



# THE WORD ONLINE

ISSUE 29  
EASTER 2020  
AGSB



# HEAD TO HEAD



A very warm welcome back to readers of The Word! The former Head of Soviet Russia, Vladimir Lenin, was famously quoted after the Bolshevik Revolution: 'there are decades where nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen.'

The final two weeks of the Spring Term 2020 certainly felt like one of the latter, with a head-spinning rate of change throughout the country and world. As everyone seems to be saying, and we are certainly feeling here at school, these are strange times.

On January 1st 2020, The Times newspaper led its front page with the headline 'Britain sees in new year on a wave of optimism'. We are now faced with uncertainty over the health of our friends and family, there is economic anxiety on a global level and uncertainty over what the future holds. The latter is felt particularly by our senior boys, not just in the short-term with concerns over their GCSE and A level examinations, but also over how universities and the employment market will respond further down the line.

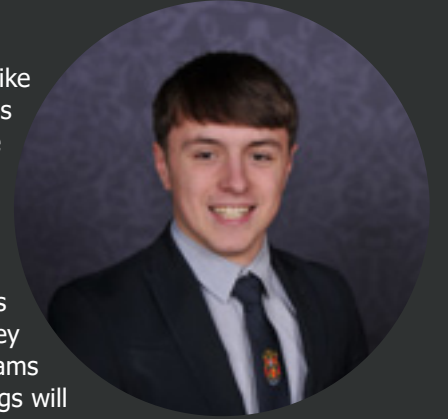
There was much to celebrate in the Spring Term 2020. On the academic front, we had 20 Oxbridge offers in the 2019-20 admissions cycle, the largest number ever recorded at the School. These offers are testimony to the ability and industry of our students, but they could not be achieved without the professional expertise and dedication of our staff. In the creative arts, this year's production from the AGSB Musical Theatre Society was the amazing "Back to the 80s" which took place on three consecutive nights to packed audiences.

The House system continues to gain momentum with the stand out events this term being the House Talent Show, House Debating and the House Smash! In sport, it was business as usual with regional and national success in football, rugby, hockey, basketball, badminton and tennis. The term was also extremely productive for charitable giving with some incredible campaigns led by the AGSB Islamic Society, Chad's Challenge and 'Team Pink'.

Mr Colin Myers retired at the end of last term after serving for 17 years as Director of Music at AGSB. There will be a detailed 'Salvete' in the Annual Review, however, on behalf of the AGSB community I would like to thank Mr Myers for his commitment and dedication to music at AGSB. We wish him a well-deserved, long and enjoyable retirement.

The term ahead will be different for all as we continue to get to grips with remote learning. These are, however, the times that make us as people. Altrincham Grammar School for Boys is a fantastic institution and we will certainly emerge stronger and more united from this time. We say to our community, our neighbours, our country and to the world, do everything you can to help to the best of your ability; maintain your positivity; look after yourself and look after others when and how you are able to.

Head Master



I feel as if I should be starting my final one of these with something stereotypical like 'Already the last term of the year is here...' or 'Welcome back from Easter!' but, as we all know, that wouldn't be entirely fitting given the circumstances. Due to the early closure of schools, it seems likely there will be no last term of the year or post-Easter return.

I was intending to give words of encouragement to those sitting public examinations this term but those too have been cancelled! I'm sure many of us who were supposed to be sitting exams this term had a similar emotional journey beginning with initial elation at the realisation that the stress and pressures of exams were not going to occur, followed by a fair degree of uncertainty about how things will work regarding the awarding of grades.

Fundamentally, what happens now? Instead of students sitting exams, teachers will use a variety of measures to assess as accurately as possible what grade students would have received if they had gone ahead. I have no insights into this process but I hope everyone gets what they want and that it goes as well as possible.

Aside from the effect on exams, coronavirus and the associated social distancing have obviously affected all sporting and extra-curricular activities related to the school so I can't push people to get involved in the school community as I might usually. Instead, in these unprecedented times, I simply encourage students to do three things. Firstly, enjoy the excessive free time you all now have! Secondly, try to devise a vague daily routine to prevent becoming directionless and wasteful; it can be very easy for time to pass by without doing anything worthwhile and to fall into an idle routine. The third and most important piece of advice is linked to the previous two: do whatever you can to remain mentally healthy and stay sane!

Being cooped up at home for weeks on end with strict limitations on movement is something I'm sure we're all finding to be a bit peculiar and preventing cabin fever through exercise, reading or any other pastime that you find helps is key during this period.

Finally, I would like to say that I have truly enjoyed my 7 years at AGSB and that I have many fond memories of my time at the school. I simply hope that you all enjoy the rest of your time here and create many similar memories. I wish you the best of luck in this challenging time and in all future endeavours.

D Haslett

"Maintain your positivity; look after yourself and look after others when and how you are able to."



# 5 THINGS TO DO IN LOCKDOWN

If you're a parent reading this blog - yes, I am telling your children to spend more time on a computer. If you're a young person reading this blog - sorry this might not be like having fun with mates on social -media, but it is essential and won't take you forever. Easter is here and let's face it there's the odd afternoon where you get a little bored - it's time to look at 5 things Young People Can Do Over Easter To Improve Their Personal Brand.

## 1. Social media audit

You're about to have your exams and you have 3 months until the end. You can have fun with friends and experience life over the Easter Holiday. It's needed and it's important and it's something you should still do rather than spending every single moment heads down being totally career and money focused. But a social media audit is something that could be done in an hour or two and could massively help you in years to come. What I mean by social media audit is simply looking through previous social media posts and your privacy settings to make sure that you represent yourself in the best possible light. It would be a massive tragedy if you worked so hard on your exam results to then lose your perfect job because of something you posted on social media a few years ago.

You've probably heard about numerous celebrities who have been called out and burnt at the stake by the media because of things they've posted when they were younger. But you don't have to be famous or a celebrity for social media to impact your life prospects or your career - if you want to see this in action google "Paris Brown" or "Laura Goodman vegan" to see 2 cases where unknowns lost their job due to social media posts.

Social media audits are checks for simple things like profanities, drinks or drugs references and anything that could be considered offensive such as racism, sexism and homophobia. It's a simple way to protect your personal brand and reputation online.

## 2. Set up LinkedIn

When I deliver personal branding workshops to thousands of young people each summer taking part in the NCS program, one thing that is highlighted is how few young people have set up a LinkedIn profile. 90% of the room always use Snapchat and Instagram because they're seen as fun and where their peers spend time. But if you're looking for a social network that is designed for business, careers and your future then LinkedIn is definitely something you should be looking at for your future. Part CV, part networking tool, part storytelling platform; 60% of the UK workforce are on LinkedIn and you might have heard of the phrase "It's not what you know, but who you know". The benefits of setting up a LinkedIn early as you start to build your network now and leverage the opportunities that have already come from work experience.

I always say to young people that I want you to be so proactive on social media that you can put all the people of your parents age out of a job. You should be so highly networked by the time you leave university or formal education that you have a stronger network than your parents.

My business now is 10 years old and at the time of writing this blog I have 380 LinkedIn Recommendations - the average person in my industry that has been running their business for a similar period of time has 15-20 LinkedIn Recommendations. In terms of the doors that get opened or closed, LinkedIn means doors open for myself, whereas doors get slammed in my "competition,s" face. LinkedIn is vital for your career.

## 3. Work experience

"Which is more important - Experience or qualifications?" is a question that is asked constantly. We haven't got time to go that in depth but IMHO both are important. The theory that education qualifications give you a grounding in, topped up with the practicality experience gives you is a winning combination. Experience also gives you another massive advantage and that is an expanded network of contacts. People who can help you.

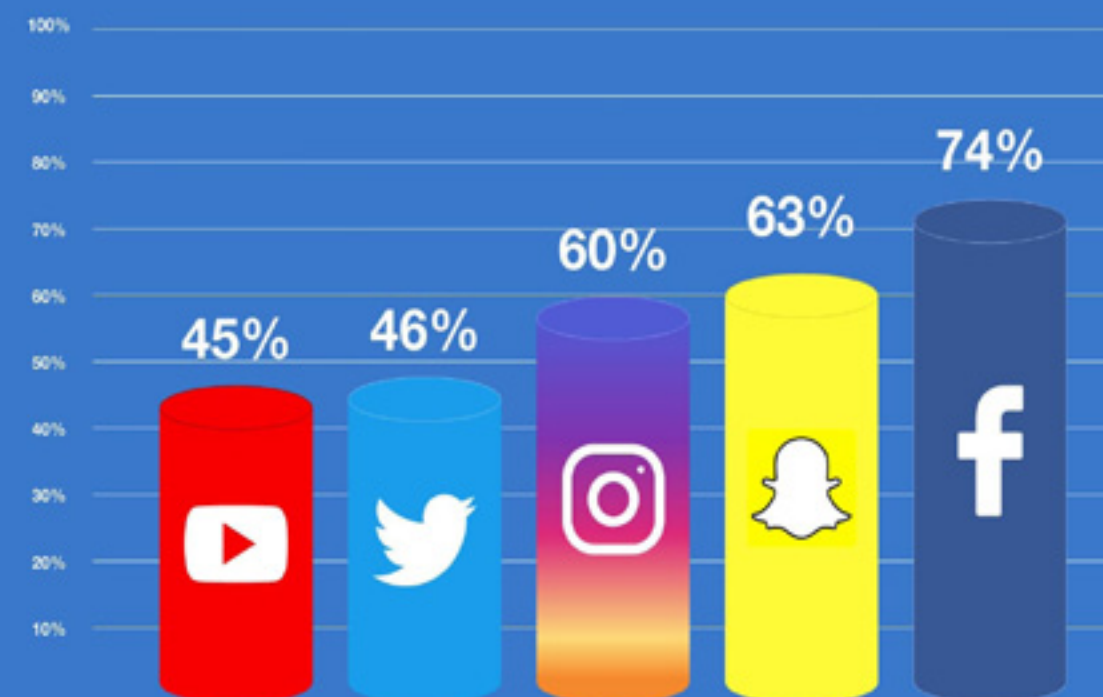
Easter might be a traditionally hard time to gain work experience placements as many of small businesses teams and management may be away and if this is the case think outside the box. Don't take no for an answer - present an alternative. For instance at Altrincham HQ we find it hard to offer office-based placements as we don't know where we will be from one month to the next and find it very hard to commit to a person coming into the office. But there are always ways that if you're comfortable working remotely and having regular contact via phone email or WhatsApp as well as the odd meeting you can gain useful valuable work experience based around the concept of content marketing and localised marketing. Take a look at our social media pages and suggest a project you could do in the short term, deliver it and produce content that wows our audience. It's initiative like this that will open doors and allow us to give more opportunities to young people and give more LinkedIn testimonials and recommendations to you.

## 4. Set up a professional Twitter or Instagram account

In an ideal world you would opt for both Twitter and Instagram, but if time is limited, think about where your target markets are in terms of careers and employees. If you want to get involved in the creative sector such as art, photography and visual media - then Instagram might be the place for you. Do you want to get involved in sectors where the industry likes having conversations and discussions - then Twitter might be the place for you. You might even not be thinking of employment and actually thinking if I have a strong enough brand on social media then I could set my own business up.

Alex McCann

## Percentage of People Using Social Media on a Daily Basis



## Social Media and Personal Branding





# CULTURALLY BURSTING

England is made up of the most integral virtues, this includes peace, harmony and respect of other people's religions. These beliefs are evident at AGSB as we do not discriminate against people and offer opportunity. The AGSB internal community is bursting with diversity.

There are many different religions being practised at AGSB including Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. They all have different ways of worshipping, different appearances and sometimes even different foods!

Religion is important for people and even though they don't share the same religion, the core principal in all worldly beliefs is humanity and harmony!

In AGSB, there are different places for people to worship and learn about religion. This includes Christian Union, Islamic Society, Jewish Society and Hindu/Sikh Society. Each of these different groups do something different every day.

Take the Christian union, who organised a huge talent show that took place in the Coleman Hall. What was amazing to see was that it was bursting with people from all walks of life contributing to the show as entertainers or being part of the audience. All for the sake of charity!

Another epic event that was held by the Islamic society, called 'Unity Through Charity', which raised a substantial amount of money: £5130! The aroma of the worldly cuisines tickled the taste buds of the AGSB community. This clearly proves that we can embrace each other's cultures, food and work with one another.

Every culture is in some way unlike another culture and they all have different beliefs, but this does not mean they cannot live together. Over the years there have been many fights and wars because people are not respectful towards others. However, we at AGSB are living proof that all variations of cultures can live in peace and harmony.

Racism takes many forms and can happen in many places. It includes prejudice, discrimination or hatred because of someone's colour, religion or origin. Racism doesn't necessarily have to be violent it can also be done through jokes or racial name calling. Racism could be shown through many acts such as not letting someone work with you or join a club because of their beliefs. People find this funny and don't understand how much it hurts the person they're doing it to.

M Baig





# AUSTRIA SKI TRIP 2020

Thursday 13th February saw 48 excited lads and 7 even more excited teachers meet at the scout hut in school to get ready to go skiing in Kitzbühel, Austria for a week. The excitement may have been slightly shadowed by the 26 hour coach trip that fell between a week of incredible skiing on the slopes of dreams and being in England. After toilet trips had been completed and parents had said goodbye, all 55 passengers, plus the two star men of the tour Steve-O and Wes, the coach drivers, embarked on a mission to get to Austria. Everyone began in high spirits, with renditions of Sweet Caroline and other such classics rang out sweetly... for 20 minutes. Then people started to realise what they'd got themselves into and plugged themselves in, not to be heard for hours.

The first hours dragged on; morning became afternoon, then evening, then night. The ferry entailed lots of Starbucks, Toblerones and arcade games before we landed at Calais to continue our journey through the night. Not many slept, especially thanks to a certain few individuals that decided to freestyle rap for hours through the night. Upon awakening, we realised we were in Germany, Austria's nextdoor neighbour. We got our fourth McDonald's of the coach journey and continued on our way. As we climbed in altitude and saw the mountain's spirits began to pick up; the singing slowly started again and people were more talkative, but that's probably just because their phones died...

The first day on the slopes entailed a gentle start for me; for the second year in a row, by the fault of my own modesty, I was in a group below where I should've been. My first day entailed practicing snow plow turns and piste technique. While it was overly necessary, it was appreciated as a gentle start to what was going to become a tough week. The first day soon came to an end, and we returned to the hotel to shower, change and relax before our first activity of the week: pizza night!

A ski tour tradition is a pizza night on one of the nights, so we went on the coach for 45 minutes or so to a pizzeria in Kitzbühel town. The kitchen was visibly strained under the 56 customers that walked in all at once, but it was a delicious meal nonetheless. The next morning, everyone was in much higher spirits after a good sleep and a big meal. Today was a much better day for me; I'd gone from the middle group to the Expert group, so I was much more comfortable in this group. After a morning of skiing, we ate on the slopes. I ate a wiener schnitzel with chips, which is pretty much breaded chicken with cranberry sauce and lemon.

Now in the Higher Expert group, I was immediately thrown in the deep end with some off-piste skiing. I considered myself a good skier until we hit the off-piste stuff, in which I fell over in my first 30 seconds. My new instructor, Barney, taught me how to properly off-piste ski and it immediately felt amazing compared to pisted skiing. It was hard, but worth it; it brought a totally new experience and thrill to skiing

which I had missed previously. That night was Salzburg night; we got off the slopes early to make sure we had enough time for the 2 hour coach journey to Salzburg, a town on the other edge of Austria compared to where Kitzbuhel is. We went last year, when I went to Dachstein West, but we mistimed the trip massively and everything was closed by the time we were off the coach. This year, we had a good hour and a half before the shops closed and we had to return to the meeting place; a statue of Mozart in the middle of Salzburg. I had my eyes on a shop from the start; Red Bull World, fortunately placed right next to the local McDonald's.

We hung around at Salzburg until we took the coach back to the hotel and immediately jumped into bed and slept soundly for the entire night. The next day entailed more off-piste skiing for us, as the middle group took their first steps up the ski lift onto the main slope. We were meant to ski over to the infamous Olympic slope, the world's steepest ski slope, to see what it was all about, however the weather didn't permit it and we stuck to the local mountain range instead. The whiteout made it very hard to ski, as the vision was minimal and the new snow piling on top of the old snow didn't help our control at all.

The penultimate day on the slopes entailed our first black run; although it wasn't hard, it did test that which we had learnt in the days leading up to today. We also ventured much further across the mountains to a totally new area that had plenty of fresh snow on the off-piste, but by the time we were done with it, it looked like it hadn't had any fresh snow for weeks. The day, as per usual, came to an end too quickly and we went back to the hotel for the annual ski tour quiz, led by Miss Morgan, Mrs King, Miss Mattison and Miss Cooke. Our team came 3rd after suspicions that we had cheaters in the midst of the competitors lest they win, but it was never concluded. I still firmly believe that we were bamboozled by one of the teams that beat us, however there is no way it can be proven, unfortunately.

The last day on the slopes was only a half day as we had to get back to the hotel, finish packing, have lunch and get on the coach and get ready to return to Altrincham. We thanked our instructors and the hotel staff and hopped on the coach to get home. The coach ride home was fairly standard; it flew by, especially since I slept for 9 hours or so...

We arrived back at Altrincham right on time at 6pm, with our parents eagerly waiting to see what state of pain we were in and to know what we wanted for our 'Welcome Home!' dinner. A massive thank you to all of the teachers who made sure that no-one died on the slopes and for taking us on a great skiing holiday. Thank you as well to the legendary Steve-O and Wes who made sure that no-one died on the coach. Until next year!

G Thornicroft





# BERLIN TRIP 2020

Manchester Airport. 4:30 am. The sun's feeble February rays were nowhere to be seen as the group of 40 or so eager travellers greeted one another on the gritty concrete of the airport car park. Bleary-eyed and weighed down under the mass of backpacks and wheeled-bags filled by anxious mothers, we made our way into the bright lights of the terminal. Brain-dead and exhausted from the rather early start, we shuffled through the rigmarole of airport security and luggage drop-offs and eventually, having consumed breakfast made our way into the gleaming fuselage of the Airbus which was to send us across the Channel, the low countries and into the nucleus of culture and history that is the German capital of Berlin.

Because of how planes work, we didn't hit the ground running, instead we hit it rolling and made our way out on the bus to the terminal where the carousel was more chaotic than one in a fairground and 30 out of the 40 of us discovered we had pretty much identical bags. Luckily, once the hassle was navigated, we headed outside in the glorious Berlin air, and were soon aboard the bus that was to take us to our destination: Hotel Schulz of Berlin. Along the way, I was determined to learn some more German off the plethora of street signs visible through the glass. Unfortunately, as this is Germany pretty much everything was in English, this was to little avail and that was probably the last of the German I attempted to speak on the trip, which was probably a boon for me, as I can't really expand beyond "Hallo" and "Danke".

Once our bags were left in the hotel, we headed back to the cold streets and made our way to the adjacent Ostbahnhof railway station where we luncheoned and appreciated what a functioning public transport system looks like as we hopped aboard the train to our first destination, the brilliant DDR (German Democratic Republic or East Germany) museum, tucked away in a crevice along the river Spree's bank. Battling the howling wind, which gave the group just enough decorum to engage in repeated selfie-taking, we entered the doors and explored a truly fascinating vault of history of those on what some could describe as the 'wrong side of the wall'. We journeyed through a mock-up East German apartment, read fascinating panels about the political structure of the communist state and even got to try our hand in driving the notoriously terrible Trabant car which was ubiquitous on East German streets. After an exhilarating time there, we made our way to another unfortunately ubiquitous sight of life in the East, the barren desolate divider that was the Berlin Wall. An informative and enlightenment yet unfortunately slightly soporific documentary was first and then a climb up a good 3 stories or so to see over into a preserved section of the original wall, guards strip and truly appreciate the barbarism of such a partition.

So, in a cloud of ponderances, we made our way back to the hotel, where we voraciously consumed an impeccable

dinner and went to bed, tired yet excited for what was to come.

Awakened early the next morning, though thankfully at the more reasonable 7 o'clock, we dressed, breakfasted and headed back out to Ostbahnhof, taking the short S-train ride into the city centre and to a truly iconic Berlin scene: the Brandenburg gate situated on the magnificent Pariser Platz, home to many famous hotels, embassies and camera shots of the wall. Splitting into two tour groups, we had a fantastic stroll through an epicentre of German history, from the Reichstag (the seat of the German lower house of parliament) situated only a few blocks away, with its dominating façade and breath-taking glass dome to the Soviet War memorial- which while certainly debatable politically, was a powerful reminder to the past. From there, through the pleasant greenery of Tiergarten, we stood over the very location of Hitler's suicide, and learnt more of the details of the hideous tyrant's final wretched days on the earth. And past there, we saw many of the vestments of Nazi and communist government in the form of dominant government buildings, murals and other relics of the traumatic past which has haunted Germany.

One of the most horrific of these, however, was the Holocaust, the systematic persecution and denial of human rights and then ultimately the mass murder of over 12 million Jews, Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, Socialists and many other groups. Germany today bears many scars of the past and reminders of what totalitarianism can lead to and one such of these is the labyrinthine Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe which dominates a square and serves as a harrowing reminder to this mass eradication that was openly or tacitly condoned by many of the ancestors of those who live in Berlin and Germany and across the world at that time- a true prompt to stop the repetition of history's mistakes. We spent time in the museum beneath the memorial reading the poignant and heart-breaking first-hand accounts from those who had perished in the mass murder program of the Nazis and the stories of families who were torn apart or whose family names were forever buried in the death camps of Europe. Heading out into the bright lights at the end, we had plenty of time to mull over and ponder the experiences of so many and so many were in a sombre mood as we set off to luncheon in the nearby shopping centre which sat adjacent to the Bundesrat, the upper house of German Parliament.

Setting off again, after what was for most a hearty meal and an intriguing look at some beautifully traditional Bavarian-style family-run businesses such as McDonalds and Aldi, we headed off to our next destination, situated just the East side of the former wall: the Topography of Terror museum, based on the former site of the Gestapo headquarters This was a truly captivating vault of information which I found to be one of the most intriguing parts of the trip. It documented, in minute but consumable detail the way in which the Nazi party rose into power and expanded its tendril-like police state into all aspects of German society. Sadly, it felt like there were



After yet another eye-opening visit, we mustered and headed back off into the chilly Berlin metropolis and to another frankly and sadly iconic locations of Berlin: checkpoint Charlie: the sight of standoffs between US and Soviet tanks in the heated days of tension in the cold war. From there we made the short trip down to something that could be considered the pre-eminent cultural icon of Germany and the place that I'm sure many of us appreciated very strongly: Rittersport Berlin, where we engaged in a veritable pillaging of chocolate of many varieties. Whilst there were attempts to take home the huge model chocolate bars that spiralled up the middle of the room, ultimately everyone got a bag of these delicious squares of scrumptiousness and, after only indulging in perhaps 6 or 7, put the remainder of their loot away and headed back along the S-train to the hotel for a relax, dinner and a brilliant quiz concerning a diverse array of subjects and which, I would like to add , my team won.

Later that evening, we were out again, this time to the glorious glass cupola of the Reichstag which we had viewed externally just hours earlier. Entering the building through the dominating front door into a huge antechamber, the power emanated from the walls. And inside the dome? Brilliant audio guides and a plethora of information boards detailing the parliamentary history. Taking a walk up the long spiral staircase, the views over the bright lights of the city were exquisite and I'm pretty sore that we couldn't stay there a little longer.

The next day, we awoke for a more sombre set of activities, consumed breakfast, and headed aboard a bus which took us out into the North West of the city to a small town known as Sachsenhausen. From there, we took a walk into one of the ugliest stains on the landscape, Sachsenhausen concentration camp. One of the early facilities established to house political prisoners, the camp was used extensively to hold Soviet Prisoners of War, Jewish victims of the regime and later served as a death camp as part of the vile Final Solution of 1941. Walking through the amp, with its brutal icy winds, stand-alone buildings and dominating memorial, the suffering was palpable. From the remnants of the gas chambers to the brutal prison cells, the extent of human suffering could be felt and it truly was a shocking reminder of where a desensitized society can go to.

A little shaken by the harsh brutality of such a place, we headed on the bus to our next destination in the south of the city: a Spanish-style villa on the shores of the Lake Wanssee. A place of opulence and good taste, it was shocking to know that this was the location where the plans were drawn for camps similar to and worse than the desolate hellish landscape which we had been in just hours earlier. This location gave me much pause for thought as I'm sure it did my fellows but probably the most interesting aspect was learning how the Nazi regime functioned and observing the crossovers, in party, military and government.

So it was in a reflective and pensive mood that we headed back to the hotel to dine and then to our final activity, the much less troubling and upsetting bowling ( although that could be debated as I did manage to go three rounds without hitting a single pin).

Continuing with the theme of morbid remnants of totalitarian pasts, the next day we headed to the Stasi prison camp in the East of the city. The faded grey walls, rolls of razor-wire and multiple CCTV cameras were a stark reminder of the police state that East Germans were forced to live under and the prison itself was horrifying. With endless repeating corridors, bright white lights and the stories of the psychological methods use to extract or often fake confessions from prisoners were truly disturbing and quite shocking. The peeling paint and mock-up interview rooms gave a fascinating insight into what you would have to go through if you were to take the wrong side against the regime.

We continued on the bus, taking in the final hours of German scenery, from there we drove right back to the centre and to the final activity on the whirlwind tour which we were on: the ascent up the TV tower - the huge communist relic which dominates the skyline. Through the crimson passages into the ear-poppingly fast lift and to the 360-degree viewing platform above. The skies were fantastic for viewing and you could see the urban sprawl for miles, littered with landmarks, architecture and housing which was pretty incredible.

After the awe of the tower had faded and we returned back to the ground, our time in Berlin was over. The bus drove back through the bustling streets to Tempelhof and we lifted off, back into Manchester and home again. Personally, I had a brilliant time and learnt so much over the course of the 4 days - from the lives of those on both sides of the iron curtain to great insight of the way in which the Nazi regime grew coupled with awesome sightseeing of a fantastic city.

I would advise the next year of history students to certainly take up this wonderful opportunity, I was never bored - the evening activities were brilliant, and I certainly am glad of the fantastic nature of European public transport meaning that we could get around speedily. Furthermore, the poignant sites of Sachsenhausen, Topography of Terror and the Stasi Prison were incredibly powerful and really forced me to think about the horrors of the past and how they link in to today.

Combined with the wonderful views from the Reichstag and the TV tower, it was a superb collection of activities which I'm sure will be fantastic not only for exams and school but also as a general learning experience and reminder of the lessons of the past and therefore, I have but one task to do and that is to thank Ms Cathcart for organising a brilliant trip and for Mr Hall, Mr Gledhill, Mr Croxton and Mr Herrington for helping keep it run smoothly and ensuring we all had a fantastic time.

T Coates





We had a very successful Year 12 and Year 13 House Bake Off at the end of November, the brief was to bake the best chocolate cake. The 7 bakers all produced very chocolatey rich cakes which were enjoyed by our invited judges (Mrs Gordon, Mr Wright, Mr Baker and Mr Cummins).

In true bake-off style the bakers were up against the clock and worked up to the final seconds and needed to use the department freezers (as done on The Bake Off) to chill the hot sponge cake as they came out of the oven.

The winning baker was Matthew from 13CT. Matthew, along with a few of the other bakers, had taken GCSE food preparation and nutrition so were familiar with the food room which may have played a small advantage. Matthew's cake was a chocolate and raspberry drip cake.

- 1st** - Tatton - Matthew B
- 2nd** - Stamford - Talhah L
- 3rd** - Massey - Taran S
- 4th** - Bradbury - Archie E
- 5th** - Stamford - Hamza B
- 6th** - Tatton - Yaseen L
- 7th** - Bradbury - George E

E King



## HOUSE BAKING COMPETITION



3... 2... 1... Smash! The inaugural House Smash competition took place from the 22nd January to the 24th January 2020. Pupils from all houses flocked into the Coleman Hall to root for their contenders. It was four intense days full of action, excitement and explosions. Three elite gamers from each house, fought it out to see which one would emerge victorious. This gaming event focused on the game 'Super Smash Brothers Ultimate' where the main objective is to throw your opponent off the field, but, in the competitions' ruleset, three times and you're out!

From the first game to the final minutes of the event, the aftermath seemed uncertain. Every moment was sheer stimulation, but a tense feeling hung in the air; every second could be a house's last. The first day of the event saw Tatton and Bradbury dominating over their foes, leaving Stamford and Massey psychologically scarred.

The second day arrived. Knowing the great task that lay ahead of them, Stamford and Massey's gamers headed into the hall apprehensive and hopeful. Due to their victories on Day 1, Day 2 started with a winners' final of which Tatton emerged victorious against Bradbury. This meant that they were through to Day 3 or the semi-finals. Bradbury however would have to face off the winner of the losers' final which consisted of Massey and Stamford. As the weakest houses chose their characters, the room fell silent in trepidation. After countless hits and jumps and dodges and ducks,

Massey were the winners and their fate lay against Tatton and Stamford were to face Bradbury.

Day 3 ended seeing Massey disqualified but the twist of fate lied in the Stamford corner as they were miraculously to face Tatton in the finals.

And then there were two. From a competition of twelve players, the final six remained. Intensity rose around the grounds of AGSB that morning because 12:20 in the Coleman Hall would be an event marked in history. Consoles switched on. Headphones went over ears. Microphones were put in place and a crowd of close to 400 students rooted for their anticipated champions.

Sweat trickled down the foreheads of the gamers as their hearts pounded in nervousness. Running, jumping, neutral attacking, smash attacking and much else mesmerised the eyes of the audience and both houses battled till sudden death. The winner however was... Stamford!

Thank you to all of the commentators, technology and broadcasting members and, most importantly, the AGSB eSports committee who provided the equipment: it was a wonderful experience for all involved.

A Fando

## HOUSE SMASH 2020







## HOUSE TALENT SHOW



Before the February half-term, Kwado D and the Christian Union hosted a House Talent Show. With over 50 House Competitions having already taken place, this was an opportunity for students to showcase their talents.

The Talent Show attracted an overwhelming crowd that filled the Coleman Hall and was thoroughly enjoyable for those watching. The lunch break started promptly with an atmosphere of excitement and suspense. We heard and watched a range of performances from tapdancing to guitar playing to comical acts and discovered a wide range of talent at AGSB.

The event was incredible and thank you to the organisers and all the performers, particularly our stand-up comedian Zach T (Year 7), tap dancer Finn B-D (Year 10) and singer Belema B (Year 13).

A Gupta

Over the last half term, the Year 9 book club has been reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. This story follows the protagonist Huck Finn and his adventures along the Missouri River after an escape from his town in the mid-1800s. As it is written in the first person, we see first-hand how the Huck's world looked to him, this leaves us to make our own observations about characters and themes in the play as he tells us very little apart from his childlike view.

At the meeting we discussed many issues being addressed in this microcosm format, one being domestic abuse. Huck's father is extremely abusive towards Huck at the start of the book which is the reason he ends up escaping down the river. Later on we see Huck struggling to make connections to other characters in the book and also to show his emotions to anyone, which we linked back to his experience of domestic abuse. Another plot point we discussed was the significance of Jim, the black slave who Huck escapes with.

We looked at the battle in Huck's mind between his upbringing with slaves and his experiences with Jim. We thought it was interesting to see slavery in more of a personal setting. Finally, we looked at the possible symbolism of Huck "Going West" and its possible links to American individualism at that time. We all enjoyed reading and discussing the book and are looking forward to our next book and subsequent meeting.

J Roden

## YEAR 9 BOOK REVIEW





"Yummi Yoghurt: A First Taste of Stock Market Investment" is the latest guide written by Lord John Lee of Trafford. After the successful reception of his previous book, "How to Make a Million – Slowly", the renowned Financial Times author has written his latest publication to introduce teenagers to the Stock Market in the hopes that he can inspire young people to spend money wisely, have fun and hopefully make some profit.

Targeted at first-time investors, the book was surprisingly easy to read. It is prefaced with an anecdote by Lee explaining the woes of his early days in the Stock Market over 60 years ago and how, through dedication and commitment, he now boasts an impressive portfolio of successful investments. He goes on to talk about how he wished a book such as this existed when he was a young, eager man and how he hopes it will introduce an activity he is extremely passionate about to others.

John Lee, officially The Lord Lee of Trafford, has been a prominent political figure in the local area since 1979 and a member of the House of Lords. If this wasn't already impressive enough, he is also the Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and a previous chairman of both The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and The Museum of Science and Industry.

The book details a scenario where a family who own a farm



## STOCK MARKET INVESTMENTS



decide to open up a yoghurt factory and takes us through the story of how this fun venture exploded into a multi-million pound company. Lee takes us through the process of how this company went public and dives into the explanation of how the Stock Market works as well as how the value of a company can be determined. Most importantly, he tells us what to look out for in a prospective investment to ensure we are not left regretting our choice. For someone with no experience with the Stock Market, the many numbers and terms being thrown around by the media and professionals can sometimes be daunting and discourage future investors. This book does a great job of explaining exactly what these words mean and exactly what the numbers represent.

The publication also includes a glossary of technical terms explained in a way that a beginner can understand. Furthermore, Lee provides his top tips on how to succeed with the ever-changing economy.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the Stock Market or even those who have considered dabbling with investing but have no idea where to start. It's clear and beginner-oriented approach is designed to convey a basic understanding of the Stock Market, the buying and selling of shares, and what moves prices up or down.

A Khawaja

A classic example of "short but sweet", *Of Mice and Men* is a brief novel by John Steinbeck that was truly a pleasure to read. It recounts the journey of a migrant ranch worker, George Milton, who has taken into his responsibility the childlike, simple-minded Lennie Small. However, Lennie faces his own strength as an adversity and eventually can no longer run from his problems with George, succumbing to his inability to control his power. All of us in book club found this book to be an excellent read, especially the various moments of genius foreshadowing we only realise upon delving further in. In the space of 90 pages, this book succeeded in bonding the character and the reader, and blowing us all away with the tragic, yet perfect ending to this wonderful story.

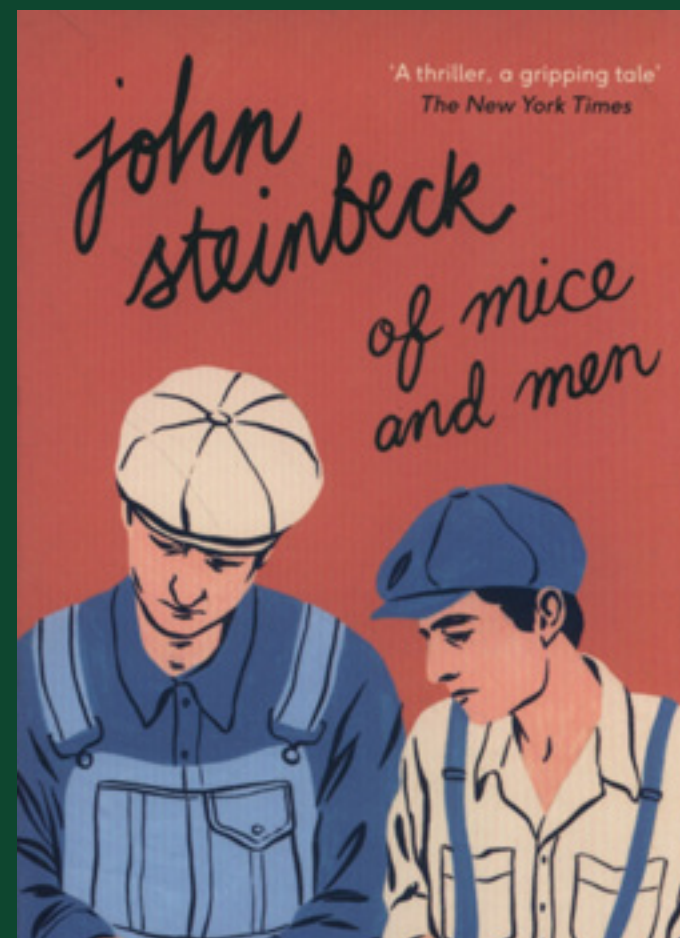
G Ravisankar

Like all good books *Of Mice and Men* has been made into a movie which is available to buy from available retailers and is a great way to see how a film director has interpreted this fantastic book of twists and turns. And in my opinion, "*Of Mice and Men*" is a modest, sincere adaptation of John Steinbeck's Depression-era classic, a must-see for both teens and parents.

A Gupta



## YEAR 9 BOOK CLUB OF MICE AND MEN



" 'Of Mice and Men' is justifiably considered a classic of American literature: a short, direct meditation on friendship, loneliness, and unfulfilled dreams in trying times." — Common Sense Media Critic

"Maybe ever'body in the whole damn world is scared of each other." — John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

"I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why." — John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

"As happens sometimes, a moment settled and hovered and remained for much more than a moment. And sound stopped and movement stopped for much, much more than a moment." — John Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*

If you would like to bury yourself within the world of characters George Milton and George then get a copy of it from the library or any good book retailer.





## MACBETH TRIP - FRED PRODUCTIONS

On the morning of Tuesday 25th March, Year 11 were given the opportunity to see a magnificent rendition of William Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Through the play, we were able to see how the character of Macbeth was presented to an audience and how comedy was used as well as action to present a thrilling re-enactment of the play. The actors were able to keep the audience engaged while pulling of a traditional Shakespearean tragedy by allowing us to be included in some of the comedy. Overall, the actors did a marvellous role in portraying each character in the most intriguing way possible.

Highlights included the feature of 'Deen' and the 'Minecraft Wither' in some comedic parts of play.

Overall, it was an amazing experience for all of Year 11 as we were shown a useful production to help us understand the play. I would like to thank all of the English Department for this amazing experience.

I Cooper



Once again, the Year 8 Public speaking competition was a success and with the addition of the new AGSB house system the event was more competitive than ever. The motion that we were debating was: That Private companies should bear the responsibility of cleaning our oceans of micro plastics. This controversial topic provoked an interesting and heated argument over the course of the lunchtime. The teams were as follows:

### **Proposition (For the motion):**

Laurie (Proposer, Stamford)

Sai (Seconder, Stamford)

Noah (Questioner, Massey)

Anton (Answerer, Massey)

### **Opposition (Against the motion):**

Manthan (Opposer, Tatton)

Dominic (Seconder, Bradbury)

Ben (Questioner, Bradbury)

Alfie (Answerer, Tatton)



## Y8 PUBLIC SPEAKING



Each person from each side took their turn to present their view on the argument. There was a lot of good debate and some memorable statements were made and such as "we the opposition argue that governments and countries should be more responsible for cleaning and preventing plastics from entering the oceans by introducing higher taxes to charge plastic-producing corporations. This money, in turn will go towards ridding the polluted oceans of micro plastics". The proposition, on the other hand, argued "that companies were very much held accountable for dumping in our oceans and that some of the revenue they generate from sales and business should go to cleaning the oceans". Both sides backed their speeches with detail and evidence.

We (the opposition) were the overall winners of the competition narrowly edging it over the strong proposition. After the debate was over, we gained some useful advice from the teachers about our strengths and weaknesses which we took on board.

The star debaters from each side went to Laurie from the proposition and Dominic from the opposition.

All credit goes to Mr Croxton who organised and chaired the event and the many other teachers who came to watch and judge the competition.

M Dave



World Book Day, also known as International Day of the Book, is an annual event celebrating authors, readers, illustrators and books. The origins of World Book Day can be found in Catalonia as far back as 1923. Starting life as a Catalonian tradition of giving books away to friends and family in honor of the Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes (his most notable book being Don Quixote). There are over 100 countries celebrating World Book Day. In the United Kingdom, it is celebrated every first Thursday in March.

This event is celebrated in over 100 countries. From the £1 book token, dress-the vegetable competitions and book swaps, the day revolves around book-based fun. Dressing up has revolutionized World Book Day and is now probably the most recognizable aspect of the day. All these activities are designed to encourage reading enthusiasm and allow opportunities to become immersed in literature.

Here in AGSB, we celebrated this over the course of two days. We held a special event in the library and around school. There was a quiz testing our knowledge on authors which proved popular. A World Book Day competition was held in individual classes to test book knowledge. As well as this, many posters and decorations were posted around the school advertising many new books in the library such as Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman (now a BBC TV series), War Horse by Michael Morpurgo and many more.



## WORLD BOOK DAY 2020



World Book Day celebrates the books we enjoy reading, whether it be fiction or non-fiction. If you have a spare minute, why not pick up a book and partake in the biggest celebration of its kind?

E Sattar



On Wednesday 5th February, seven Year 12 French students went to Manchester Metropolitan University for an intensive essay-writing workshop regarding their chosen film (Au Revoir les Enfants).

After break, the Year 12s made their way to Altrincham Met. Station, where they took the tram to St. Peter's Square. After having lunch at a local establishment, they were led by Alex McDonald (who had been on similar excursions with his Spanish class) to the Geoffrey Manton Building.

After much loitering, we were finally invited into one of the lecture theatres; a small, cosy room, reminiscent of a small cinema. The hostess, Dr Isabelle Vanderschelden, had provided us with work booklets, in which we were encouraged to delve into the character and the purpose of the characters in the film. The format of this part of the French course is evocative of the analysis and reasoning of English Literature. Dr. Vanderschelden (a self-confessed film lover) provided clarification in areas where our teachers couldn't, such as in-depth context of not only the plot, but the time the film was released as well.

Everyone who went agreed that it was beneficial, not only to the specific area of the course that was targeted by the workshop, but to their French as a whole.

K Fullman



## FRENCH ESSAY WRITING





On 24th February, Year 10 missed the afternoon periods to enjoy a theatre production of Jekyll and Hyde. Stevenson's novel is studied by Year 10 as a part of the English literature GCSE. The students enjoyed the production a lot and are thankful to the teachers for arranging it. After the production, the students asked the actors questions about the story and this helped them gain a deeper understanding of the book and its origin.

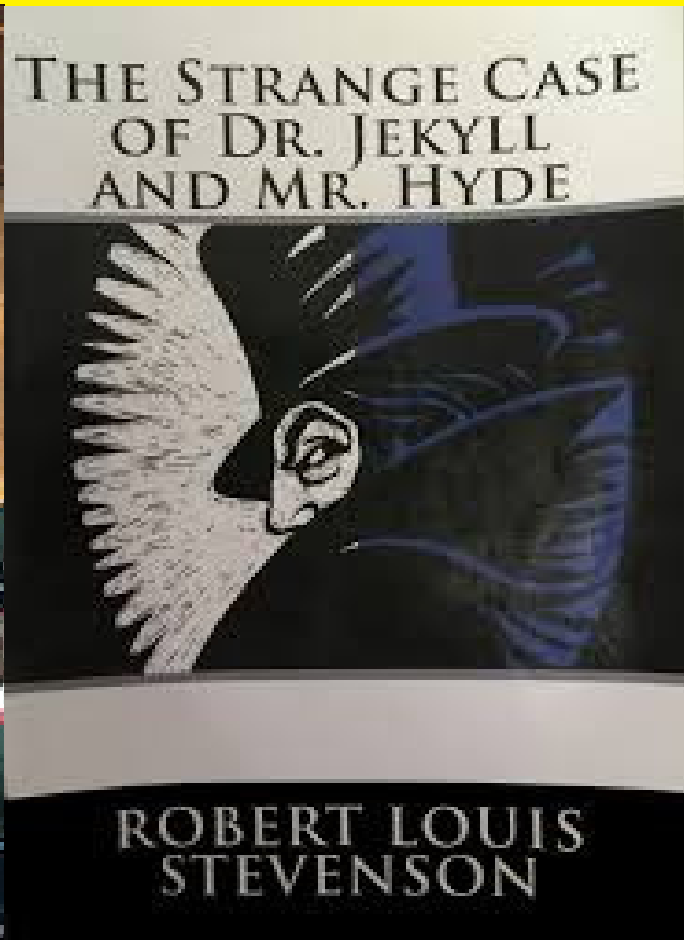
Furthermore, the play was an effective method of learning, for Year 10, as it was recall of previous knowledge which may have been forgotten. Although the classes watched the movie, during classtime, many Year 10s agreed that the theatre production was of much higher quality and was greater in knowledge and understanding. One very important part of the play was that the actors purposely placed emphasis upon direct quotes from the story and this aided Year 10 greatly in remembering quotes for a book they would be assessed on.

Overall, the production was very high quality and invaluable for Year 10's learning and Year 10 is very thankful to the English Department for organising this production.

T Arshad



# JEKYLL AND HYDE PERFORMANCE

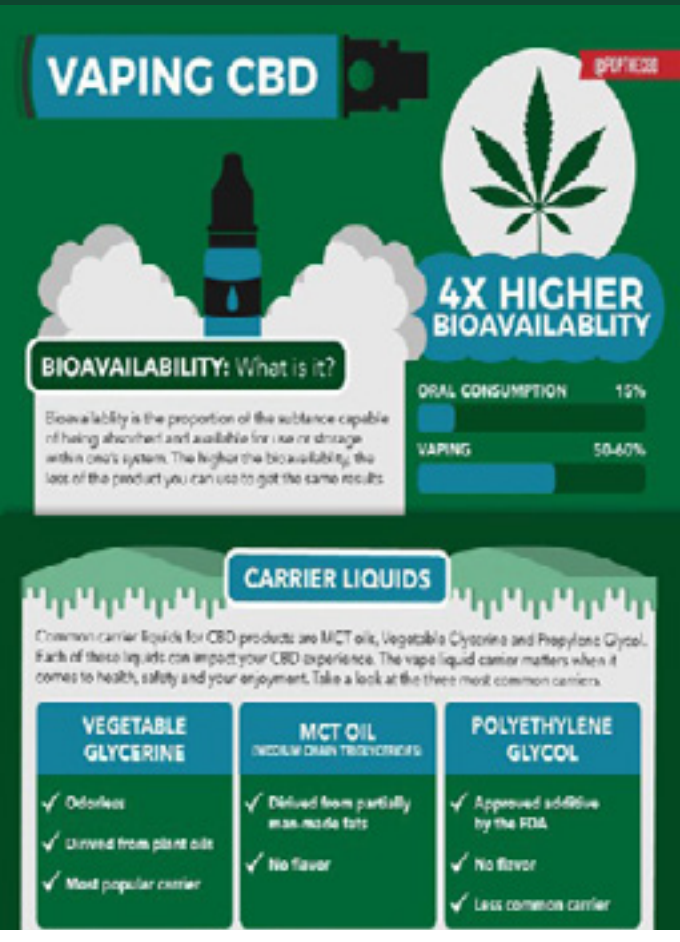


On Friday 6th March, Year 8 and Year 9 were paid a visit by Dr Hemant Kulkarni, a top, renowned respiratory doctor to tell us about the dangers of vaping and the potential bear-trap it is.

Vaping is the action of inhaling and/or exhaling the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device. Vaping is often advertised as a “healthier alternative to smoking” and better than smoking. As Dr Kulkarni explained vaping is often as deadly if not deadlier to a non-smoker than an actual cigarette.

Vaping is bad for many reasons. Firstly, vaping causes you to crave a smoke or substance and you will suffer withdrawal symptoms if you ignore the craving. Secondly, vaping contains very deadly substances. For example, a regular vaping fluid contains nicotine, formaldehyde, glycerine, glycerol and food colourings. Most of these are toxic substances.

Of course, these substances have dire knock-on effects. For example, most of these substances can increase your blood pressure and spike your adrenaline which can cause a heart attack or a cardiac arrest. Secondly, if you have too much of these, the alveoli in your lungs, responsible for getting oxygen into your blood and body can fill with liquid and your lungs can fill with liquids. This is deadly and the chances of surviving these are minimal. As an example, one 14 year old cannot even go up a flight of stairs without a high risk on her



# THE DANGERS OF VAPING

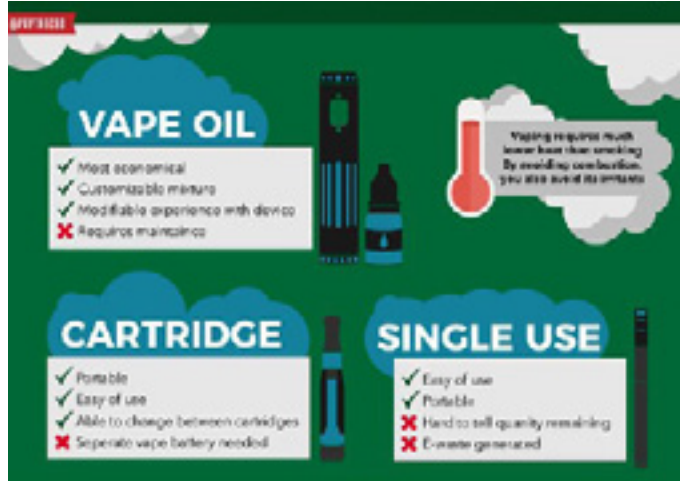


life, as a result of having too much vaping fluid in her lungs.

Overall, the talk from Dr Kulkarni was very enterprising and informative for the students and we learned a lot about the dangers of vaping and how we should stay away from the potential addiction and dangers even if we are being peer pressured into it.

All of us thank Mr Perkins for organising this lovely talk and look forward to more in the future

N Mudaliar





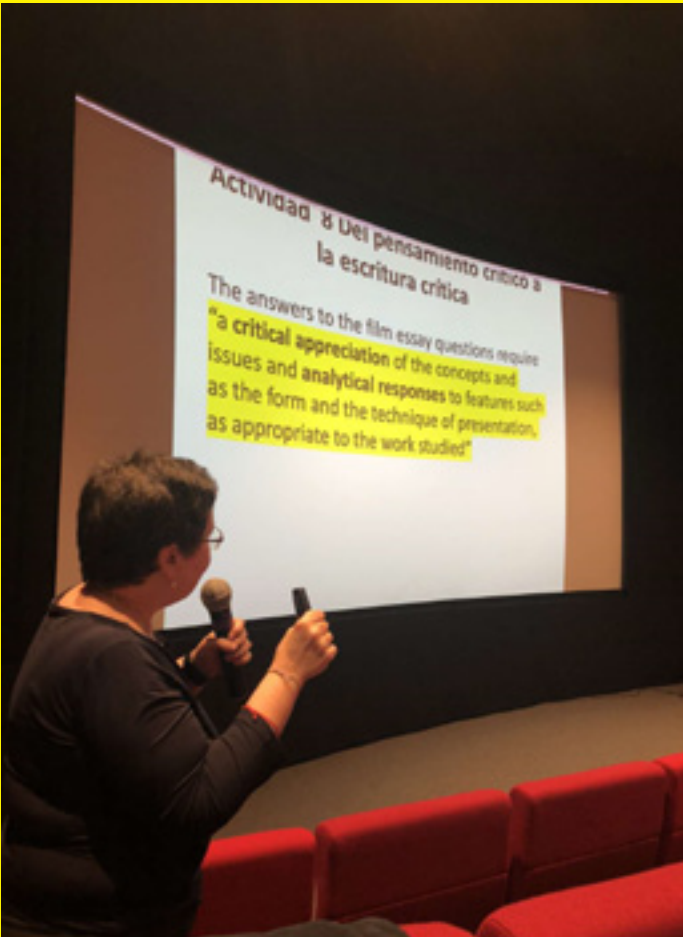
On 21st January, we went on a Spanish Trip to HOME Cinema in Manchester and we saw the film “El Futuro Perfecto”, an apt title for such a mysterious and thought-provoking film. We spent the day enjoying the movie and also analysing its structure and themes. The fictional film is about a young Chinese girl who moves to Buenos Aires in Argentina. It explores how she attempts to fit into society and the struggles of picking up another language, which I think we have all experienced.

She is thrown into the Argentine way of life and must use the little Spanish she has grasped in order to get by. The film is mostly set in 3 locations: her workplace, home and the Spanish language school she attends. The school gives an interesting dynamic to the piece as the progression in language use is eye-opening and thought-provoking. Xiaobin, the protagonist undergoes a love affair in the film with another immigrant, but from India. The excruciating interaction between the two of them gave the film a comedic aspect and made it both enjoyable and amusing to watch. Cultural integration makes up a big aspect of the A-Level course and thus this trip proved very insightful.

The workshop was presented and hosted by Dr Carmen Herrero, Head of Languages at Manchester Metropolitan University. We began by discussing the importance of film in both learning languages and our lives. After watching ‘El Futuro Perfecto’ we explored different techniques the



# SPANISH FILM WORKSHOP



director, Nele Wohlatz, used to create such an interesting and fascinating film, such as the use of colour, language, lighting and lenses - something that will be very important as we progress through the A Level Spanish course. The majority of the event was presented in Spanish and offered a great opportunity to all those hoping to improve their language skills.

Foreign films such as ‘El Futuro Perfecto’ add another dynamic to our learning of a language and help us to delve deeper into the culture of the country and therefore give us a more rounded understanding of how to speak Spanish and what it is like to live in a Spanish speaking culture. This film in particular sought to give us a cultural awareness of the life of a foreigner in a new country (a theme that is particularly relevant in the current state of affairs) and we began to realise the small colloquial aspects of the language that mark the difference between a foreigner trying to speak Spanish and a native speaking it. Consequently, this film among others, such as the work of Guillermo del Toro and Pedro Almodóvar, are essential for our ultimate aim of fluency and we are excited for our next chance to take in a Spanish spectacle.

T Vernon  
A McDonald  
A Kelly  
J McKeivitt

The whole of Year 7 gathered in the Coleman Hall to witness a display of spelling but not as you might think. It was the Modern Foreign Languages Spelling Bee! The whole Year Group had competed against each other in form groups, now only 11 remained. The rules are simple: you have one minute to spell as many words as possible, saying and spelling the word in the required language. AGSB is competing in French, Spanish and German and to get the point you have to do it perfectly. The best two per form (excluding 7MO) stood on stage to compete against each other. Tensions rose around the hall, each contender knowing that this could be the end of the road.

I’m sure that every boy at school has witnessed this nerve-racking experience and this year was no different. The tough contest was fought last month, and every speller tried their hardest to beat their schoolmates. There was an array of scores from 12-22! Congratulations to Ehan, Leo, Ahmed and Bhuvan who are going to represent AGSB in the regional finals against 26 other schools in the North-West. If the foursome is successful, they will compete for the National title at Cambridge University with 200 words under their belt. Win or loss at any of the stages, we all have learned something as it is a great way to introduce us into Modern Foreign Languages. Good Luck to the competitors!

T Ariyo



# MFL SPELLING BEE





# YEAR 8 MENTORING

This year has seen the launch of our new mentoring partnership programme between Year 12 and Year 8 pupils.

A team of Year 12 volunteers is working with Year 8 boys to support them as they make progress throughout the academic year. Our volunteers were matched carefully with their mentees in order to ensure the support they could give them would be as helpful to each individual mentee as possible.

We have two tailor made mentoring programmes running at present. One is the work mentoring group which consists of a core of three mentors from Year 12 namely, Tejiri, Sabeeh and Theo, supported by the wonderful Mrs Bates and other mentors as required who meet and work with a group of Year 8 boys every Monday lunch time. The boys who attend this group either drop in on an ad hoc basis or have been asked by Dr Hepden to attend in order to support and push them in specific subjects so that they make as much progress as they possibly can. The lunch time mentoring group is a fun, relaxed way to get extra challenges or help in any subject and any Year 8 pupil is welcome to join us. The Year 8 boys help each other too by offering to help their peers with subjects they are confident in and it has been great to see them developing their own academic strengths and leadership skills in this group as they support each other.

Our second mentoring programme is our 1 to 1 partnership programme where Dr Hepden matches up individual boys in Year 8 who may need extra support negotiating life at school with one of our fantastic Year 12s. Our Year 12 mentors offer ongoing support with relationship and self-esteem issues, organisation, focus and motivation in lessons. They support their mentees to make positive choices in lessons and around school. The job of our mentors is to listen with kindness, set specific targets and help their mentee reflect on his progress. Our mentors are great role models. They give advice on how to live the school values and be a positive member of the school community. Each mentor-mentee relationship is unique to the needs of the mentee. With guidance from Dr Hepden they decide together what they want to work on and the methods they will use to achieve their goals.

We asked our Year 12 mentors why they got involved in the mentoring programme and this is what they said:

Oluwaferanmi A said: I got involved in the mentoring due to the fact that as a younger pupil, from Year 7-9 I struggled to fit into the school and had a very hard time. I know that if I had a someone to look up to and talk to then it most likely would've have been a different story. As a result, when you asked me to help, I was more than happy to as I didn't want the younger pupils to go through what I did.

Prithvi M said: I got involved with the mentor scheme because I believe that if there is someone there for the younger students when they are struggling, it is more likely that they succeed and become a better person in the future.

Thomas W said: I got involved in the mentoring scheme as I wanted to help those lower down the school not only do better in school but in their social life and their ability to build relationships with others. My main aim in joining was to promote positive attitudes towards school, friends and family. I hope to continue mentoring and helping others feel better about themselves in school and outside of school.

Dr Hepden said: I am absolutely delighted with how the mentoring scheme has grown and developed over the year so far and this is all down to the hard work and dedication of the Year 12 and Year 8 boys involved. I am incredibly proud of the way in which the boys have committed to supporting each other and to their individual progress and growth. We have already seen great success because of the maturity, commitment and empathy of all the boys involved. Thank you to all staff, pupils and families who have supported the mentors and mentees.

Year 12 Mentors currently involved in the programme are:

Sabeeh R, Theodore D, Tejiri O, Aarvi G, Oluwaferanmi A, Eesah A, Prithvi M, Josh G, Thomas W Patrick F, Archie G, and Moriyanu A.

We also have 2 Year 13 Mentors: Mohammad J and Douglas J T

If you would like to get involved in the mentoring programme, please speak to Dr Hepden.

M Dave





Recently, two teams from AGSB went to the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference at Manchester Grammar School for Boys. An MUN conference is a competitive debating tournament with a format based upon the actual United Nations. Teams or "delegations" are assigned a country to represent and each team member or "delegate" takes part in committees on a variety of issues such as Human Rights, the Environment and Health. MUN conferences are held worldwide and are sometimes held by universities. They are a great way to meet new people, learn about the issues facing the world today and develop writing and public speaking skills.

AGSB has recently aimed to develop our MUN teams as well as the MUN society. This year has already seen success at the aforementioned MUN at MGS, but also at the MUN at Cheadle Hulme School, where AGSB's sole delegation received a highly commended award for success across the various committees. AGSB hopes to build upon the success by the recruitment of new members and raising a new generation of talented MUNers.

At the most recent MUN, our A Team once again achieved a highly commended award. Our B Team also met with success, with every delegate from AGSB winning an award. The quality of both teams was a credit to the boys and the teachers who spend their weekends looking after the teams and without whom we could not attend these conferences.



At the end of February, Julie Stratton decided to call it a day here at AGSB, she was known and loved for all her hard work and support to the sixth form and worked tirelessly in promoting the charity work throughout the school. She will be sorely missed and Julie penned a message of farewell for staff and students.

*Dear AGSB staff and students,*

*I googled events of 4th September 2006 and the most significant one worldwide was that it was Beyoncé's 26th Birthday! But for me more significantly it was the first day of that school year and the day the new Sixth Form Common Centre opened AND the day I first served staff and students here at AGSB.*

*The highlights are too numerous to mention - but I have loved being part of so many things and looking after the "boys". I never cease to be amazed at how clever they are and by things that they do outside of just hard work and study. Members of staff have become friends as well as work colleagues and I've had a great working relationship with all of them, especially Tom and Gill.*

*The time has now come for me to leave you all - my last day was 28th February. I wish you all well - please keep in touch and say hello if you see me out and about.*

*Julie x*

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT MGS



AGSB's resident master debater Matthew Curry received his 4th Outstanding Award at an MUN Conference and was so close to acquiring the award most prized by MUNers - a "GF". At AGSB's next MUN conference, we hope to finally win the outstanding delegation and get more silverware, and hopefully meet the legendary heights of AGSB's 2013 victory at Cheadle Hulme School, as Togo. With hard work and some classic AGSB spirit, this can be achieved.

M Doyle

Model United Nation



## JULIE PANINI EXTRAORDINAIRE





On 20th February, our entire Year 12 Computer Science class went on a trip to the Bury Arcade Club. This was a chance to have a look at some retro games to better understand the concepts and game mechanics as well as the more technical side of programming games.

After leaving school at the end of the day, we had a quick stop at a nearby McDonalds for some food and then travelled the last leg of the journey to the Arcade Club.

The arcade features over 300 classic and modern videogames, making it the largest in Europe; there was more than enough to keep us occupied for a few hours.

Once inside, all the games were free to play so we could experiment and try out as many as we desired. Contained within the rows of bulky machines and glowing screens was over 30 years of arcade history.

It was amazing to see that even though some games were almost 30 years old and lacking in modern technology, they were just as fun to play as some of the more modern titles.

There was every kind of game that you could imagine, from Asteroids and Pacman to Street Fighter IV and Sega Rally. There were some surprisingly great ones too, my favourite being Sega Hot Rod, an ingeniously designed racing game that I and three friends spent almost an hour playing.



## BURY ARCADE TRIP



All the games were in their original cabinets with the original controls, adding to the authentic feel.

As part of our A Level Computer Science coursework, we must program a piece of software and the most popular option is usually recreating an existing game.

This trip provided us with inspiration as well as an insight into the features of some potential games that we could make.

It gave us a chance analyse what they did right and what we could change to put our own original spin on them.

Overall, we had an amazing evening getting to have some fun and gain some ideas for our coursework.

A Khawaja



## YEAR 9 SITE VISIT



On 4th February Year 9 were lucky enough to have a tour around the AGSB building site. The tour consisted of 2 main parts: a forty minute talk from Scott Hughes (a representative from the company responsible for the new building) and a 20 minute tour into the site.

Scott Hughes gave the students a large array of information about the various processes that go into creating a building. It starts with the Civil Engineers who are responsible for assessing flood risk, attenuation and below ground drainage design; levels and cut fill analysis and vehicular tracking- can the vehicles enter and leave the site effectively and efficiently. The structural engineers then look at structural surveys and the feasibility of the design, in addition to this the architects draw up a design that is then presented back to the builders and the engineers. To ensure that the building was worthwhile they also needed to look at the sustainability of the build as well as its' costs etc. A Civil and Architectural employee (Nick Barringer) then elaborated upon what we had just learnt and explained that they needed to even account for the small parts of the design, e.g one beam being broader than another.

After this we went into the site and were talked through the practical applications of the theory they had just taught us.

A Gupta



The Art residential at the Conway centre in Wales was a fantastic opportunity for students to create a small body of work for their GCSE. This was a very busy and exciting weekend for students to try new techniques and work alongside different schools.

Each student selected a workshop that they were interested in and the overall theme was Bestiary. The workshops included constructing richly worked and layered dioramas, creating scenes which take inspiration from the fantastical descriptions of medieval bestiaries and the materials used by a selection of contemporary British folk artists.

The mandrake root workshop explored the history and folklore surrounding mandragora officinarum, this workshop group produced three-dimensional outcome using mixed media such as wire. Fabric and acrylics. The embossing workshop created metal patina taking inspiration from medieval scrolls and armour designs also creating illustrations techniques and pattern making from the medieval era. The raven workshop explored the foundations for a drawing, printmaking, possibly painting project and referencing the work of artists such as Sarah Yeoman, Paula Rego, Lindsey Kustusch, Nicola Hicks & Judy Logan.

F Cooke



On Friday 17th January 2020, the AGSB session orchestra returned for their second concert. It comprised of a forty-piece orchestra, featuring strings, brass, saxophones, percussion, pianos and guitars, and featured a group of superb singing talent from the school. These were mainly pupils, but also included Julie Stratton, one of the school's Sodexo staff members. They played 20 well known pop songs from the past 50 years, covering famous hits by a wide span of artists including Queen, Bruno Mars, Michael Bublé, and Avicii, to name a few.

Session orchestra was a new type of concert, only involving a singular band, in contrast to the usual school concerts showcasing numerous bands and orchestras. Also, in contrasts to the usual concerts, instead of rows of seats, the audience sat around tables. There was also food and delicious cakes served by the food and nutrition department at the interval, as well as a fully licensed bar running throughout the evening.

The night was a great success, but that was thanks to the combined 8 hours spent practising over the past 2 days, however, that was nothing compared to the compositions written by Colin and Sam Myers, taking over 100 hours - the effort had really paid off when it came to the performance.

After an emphatic and enjoyable performance of "I'm Gonna Be" to finish off the night, the performers received a standing ovation as well as calls for an encore.

Everyone involved in this fantastic occasion is hugely grateful to the following people for making it such an amazing evening for all: the vocalists, musicians, Matt Withers (sound engineer), Alex Patel (vocal coach), Mrs Jarret, Sam Myers (musical arrangements) and finally Colin Myers (musical arrangements and conductor). We hope this great new band returns next year.

T Hill

## SESSION ORCHESTRA 2020

## ART TRIP TO CONWAY





The term "wellbeing" seems to be a buzz word that has become very popular recently. According to Oxford English Dictionary, wellbeing is "the state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy".

When we are "well", we get on better, we work better and we enjoy life more. We all know that academic success is important to us all, but what is equally important is that we are all happy and comfortable together. At AGSB we believe that our wellbeing is key to success all round and so we invest a lot of time into the wellbeing of students and staff.

#### What do we do for the wellbeing of students at AGSB?

There are many initiatives in place at AGSB to help us with out wellbeing. While there isn't enough space to discuss them all here, I have focussed on 3 that you can all access immediately.

The House system gives us a sense of belonging. Every one of us has something to give to our House and none of us are overlooked. Feeling part of the community helps us to feel more included.

Teen yoga has been recently introduced as an extra-curricular activity. Yoga is exceptionally beneficial for your mental wellbeing because it helps you to relax, destress and declutter your mind. It also helps your physical wellbeing because it helps with increased flexibility, cardio and circulatory health and athletic ability. It is also fun!

We are also fortunate enough to have a counsellor in school, who we can talk to whenever we are experiencing low

moments. It is incredibly important to talk things through when we do not feel ourselves and our counsellor offers a safe and confidential environment to talk.

#### What do we do for the wellbeing of staff at AGSB?

In order to be able to support students in their wellbeing, it is important that the wellbeing of staff is also considered. We also offer a range of wellbeing initiatives for staff. I will again outline a few.

Walking Club runs once a week for staff to leave the confines of work and have a friendly catch-up with colleagues. These 45 minutes away during the day help us to recharge and meet up with other staff who we are often too busy to see.

Staff yoga is also in place to help staff to destress. Marking all those books and tests, writing reports, answering emails and talking all day can be quite stressful. Doing yoga twice a week can really help us to get away from the hectic routine in school.

It is natural for staff to also experience low moments. We are also fortunate to be able to see our school counsellor. This is very beneficial as staff do not always feel comfortable talking about our problems to our managers.

Finally, remember that there are always people around who are looking out for you. It is perfectly normal to not always feel great. If we all look after each other then our wellbeing has a chance of success.

R Chapman

## STAFF AND PUPIL WELLBEING



# Strange, Strange and Gardner

## Consulting Forensic Engineers

# SSG

Noise  
assessments

Road Traffic  
Accident  
reconstructions

Use of  
machinery

Respiratory  
Diseases

Slips,  
trips, falls

Highway defect  
analysis



[enquiries@ssandg.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ssandg.co.uk)



<http://www.ssandg.co.uk>







**Editor Alan Williams**

**Assistant Editors James Legg    Awais Khawaja  
George Thornicroft**

**Kyle Panchal Taylor  
Ahmed Fando  
Taiyyib Arshad  
Aiyush Gupta  
Faizel Ghafoor  
Oluwatosin Ariyo  
Srikaushik Tumula**

**Ibrahim Jamal  
Manthan Dave  
Ahmed Sadiq  
Isaac Cooper  
Ethan Xiong  
Owais Baig**

**Thomas Hill  
Naman Mudaliar  
Hasanat Ali  
Ebrahim Sattar  
Jude Biju  
Rohan Luthra**

**THE**  
**W** **ISSUE 29**  
**RD** **EASTER 2020**  
**ONLINE**  
**AGSB**

 [www.facebook.com/AGSBPublications/](https://www.facebook.com/AGSBPublications/)

 [@AGSBPublication](https://twitter.com/AGSBPublication)

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