
THE
WORD
ONLINE

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SPRING 2017

A G S B



HEAD TO HEAD



As you will read from this edition of The Word, the Spring term 2017 was a very busy one indeed for extra-curricular activities and field trips. The last two weeks of the term showed the School operating at “full throttle” and concurrently achieving superb academic performance.

The fortnight began with an excellent “Pie and Pint” fundraiser for our 2018 Canada Rugby Tour that weekend. I was delighted to learn during the following week that pupils in Years 8 and 7 had won a national Shakespeare public speaking competition and a national Design and Technology competition. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday pupils performed Jesus Christ Superstar to full audiences each night and received deserved standing ovations for their excellent work.

The next weekend we hosted an impressive Year 5 day for 190 primary school pupils, introducing them to Science, Maths, the Arts and Technology. On Monday a year 10 Geology field trip departed for 2 night and 3 days in the Peak District. The same day the Spanish Exchange pupils who visited AGSB departed. On Wednesday our First XI football team took part in the Football Association Schools’ national final playing at Doncaster Rovers ground. We took 500 pupils on 9 coaches to cheer them on. That was the same day as the Classics trip departed for Italy and on the last Friday of term our Parents and Friends Association organised a non-uniform day – the same day as our Ski Trip left for a week in Italy.

A busy fortnight indeed and an insight into the great team work of teachers, support staff and pupils to ensure a hugely successful end to a very busy and rewarding term.

Head Master



Happy Easter! I hope you’ve had an enjoyable- or hard-working Easter break and are ready and raring to go for the final term of the academic year. It only feels like yesterday that I was writing the autumn term’s entry- how time flies!

Although the Easter term is synonymous with exams stress and hard work, there are plenty of things to look forward to. The summer holidays pose a fitting reward for the time you have invested into exams and typically, the harder you work now, the more rewarding the summer break will be.

The new GCSEs in English and Maths and A levels are being sat for the first time, which may seem daunting. However, we must remember that everyone is in the same metaphorical boat and your performance is based on that of the rest of the country.

Once the exams have passed there are many festivities to look forward to. Lower school students can enjoy activities week, year 11s their marathon summer holiday, year 12s looking around universities and year 13s preparing to go to University and begin a new chapter of their life.

My final word of advice is to remember that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and all of your hard work now will be repaid in the future. The work you do now is merely an investment that will inevitably pay off.

Thomas Burke, Head Boy

**“to ensure a
hugely successful
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rewarding term.”**



CHOCOHOLICS

No good deed goes unpunished or so the saying goes. So why bother doing anything nice at all? Some people believe in Karma, but your actions as a student both in and out of school have a bearing on those around you. Take a recent example in Hale, we were delighted to learn that a number of boys impressed a member of the community so much that she took to Facebook to express her thanks.

However that wasn't the end of Lisa showing her appreciation. It just so happens that Lisa runs a design company called Dream Designs 2000. They specialise in chocolate bars. I am unsure if the boys in question had inside information, but their good deed resulted in Lisa delivering a box of chocolate bars to the school. Anyone who had a Dream Designs 2000 card could exchange it for a chocolate via Mr Hall.

So the next time you are in the community think about the impression you give to others. Are you thoughtful polite and caring? Are you the next person to give a great impression of AGSB? Will you be reaping the rewards afterwards?

For more info about Dream Designs 2000 follow the link <http://www.dreamdesigns2000.com>

Alan Williams

Lisa Wong ► LYMM - BUY, SELL & SWAP
February 24 at 4:32pm · 📍

Do you have boys at Altrincham grammar?
Do they catch the number 5 bus home?
Then read on...

Kids these days don't get enough praise , so here goes!
I've just been stood at a bus stop at hale for a bus to Warrington . At the stop were around 30 Alty grammar boys waiting for the number 5 bus to Warrington via lymm. As the bus approached all of them built a wall and moved back to let me walk along and get on first. Although this was something these boys were obviously brought up to do, they didn't have to. Granted, I'm older than them(a little lol) but never have I got on s bus with a nicer group of boys. Where I live the kids are so disrespectful and push on regardless. Now I know why I need to move to lymm or hale! 😊 well done and thanks boys:) I have rang school to praise them all 😊 you can tell the school are on a mission to bring up all rounded gentlemen:)

Lisa Wong ► Hale and Altrincham General
10 Mar at 06:38 · 📍

You may all remember last week I praised the boys of AGSB for being great citizens and having exemplary behaviour when I boarded the bus! (the ones at that particular stop) Well I have my own UK chocolate business, and I created them all a special treat. I sent them all in to the head yesterday One good turn deserves another:) enjoy boys. Is your Son a recipient?



Like

STUDY SKILLS

On 26th January the Year 10 students were asked to attend, with one of their parents, an evening with Dr Thomas and Mrs Eastwell. The evening provided information about the best way to study. It included information such as the importance of a positive mindset as well as how to tackle revision.

The evening started with a quiz consisting of seven multiple choice questions for parents which would reflect their personality. At the end of the quiz they were told that each option would give them a score of plus or minus one, two or three. If they had a strong positive score it meant they had a growth mindset, however if they had a strong negative score it meant they had a fixated mindset, whilst having a score around zero meant they had a neutral mindset.

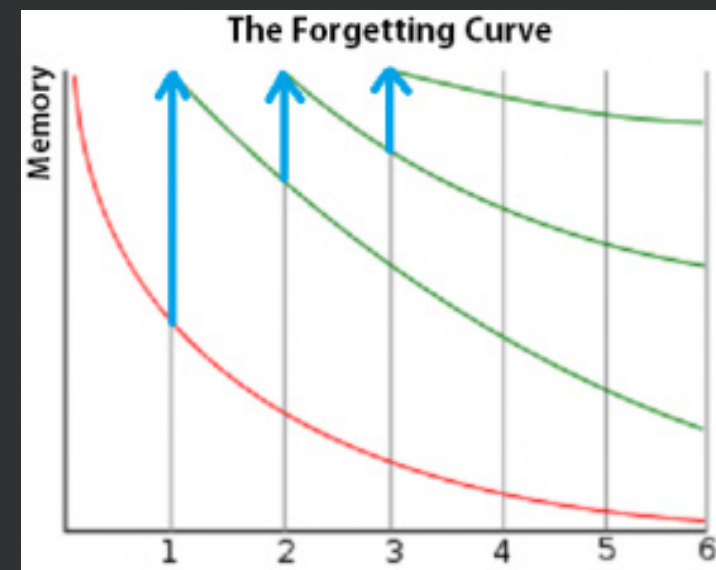
Afterwards Mrs Eastwell took over and started to explain the new grading system and how it compares to the legacy A* to C grading system. The parents were also informed on how the progress is monitored through the two years of GCSE.

Later on there was a lecture on guidance for effective revision. They were told that they first had to get organised and draw revision timetables. They were also informed that they had to

“Revision. Oh no!”

make their timetable in a way to ensure they have interleaves of topics and subjects rather than block revision. They were also told that they should make sure each and every topic of every subject is reviewed at a minimum of Three Times. It was interesting to hear that interleaving makes revision more effective, this is because it makes the brain work better. They were also told never to copy out large chunks of text from a textbook as doesn't make you think as much, therefore making it less effective.

Anish Das



CERN TRIP



On the 9th January 2017 twenty of us set off from Manchester airport on our way to Geneva, the home of CERN. As expected our flight was delayed and so we arrived in Geneva at 3 PM, this gave us time to settle into the hostel (which included James Tombs and Alex McInnes somehow managing to wander into the ladies bathroom) and to walk around the centre of Geneva. During our walk we visited some of the famous landmarks, such as the flower clock and the world's longest bench.

The following day we visited CERN, the location of the large hadron collider, where particles can be accelerated close to the speed of light. We were given a tour around the ATLAS detector visitor centre, although we weren't allowed to go inside the detector itself, we watched a 3D video of its construction, and saw the control centre of the machine. The ATLAS detector is one of the machines involved in the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012, which made the news

across the globe. We then visited the Synchrocyclotron, the first ever particle accelerator built at CERN, in 1957. This accelerator is much smaller than the current LHC, and can fit into one warehouse compared to the 27km circumference of the LHC. It is also no longer in use, and so we could get up close to this machine. To complete our visit, we ended the day with an epic snowball fight at the entrance to CERN, which ended with James Richards getting stuck in a ditch whilst being bombarded with snowballs, this of course was one of the many highlights of the trip.

On the final day we had an early flight and so we had one last opportunity to splash our remaining cash on some extremely expensive Swiss chocolate before the flight home back to Manchester.

Ben Howells



ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

The Royal Photographic Society is one of the world's oldest photographic societies and I was honoured to be featured in their competition "International Images for Science 2016". The competition was calling for images that cover all breadths of science from medicine, forensic science, zoology, engineering, astronomy and all scientific fields. My image "Progression of the blood moon" was featured alongside 99 other images picked from over 2500 entries in a touring exhibition which visited 10 places around the UK, including The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Exchange Theatre, The Millennium Forum and The Edinburgh International Science Festival.

The photo itself documents the "Supermoon" partial eclipse which is when the moon is at the point of orbit closest to the earth. The reddish hue of the "Blood Moon" is a result

of longer wavelengths of light such as red, being bent by the Earth's atmosphere to fall on the moon, while shorter wavelengths, such as blue light, are scattered.

The International Images for Science competition 2017 is now open for entries, it is free to enter and the closing date is midnight on Sunday 30th April 2017.

See more at: <http://www.rps.org/competitions/international-images-for-science-2017>

Luke Kwan

UKSDC NATIONAL FINALS

The year is 2087 and we have been tasked, by The Foundation Society, with the design of a mobile settlement to roam the surface of the planet Mercury. We have been assigned 20 hours to produce a fully functioning, scientifically accurate design to present, in order to claim 1st place and advance to the international finals.

The stage had been set. Imperial College London, March 17th-19th. The national finals of the UK space design competition with the title of national champions and the next stage of competition on the line. Having finished school on the Friday, myself, Chris Jurkowski, Luke Kwan, Alex Gower, Alex Duff, Noah Williams, Will Blair, Rob Platt, Ian Xie, Owen Richards, Will Lunt and Liam Paulson headed down to London to compete against 4 other teams, containing 5-6 other schools. Our own team consisted of ourselves, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, Nonsuch High School for Girls and Queen Elizabeth School Barnet, all of whom we met for the first time at the college itself.

In a similar fashion to the regional stage of the competition, each team was assigned a fictitious company to act under throughout the day. Our team acted under "Spacebus Z"(believe me, we all hated the name too) and, after being lead to our base of operations for the day, assigned ourselves roles within the company by popular vote. Despite Chris' best efforts, we selected a girl from Haberdashers' Aske's school, Shameem Golestaneh to be President, although he did receive a consolation prize by being chosen as Vice. We then split into the 5 different groups, specified in the RFP (Request for Proposal, effectively our specification) in order to cover different aspects of the design of the base. These were: Automations, Operations, Human engineering, Structural engineering and Marketing.

What ensued was a high intensity day (and night) of work, ranging from the design of the biometric scanners used as a form of verification, to the mechanism for waste treatment, and contingency plans. All 48 of us worked as a unit in order to meet the strict 08:00 deadline set by the judges



and fully address all aspects of the RFP. As a member of the automations team, my job was to design the computer systems needed to run such a massive base, especially concerning systems that controlled the critical ambient variables (e.g. partial pressures of O₂, temperature etc.) associated with keeping the population alive and well. Alex Gower and I worked extensively on our section of the RFP (and others' sections- yes I'm looking at you Structural!), especially on an innovative idea concerning a fully automated repair system for the habitat, robots that we coined "Scarabs".

The team got off to a relatively slow start and so were slightly behind schedule by 20:00 when we had to leave the college. We all headed back to our hotel rooms and reconvened in a number of rooms to continue on working late into the night and the early hours of the morning. Despite the unintentional sabotage caused by the Head of Marketing's inability to stay awake, we (just about) managed to finish and save our research and design to a pen drive that Chris had to deliver to the college by 08:00. This came at a cost however, our sleep, as some of us decided to "pull an all-nighter" in order to finalise the details of our design. Inevitably, this caught up with us as some of us (and I find myself guilty of this) were unable to stay awake for the entirety of all 5 presentations and found ourselves falling asleep from time to time.

Sunday the 18th brought with it the judges' decisions, and thankfully (because I don't think I could have stayed awake

for much longer) we were up first. Our presentation went very well and all but one judge seemed to enjoy it. She was the co-founder of the competition, Anita, and I think everyone (in the competition) would agree with me when I say that that lady was a nightmare to answer. We watched team after team get shredded by her scathing remarks so that by the end of all the presentations, no one was fully sure of who had won, although within our team, we had narrowed it down to between Vulture Aviation (team 5) and ourselves. To effectively everyone's surprise, neither of us came out on top. That honour was given to team 2, Dougeldyne Fletchel, who everyone had ruled out due to Anita's dismantling of their particular design, causing some sore losers to protest that the winners had been chosen at the role of a die (but of course not out loud). Immediately following the announcement of the winners, an award was presented to a member of each team who had demonstrated leadership qualities under pressure, despite not having an official title. I was a proud recipient of the Dick Edwards award (yes, all the jokes have been made), ensuring that our school was well represented in the national finals. The winners now go onto the international stage at the Kennedy Space Centre, the goal that we will hopefully be aiming for next year.

Success Anyanwu



GEOLOGY QUIZ

It was tense waiting for the other school to turn up. We had spent months working on our poster and presentation and we were very anxious not to see all our hard work potentially go to waste. We were going over our scripts while the minutes slowly trickled down to the final moments before our presentation.

We heard talking outside of N8 and Dr Stevens strode in with the other team, Bury Girls Grammar School, and their teacher in tow. We were trying not to be so petty but we were eyeing up the competition and I know some of us were considering trash talk!

The judges; all esteemed Geologists from around the country were the last to arrive. It was a little intimidating to be presenting our PowerPoint in front of people with such knowledge about geology but we were confident that all our information was correct. They were quick to start the competition with a briefing and congratulations for doing what we had done so far.

It was our presentation first, "Venus: The Second Rock from the Sun". While the making, designing and producing of it was a group effort it was only me, Zeerak Aziz and Puria Radmard who were doing the speaking and let me tell you it was the slickest and smoothest presentation we'd done, more so than any of our practices. Not one of us forgot a line and we even got the judges to laugh a few times. At the end the judges asked us a few questions about the presentation and its content and safe to say we answered them well.

We left the stage (I'm being grandiose it was really the front of N8), and the girls school went up to do their presentation on Vesuvius and it was something special. They were geography students so more used to making high quality presentations and so the judges were impressed with their display. However, when the judges asked some important geological questions regarding their work they failed to answer, much to our delight.

Subsequently Dr Stevens walked in with pizzas in hand for our intermission, an unexpected treat, but at the time we thought we deserved it, as we ate the judges told us about the final aspect of the competition; The Quiz.

We were given answer sheets and on the whiteboard was displayed a number of geological dingbats and questions to solve. There was a tight time limit and we were all hastily writing down answers that we thought were right as we whispered loudly amongst ourselves. We were worried that the girls' team had achieved a better score than us in the presentation and the quick glimpses at their poster confirmed our worries that theirs was probably better than ours.

The quiz took a long time and we were unsure on so many of the answers. The judges did their best to mark them as quickly as possible, but it still took five minutes, waiting in the terror of Dr Stevens's wrath if we were to lose. The judges stood up, signalling that they were ready to give their final scores...

"On the poster and presentation AGSB scored a total of 97 points, Bury Grammar scored 104" it was close but we thought we'd lost it, we felt truly disappointed in ourselves until we heard one of the judges say "however" Our interest was heightened, we still had the quiz and we knew there was a chance we had done well... They revealed our score and we had won!

We had accrued just enough points in the quiz to go ahead and we were overcome with joy as the judges handed us our trophy and shook our hands. They congratulated us on our progression to the national round and, wanting to be sportsmanlike, we in turn congratulated Bury Girls Grammar School and thanked them for a close competition.

It was a great experience to do something like that and the whole team is extremely excited for the next round in London.

Owen Richards

YEAR 13 GEOLOGY TRIP

Our recent geology trip to Cyprus started with an early morning meet up at Manchester airport, followed by a four and a half hour flight, during which I learnt a new card game and proceeded to beat the students who taught me the game. Upon arrival, we picked up hire cars designed for speeds of 30 mph. We could not keep up with the crazy Cypriot drivers. I felt sorry for everyone in my car, as it was my iPod that was used, which featured very little music from this millennium but included such albums as: "The best air guitar album" and "The best air guitar album 2". When we got to the hotel, we found that there was a pool, sauna, steam room and cooking facilities (which led to a few fire alarms going off and a few phone calls from reception).

Our average day consisted of a buffet breakfast at eight (we might have made them go bankrupt with the amount we ate) and then leaving for our days' excursions at nine. These consisted of a few hours' drive, and of course more great music, followed by the incredible geology the Cypriot ophiolite had to offer. We then came back to the hotel at about 5, recovered for an hour and then went swimming, unwinding from the hard day's work by playing dunk bulldog and human pyramid wrestling in the indoor pool. The evenings were filled

**“Overall
a fantastic
trip with fond
memories”**

with going out to local restaurants and bars or staying in the hotel to watch geologically accurate films, such as "The Core", or "Airplane versus Volcano".

On the way back to the airport we stopped at a pizza parlour which did the largest pizzas I have ever seen. Congratulations to Isaac and Lewis for finishing a large pizza after Mrs Eastwell challenged everyone to eat one.

Overall a fantastic trip with lots of fond memories. Many thanks to Dr Stephen, Mrs Eastwell, Mr Newton and Mrs Keall for giving us the opportunity to visit this amazing place.

George Gibbons





HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Monday 30th January, twelve students from Year 7 to 10 travelled to Sale Waterside Arts Centre in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day; a day which allows us to reflect upon past genocides, the Holocaust and other traumatic events. It is a day where we sympathise with the living who have lost members of their family and maybe even their friends. But it is also a day in which we strive to prevent any such events from taking place in the future.

Whilst we were there we heard true stories of peoples' grandparents who had been victims of the Holocaust back in 1935 and others from refugees who had come from an environment of war and crisis into a society of which they didn't even speak the language. These stories were very moving as these students had only been in this country for just over two years and their will to strive for a better life was compelling.

We then saw a presentation from two students from Sale Grammar School who talked about their visit to Auschwitz.

They showed us several pictures of the concentration camps and memories of the shocking events that took place all those years ago, in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Then, we listened to a song from the Head Rabbi of Manchester which was sung in English, Medieval Hebrew and Yiddish. It was about the Holocaust and the unnecessary loss of innocent lives. Whilst he was singing there was the lighting of three candles and a prayer was said to reflect and pray for those who had lost their lives.

Thanks to all the staff involved and a special mention to Mr Croxton for making the trip possible.

James Legg and Kyle Panchal-Taylor



BERLIN HISTORY TRIP

The Berlin trip was not just an insight into the horrors of Nazi Germany, but an opportunity to have a social experience shared between both our teachers and friends. The relaxed atmosphere gave us a break from the intense times during the GCSE period.

The four-day trip seemed to last only a matter of seconds as we were always on the move, meaning that boredom was never going to kick in. We arrived extremely restless after our flight and bus journey, eager to explore Berlin. The hotel that we stayed in was extremely modern and was a great place to relax after a day of venturing round the city.

Although we visited many interesting, historical points of interest such as the Holocaust memorial and Topography of Terror, the place that struck us the most was Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. When we arrived at the front gates of the camp the chill and eeriness set in, with us imagining the appalling conditions for the prisoners inside.

In contrast to the horrors of the Nazi regime, we also had some free time to go around some of the shopping centres in Berlin allowing us time to get a much welcomed hot chocolate, giving us some respite from the gripping cold outside.

On the second night, we had time to go bowling, which for the majority of the time changed from a battle of the bowls to the arm wrestling championships. Mr Hall won the bowling, obviously, as we had to let the teacher win not due to his dominance in skill, technique, finesse, consistency and... Anyway, Paul Butcher (The Great) won the true contest with the fiercest arm wrestle.

On reflection, the Berlin trip was an extremely useful way to develop relationships between people in the school who you may not necessarily associate with and expand our knowledge of Germany both now and in the past. We thoroughly recommend this trip to any future historians.

Douglas James Taylor and Jack Fairlie



MANCHESTER MAYOR ELECTION



Andrew Burnham, former Shadow Health Minister and now Shadow Education Minister, talked on 24th January about his passion to become Greater Manchester Mayor, the position to which he could be elected in May. While appealing to voters in school he stated that 'Young people are at the heart of my manifesto...' placing a greater emphasis on his intentions to improve standards for the arts and technology departments of education.

Surprisingly, the first question was 'Would you abolish the position of Greater Manchester Mayor based on its undemocratic formation?' His reply to this was, 'The way we got to this position was not ideal, but the position allows for more devolution to the North-West.'

On the usual subjects, Burnham said 'A European super state isn't workable, the EU already erodes national identity... Brexit won't be entirely bad.' Then made this radical comment: 'Politics is getting worse, there is more orchestrated abuse in voting.' Could this be a true reflection of Parliament today?

To end, Burnham made an eloquent speech about the dangers of nationalism: '[Nationalism] is never healthy. It creates aggression, it creates us and them scenarios and it harms society.'

Tom Hurrell

“Now is not the time to stand on the sidelines.”



On 20th February, Sean Anstee, the Conservative candidate for Manchester Mayor, gave a talk about his policies, Conservatism and the rise of right-wing populism. To clarify, populism is a political ideology of the masses taking on the corrupt establishment (sounds familiar).

On transport, Anstee talked about making travel in Manchester 'smart' with something like an Oyster card, a suits-all travel card for buses, trains, the Underground and ferry service. Of course, Manchester doesn't have many of these services, but we do have enough trams and trains to justify this.

Despite saying that building near to the city centre is better, Anstee told us that Andy Burnham 'will tell you that he is open to green belt development' citing that '300,000 more people will live in Greater Manchester by 2037.' Burnham also said that there is 'orchestrated abuse for voting' to which Anstee said '[There has to be] some element of discipline, [there will always be] tension between freedom of thought and something to agree on.' Anstee was a Remainer, and stands by his decision, but does not reject the public's choice: 'I voted remain, but we are leaving the EU.'

Tom Hurrell

DR. WINTER TALK



Dr. Aaron Winter visited us on 1st February. He gave a speech in the Library about "how the 'Far Right' have moved from the margins to the mainstream in post-Brexit Britain and Trump-era America" Lots of interesting information was given and explained, with an open Question and Answer session towards the end.

He began by defining the 'Far Right' and how it has come from the side-lines into the limelight after Brexit and the recent US Election that divided the American communities; Dr. Winter also stated that extremist groups sided with President Donald Trump and because of this hate crimes, racism and sexism rates will increase over Trump's 'reign'. By this point, people were buzzing with questions.

Q1: Do you think Civil Disobedience can be justified?

A1: I think that it's important to take the high ground with things like this because violence is never the right answer, so just go with your conscience and what you think is right. What

people believe nowadays is shocking, but it's their choice to believe in that.

Q2: Do you think social media has helped the 'Far Right'?

A2: Absolutely. Now, it's not just people sat in their house or basement, it's happening live, which is why I believe being on your phone or tablet is not being anti-social, it's just another form of being social, which is what is putting the 'Far Right' in such a good position right now.

A huge thank you to the History & Politics Society, Jewish Society, Islamic Society and Dr. Winter himself for coming and setting up this incredible opportunity.

George Thornicroft





JOHN RYLAND'S LIBRARY TRIP

On Thursday the 9th of March, a group of six A - Level students from Year 12 attended a workshop at the John Ryland's Library in Manchester, seeking the origins of the English language and how it has evolved over time. Riveting stuff, I know. Bernard and Mary, our tour guides showed us manuscripts and folios dating back to 1476, printed on the first ever printing press to ever hit the shores of England developed by a fella named William Caxton. The Canterbury Tales was the first book to be printed and many followed, we saw the King James Bible of 1611, the first Bible to be translated into English, as well as Shakespeare's second folio, originally written in pen as pencils confused him. 2B or not 2B? We were also in the presence of the first dictionary ever put together in the English language, developed by Samuel Johnson whose definitions were a little off, even by today's standards. For example, the word 'oats' was originally defined 'a grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people.' Oh boy, how times have changed.

Henry Barlow



AUTHOR VISIT

On 27th February, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of World Book Day, AGSB held a huge author event. We invited three authors - Vivian French, Rob Lloyd Jones and Joe Berger, and students from Year Sevens and many local primary schools. We had two sessions and more than 800 pupils and teachers attended.

The authors talked about how they started writing, the books they have written and how they get inspiration for their work. The first author to speak was Vivian French. She struggled initially with her writing because she couldn't spell, but she was told, "If you can tell a story, you can write a story!" She likes building a story around feelings and to write about evil because it's fun.

The second author was Rob Lloyd Jones. He talked about his book, Jake Atlas and the Tomb of the Emerald Snake, which is based on his love of treasure hunting. He is a fully qualified Egyptologist and told us about new discoveries in the field.

Finally, Joe Berger talked about his book - Lyttle Lies: Pudding Problem. This wittily illustrated book is in the style of Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Joe illustrated the book himself and

"If you can tell a story, you can write a story!"

drew some of his characters for us. He also read us the first chapter from his book - it was very entertaining.

After the talks, we all had the opportunity to buy signed copies of the authors' books. I must say, this event got our World Book Day celebrations off to a brilliant start.

Josho Sarma



LIGHTING THE WAY

Every year we ask Year 10 Product Designers to design and manufacture a light for their pre GCSE project. This year was no exception with a range of outstanding products being produced.

Scoring the highest in the class was Benji Lovell's innovative two-way mirror design that lit up from the inside, but became a mirror when the light was turned off. We were impressed by George Evans' outdoor BBQ light with recycled slate (along with fighter jet ejector seat buttons, no one knows why) that was to be used by his Dad. We loved Joe Finlan's Aquatic inspired night light for his Mum, a nature inspired design with Fidal Kotta's mushroom design and a creative three way movable design created by Bradley Streeter for his Mum.

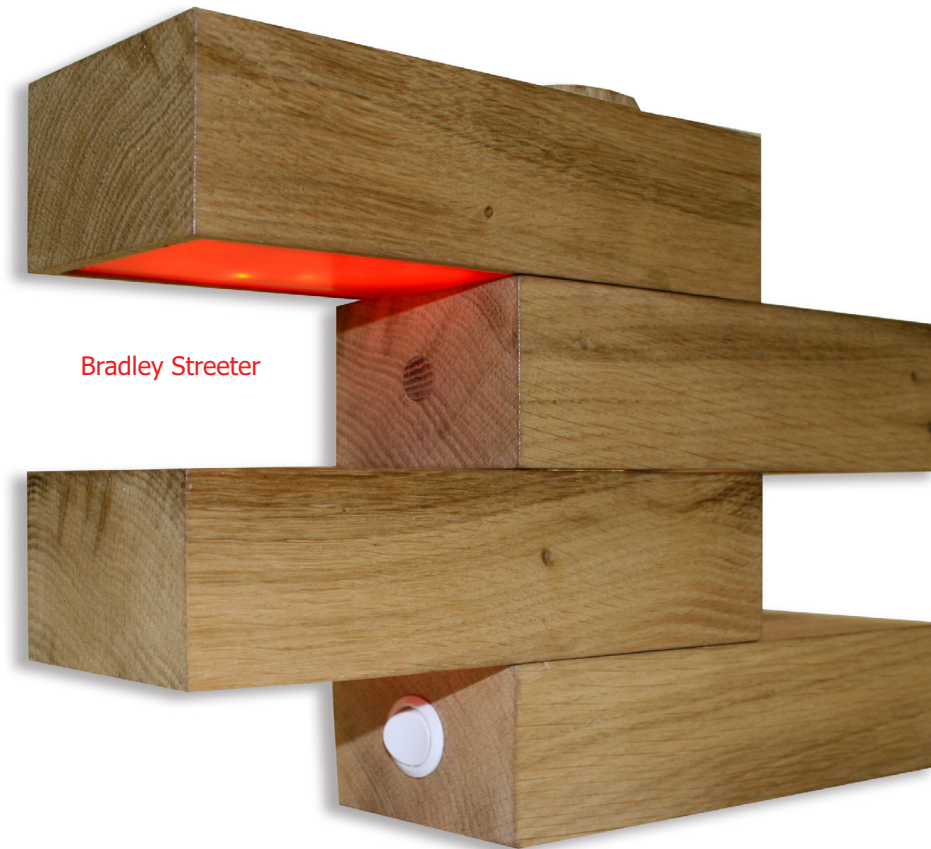
Well done to all of the Product Designers and we look forward to seeing what they will manufacture for their GCSE projects.

Alan Williams

Benji Lovell



Bradley Streeter



Joe Finlan



Fidal Kotta



George Evans





THE BETT SHOW



I went to Mr. Carr and talked to him about 'The Bett Show'. The Bett Show is an educational computing event where many of the leading computing companies go.

Q1: What kind of things did you see?

A1: A range of things popped up, but I saw people talk about whiteboards used today turning into TVs and tablets and laptops being used instead of PCs during CICT lessons.

Q2: What is changing right now with the internet, WWW, etc.?

A2: Well, browsers and search engines will not really change, but 5G is coming out in 2020, and that is meant to be a lot faster than 3G and 4G.

Q3: What do you think this will mean for ICT as a school subject?

A3: Not much really. The government dropped ICT, so now

it is Computing and ICT because coding is being taught now too, so as we see already, CICT is an ever-changing subject.

Q4: What were you doing at the Bett Show?

A4: I was working with the BBC and IET on their Micro:bit project. I was showing teachers how to use it and what it can do. We used Dr. Who as a theme, powering Daleks using the Micro:bit. I also worked with Zach Shelby, the Micro:bit Foundation CEO.

Q5: Will all of this benefit Computing for the better?

A5: Overall, yes. It may have a few flaws, but overall it will work very well.

A huge thank you to Mr. Carr for letting me interview him during his lunch break!

George Thornicroft



PRIMARY MATHS MASTERCLASS

Six years ago, whilst I was still a young child in year six of primary school, I had the opportunity to take part in a masterclass maths course at AGSB. It was definitely the weekly highlight for me - I recall doing sessions on 3D geometry, on the wonders of infinity and another on elaborate codebreaking, all of which were superb!

Six years later, one rainy afternoon in class, I along with the rest of my further maths class were offered the opportunity to help out at this event - and oh how the nostalgia came flooding right in. With free biscuits and drinks on offer too, it would have been a hard invitation to turn down!

The sessions ran for five weeks, each session having three sixth-form volunteers to (attempt to) manage the dozens of eager mathematicians from local primary schools, eager to learn all about the interesting side of maths (yes, it does have an interesting side.) The sessions were hosted in M2 each week after school on five consecutive Mondays in February, March and April.

Each week there were many activities, puzzles, and games – as well as prizes for the best schools each week of course! I helped out in the Code-breaking week, in which we had increasing difficulty of code puzzles to solve, and a particularly challenging one at the end with such a simple solution! To add to that, there was the cunning persuasion to love maths, using “My favourite lesson at AGSB will be maths” as one of the secret messages! Finally, there was interesting background and stories given to the maths, including how the Enigma Code was cracked at Bletchley Park in 1944.

All of the kids loved the sessions, just as I did six years ago. With the help of the staff, we brought light to the minds of these youngsters, proving that maths is, in fact, fun.

James Hope

PI CHALLENGE

14th March was the world national Pi day and to celebrate the Maths department organised an event to celebrate the iconic maths symbol. The event seemed simple, memorise as many digits of Pi as you can and if you get the most you win a prize!! The idea was simple but as the contestants found out wasn't as easy as it seemed....

The competition took place at 12:30 in M4 and it had around twenty entries. The standard was set high straight from the off with the first competitor getting an impressive 17 digits. But as the third student stepped up he smashed that with an impressive 71 digits correctly memorised and recited at such a pace Miss Morgan and Mr Herrington couldn't even keep up with checking the numbers. The next few contestants did well but didn't get close to this total until a pupil called Mohsin Mohammed stepped up and recited 107 digits in under two minutes impressing everyone who witnessed it.

He sat down leaving everyone in shock and the other competitors were all left to contend for what seemed like second place. 17 more pupils had a crack at the challenge, with Mr Herrington also having a go getting an impressive score of 9. Sadly it wasn't 108 so he didn't take the lead. The event was drawing to a close and the totals where all being checked and counted, it seemed like Mohsin had won the top prize. This was until Terence He, a confident Sixth Former, walked into the room to have a go at the challenge. He started off slow firmly concentrated on the task at hand and continued for around 12 minutes slowly but surely ticking off the numbers until he slipped up on number 135!

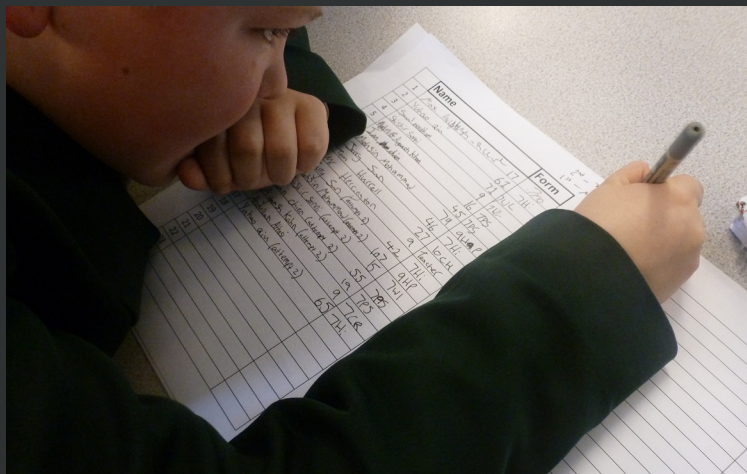
This was an incredible feat to watch and achieve and he

“Memorise such a vast amount of numbers”

told us he had a very specific way to memorise such a vast amount of numbers using a well know mind memory system called Mind Palace. This is the association of numbers to a journey and as you progress along you associate the numbers next with a further part of your journey and you continue until you get to where you have to go.

This score was almost double second place and was a very worthy winner of the biggest Easter Egg, Moshin got second place with his 107 score and third went to a Year 8 student with a score of 71. This was a successful event and was a great way to mark the national event.

Edward Layfield



UNDER 15'S RUGBY 7'S SUCCESS



On 15th March the AGSB Rugby 7's team took part in a tournament at Lymm High School competing with twenty other schools for the title and the cup. We arrived at school at 12 O'clock, and the conditions couldn't have been more perfect for the tournament, with dry weather and a sunny sky. This was looking favourable as we are a team built on pace and to have dry conditions would benefit our squad's performance. We were in a group consisting of The Grange, Woodchurch High, Lymm A and Caldys Grange Grammar school.

This group was looking very favourable to win as we had avoided some of the big rugby schools such as Kings Macclesfield, Saint Ambrose and Stockport Grammar. The tournament was going to be an all-day occurrence so we had 30 minutes before our first game with The Grange, a tough game but a winnable one. We set up camp under some trees close to Pitch 3, where our first game was to be played and had a stretch off before we entered our warm-up.

After a psychological wake up that we were here ready to play we got straight into our game. The Grange were a physical, well drilled side but as the first half drew on they couldn't cope with the pace that the backline possessed through Edward Layfield, Ted Williams, Leo Swarbrick and Jack Bradburn. This allowed a few early tries to give us the lead at halftime 19-0. A few changes were made at the break and we were back at it again, once more our pace seemed too much for the other team to handle with the fulltime whistle being blown and a 33-14 win to AGSB.

We had 10 minutes before our next game, which was expected to be much harder, against Lymm A. The game was even to start off with a few breakaway tries on both sides, the first half was a 50-50 game with the score being 14-17 to Lymm. As the second half kicked off Lymm hit back scoring a very early try to take a grasp of the game, Mr Rawson made a few tactical changes bringing on Ed Wheeler and Douglas James Taylor to try and match the physicality upfront. This had a dramatic effect on the game as we scored two tries, with an exceptional try from Ted Williams beating two men then running fifty yards to score under the posts. This had a momentum effect on the game as they knocked on a ball over the line and we managed to win the game 28-22.

We now had a break for an hour before we played our second two games against Woodchurch High and Caldys Grammar. This was a welcome break as the previous games had taken a lot out of us. We didn't stop for too long as we then went on to play Woodchurch who proved to be easier than our previous opponents with the end score being 47-7 and a hat-trick for Douglas James Taylor.

Our final group game was against Caldys Grammar and whoever won this won the group and went through to the semi-final of the cup. We put out the strongest side possible but this didn't manage to keep out an early break away try from their winger. We then put up a fight and the halftime score was 15-14 to Caldys. We put all we had out into that game but the physicality of the team was the only thing that separated us and we lost the game 22-21. We were disappointed to be out of the cup but we still had a chance in the trophy.

Our semi-final was against Wilmslow, a very strong team with two stand out players, but we weren't going to let that intimidate us and we took the game head on. This was the most brutal game we had ever played and we were down at half time. We used this to our advantage to play to the best of our ability and with some magic team rugby we ended up with Jack Braburn scoring under the posts, and we just had to get the kick to win the game. Our captain and kicker Leo Swarbrick stepped up and with nerves of steel claimed the two points to win us the game.

We were through to the final and we were going to play either Wirral or Stockport for the chance to win the trophy. Their game took place in front of us and we saw that through good tackling and quick hands that Wirral would play us in the final.

The game started fifteen minutes later and we quickly established our authority with a quick break from Jack Braburn to get us ahead, he then scored a minute later with an astonishing show of pace to stamp our dominance on the game. The half time whistle blew and we knew that we had to put it all out on the pitch as it was the last half of rugby we would ever play under Mr Rawson, the last three years had led up to this point. We had some inspirational words at half time from our captain and we went out there knowing we weren't going to lose this game. The game was a physical battle but we came out firing with Seb Affi doing a rugby league type off load to put Douglas James Taylor in for a simple run in. After then Wirral never looked like scoring and as the full time whistle blew cheers came up from all those in green and white. With the final score 28-0 to AGSB, a brief shake of hands between the teams and we went off to collect silverware for the third time in two weeks.

Edward Layfield

CABARET NIGHT



As usual the Cabaret Night was a big success this year. There was a full hall during the event and all the food was finished for once, thanks to The Concert Band.

We saw performances from The Concert Band and Symphonic Band, during the three hour event, both of which were fantastic. There was a bar thanks to Mr Newton and also a generous food table.

As always, Mr Myers and Miss De Jesus did a great job of organising the event and preparing the ensembles and they will be glad that the event went so well. Well done to everyone who performed.

Aren McCabe

MORRISBY CAREERS PROFILING

In the current educational climate, the range of options at both Further and Higher Education can be very daunting for both students and parents. Making the wrong choice can be a costly business. With this in mind, the Careers Department offered all students in Years 11 and 12 the chance to take the Morrisby Careers Profiling Test in January. The Morrisby Profile is a very well respected process which has provided careers guidance assessments for over forty years. The organisation is registered with The British Psychological Society and every test and report is validated by psychologists to ensure that the results are as practical and reliable as possible. We were delighted that 33 students took up the opportunity and even more delighted at their overwhelmingly positive reactions to the outcomes.

The boys spent a morning completing a series of written tests designed to reveal their aptitudes and strengths. These psychometric assessments uncovered what students enjoy doing, what they are good at, their planning style and approach to work. They also investigated how candidates solve problems and what motivates them. All of this information was used to point the students in the right direction as to which courses and careers will suit them. They and their parents were then given a very full and detailed personal report which Mrs Prentis talked them through.

The response from both students and parents was overwhelmingly positive and they agreed unanimously that the whole exercise was extremely worthwhile in helping the students to choose their A-level subjects and potential Higher Education options. It is certainly a process which we will offer again next year.

Laura Barratt



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CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

On 10th of February on a cold and wet Friday lunchtime a charity football match took place on the field, with the aim to raise money for Saint Anne's Hospice. It is a personal choice of one of our members of staff, Mr Dunne. It was a great event that raised a lot of money for the charity and was a huge success from the Year 11 organisers.

It both achieved a successful lunchtime and raised awareness for the cause. At last minute the teachers' team had a few blows to their starting squads as Dr Marsden, Mr Davies and Mr Williams were all unavailable to play in the game. Nevertheless the game took place with a few last minute replacements courtesy of the Six Form Rugby team.

At 12:40 the game started with the teachers in possession of the game and some cool, crisp passing enabled them to maintain possession. This allowed for a chance for Mr Reeder whose shot to the bottom right corner was easily saved by the Six Form Keeper, Joe Fisher.

With that switch of possession there was a turn of momentum as the six formers had the ball and were passing it around with ease before Sam Brown slotted his team ahead 5 minutes into the half after a powerful strike to the bottom left corner. After this the pupils were on top and never showed signs of letting go of this lead. The pupils now had the lion's share of possession pushing forward with every chance. This dominance was once again shown as after a good move they were 2-0 up thanks to Raj Singh with a curling shot on the edge of the box.

At half time the game was 2-0 with many chants for the infamous Reeder, cheering echoed around the field for the

star player of the teacher's team.

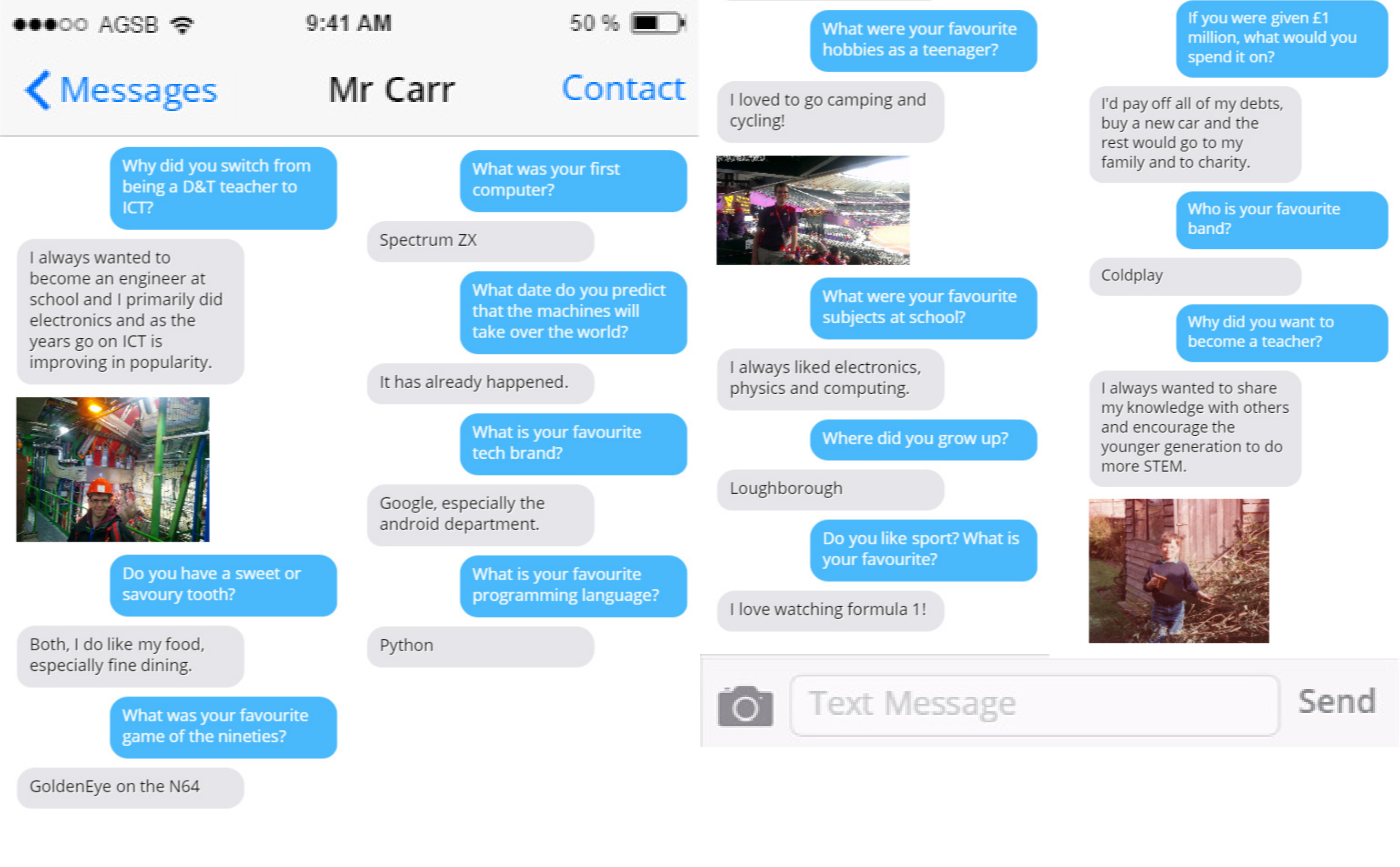
Quickly after the start of the second half the six formers added to their lead through Raj Singh a wonder goal as he saw the space in behind and chipped Mr Croxton to make it 3-0. Three minutes into the second half though the teachers where awarded a free kick which was swung in magnificently and Mr Reeder made a solid connection to hit the cross bar with a wonder strike but still he couldn't find the back of the net.

Just as we thought the teachers were back in it the students hit back with a fourth through Tom Queley, a shot coolly slotted into the back of the net from close range. The momentum continued as Mr Croxton made a fine double save to deny the students a further led on the game.

Then a great chance fell to Mr Reeder as he had a shot tipped over the bar. This was followed up by a corner which lead to a bicycle kick with a fine save by Joe Fisher. But that wouldn't deny Reeder a consolation goal celebrated finely with a dab. As the final whistle blew the end result was 4-1, a quick shake of hands was exchanged before the crowd began to disperse back onto the school yard.

Edward Layfield





Why did you switch from being a D&T teacher to ICT?

I always wanted to become an engineer at school and I primarily did electronics and as the years go on ICT is improving in popularity.



Do you have a sweet or savoury tooth?

Both, I do like my food, especially fine dining.

What was your favourite game of the nineties?

GoldenEye on the N64

What was your first computer?

Spectrum ZX

What date do you predict that the machines will take over the world?

It has already happened.

What is your favourite tech brand?

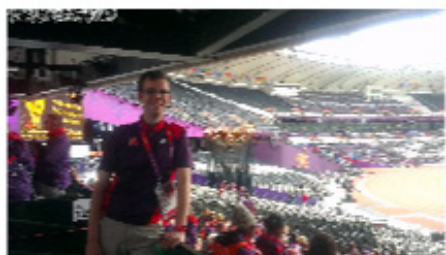
Google, especially the android department.

What is your favourite programming language?

Python

What were your favourite hobbies as a teenager?

I loved to go camping and cycling!



What were your favourite subjects at school?

I always liked electronics, physics and computing.

Where did you grow up?

Loughborough

Do you like sport? What is your favourite?

I love watching formula 1!

If you were given £1 million, what would you spend it on?

I'd pay off all of my debts, buy a new car and the rest would go to my family and to charity.

Who is your favourite band?

Coldplay

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I always wanted to share my knowledge with others and encourage the younger generation to do more STEM.





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