



# Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

*A Grammar School with Academy Status*  
Head Master: Mr G. A. Wright MA (Hons) FRSA  
Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, WA14 2RS

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

It was marvellous to see so many Year 7 and Year 8 parents at the Parents' & Friends' Association Welcome Evening last Tuesday and Wednesday. The work of the AGSB PFA has been superb in the last year, despite the Pandemic, and I would encourage all parents to keep an eye on events and, if they have the time to do so, to get involved. Their sons, of course, are soon to return from their Bushcraft residential. The trip has been a great success and almost all of Year 7 and Year 8 were able to participate. Many thanks to staff for enabling this important bonding event to go ahead. There are some great photos on our main School Twitter account - @agsb\_official - and there will be a full report in the next Newsletter. We are very pleased to see our trips and visits programme opening up again - it is one of our key provisions and offers superb opportunities for our boys.

As you are aware, the School has been following Outbreak Management and Contingency Measures this week. Face Coverings are now mandatory (for those not exempt) in all communal areas and the NHS Mobile Testing Unit have been providing PCR tests for pupils in Years 9-13. We are hoping that these additional measures will help us to reduce the increase in cases so that we can revert back to our normal operating procedures as soon as possible.

This term we have introduced Pastoral Support sessions for all year groups which will take place at a specified time during the lunch break each week. These sessions are run by the Heads of Year and are used for pastoral mentoring or support in academic work/organisation. If your son is interested in attending a session, they should contact their Head of Year.

In sport, we have been in cup action with the 1<sup>st</sup> XV making it through the opening round of the Nat West and Cheshire Cups with good wins against Stockport GS and The Grange. There have also been some excellent performances from the younger age groups. In football the Under 12's, 15's 16's and 1<sup>st</sup> XI are making good progress in the Greater Manchester Cup, unfortunately the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were knocked out of the National Cup on Wednesday narrowly losing 3-4 to Lymm High School.

I wish the very best of fortune to the AGSB Model United Nations team who travel to Cheadle Hulme School (CHS) during the weekend to take part in the 2021 MUNCH. This year is the 21st anniversary of the MUN at CHS which attracts some of the top MUN teams from across the country.

Tomorrow we have football and rugby fixtures against Bury Grammar School and Stockport Grammar School and I wish all those participating the best of luck.

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

Yours faithfully

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

Mr G. A. Wright  
Head Master



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## Shine School Media Awards



Congratulations to the AGSB Publication Team who have once again been recognised at the Shine Media Awards. The School Magazine 'The Word' was highly commended for best overall content.

The Shine School Media Awards is a national, free-to-enter competition rewarding UK secondary schools who produce an outstanding newspaper, magazine, podcast or website.



Thank you also to Mr Williams, the School's Publication Officer.

## House Photographic Competition



We are running a House Photographic Competition for all pupils and photographs must be based on the theme, "Colour".

Possible suggestions include:

- Any topic that is bright and colourful
- Focusing on multiple colours
- Picking a single colour as a focus (for example yellow)
- Picking a set of clashing or complementary colours (for example the yin and yang symbol)
- Showing an artistic side to photography using colour

This competition is open to how you interpret the category.

Please check your email for full Competition rules. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

Thank you.

Mr D Smith  
D&T



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## AGSB Chess Club

Secondary School 24 Sept Team Battle

1	St Paul's School Chess Club	ViolinChess2006 36 + 26 + 23 + 21 + 20
2	KCS	AKnight1252 23 + 22 + 21 + 20 + 18
3	Altrincham Grammar School for Boys	V5454 23 + 18 + 17 + 15 + 14
4	St Olave's Grammar School	Aneeshthepro 27 + 18 + 14 + 14 + 14
5	Wilson's School Chess Club	WillBo77 28 + 14 + 14 + 12 + 12
6	Taunton School	FlGod 22 + 17 + 17 + 16 + 5
7	Tiffin School	anixton6030 18 + 17 + 12 + 12 + 10
8	Brighton College	henryadams_05 20 + 17 + 13 + 9 + 9
9	CLSB Chess Club	jdy_4tr 14 + 14 + 12 + 11 + 10
10	«Skinners» chess club	freddiereid17 16 + 13 + 12 + 10 + 9

Well done to the AGSB Chess Club who recently took part in their first online nationwide inter-school Team Battle Chess Tournament. Out of 27 schools, AGSB came third.



## Bullying Survey



Following an earlier Parental Survey in the summer term, we decided to follow up the results by looking at the issue of bullying in school. It asked questions like:

- Has your child been bullied at school?
- Was the bullying dealt with quickly and effectively?
- If not, then to elaborate on where their dissatisfaction came from

We received 400 responses, 21 of which said that their son was bullied and just 3 expressed dissatisfaction with how the matter was dealt with. While the overall result was pleasing, we cannot be entirely satisfied until there is no bullying within school, and all our students feel safe, secure and happy in the School environment.

The key to moving closer to our goal is for parents and students to inform the school immediately they feel that their son is being bullied, or for students themselves to trust the Pastoral Team to deal with their concerns in a sympathetic and sensitive manner. We take every report of bullying seriously and we would like to think that students would feel comfortable in reporting incidents of bullying to any responsible adult within the school. Not reporting such incidents for fear of being accused of 'snitching' is not living up to the school value of taking 'responsibility' seriously. All reports are treated in strict confidence.

### Deputy Head Clinic

After half-term, I will be opening a Deputy Head's Clinic for those parents who have a major concern about their son's progress and who would value a face to face conversation with myself about their son. The Clinic will take place on a Week A Friday at Period 5 (2.25pm-3.20pm). If any parent feels that they would like the opportunity to speak to me, then please feel free to ring Reception and book an appointment.

Mr E Hall  
Deputy Headmaster



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## Year 12 House Public Speaking



The Year 12 House Public Speaking took place last week and the motion was 'Brexit poses more opportunities than threats to businesses in the UK'. T

The participants produced an excellent debate and turnout from students across the School in the New Library was again superb. The high-standard competition was won by the proposition, consisting of Tom C & Shrevas A (Massey) and Sammy B & Gaurav B (Tatton). Tatton were awarded first place by virtue of Gaurav's well-informed and confidently delivered answers as Responder. The defeated opposition team consisted of Rameez P & Faaris H

(Stamford) and Adhav C & Taimr A (Bradbury). The judges felt Taimr was particularly impressive in his questioning so Bradbury gained third place.

*Mr N Croxton*  
*Head of History*

## Gardening Club



Gardening club at AGSB is back and is as lively as ever.

We have managed to harvest a range of crops this year and look forward to really giving the garden a good clear out before next year. If you have any tools or equipment in good working order, please donate them to School.

*Mrs R Chapman*  
*Head of German*





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## AGSB Macmillan Coffee Morning



AGSB Food & Nutrition Department raised an impressive **£502** for Macmillan during their Coffee Morning recently. A very big thank you to all staff and students for supporting such a worthy cause.



Special thanks go to the Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils and all those who baked.

*Mrs E King*  
*Food & Nutrition*

## Black History Month



Happy Black History Month! As the students heard in Assembly last week, we are planning a lot of things for Black History Month this year. We will give you more details about each one as they come up, but here are some things for you to look forward to:

- Cake decorating competition: Design a Black History Month logo cake and take a photo. This will be judged per year group. All Years welcome to join.
- Movie Monday in S3.
- Poster competition: Years 7 and 8. Students will research a prominent black person from history and create a poster, 3 per group for the poster in forms. The best two posters per form will get House points.
- African and Caribbean food sale on Tuesday 19th October in the Coleman Hall.
- Trading cards: Students will make trading cards based on Black figures and trade them in.
- Black History Treasure Hunt.

**\*\*Keep looking out for more activities throughout the month. \*\***

We look forward to your participation!

*Mrs R Chapman*  
*Head of German*



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## Congratulations

Congratulations to brothers Zachary C (Y12) and Samuel C (Y11) who have both taken Music Exams recently.

Zachary received a Distinction in his Grade 8 Piano exam and Samuel achieved a Merit in his Grade 7 Piano exam as well as a Merit in his Grade 6 Saxophone Exam.

Well done to Noah K (Y10) who has been invited to trial for the Great Britain Under 16s Ice Hockey Team in Sheffield next week. Good luck Noah.



We were really pleased to hear from the Practice Manager at Barrington Medical Centre recently that one of our students, Luka P in Y13 volunteered to help at the Covid Vaccination Clinic.

There were 430 patients vaccinated in total which is a fantastic number and the Practice were very appreciative of Luka and the other students who gave up their Sunday to help the Practice and support patients to such a high standard.

## AGSB House Points

We are pleased to see the boys are doing really well and earning House Points. The tally so far is:

Stamford	Massey	Bradbury	Tatton	Total
1094	1032	1117	1081	4324

## AGSB Sports



On Wednesday the sun shone for the Cheshire Cup. AGSB 1<sup>st</sup> XV defeated The Grange School and Under 16s lost to King's Macclesfield.

### The Sports Portal

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



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To see at a glance what's on, where and when, you have a number of choices:

- You can navigate to our **Sports Calendar** via the main menu, and then select the day you are interested in. This shows the venue and if we are playing away, there will be a link to the location map of our opponent's school. You can also see the team selected for the fixture wherever you see this blue image . Team selections are usually announced at least the day before and, in some cases, 48 hours before. From the Sports Calendar you can also click directly through to a team's fixtures & results listing by clicking the Team's Name. e.g. click on the "Boys U12A".
- If you are following a particular team or teams, you can also select **Sports & Teams Fixtures & Results** from the main menu. Then select a particular sport and your team to see **past results and upcoming fixtures**.
- From any team's Fixtures & Results listings you can also **download** the entire fixture list to your personal calendar on your PC or mobile device (such as an iPhone or iPad). Any changes we make to our fixtures will be synchronised with your personal calendar whenever you connect your PC or mobile device to the Internet. **NOTE:** If you have already logged in and synced your child's timetable to your personal calendar, then doing this may create a duplicate event!

If you are visiting our sports website on your mobile phone you will notice it loads up as a **Mobile Web App**. Full instructions for how to get the most out of the Web App can be found online by clicking [HERE](#). The mobile Web App will allow you to access Fixture and Team Sheet information on the go!

## AGSB Publications Committee

If you are the type of person who noticed that *reeder* was spelt wrong and *proof-reader* should be like this, then we are exactly the type of person we are looking for. After ten years of dedicated service Anthony McBurney has given up his role as proof-reader. The Publications Committee would like to thank Tony for all his hard over the years. If you are interested in working alongside the group you would need to have knowledge of Office 365 and SharePoint along with excellent proof-reading skills. You would be working alongside Mr Williams and the assistant editors in producing three termly editions of The Word and one Annual Review, our end of year school magazine. If you are willing to help, please contact Mr Williams on [Awilliams@agsb.co.uk](mailto:Awilliams@agsb.co.uk) outlining any previous experience you may have.

## Noticeboard for Parents

### Own Clothes Day – Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Please note that on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> October we are holding an Own Clothes Day in aid of Chad's Challenge (fundraising for The Christie). The suggested donation is £2 but please do give what you can.

**GCSE Awards Evening – please note that School will close at the normal time of 3.25pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> October unlike previous years.**



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## Important Parking Notice

Yet again, this is a reminder for parents to please **avoid** parking/waiting on Marlborough Road either when dropping off or collecting their child. Where possible, boys should be encouraged to walk or cycle to school. We are receiving many phone calls from the local residents complaining that parents are parking across driveways or are double-parking and generally causing congestion both before and after school.

## Voluntary Parental Contributions

On occasion, AGSB may need to ask for parental contribution to enable us to either carry out various activities, or towards School trips. Please note that all contributions are voluntary and there is no obligation on Parents to make a voluntary payment. There will be no detriment to any parent's son for failing to make a payment.

## Free School Meals



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

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

More information can be found [HERE](#)

## Reminder - Lateral Flow Testing at Home

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

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

To summarise:

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



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## Forthcoming dates for October and November 2021

<b>Tue – 12.10.2021</b>	<b>Y11 Geology Field Trip Set 11A</b>
<b>Wed – 13.10.2021</b>	<b>Y11 Geology Field Trip Set 11B</b>
<b>Thu – 14.10.2021</b>	<b>Y11 Geology Field Trip Set 11D</b>
<b>Tue – 19.10.2021</b>	<b>Y7 Flu Vaccinations</b>
<b>Wed – 20.10.2021</b>	<b>GCSE Awards Evening – 7.30pm</b>
<b>Thu – 21.10.2021</b>	<b>School Closes for October Half Term</b>
<b>Mon – 01.11.2021</b>	<b>School Opens after October Half Term</b>
<b>Wed – 03.11.2021 - Thu 04.11.2021</b>	<b>Y11 Parents' Evening</b>
<b>Fri – 05.11.2021</b>	<b>School Closes at 12.20pm for Staff Development</b>
<b>Wed 10.11.2021</b>	<b>Autumn Cooking 3.30pm-5pm</b>
<b>Wed 10.11.2021 – Fri 12.11.2021</b>	<b>Little Shop of Horrors Production</b>
<b>Wed 17.11.2021</b>	<b>Sixth Form Open Evening (Provisional)</b>
<b>Wed 24.11.2021</b>	<b>PFA Curry &amp; Quiz Night</b>
<b>Thu 25.11.2021</b>	<b>Y13 Parents' Evening</b>

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