Zephaniah. Remembering the legacy of BAME individuals in the arts gives us an opportunity to celebrate the breadth of culture that has shaped society, and it was fantastic to work with St Ambrose and North Cestrian on producing an amazing video.

This year, our annual Black History Month assemblies focussed on reclaiming narratives and retelling the stories of Black communities that have been forgotten or twisted by history. We drew from examples like poetry, the media, education, activism and personal heritage stories to illustrate the truth that the spotlight has long been removed from the contributions of people of colour in society. Education is our most powerful tool in our fight against racism and the BHM assemblies were a poignant reminder to question what we are taught and what we believe.

A final highlight from this year was our trip to the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Centre in Central Library. The trip was

highly informative; we learned of the tragic case of Ahmed Iqbal Ullah, a teenage boy stabbed to death at school on the playground whilst attempting to defend younger students from bullying and were fortunate to see some archive material of cultural expression and global majority history in Manchester. The archives from the 1970s – 1990s were brilliant resources to handle and reminded us of the rich cultural tapestry of our city. The Race Centre is open to members of the public, and we would recommend a visit.

Overall, it has been another fantastic year of anti-racism and championing DEI within our school community. I am sure that our progress will continue into next year and we will continue to challenge racist activity, celebrate unique culture and heritage and respect all members of our community, regardless of race or background.

T Ariyo





**A**GSB Islamic Society had yet another breakthrough season this academic year. Throughout the year, the ISOC grew massively, a reflection of our prosperous year. This year, we continued with involvement in International Charity Week, and our annual Unity through Charity campaign was also a success, cementing itself as one of the biggest events of the school year. To celebrate the record-breaking milestones we have achieved together, here is a summary of AGSB ISOC 2024-25.

We started immediately in the beginning of the academic year in November where we raised money for Charity Week, a major international project that helps to bring together institutions across the world to raise money for orphans and children in need around the world. The campaign started off with our very first in-school FC24 tournament. Over three days, the teams faced off in a knockout tournament in one of the fiercest gaming competitions witnessed in the school, all to crown the undefeated champions. Taking home the prize of unchallenged glory were Liverpool (played by A Kocak and S Ahmed) to round off the tournament. Following this highlight, we had the highly anticipated annual ISOC Champions League, with twelve teams battling it in a round robin format on the school astroturf. The competition was tough and challenging, with many teams playing some beautiful football, from all years. The event was an amazing success with all people involved enjoying it massively, including the teachers that helped to invigilate the event. In the end, Real Madrid were crowned as the champions after a nail-biting final against Arsenal.



This led into the main event of the Charity Week; the AGSB ISOC Charity Dinner. On the 3rd of November, the ISOC gathered at the Werneth Suite for the third ISOC Charity Dinner. This year however, the event was bigger and better, with some amazing surprises. The event was headlined by speeches from ISOC President S Khan, former ISOC presidents, our very own Mr Mohammed and a star-studded auction, with many great items on show, such as a signed shirt from footballer Zidane Iqbal, hampers, calligraphy artworks, and a signed Manchester City shirt which sold for over £3000. The guests were also provided with a sumptuous 3 course dinner, with main courses consisting of delicious biryanis and various other favourites complemented by melt-in-your-mouth desserts. The event was tied off with an amusing quiz and finally with a soothing recitation by M bin Sayem.

The ISOC's efforts during this week helped us to raise a grand total of £8142.76. This success bolstered us to deliver in our flagship event of the year, the Unity through Charity campaign. Thank you to all of you for making this possible.



As we progressed into 2025, the cold spirits of February were forgotten by the buzzing excitement within ISOC, as everyone anticipated the biggest student-led event of the year, the Asian Food Sale. Preparations started as early as from December, with the committee planning out all the logistics from December, two months prior. Quite a lot of work for a group of seven, but they managed to pull it off! From napkins to bowls, spoons to card readers, everything was planned with meticulous detail and awareness. Calls were made to caterers all over Manchester, and the night before, we pulled off the impossible task of making a thousand wraps in under a day! Exhausted but eager, we went to sleep, buzzing with excitement for the big day.

The food sale was carried out over 2 days, and the response from both students and teachers was amazing. This year, we raised money for the people of Lebanon who were suffering from the conflict in the region. With the help of parents, teachers, and large group of volunteers, we were able to produce and sell a whole host of people's favourite foods, from biriyani to shawarma wraps to mango lassi.

Students and parents, teachers and alumni all came together to embody the essence of this event at heart: Unity through Charity. The hard work was not in vain as we raised a staggering £9,9700, a feat which was only possible due to the tremendous support shown by the wonderful AGSB staff who provided us with the Coleman hall and its facilities for the two day, and the volunteers who worked extremely hard to provide the school with such a great event. Thank you to everyone who made all this possible, your efforts are well appreciated.

Following this magnificent event, as part of our UTC campaign, we decided to go above and beyond as we collaborated with Sale Grammar School ISOC for our first ever Charity Iftar event, held during the holy month of Ramadan. We worked together with SGS ISOC strengthening the ties of community and unity in our shared effort to raise money for orphans in need across the globe. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset where we break our fast with Iftar. Together with the SGS ISOC and Action for Humanity (AfH), we held our first ever Iftar at the Vermilion. The number of guests were unprecedented, as over six hundred attendees walked into the beautiful hall to witness a night of community and fun, in the blessed month of Ramadan. Guests enjoyed talks from guest speakers, such as CEO of AfH, Othman Moqbel, as well as talks from a doctor who just came back from a recent trip to a warzone and talks from the president of AGSB and SGS ISOC. Moreover, there were stalls ranging from perfumes to tea and thobes to even education! The highlight of the night was by far the action, headlined by a signed Khabib Nurmagomedov UFC glove. The night was concluded with the tarawih prayer led by the esteemed Sheikh A al Nufais, the Imam of the Grand Mosque of Kuwait!

Overall, the event was amazing and was made even better by the £120,013.48 raised for charity, smashing previous records. The Iftar rounded off what was a superb Unity through Charity campaign.

Within D5, the ISOC itself witnessed an amazing bump in attendance, as well as in-school events. This year, we saw improvement in daily activities, as we held student-led talks aimed to guide the younger years, improving them as



# ISOC CONT.



improvement in daily activities, as we held student-led talks aimed to guide the younger years, improving them as young adults as we inspired them with the Islamic principles of unity, equality, love, and kindness, as well as the ethos of our school. Furthermore, we saw a massive improvement in the Daily Activities Online, which saw seven more new and exciting activities, which further got the students excited. Lastly, and perhaps one of our proudest achievements, we increased the number of guest speakers throughout the year, as well as making them more available for the rest of the school. This year, we aimed to keep the traditional talks about Islam, as well as focussing on other aspects such as school life, the importance of education, and careers. This way, this year we saw a diverse range of speakers discussing a wide variety of topics such as purifying the heart, how we should aim to serve the wider community and society, as well as career-related topics such as economics, finance, and medicine, all to name a few. We hope that all students have benefitted from the expertise and insightful discussions.

To finish off, next year we hope to build on what has been a widely successful year from the ISOC. We hope to emulate this success in future years with your help. As the future

committee plans the next year ahead, we look back with utmost gratitude and joy, celebrating the achievements we made together, united. We hope that the students, teachers, parents, and the wider community have all benefitted from our efforts. As we say goodbye to the legendary Yr13s as they make their own path into the world, we can only hope that the love and kindness is repeated this year, as we hope to meet September with new faces. Once again, a massive thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, or got involved with the Islamic Society's work this year, including the staff who are essential to the success of the society.

As salamu alaikum – May peace be upon you all.

M Chawoo and A Kashif

# CHRISTIAN UNION

This year, the Christian Union at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys has been an encouraging and growing community, providing a consistent space each week for students to explore Christianity and support each other in faith. Weekly meetings were led by a committed student leadership team, with planning that included Bible studies and topical discussions. Each session aimed to be open and accessible, allowing students from all year groups and backgrounds to engage in a safe and welcoming environment.

Throughout the year, the CU covered a range of themes such as the character of God, the relevance of Christianity today, and how to live out faith in school. Many of these were shaped by presentations prepared by student leaders, which made the sessions more structured and focused. Examples include a session on what it means to follow Jesus in a school setting, an exploration of key Christian doctrines, and a talk on how to share faith with friends respectfully. These presentations helped guide discussion and provided younger members with a clear understanding of Christian beliefs and their application in everyday life.

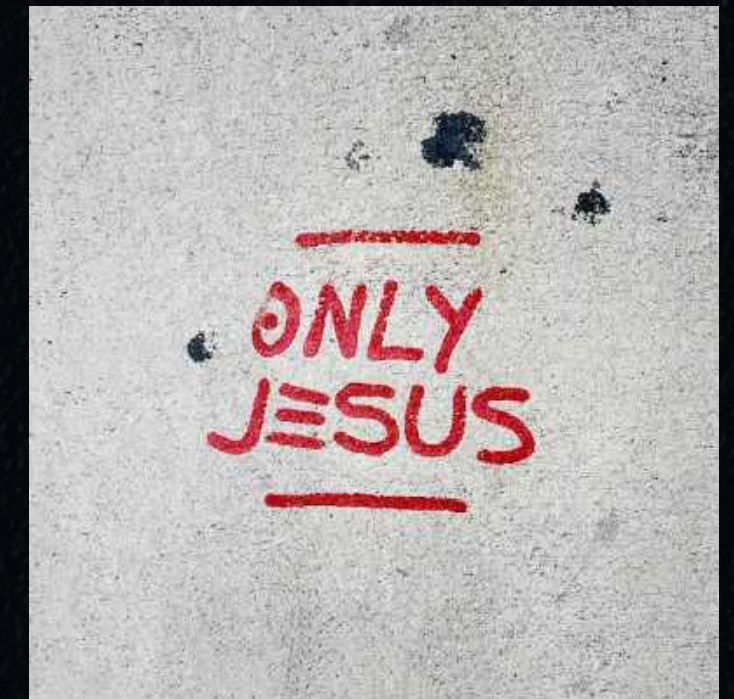
One of the standout moments this year was a successful bake sale held at the House Shout, where CU members came together to raise money for charity. The event was well-received by both students and staff, and a large amount of money was raised to support a good cause. It served not only as a fundraising success but also as a visible expression of the CU's values in action—generosity, service, and community involvement.

A key strength of the CU this year has been student leadership. Senior members of the team Alan M, Alex G, Daniel A, and Jeremy J -took responsibility for preparing content, supporting new attendees, and setting an inclusive tone in every meeting. Their dedication, consistency, and

warmth helped the CU maintain a strong and welcoming culture. We are deeply thankful for their hard work and the guidance they have given to the group. Looking ahead, there is a shared hope among younger members to carry on what they have built and to embody the spirit and values of the Christian Union they helped shape.

Overall, the Christian Union has had a positive year, creating a strong sense of community and purpose. It has been a place where students could grow in faith, ask questions, and support one another, with solid foundations laid for further growth and outreach in the coming year.

P Pindy





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 and teachings a number of year 11s - Sumed, Panchu, Rey and Vikrant - put together sessions centered around Dharmic studies. Across a number of sessions, we learnt about ancient Indian Universities, which drew students from across the Indian subcontinent as well as the Far East, 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 including Ravi, who gave an inspirational talk on how we can reframe failure as success, supplementing his argument using the teachings of Lord Krishna in the Gita, and Heer, a representative of NHSF (National Hindu Student Forum), from whom we learnt about a range of common goals and potential events the society could run in the future.

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, to increase the outreach of the society and connect with the wider school community, HSJS, in collaboration with the Student Affairs Committee launched the Ice bucket challenge. An afternoon of exhilaration soon followed; 8 teachers and 13 buckets later we raised £601.58 for Motor Neuron disease. A special thank you to all those involved and those who donated towards a worthy cause. 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's ongoing commitment to both fostering a sense of community and embracing Dharmic values such as Seva (selfless service).

A Renjit





# 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 12 months with the department marking, amongst other things, leading the school in marking the significance of the American Presidential Election in November 2024 and the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in January 2025 and the 80th anniversary of the death of Adolf Hitler. In an uncertain world, knowledge and understanding of our past, an ability to contextualise current developments and a willingness to engage thoughtfully with diverse perspectives have never felt more important.

History and Politics Society has continued to play a key role in the co-curricular provision of the school this year. Ably led by Alfie Broughall, our team of Subject Prefects – which also included Barney Weeden, Isaac Jones and Will Millar – led regular meetings which included guest speakers and a range of diverse student-led presentations in front of audiences of students from across the school community. Topics this year included 'The Rise of Aviation' and 'The Football War of 1969', 'The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler', 'The Cuban Revolution and its Aftermath' and 'The Rise and Fall of Franco in Spain'. There really is something for everybody! Alfie and his team leave the society in a healthy state for our new incumbents.

In a new innovation this year, Ms Maguire has overseen a regular KS3 History Quiz at on Tuesday lunchtimes in C2 with able assistance from Year 8 History students Ewan Ward & Ben Ford. It has been great to see younger students gathering to test their historical knowledge on a regular basis!

Mr Croxton accompanied a group of some of our most talented Year 9 historians to an insightful Holocaust Memorial Event at the Robert Bolt Theatre at Sale

Waterside in late January 2025. This report was compiled by one of those students, J Forrest from 9BE:

'On the 21st of January, 11 Year 9 students attended a service for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. The theme this year was "For a Better Future" and the focus was not only remembering the past but thinking about preventing further genocides in the future by learning from these atrocities. The most thought-provoking part of the service was Springfield's School Choir who sang "All Things Bright and Beautiful". It remembered the young lives that were lost in the Holocaust and what their life should have been. This was especially poignant for those of us in this room as we could easily have been in that position. The memorial left a lasting impact on me and gave us a deeper insight into the suffering that people went through from the touching memories that were shared.'

In February 2025, A Level History and Politics students Alex Wigley, Ed Highton and Jack Harrison, alongside Year 9 History student James Forrest, assisted Mr Croxton in delivering assemblies on Holocaust Memorial to students across the school. The assemblies focused on the intertwined personal stories of, amongst others, Hungarian and Israeli Artistic Gymnast and Coach Agnes Keleti, former German paratrooper and Man City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann and Austro-Hungarian Jewish Scholar and South Manchester Rabbi Alexander Altmann. It encouraged students to think critically about their own prejudices and to consider how they might respond when engulfed by an authoritarian regime hell-bent on the persecution of vulnerable minorities.

In March 2025, Dr Hepden and Mr Croxton accompanied our Y12 and Y13 Politics students down to London for an A Level Politics Conference at Westminster Central Hall. This provided a fantastic opportunity for our students



to hear first-hand from a range of front-line UK political figures from across the political spectrum. Highlights this year included former Labour Communications Director and current 'The Rest is Politics' host Alastair Campbell, former Conservative Minister Jacob Rees-Mogg, Lib Dem MP Daisy Cooper and former Reform UK leader Richard Tice. It proved to be a stimulating day with students able to engage meaningfully with diverse and often conflicting perspectives.

We say goodbye and thank you this summer to Assistant Headteacher and Teacher of History Ms Cathcart, who has made a huge contribution to the department in recent years, and a heartfelt welcome to our new History & Politics Teacher Mr Nero who joins us in September from William Hulme Grammar School. We also say thank you to our outgoing History & Politics Prefect Team and a



warm welcome to our recently appointed new team which consists of Theo Hetherington (President of the History & Politics Society), Alex Wigley (Deputy President), Ed Highton and Edwin Yunus. We look forward as a department to working with the new team to further raise the profile of History and Politics across the school in 2025-2026!

N Croxton



# GEOGRAPHY REVIEW

This year has been an exciting and enriching one for the Geography Department at AGSB once again. From fieldwork opportunities that brought classroom learning to life, to dynamic lessons exploring both physical and human geography, students across all year groups have continued to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. Through collaborative projects and topical debates, the department has remained committed to fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and a passion for geography in every student.

It has been another milestone year for planet earth, with the effects of human climate change being shown in full force. 2024 was the warmest on record with mean temperatures globally 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels - already considered the 'safe' limit by the UN climate change committee. The climate in the UK certainly seems to be changing, with the hottest March in UK history. The



LA fires in May 2025, have burned 61,205 acres of forested land, leading to yet more water supply issues in this part of the states. COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan set up a new \$1 trillion climate-finance goal, although was heavily overshadowed by controversies over Azerbaijan's suitability as a host and other failures in the conference.

This year also saw the rise of global geopolitical tensions, sparked by the controversial policies implemented by new President Trump, namely the tariffs imposed on a plethora of countries, and the continued rise of nationalism which has challenged, or even ended - according to some - the era of globalisation. The rapidly changing nature our world is certainly keeping the geography teachers on their toes!

In school, the senior Geography Department prefects Alex Buncall and Hasib Chaudry expertly led the well-known monthly House Geography Quiz. Once again it attracted the masses and proved a fun event! Covering topics from continents to flags to footballers to volcanos, the students had lots of fun exploring the world and working in groups to win house points! It has had especially steep competition this year as it keeps gaining popularity. Massive thanks to Alex and Hasib for being such exceptional prefects.

Fieldwork remains front and centre to the study of Geography. This year, A Level geographers undertook five days of fieldwork in the Lake District and more locally in Manchester - to inform their NEA coursework projects which are worth 20% of their qualification. The department also once again successfully took Y11 students away for a residential trip to North Wales to study glaciation and rivers, staying in picturesque Bets-y-Coed and to Ancoats for the annual trip to investigate the sustainability of its regeneration, collect yet more quantitative data and spot the new yellow Burnham Bee buses!

During October, all of the Y9 students spent a day off

timetable exploring the regeneration of Salford. After an introductory talk at school, they visited Media City to tour new landmarks and collect primary data. Activities included carrying out Environmental Quality Surveys, pedestrian counts and of course lunchtime in the food court of the Lowry mall. Finally, Y8 visited the coastal town of Llandudno to support their 'Crumbling Coasts' unit and develop their fieldwork skills. After climbing the Great Orme to study limestone geology, students carried out data collection tasks including traffic counts, and pedestrian surveys to explore the impact of tourism. They also examined sea defences and enjoyed time on the pier and promenade eating ice cream and trying to avoid the vicious seagulls!

D Chang





# PHILOSOPHY - 'RECONCILIATION'

This year, the Philosophy and Ethics department introduced a new unit of work for Year 8 on the theme of reconciliation. The idea for the unit took shape after a visit I made to Coventry Cathedral in the summer of 2024. Standing in the ruins of the old cathedral, with the words Father Forgive carved behind the altar, I was struck by the power of its message and the way the building bears witness to both suffering and hope.

Coventry was almost destroyed in the Blitz, however the decision not to rebuild in defiance or revenge but instead to rebuild with a commitment to peace, shaped the thinking behind the unit. The racist riots that took place in the same summer made the message of reconciliation feel even more urgent and necessary. This unit became our way of giving students space to reflect on how communities can begin to heal after conflict and division.



Students explored key artworks in the cathedral, including the Statue of Reconciliation and the Cross of Nails, both of which stand as powerful symbols of forgiveness. They also engaged with the Litany of Reconciliation, reflecting on its meaning and writing their own pledges and prayers for peace. One of the most memorable parts of the unit was seeing students create their own artistic symbols of reconciliation; each one unique, thoughtful and grounded in what they had learned.

The unit ends with students designing Reconciliation action plans for our own school community. Their ideas have been hopeful and practical, showing a real willingness to take the values of the course beyond the classroom. One student commented afterwards that learning about reconciliation in a positive light helped them see how those values could be lived out in everyday life.

It's been a timely and valuable addition to our revised Year 8 programme of study.

Mr Perkins





This year has been another fun-filled year in the German department. We started the year with the European Day of Languages, where students engaged in many fun activities to get them into German culture. We were also fortunate enough to be able to join the University of Lancaster in their online talks about Languages for the Future.

At the end of September, we had our final German Exchange. The Exchange has been running since 2000, and so this being the 21st successful trip (COVID meaning that we were not allowed to do some of the exchanges) was both amazing and sad. The students were able to reunite with their previous partners and immerse themselves fully into German life. We are forever grateful to our partner school and staff at the Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium in Fellbach. We also thank Mr Smith, who has been the lead teacher for the Exchange since 2014.

This year we have taken part in many competitions, including the Anthea Bell Competition, Sprachenwettbewerb championships, the Languages Spelling Bee, the Language Translation Bee, the GCHQ Languages competition and many more. We have had successes in the Translation and Spelling Bees, where, at the time of writing, our students had made it to the national finals in German. We wish them all the best and look forward to their success. One student, Aarush, will be continuing the family tradition as his older brother, Piyush, also made it to the national final! Here is Piyush, when he was in Year 7, and now with his brother, encouraging him for the final.

Throughout the year, we try to encourage students to learn more about the way of



life in German-speaking countries. Over the course of this term, students have been researching different aspects of German culture that interest them. We have had fabulous presentations, ranging from the sport game 'Jugger', tasting homemade "beer", to the Holy Roman Empire. The students had great fun in presenting their findings, and we all learnt a lot.

R Chapman

# FRENCH IMMERSION TRIP 2025

Last July, 50 excited Year 8 students set off on an unforgettable adventure to Paris. Our base for the week was the beautiful Château de Grande Romaine, nestled just outside the city. Surrounded by greenery and full of charm, the château provided the perfect place to relax, swim and play games after our daily explorations.

Our trip was packed with incredible activities and sightseeing. One of the highlights was our scenic walk from Notre-Dame Cathedral, which restoration was almost complete, all the way to the magnificent Eiffel Tower. Along the way, we soaked in the atmosphere of Paris's historic streets and riverside views, stopping at the Louvre Pyramid for some artistic photos. An unexpected highlight was witnessing the preparations for the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games. We saw Olympic venues under construction and special displays around the city, giving us a glimpse into how Paris was getting ready to welcome the world.

Another standout moment was our river cruise on the Seine, gliding past some of the city's most famous landmarks. We also climbed up to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower – quite a challenge, but the panoramic view made every step worth it!

Our visit to the Musée des Sciences et de l'Industrie offered a fun mix of education and curiosity, with many pupils fascinated by the exhibits and an opportunity to get hands on with science in French.

In Montmartre, the artistic heart of Paris, several pupils took the chance to have their portraits drawn by talented street artists, eat moules-frites or ice cream. One student even started a quirky collection of Orangina memorabilia!

Who could forget gathering in the château, on the 14th of July to watch the finals of the UEFA Euro Championship! We couldn't miss the game: England v Spain, such an exciting match and an electric atmosphere!

We spent a thrilling day at Parc Astérix, a theme park full of rides and attractions based on the famous French comic characters. It was the perfect place to unwind and have fun together after a busy week of sightseeing.

The trip was a fantastic blend of culture, fun, learning, and friendship. From the majestic sights to the unique little moments (and all the croissants in between), Paris left us with memories we'll never forget.

F Blakeley





# CHINESE REVIEW

It has been an exciting and productive year for the Chinese Department, filled with vibrant celebrations, hands-on learning, and immersive cultural experiences that brought Chinese language and traditions to life for our students across year groups.

One of the highlights of the year was our Chinese Cultural Immersion Day, held on 4th February in celebration of the Year of the Snake. Our Year 7 pupils embraced the occasion with enthusiasm, beginning the day with an impressive student-led presentation on Lunar New Year customs, delivered by Andy Wu (7CR), Alvin Fang (7CR), Ryan Sun (8BG), and Jason To (8BG). This was followed by an engaging talk from Dr. Neal, who shared his personal journey with the Chinese language and his experiences living in China.

The rest of the day was packed with hands-on workshops and activities that introduced students to the richness of Chinese culture. Pupils tried their hand at the traditional Chinese Dragon Dance, calligraphy (led by parent helpers

Mrs. Mak and Ms. Yang), and spring roll making (guided by Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Drake, and Mrs. Embleton). They explored Chinese ink painting with Miss Cooke, crafted colourful lanterns with Mrs. Chapman and Ms. Farrelly, and sang in a Chinese choir under the direction of Mrs. Wallwork and Ms. Li. Thanks to the support of parent helper Ms. Zhang, they also created striking Dunhuang Buddha masks and learned about ancient Chinese art and symbolism. A captivating talk on Chinese history by Mr. Croxton further deepened their appreciation of China's rich heritage. In addition, some pupils also participated in traditional Chinese sports such as feather Jianzi kicking and group long rope skipping, led by Mr. Soulsby with help from parent and student helpers.

Looking ahead, our Year 10 students are gearing up for a long-anticipated trip to Manchester Chinatown on 23rd May. In preparation, they've been honing their chopstick skills and learning about Chinese dining etiquette. Manchester Chinatown—one of the largest in Europe—offers a unique opportunity to experience Chinese food and

culture first-hand. Students will enjoy a traditional Hot Pot meal, sip on bubble tea, and explore Chinese supermarkets and artisanal shops filled with cultural treasures. Armed with their growing confidence in the language, we look forward to seeing our Year 10s using their Mandarin skills in real-life settings.

Another ongoing success has been our student-led Mahjong Club, now in its sixth year. What began as a lunchtime club for lower school students has grown into a thriving community that now includes a dedicated group of sixth form players. Due to its popularity, the club has expanded to run twice a week—on Mondays and Thursdays in Room C18. Whether you're a seasoned player or curious beginner, all are welcome. Mrs. Ding and a team of experienced students are always on hand to guide newcomers through this classic Chinese board game, which has entertained players for over a thousand years.

From cultural celebrations and classroom learning to hands-on workshops and community-building clubs, the Chinese Department has had a truly dynamic year. Thank you to all the staff, parent helpers, and students who contributed their time and talents to making this year such a success. We look forward to even more exciting opportunities next

year as we continue to celebrate language learning and cultural exchange at the heart of our school community.

J Ding





# TRANSLATION BEE

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our talented Year 8 and 9 linguists, who have excelled in this year's Routes into Languages Translation Bee competition. After months of dedication, practice, and linguistic flair, a group of students has successfully made it through the early rounds and will be proudly representing our school at the Regional Finals.

The Translation Bee is a national competition designed to inspire language learning in secondary schools across the country. It challenges students to translate an increasing number of sentences from English into a foreign language—under pressure and against the clock! Our students tackled this challenge with enthusiasm and determination, impressing judges with their accuracy, speed, and pronunciation.

The regional finals will take place on 5th June at Lancaster University, where Ethan, Sean, Arnav, Aayush, Jayden and Aarav will compete against peers from across the

North. It promises to be a thrilling day, full of fast-paced translation rounds and a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their language skills.

Taking part in the Translation Bee has not only helped students to strengthen their vocabulary and grammar but has also built their confidence and resilience. We are immensely proud of all participants and wish our finalists the very best of luck.

Bonne chance and Buena Suerte.

F Blakeley



# BIOLOGY SUCCESS!

25 of our Year 12 students participated in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad. Congratulations to them all for completing the challenging questions! 17,000 students competed across the country. Our students achieved a range of awards in the Gold, Silver and Bronze categories. The following scores show you the standards they had to reach: 55.94% Gold (5%); 49.16% Silver (10%); 44.07% Bronze (15%); 40.68 % Highly Commended (15%); 37.29% Commended (15%).

Congratulations to the Year 10 students who participated in the Biology Challenge this year! The pupils had to answer a range of challenging questions which tested their ability to apply their knowledge beyond the Biology GCSE specification.

K Crowther





The Biology Department has had an exceptional year, marked by remarkable achievements beyond the classroom. Now in its third year of collaboration with the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS), our Year 12 students have once again demonstrated outstanding creativity and scientific rigour. A total of 29 pupils undertook ambitious research projects, tackling real-world problems with novel approaches. Highlights included the use of DNA nanotechnology to develop a home testing kit for prostate cancer, biomarker screening for Parkinson's disease, and gene editing strategies to address sex-linked genetic disorders. Students also explored original topics such as stem cell applications in dementia research and the relationship between disease prevalence and pollution. Investigations into the North-South health divide and the global response to COVID-19 yielded fascinating insights. A standout moment came when J Moses and S Dissanayake presented their research on DNA nanotechnology-based home testing kits to an audience of around 300 people. Their work, originally conducted with I Shafiq and Y Kurra, was met with enthusiasm and thoughtful questions, highlighting the depth of their understanding and the potential impact of their ideas.

Students from across Years 10 and 12 have taken part in challenges which have stretched their Biology knowledge, tackling questions beyond their specifications. In Year 12, 25 students participated in the Intermediate Biology



Olympiad, with a total of 17000 students competed across the country. Our students achieved a range of awards in the Gold, Silver and Bronze categories. Looking at Year 10, several students took part in the Biology challenge. They received a selection of the top awards, with quite a few gold award winners! Very well done to all who took part and completed the challenging questions.

In addition to research, the Wildlife Club has had a vibrant and hands-on year. Students have been actively involved in an array of activities such as: Setting wildlife traps to survey biodiversity on the school grounds, caring for the fish and maintaining aquatic habitats, visiting Knowsley Safari Park, where they engaged with park keepers in a fascinating talk about big cats in captivity and careers in wildlife conservation. These enriching experiences have helped foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world and inspired many students to consider careers in biology, ecology, and conservation.

Biology Department





# SIXTH FORM ART







# HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES!

As the curtain falls on another brilliant year of rehearsals, performances, and progress, our Music Department continues to thrive—creating a welcoming space where students not only play and perform but truly enjoy making music together.

The year kicked off with the fantastic Year 7 Concert, featuring over 200 pupils singing, they had only just begun learning—an incredible testament to their enthusiasm and dedication. The Big Band and Concert Band also performed as part of the evening, offering inspiration and a glimpse of what lies ahead for our newest musicians.

This year also marked the continuation of the rock bonanza in our school, with the launch of Rock Club and the formation of several student-led bands. Their debut live performance is just around the corner at the iconic Band on the Wall in Manchester—we wish them all the very best!

Both Concert Band and Big Band also saw great success at the National Concert Band Festival, earning Gold Awards at the regional level in Oldham—and Big Band going on to win Gold at the national finals in the RNCM in Manchester. A standout moment this year was the unveiling of a

specialty commissioned piece, written exclusively for our ensemble. This unique composition captured the spirit and personality of the band, making it a highlight of our concert repertoire.

As our current students continue to grow, we also take a moment to celebrate those who once stood in their shoes—alumni who are now making remarkable strides beyond the school gates. Former Head Prefect Belema Briggs recently appeared in Series 3 of the popular TV show *The Piano*, impressing viewers with his soulful singing and expressive piano playing. Meanwhile, alumni-led band *The Guest List* will be performing at this year's Glastonbury Music Festival—a huge achievement and a proud moment for our school community.

The Music Department has had one of its busiest—and most rewarding—years to date, with a packed calendar of concerts and events. Here's a breakdown of everything this year:

The 'House Shout' - an evening of music, with each house putting together a fantastic set of performances.

Year 7's Musical Showcase – which featured Year 7 musicians performing to their parents.

The Production of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* – A full scale musical production, with live student orchestra

A wonderful Session Orchestra Concert in February, featuring musicians from three different schools and lot of coloured lighting and raised platforms!

The Piano Recital Concert in February, which saw over 30 pupils perform solo piano to an audience.

The Spring Concert and Music Theatre Showcase, which saw a packed evening of Music to a massive audience.

Our very own annual Battle of the Bands, in which 'The Alex's' came out victorious out of the many spectacular bands that performed.

Two performances at NCBF Regional heats in Oldham, where both our Concert Band and Big Band were awarded gold medals.

The Big Band performing at the Royal Northern College of Music, in the NCBF National Final, where they achieved a superb Gold Award.

And with the year not over yet, there's still more to come—including the rock bands' performance at Band on the Wall, a large-scale Summer Outdoor Concert, and an exciting music tour to Belgium with 40 young musicians traveling to Brugge to perform in three concerts!

None of this year's achievements would have been possible without the extraordinary dedication and energy of our Music Department staff. A healthy round of applause and many thanks must be given to our incredible music teachers, Mr Monument, Mrs Jarratt and Mr Lockwood, for being the lifeblood of music at our school and outstanding mentors to everyone. So here's to another year in harmony!

J Bendon





# THE YEAR IN ENGLISH —

**B**oth the English Department and the Library have been busy this year. We began September by welcoming new colleagues Mrs Billington and Ms Brindle along with our new Year 7 cohort.

Our love of books began with Year 7 by taking them to APS who hosted an author visit by fantasy writer Anna James. The extra-curricular has remained strong this year with the introduction of a new Lower School Book Club in conjunction with NCS and AGGS as well as our continued Upper School Book Club with SGS and AGSB. We have discussed such great books as "Tomorrow, tomorrow and Tomorrow", "Northern Lights" and "The Maze Runner" along with copious amounts of tea and biscuits. Our third Bookfest was run this year in March where we were lucky enough to have local and award-winning writer Danielle Jawando delivering a talk to Year 9 and 10 about her writing journey – script writer for Coronation Street as well as her novels – and then running a Creative Writing Workshop with selected pupils. Year 7 and 8 were then treated to a talk by non-fiction author Sarah Oliver who even gave us some gossip about the celebrities she has interviewed including boyband One Direction and Twilight actor Robert Pattinson. Pupils were also given the opportunity to be in her next book and some are now officially published authors!

Bookfest week was the same week as World Book Day so there were competitions in the library, book vouchers and a book fair this year. Hopefully the pupils enjoyed it as much as we did!

Continuing with the bookish theme, our annual Readathon with Year 7 raised £254 this year. As a school, we have raised nearly £10,000 since we started raising money for the charity Read for Good which provides books and storytellers to sick children in hospital.

Extra-curricular trips have also been busy this year. Poetry Live with Year 11 remains a popular trip where pupils can hear live the poets performing the poems in the anthology they are studying as well as getting expert advice on how to approach the GCSE paper from Chief Examiners from AQA. We also had a trip to see set text "An Inspector Calls" with Year 9 at the Lowry. The trip was initially cancelled as it clashed with the first snow day closure of the school in nearly 10 years but the Lowry swapped our tickets to another day so the show could go on!

The sixth form have also had evening trips to see "King Lear" (Stockport), "Death of a Salesman", and "the Kite Runner."

Oracy has also been a highlight this year. The ESU Public Speaking Competition auditions were fierce this year! More than 40 auditions for just 6 places. We took two teams through to the Regional Heats and unfortunately didn't get through to the Regional Finals. Both teams represented themselves and the school fantastically well and were gracious in defeat.

The House Debating competition has been fantastic this year – some brilliant orators representing their Houses and debating issues such as abolishing the school uniform, gap years and Tik Tok for teens. We also continued our annual Debate with AGGS, this year debating entrance exams and capitalism as a structure for the UK. Although we lost, our teams showed great resilience and made some well-researched points. We look forward to the rematch next year! We have also participated in the Performing Shakespeare competition, with pupils memorising soliloquies and performing them on the stage. AGSB's team for the ESU School's Mace Debating competition enjoyed two entertaining and thought-provoking evenings of debate. We were delighted to make



it through to the second round this year and the team are now confident, expert debaters who have imparted their invaluable knowledge to younger pupils throughout this year's debating series.

The library also introduced new clubs this year – the ever popular Bananagrams alongside jigsaws and board games. The demand got so great that there is now a dedicated games room in the library. We've been so lucky this year to have local productions of two sixth form set texts in English. Year 13 went to see 'The Kite Runner' at the Lowry Theatre which was timed perfectly for our study of the novel as part of the Protest unit. More recently, Year 12 were delighted to have the chance to see 'Death of a Salesman' also at the Lowry. To get the chance to see Miller's great tragedy with its expressionist staging was a treat and it has really boosted our following class discussions as we can



refer directly back to the production.

R Bhaskar in Year 13 deserves huge recognition for all his work on the school online newspaper, Agora over the last year. We've got a new editorial team in place now and I am delighted that we've had some new writers join our team of regular contributors. Creative Writing Club this year has been full of enthusiasm for island worlds, dragons, villains and settings. It's been great to see Year 7s meeting each week to plan, write, illustrate and build their own worlds.

M Davies and C Mahoney



# CIPHER CHALLENGE



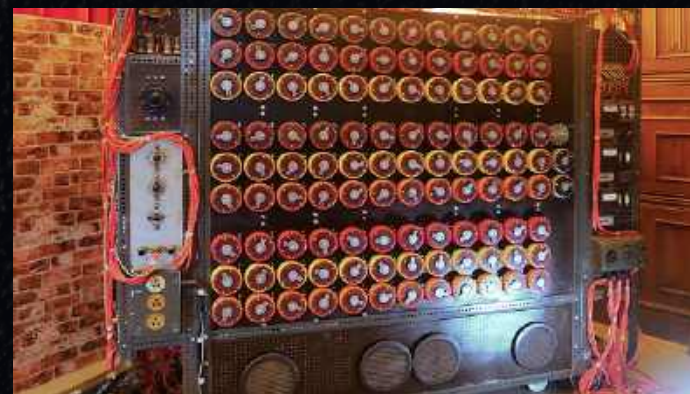
The Cipher Challenge (held by the University of Southampton) was a difficult competition that pupils across all year groups nationally attempted. The challenge encouraged computational thinking and required perceptive outlooks to crack WW2-era encoded messages, inspired by Charles Babbage, Ada Lovelace, and other historical figures. A message would be sent every week, and each would use different, more difficult methods of encryption. The faster they were solved, the more points would be earned.

The team, 'Crack Codecaine', (Y Jamal and A Mokhtar) had persevered up until the last and hardest task and they had even coded some of their own decryption programs.

They both secured the Silver Award and an invitation to Bletchley Park – a location important for breaking enemy codes and providing vital intelligence during WW2. Select pupils from across the UK were picked to attend and guest speakers (such as Alex Bellos) led informative talks on permutations and encryption.

Their success highlights the power of teamwork, creativity, and computational thinking — skills that will serve them well in the future.

A Mokhtar



# THE YEAR IN PHYSICS

Physics at AGSB goes from strength-to-strength every year. 2025 has been no exception. Exam results have remained strong, placing AGSB within the top tier of schools in the UK. However, beyond the curriculum, AGSB pupils continue to impress.

This year pupils have been involved in a massive range of competitions, events and residential courses including; the UK Space Design Competition, Formula 1 in Schools, COMPOS (Comprehensive Oxford Maths and Physics On-Line), Astro Pi, Big Bang Fair and BIYSC the Barcelona International Youth Science Challenge.

On Wednesday 8th January, whilst AGSB was closed due to heavy snow and most pupils had a fun day off sledging, an intrepid team of 5 Year 12 engineers made their way to Liverpool University Engineering department accompanied by Mr Scott and Dr Squire. Over the course of 2 days, the team fabricated their design that they had produced using CAD, hand building and 3D printing a prototype for wastewater separation and treatment.

In the following months back at school they collected data to test and optimise their design, supported by their industrial mentors from a local engineering company, Mott MacDonald. They wrote up their testing and findings into a report that was judged to be "on a par with some 1st year undergraduate work". In an intense final session, the team presented in front of a panel of 5 industry experts then fielded some incredibly in depth and technical questions. They passed this hurdle with flying colours. At the end of project celebration event, they were awarded one of the top 3 prizes "Best Teamwork", an amazing achievement.

S Squire







# THE YEAR IN CHEMISTRY

"Chemists help us understand the nature and properties of the world around us and the history of chemistry is replete with discoveries that have furthered this."

The Chemistry department has, as ever, been busy. Understanding the nature and properties of the world around is no easy task, but in addition to the day job of teaching we have given the students the opportunity to take part in activities that extend and enrich their understanding.

The ever-popular Chemistry club run by Dr Evers and her willing Sixth Form volunteers on a Friday lunchtime is regularly full of students engaging with practical work that extends and enhances their enjoyment of Chemistry. This year has seen the students making Silver Christmas decorations, carrying out a machine gun experiment, determining the concentration of ethanoic acid in supermarket vinegar. All this plus explosions and flames. The Chemistry club is open to students from Y9 upwards.

During the spring term we were incredibly grateful to those Sixth Formers who were willing to give up their time to support and help Y11 GCSE students as they prepared for their exams. I am always pleased to see how many of our students are willing to help others whilst they are also having to keep up with their own studies. It cannot be easy, and my heartfelt thanks to all those who offered.

The summer term sees the University labs empty of undergraduates, and we are able to take part in some of the outreach activities they put on.

This year we are sending a team from Y9 and Y10 to Chem Quiz. Historically we have always done well despite the high level of competition from MGS and Bolton School. Chem Quiz is run through the Royal Society of Chemistry and this year's host is MMU. Throughout the day the students are tested on their lab skills and general chemistry knowledge.

For Y12 students, we take part in the Cambridge Chemical Challenge (C3L6). This activity is open to anybody taking

A level Chemistry. There is a competition aspect to the paper as you can win the opportunity to attend a University of Cambridge Summer School, but that is not the thing driving most students who choose to participate.

The aim is to stretch and challenge students; it is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students but will take them significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at university. Last year's cohort of chemists achieved several gold and silver awards. For those interested in studying a chemistry-related university course this is an excellent opportunity to test your problem-solving abilities.

As a department, we are always interested in having outside speakers in to give our students an idea of how the chemistry they study is being applied in the 'real world', should anybody reading this article feel that this is something they could offer then please get in touch.

C Rawson





# GEOLOGY REVIEW

It has been another busy year in the Geology department as we continue to try and increase understanding and awareness of our planet.

Our annual cycle of field trips kicked off in November with a year 11 trip to the Ecton Mine Trust in Staffordshire. Our only non-residential trip, we made our way over the hills and spent the day completing engineering geology tasks, planning a new access point to the mine and explored the mine itself recapping lots of key concepts in Geology. Fieldwork provides some of the best learning opportunities for our students, as well as great days out!

In January we welcomed Prof Sanjeev Gupta from Imperial College London to deliver our third annual Geology Christmas Lecture. Prof Gupta works with Imperial and Nasa on the Mars Curiosity and Perseverance missions analysing the rocks of the Martian surface. He delivered an insightful and empowering talk on his work and the current priorities for the rovers to a packed Coleman hall.

Abdullah K in year 13 said 'Professor Gupta's talk emphasized the significance of Mars exploration, focusing on the rover's findings in ancient Martian landscapes that offer clues to the planet's past habitability. He provided unique insights into the complexities of the mission, from identifying rock formations from images to working across time zones, as well as the ongoing investigation into the history of water on Mars. His talk offered a deeper appreciation for the challenges and rewards of planetary exploration, while also highlighting the future of robotic missions to Mars and their potential to help answer profound questions about life beyond Earth.'

After the great success of the lecture, the focus in the department shifted to our flagship field trip, the year 13 trip to Cyprus. It is always such a pleasure to return to Cyprus and teach our classes about the unique Geology that Cyprus has to offer. It gives our pupils a chance to revise key concepts and learn about new processes in one



of the best geological locations in the world. This year we took 22 pupils on the trip and were joined by Miss Frankland from the Chemistry dept. who did an excellent job driving and putting up with Mr Parker and Mr Giffen. Our week long trip takes us all over the island, exploring the beautiful coast line, snowy mountains and the mines in the north of the island. Cyprus offers a unique opportunity for the students to delve deep into the mantle (the layer of the Earth beneath the crust). There have been many unsuccessful attempts to drill into the mantle to obtain samples, however, in Cyprus these rocks have been thrust up to the surface as Africa marches north into Eurasia. Seeing ultra-mafic mantle rocks in the field is always a thrill for any geologist, no matter how experienced!

After returning from Cyprus, attention was quickly turned to the Geological Society of London's school challenge. A national competition which we enter every year, after returning from the finals empty handed for the past two years, we were determined to bring home the trophy this year. The boys secured their place in the final with an excellent quid games parody which they used to present their research into mantle plumes.

This year the boys were tasked with planning an operation

to successfully mine an asteroid. Despite their best efforts they were unable to bring home the much coveted and elusive trophy. We will go again next year!

After the Easter break the focus shifted to our year 10 field work in Anglesey. This year we were blessed with some glorious weather which helped make it one of the most enjoyable trips to Anglesey we have had in recent years. The boys were impeccably behaved and showed an affinity for fieldwork during their first exposure to geological fieldwork. They were able to learn and practice basic field skills as well as deepen their understanding of key rock forming processes. If this trip was anything to go by then the future is bright for Geology at AGSB.

With our year 12 trip to the Vale of Eden still to come, we are proud to be able to offer trips to every year group studying Geology at AGSB and firmly believe this helps us develop our students to be some of the best in the country.

M Parker



# PE - ATHLETICS



## Intermediate Boys

**2**025 has so far been a successful year for athletics at AGSB, especially for the Intermediate Boys. To date we have competed in two events, Trafford Schools and English Schools track and field Cup (Round 1). With a condensed timetable Trafford schools is a fast-paced afternoon of track and field. Bringing together a high standard cohort of schools from the local area, the Year 10's competed well as a team, with some outstanding performances from C Hayward, A Odumade and P Pindy.

English Schools Track and Field Cup (Round 1) was a highlight for the Intermediate Boys, in which each individual has to compete in both a track and field event. Some athletes were yet to compete in one of their events, although by the time of the competition, Mr Soulsby and Mr Meakin had prepared them well, enabling us to be confident going into Round 1. With fantastic performances across the board the Intermediate Boys came out on top, progressing to the regional A final, a fantastic opportunity to further showcase the athletic ability at AGSB.

A Blann



# U16 BASKETBALL

**T**his journey has been truly remarkable. We've all made tremendous progress, continuously challenging ourselves, honing our skills, and supporting each other throughout.

Our opening match was against North Cestrian. As is typical with the first game of the season, there were some nerves, but also a lot of excitement. Although the game began slowly, we soon found our stride. Once we picked up the pace, we were unstoppable. We took the lead and maintained it until the final whistle blew. It was an outstanding way to kick off the season, and the victory filled us with pride and confidence.

Following that, we faced BTH. Buoyed by our initial win, we entered the court determined to give our best. Playing with vigour and teamwork, we triumphed once more. That second victory only boosted our momentum further.

Then we encountered our toughest challenge yet—our match against St. Ambrose. We knew it would be difficult, but we gave it our all. It was a fiercely contested match, brimming with determination and heart. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, we narrowly lost the game. It was a hard pill to swallow, especially since it dashed our hopes of winning the cup. Yet, we kept our heads high, proud of our journey.

Reaching the third stage of the competition is still an incredible accomplishment, and one that we should all take pride in. We played with passion, spirit, and unity throughout the season.

Though it didn't end as we had hoped, we poured our hearts into it until the very end—and had a lot of fun along the way. And with that, another memorable basketball season concludes.

R Pattisapu







# FOOTBALL - U12

Our team had an impressive first season, finishing with 7 wins, 1 draw, and 4 losses from 12 matches. With a total of 48 goals, averaging 4 goals a game and a positive goal difference of 20, we showed strong attacking and defensive prowess throughout the season. Some highlights include:

A 6-1 victory over The King's School highlighted the squad's attacking depth and chemistry for our first game as a team. During the match, our star attacker (Hugo) scored 5 goals solidifying him as our most dangerous attacker. Even though this was our first game as a team, we showed great passing and communication paired with Hugo's strikes.

The 13-0 win against Abbey Gate College was a dominant display, showcasing the team's ability to control the game and convert chances. In the match, our highly skilled goalkeeper (Jeremy) showed his attacking presence by scoring 4 goals in one half. All his goals were executed with great precision and power mostly going into the bottom corner.

Our wins against The Manchester Grammar School (3-1 and 4-1) demonstrated the consistency of the team against

a competitive opponent. By the close of the first game (3-1), Will had scored 2 goals and unluckily for his first ever hattrick for the school. He hit the post twice in one shot. By the end of game 2 (4-1) (cup match), Zaydan and Hugo had equalled each other out by scoring two goals each. This meant that we had advanced to the next round of the cup.

The 2-1 win over St Bede's College reflected our determination in the dying moments of when game when we are not winning. With the last kick of the game, Noah scored a last-minute volley from the penalty spot from a corner. Resulting in a massive celebration by the whole team.

Penalty heartbreak came twice, with losses to St Monica's RC High School (5-6 (penalties) and Stretford Grammar School (2-3 (penalties) after fighting to draws in regular time. In both matches, we fought hard for the whole game but sadly we did not come out with a victory and unfortunately both matches knocked us out of cups.

In the 8-2 defeat against St Matthew's RC High School (quarter final), we came up against a very good side and

we were unable to progress further in the cup.

Our season was full of exciting highs and a few hard-fought battles! For our first season playing as a team, we demonstrated some excellent performances from the team and individual players. The plan for next year is to continue growing as a team and hopefully to secure a trophy or two.

H Francis

## U15

After winning the Greater Manchester Plate in Year 9, we set out to win more silverware in Year 10, being entered into three competitions rather than the usual two: the Greater Manchester, Trafford, and Cheshire cups. Our season started with a convincing win over King's Chester, with the formation we'd used since Year 8, before we played Audenshaw School in the first round of the GM Cup. After a dominant 11-0 win, and a second half change to positions, Mr Smyth sought to make the most of our team's strengths and abilities with a new formation. By using our resilient high press, attacking pace and creativity, and patient possession of the ball, we saw huge success with the new 3-2-5 formation, winning our next seven games and going into the new year having won every game since March, with notable wins against Bolton (7-3), St James (3-2), Wellington (5-1), and MGS (5-0).

We would unluckily be drawn against Wright Robinson in the last 16 of the GM Cup; after late chances to equalise weren't put away, we would crash out earlier than intended, in a game which would have been completely different on another day. After a lacklustre loss to Tytherington in the Cheshire Cup quarter-final, we would ultimately set our sights on the Trafford Cup. An automatic win vs Stretford High would see us play Wellington once again; a physical, end to end game would end in a close 1-0 victory, meaning we would face St Ambrose in the semi-final. Probably our most eventful game yet, the game would end 3-3 after normal time, and 4-4 after extra time. In a game

in a close 1-0 victory, meaning we would face St Ambrose in the semi-final. Probably our most eventful game yet, the game would end 3-3 after normal time, and 4-4 after extra time. In a game which we dominated, clinical opposition penalties would mean another year of wait for our Trafford Cup, a highly unfortunate end to a promising season.

Overall, this season has been one of our best in the football which we displayed, both individual brilliance and team effort have seen us score 83 goals in 17 games. A particularly good start to the season was unfortunately drained by individual mistakes, injuries and bad luck towards the end, which saw us miss out on opportunities for trophies. Despite our lack of silverware, our final season before senior football saw many positives and successes; much appreciation to Mr Smyth for his continued commitment, belief and effort throughout the past two seasons, and Mr Cammack for his support and advice during our cup fixtures.

D Chen





## 2ND XI

2024/2025 was a short but action-packed season for the 2nd XI. We had three great games against King's Chester, narrowly losing the first one 3–2. The second match was a hard-fought contest in which we found ourselves 1–0 down at half-time, but with a combination of patience and belief, we launched a stirring comeback to win the match 3–1. In the third match, we dismantled King's Chester with a fantastic display of pass-and-move football, finishing with a 7–0 victory.

We also played two incredibly entertaining matches against Manchester Grammar, losing both by a single goal. We're still scratching our heads as to how we lost them, as we were the better team in both and could easily have scored a hatful of goals.

Our highlight of the season was an incredible comeback win away to a strong and aggressive Bolton Grammar side. Trailing 2–0 at half-time, we had already created good chances in the first half— all we needed to do was put them in the back of the net. A. Broughall set the tone for some

outstanding football in the second half after coming on at the break. He had a very eventful game, which included a missed penalty, two goals, and a dislocated shoulder!

Outstanding performers throughout the season included O Rimmer and D Harrison, who both improved greatly as the season went on and were subsequently promoted to the 1st XI.



## 1ST XI

Some memorable team performances and results include:

A hard-fought quarter final against local rivals St Ambrose saw late drama with a resilient performance from AGSB. The feisty derby saw 2 late AGSB goals progressing them into the semi-final of the Greater Manchester cup, sealing a deserved valiant victory.

One of our most important games of the season came against a physical, dirty Upton by Chester side. A great team performance saw AGSB overcome one of their biggest challenges of the season with the winning goal coming from a self-proclaimed flick on from Meek, allowing us to progress through the EFSA Cup.

An outstanding dominant performance from AGSB saw a landslide 9–2 victory over Wilmslow in their last friendly of the season. A perfect attacking display created a flawless victory over a crestfallen Wilmslow side. This result wrapped up a stellar season for the first XI leaving them on a high.

The AGSB first XI had many a memorable performance throughout the season, but two games stood out:

A fiercely contested cup clash against Upton by Chester was full of drama. We took the lead twice, only to be pegged back each time by an extremely physical opponent that refused to back down. Tackles flew in, tempers flared, and the intensity never dropped. But in the end, our persistence paid off, as we found a late winner to clinch a hard-fought 3–2 victory and book our place in the next round. It was a true team performance in which everyone played their part.

After some while, we played St Ambrose. We started slow, still shaking off the effects of a well-deserved Christmas break, going behind early. Spurred by a rallying half-time team talk from Mr Cammack we improved significantly, but the opposition still fought hard. Already stretched by

injuries, we were forced to extra time where we again fell behind. Yet, the team still believed and battled on. In the final moments, a dramatic quickfire double from O Rimmer and then M Elnagi led to wild celebrations – an incredible win which personified team spirit.

Throughout the 2024/25 season, the entire first team squad showed signs of brilliance on the football pitch; however, a few performances reminded us of the pure quality and talent of certain members in the team. Keeper Tom Williams took the spotlight in a thrilling encounter against 'Upton by Chester'; a strong, physical side which tested the endurance of AGSB in a 3–2 victory. Tom made several world-class saves in key moments towards the end of the match to clinch victory for the side, a true MOTM performance.

Central Midfielder Josh Marchal single handedly led the squad to a convincing 4–1 victory in a tie vs Trinity College in the Greater Manchester Cup. Marchal scored all 4 goals from distance, showcasing his clinical goal scoring ability whilst putting a shift in in the middle of the park. The very first cup game of the season ended in a 4–1 win for AGSB first XI against St Margaret's, a game which saw a double brace for Matthew Hopley and captain Charlie Simon. The offensive duo took their chances early in another physical game. This was a sign of things to come for the pair for the football season.

C Scott





At the start of the season our team had to learn a new formation which was no small feat, from the off we were dominant over other sides with scorelines such as 13-0 against Cheadle Hulme and 10-0 against Lymm high school with C Rourke scoring Hat tricks in both. Midway through the season we played Calday grange and after a hard-fought draw the game went to flicks, unfortunately we lost but players from our team under a lot of pressure stepped up and took a flick, even if it did take a few attempts (C Rourke!).

Due to the keeper not being able to continue to play the season, T Bell was recruited he played outstandingly from his first game which was a knock out competition Later in the season, we played tougher competition such as King's Chester who we lost to in the county cup final we were drawing at half time but under the heat we began to tire and they managed to beat us 5-3 which ended our good run in the competition.

Most recently, we competed in the State Schools where we dominated the competition with some key performances from Arlo Bobin but in the Final we went ahead but lost our lead, they fought hard and we only managed to get a draw with some key opportunities missed however we won our first silverware of the season with some good team performances despite injuries of key players such as C Rourke and B Fillibos who is in year 8 had scored one of the highest number of goals that season .

This season we have played some great hockey and progressed a lot as a team, as



we look ahead to next season, we hope to achieve even greater success in the county cup and other competitions. Many thanks from the team to Alex and Mr Meakin for their ongoing support for the team.

J Forrest



The U16 hockey season began with an indoor event at MGS where we played some solid games against tough competition before Jack (our keeper) suffered a horrifying injury to his arm leaving him out for most of the remainder of the season. This left us without a keeper for the remainder of the tournament, despite this we battled on strong managing to come away with some points at the end of the day.

The first U16 outdoor season started off in horrific conditions away in Sandbach. Despite the novice keeper and the heavy rain and wind, the boys battled strong. However unfortunately came away with a 2-0 loss.

We then moved on to a friendly against Wellington at home where the boys put in a convincing 3-0 victory. A Bobin put in a strong performance, playing an age group up but still looking strong on and off the ball.

The boys then travelled away to Bishop Vesey's for the first round of the cup. Despite a couple of injuries and a couple of missing players the boys still put in a strong performance. However, we came away with a 4-0 loss.

We then moved on to the third round of the plate against QEGS Wakefield where the boys put in a strong performance, convincingly beating QEGS 4-1. With a strong performance from Spencer scoring a hattrick.

The boys then travelled down to Caldly Grange for the plate quarter final. Due to a slow start, the boys found themselves 2-0 down and struggling at half time. But with the help of a J Booth short corner goal and a top corner tomahawk from G Bell, the boys found themselves back in the game, drawing 2-2 when the final whistle was blown. The game then went to flicks where J Booth, G Bell and J Rickels all convincingly converted. Contrastingly, one of the Caldly players hit the woodwork giving AGSB the victory.

Cheltenham were the next opponent for AGSB in the national plate. After a long drive the boys arrived for the semi-final. Unfortunately, the boys came out with a 5-1 loss

having been a couple of goals down at half time. Cheltenham eventually overwhelmed us with an extremely organised side. However, the boys did well to reach the national plate semi-final.

Overall, the AGSB U16s had a very 'up and down' season with a slightly sluggish start in the indoor season and an early exit from the cup. However, the boys turned the season around with a good run in the plate before losing to a better Cheltenham side. Well done to all involved with some standout performances from G Bell, J Clarke and J Booth.

J Rickels





# 1ST XI

Over the course of the 24/25 season, the AGSB Hockey 1st team has had some great success. We welcomed a new coach in A Lukin this season and we got off to a strong start with an emphatic 10-0 victory King's School Macclesfield in our first game.

In our indoor hockey season, we started the campaign well, undefeated in our group at the Regional Finals. Off the back of our strong start, we advanced to play MGS in the Semi Finals. After a very tight game the scoreline ended MGS 1-0 AGSB. We were all upset as we knew we were more than capable of winning the tournament, though this loss gave us greater motivation for the outdoor season ahead.

After a few struggles early in the outdoor season, we found our stride by our fourth game, winning the next 4 games in a row. Following decisive victories over the likes of MGS and QEGS Wakefield in the National Cup, we advanced to play Bradford Grammar in the next round. We very quickly became aware of the skill their team had as they threaded some great plays together, but an early goal for us stifled their advances. The team worked well together and armed with our cohesive interplay, we confidently progressed, winning the game 5-0. In the Quarter Finals, we faced Yarm, the team we had knocked out with a 2-0 victory the year prior. After conceding two early goals, we got into the flow of a game and scored 2 in quick succession after half time. Unfortunately, after some great displays of skill, we came out second best after a great game.

H Small was a consistently strong player, with many strong performances proving to be crucial in some victories.

B Clark also played a pivotal role, with many excellent saves ultimately tipping the balance in our favour.

W Johnson



# RUGBY - U12

The Year 7 Rugby team comprised only three rugby-playing regulars—H Quinn Chan, Y Hau, and M Cheung, all of whom play for Bowdon RUFC—while the remaining players were new to the sport. Remarkably, these new players, such as T Edwards (who has since joined Bowdon RUFC) and A Bassett, transformed from novices with limited understanding of the game into key players with a clear grasp of core rugby concepts, including rucking, passing, tackling, and respect for the game over the course of this short season.

We faced a challenging start to the season with seven consecutive defeats; however, these results do not accurately reflect the substantial progress made by the players and the impressive strides achieved by many individuals. The margins of our losses grew smaller and smaller, and eventually, our perseverance paid off with a decisive home victory against Grange School (Northwich), winning 9 tries to 1. This triumph significantly boosted team morale and showcased the impressive skills developed by each player. Although the season ended earlier than expected due to winter weather, it concluded on a high note with another victory, this time against Liverpool College (25-10).

Although we did not secure many victories in our first season, the losses underscored the significance of our wins and instilled a deep sense of pride in our accomplishments against more established teams. Another player that shone particularly brightly was F Leroux, who sported a great knowledge of the game, and a burning desire to improve. Overall, these victories were a testament to the remarkable development of the AGSB Year 7 Rugby team this year.

H Quinn Chan







## U13

The Year 8 Rugby team has grown in strength this season, with mixed success, winning 3 games in the league against some tough opposition.

In the 1st Sevens tournament, we came second and in the second tournament we lost our group, so we went into the bottom knockout stage and almost won it. Finally, in the third tournament we came 7th.

One of our highlight games was against Crossly Heath, losing by only one try in the last play, it was a very close game overall. In my opinion, we had one of our best performances. Another highlight was against the Grange where we had a hard battle, and we eventually won it.

I believe we have really bonded and grown as a team with everyone playing a role in how we play. There were some great runs with Max, Dan, Henry, Sam, Seyi and Mannix. There were some great tackles from me, Luke, Henry Marston, Ayden, Aran, Dylan, and Jun Ze. We have a very strong pack in the scrums with Ben and Arthur doing good jobs as hooker. I think Dan played an excellent job at 10 and Luke doing well at full back.

Overall, we really strengthened and bonded our team this season and we're looking forward to next season.

J Hayward



## U14

The U14's rugby team started strong with two early victories. Notably, we earned strong wins against AKS Lytham and Scarisbrick Hall School.

A major highlight of the season was our rugby tour in October to the Netherlands. After a quick training session, the team set off for Hull to catch the overnight ferry to Rotterdam. On arrival, despite an early start, the squad settled into their hostel and explored the beachside town of Scheveningen, making the most of their free time.

The tour blended cultural experiences with rugby development. After sightseeing in the historic city of Breda, the team played their first match against Oisterwijk RC, winning convincingly 48-10 and receiving a warm welcome from their Dutch hosts. The following day featured go-karting at Race Planet and a tough match against Gouda RUFC, where the team triumphed 24-5, securing an undefeated tour. The player of the tour was K Omer.

In sevens rugby, the team showed promise and competitive edge. At the Wirral Sevens, we finished in last. The squad built on that experience and went on to achieve 3rd place finish in the County Sevens.

B Moss



## U15

Another interesting season for the lads and supporters. Alton Towers cannot match the highs, lows, injury count or bonding experience that was the 24/25 season of the AGSB U15s...

The year started with a recruitment drive from some of the players, which drove numbers up to the mid-twenties through-out the season. A number of which had never played or experienced rugby properly before. However, given the regular injuries to the team, then they got to play a good amount...

The season started brightly with an away fixture at Wilmslow High, where the boys contained a good opposition side, battled hard and took their chances well, winning 24-17. They followed this up with a cracking win at home the following week against AKS Lytham, winning 33-7.

The following week saw the team travel to Audenshaw, losing 14-27, but also losing a couple of key players to injury. Sadly a trend that was to continue for the season. The team took a battering in terms of injuries to many key players, some managing to return regularly, then to be injured soon after.

A number of the matches were lost by a relatively small amount, such as Scarisbrick Hall away, 31-33, with players out of position and others thrown in at the deep end.

A notable match was against The Grange, in the National Vase on a glorious Thursday afternoon in October. As always, the support for AGSB was fantastic, with a number of parents 'working' from the touchline. The match was a battle, with both teams stepping up and playing superb rucking and running rugby for the whole match. Neither side could shake the other off completely, but The Grange managed to get the decisive try and conversion to win 24-31. However, the quality, belief and teamwork shown was magnificent, a trait that could and should propel this team to further heights.



Not long after this, the boys had a further disruption to the season, when their coach, Mr Cundick, became unavailable long term. Immediately afterwards, the lads battled hard away against a very good Manchester Grammar side, with Mr Wright stepping in to command and encourage, but, again, ended up with even more injuries, with one seeing Aidan driven away on the MGS stadiumsque injury car. Sadly this was a season ending injury.

The loss of Mr Cundick was pronounced, but, fortuitously, a parent was able to step in to coach. The boys rallied round and pushed each other in training, expecting each other to come and to perform. Most sessions saw 14 or more attend, which is excellent, given certain players had other sports and activities to attend, alongside the plethora of injuries.

The final game of the season was against a big Bolton side, with the game fairly even in the first half, with Ivor scoring and converting his own try at the start of the match, followed by three tries from Bolton leading up to half-time. However, the inexperience from the substitutes bench and some injuries meant Bolton ran away with the match in the second half. However, their coaches felt the first third of the game was an absolute cracker, with the result in the balance at that point.

There have been many stellar performances by players this season and the squad should be encouraged by the way they have played. The squad has the potential to become a great first team, as long as they stick together, work hard and believe in themselves. Hopefully they will get to play some U16/2nd team matches next season, once they have joined the senior squad, since the newer members would benefit from match time.

O Good



## 1ST XV

The Senior Rugby squad at AGSB can look back on the 2024/25 season with immense pride following a year of strong performances, resilience, and growth. Throughout the 15-a-side season, the team produced a number of excellent displays, including impressive wins over Liverpool College and The Grange, both of which showcased the team's physicality, structure, and commitment to high standards.

As the season transitioned into the fast-paced world of Rugby 7s, the squad demonstrated outstanding consistency and adaptability. The seniors reached a final in all three tournaments they competed in – a remarkable achievement that speaks volumes about their fitness, skill level, and unity. Although they were narrowly edged out in each final, the team can take great confidence from their ability to compete at the sharp end of every competition.

Several players have stood out across the season. B McDonagh led from the front with intelligence and intensity, O Sidwell and F Doyle were a constant threat in attack and rock-solid in defence, Rory L brought dynamism and control at key moments, while D Kilcoyne impressed with his relentless work rate and versatility. Each played a pivotal role in the squad's success and helped drive standards throughout.

Overall, the senior squad should be incredibly proud of their efforts this year. Their performances have set a strong example for the younger year groups, and the foundations are in place for continued success next season.

F Shennan



## TABLE TENNIS - U13

Our AGSB U13 Table Tennis team, consisting of O Chow, A Kim, R Tang, and H Qureshi, had an incredible journey. We first qualified in the county-wide school competition, where we proudly secured first place. This victory propelled us into the regional finals, where we triumphed once again, finishing first. Our team then advanced to the national semi-finals, where we performed well and took second place. This impressive result earned us a spot in the national finals, where we will compete as one of the top four schools in England.

At the time of writing, the National Finals have yet to come, but our team's progress so far has been a remarkable achievement. This success is likely unique, as no one could recall a similar achievement in the entire history of AGSB. Our success would not have been possible without the guidance of our outstanding coach, Brian Kean, whose dedication, commitment, and attitude remain unparalleled. The whole team is immensely grateful for his invaluable support throughout our journey.

A Kim







# TEAM LIST 24-25

Name:	Role:	Code:	Responsibility:
Mr G A Wright	Head Master	HM	
Mr J Whiting	Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)	JW	Child Protection Officer/Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Weil	Deputy Headteacher (Academic)	SW	
Mr T Ayebare	Maths	AE	Head of Technology Y7 SEND Link
Mr R Baker	Technology	BK	
Mr W Baker	Maths	BA	
Mrs F Bates	Learning Support Assistant	FB	
Ms J Billington	English	BG	Head of Year 11 Head of PE (Curriculum)
*+ Mr D Birchall	Maths: PE	BH	
*Mr D Birtwell	PE	BL	Head of French
*Ms S Blaize	Biology	BZ	
Mrs F Blakeley	Languages	BY	
*Mrs V Brennan	Languages	BN	
Miss E Bridge	Learning Support Assistant	EB	Head of Geography
Ms F Brindle	English	BE	
*Mr M Bromley	Geography	BM	
Miss M Callisto	English	CS	
*+ Mr R Cammack	PE	RC	Head of Year 10 DofE Co-Ordinator Assistant Head (Inclusion/SENDco) KS3 Maths Co-Ordinator Temporary Second in English Department Head of German; Head of Languages
Mr W Carr	Computer Science	CR	
+ Ms A Cathcart	History	CH	
Mrs S Chancellor	Maths	CO	
Mrs E Chapman	English	CP	Head of Art Outreach Co-Ordinator Head of History; Politics; ITT Co-Ordinator
Mrs R Chapman	Languages	CN	
Mrs M Clutterbuck	Business Studies: Economics	CB	
*Dr R Cocks	Learning Support Assistant	RK	
Miss F Cooke	Art	CE	Head of English Lead Teacher of Chinese
Mrs K Crowther	Biology	CT	
Mr N Croxton	History: Politics	CX	
Mr R Cummins	Maths: Computer Science	CU	
Mr J Cundick	Technology	CD	Lead Teacher of Classics
Mr M Davies	English	DV	
*Mrs J Ding	Languages	DG	
Ms M Di Mauro	LSA/Cover Supervisor	DO	
Ms H Drake	Technology: Art	DE	Assistant SENDCo, Lead Teaching Assistant; Y12/Y13 SEND Link
Mrs K Duffy	Learning Support Assistant	DY	
Mr P Ellis	Languages	EL	
Dr L Evers	Chemistry	EY	
Mrs M Farrell	Learning Support Assistant	MF	Head of Year 8
Ms N Farrelly	Languages	FA	
Mr A Flanagan	Chemistry	FN	



Mr A Giffen	Geology: Physics	GA	House Manager (Tatton)
Mr A Gooch	Maths	GH	Timetabler/Resp for Activ Week/Temp KS3 Maths Co-Ordinator
Mrs G Gordon	Languages	GO	
*Mrs V Gordon	Food and Nutrition	VG	
Mr A Haimes	Maths	HT	
Mrs H Haines	English	HL	
+Dr Z Hepden	Philosophy & Ethics: Politics	ZH	Head of Year 12
Miss R Hildage	English	RH	Second in English Department
Mrs S Hill	Chemistry	HI	Head of KS3 Science
Miss E Jackson	Geography	JK	
Mrs L Jarratt	Music	JT	LAMDA Co-Ordinator
Mr C Kidd	Biology	KD	Head of Year 13
Miss K Lee	Art	EE	
Mrs C Lightowler	D&T	LE	
Mr J Lockwood (ECT)	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 Studies: Economics	MR	Assistant Head; Head of Sixth Form (DDSL)
Mrs C Newton	Business Studies: Economics	NW	Head of Business Studies/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 A Rawson	PE	RW	
*Mr C Rawson	Chemistry	RN	Head of Chemistry
Mr G Reeder	Physics	RD	Head of Physics
Mr A Sampson	Philosophy & Ethics	AS	Head of Year 9
Mr J Scott	Physics	SO	
+Mrs H Short	Maths	SH	Admissions/Induction; Head of Year 7; Dep. Child Prot. Officer/DSL
Mr C Shrewsbury-Davis	D&T	DS	
*Mr D Smith	Technology: Computer Science	SM	
Mr S Smith	Business Studies: Economics	SI	ACE Co-Ordinator
*Mr M Smyth	PE	SE	House Manager (Stamford)
*Mr M Soulsby	PE	SB	Assistant Head (Development)
*Dr S Squire	Physics	SQ	Head of Science
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	
Mrs S Weil	Geography	SW	Deputy Head (Academic); Geography
Ms A Welsby	Biology	WY	Head of Biology
Mr J Whiting	Biology	JW	Deputy Head (Pastoral): Biology
Mr P Williams	Geography	WL	
Mr A Gallamore	Careers		

Name:	Responsibility:		
Mrs H Armstrong	Payroll Officer	*Mr P Lee	Site Manager
Mrs S Barry	Finance Assistant	Mr I Taylor	Assistant to Estates Officer
Mrs L Blann	Development Co-Ordinator	Mr S Yeates	Estates Officer
Mrs J Brennan	HET Finance Director	Mr A Alsaadi	Network Manager
Mrs S Brett	HET Business Support Manager	Mr J Hawksworth	ICT Technician
Mrs M Brickell	Head Master's PA	Mr B Moss	ICT Technician
*Mrs V Carpenter	Finance Assistant	Mr P Simpson	ICT Technician
Mrs O Champion	Admissions Manager	Mr J Ferguson	Science Technician (Lower School Biology)
Mrs B Clift	ARR, Examinations & Cover Administrator	Miss O Frankland	Science Technician (Chemistry) & Health & Safety Co-Ordinator
Mrs A Coale	Systems & Processes Administrator	* Mr M Gilks	Science Technician (Physics)
Mrs S Dickerson	Admissions Officer	Mrs H Sharples	Science Technician (Lower School Biology)
Mrs F Harding	Admissions Assistant	Miss R Watts	Science Technician (Biology)
Mrs P Howell	Exams Officer	*Mr G Binns	Technician (Technology)
Mrs J Hutchinson	UCAS Co-Ordinator	Mrs S Embleton	Technician (Food & Art)
Mrs J Jackson	HET Chief Finance Operating Officer	Miss C Atack	Saxophone & Flute
*Mrs L Jackson	Finance Assistant	Mr A Bold	Drums
*Mrs A Jolly	Attendance Administrator	Mrs Z Burke	Cello, Double Base & Music Theory
Mrs J Lacon	HET Finance & Planning Manager	Ms E Burkhardt	Saxophone & Flute
Mrs A Lavin	Examinations & Data Assistant	Mr A Dineen	Electric Guitar & Bass Guitar
*Miss N Leitch	Receptionist	Mr R Harold	Jazz Piano
Mrs K Lord	Resources Technician	Mr N Hodges	Violin, Viola
Mrs G Marson	Library Assistant	Mr J Hulme	Upper Brass
*Mrs P Mullin	Administration Assistant	Mr H Lewis	Lower Brass
Ms F Munir	Cover Supervisor	Mrs S Lewis	Woodwind
*Ms A Passey	Administration Assistant	Mr B McNamee	Vocal
Mrs G Williamson	Sixth Form Officer	Ms H Peller	Bassoon
Mr N Brown	Grounds Maintenance	Ms B Reynolds	Classical Guitar
Mr S Drinkwater	Grounds Maintenance		
Mr P Hadwen	Assistant to Site Manager		
Miss C Higginson	Assistant to Site Manager		

\*Denotes First Aider  
+Denotes Mental Health First Aider





# **Altrincham Grammar School for Boys**

## **Annual Review 2025**

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*Credit goes to 'The Race Media' for the image  
of the car on the front cover.*