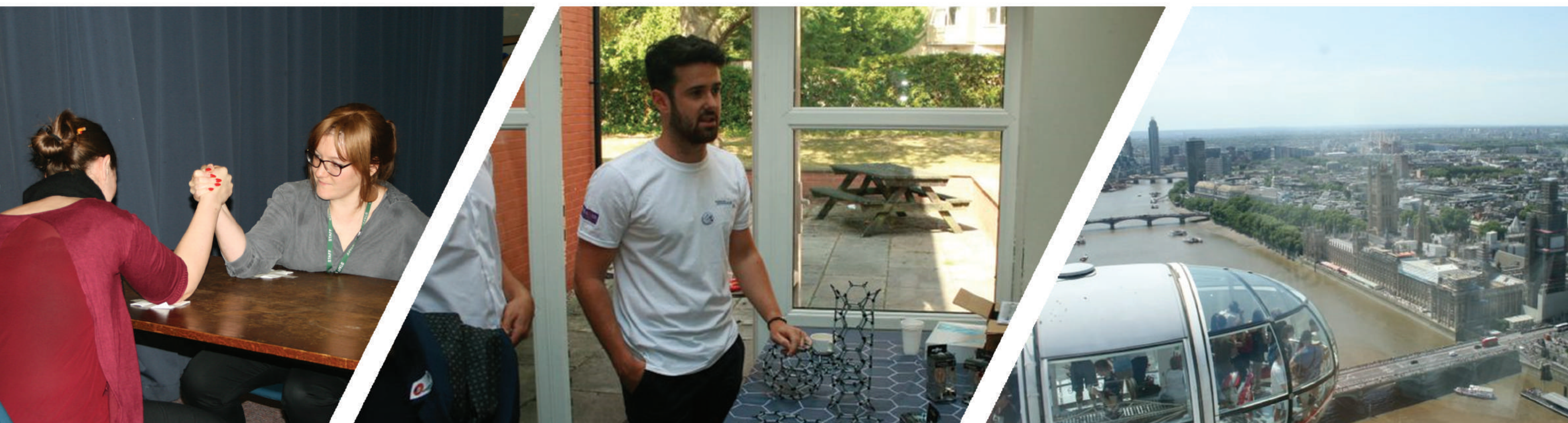




THE WORD

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AGSB

ONLINE



HEAD TO HEAD

May I wish a very warm welcome to the new academic year to pupils, staff, Governors and parents. I hope that everyone enjoyed a happy and relaxing summer

and comes to AGSB refreshed for another successful year. As this is my first appearance in 'The Word', I would like to start by saying that it is both an honour and a privilege to have been appointed to serve as your Head Master from September 2018. From the moment I first visited the school back in January, I was struck by the happy, purposeful atmosphere and by the impressive blend of tradition combined with a

forward-thinking educational ethos. I am very much looking forward to working with and meeting boys, parents and staff, as well as the wider AGSB community and the Hamblin Educational Trust. As many of you will be aware, there are exciting developments planned in the next few years which promise to bring even greater success for the school and its pupils.

My key aim this term is to get 'under the skin' of AGSB and learn as much as I can about every facet of school life. I will be visiting lessons and attending debates, clubs, concerts and productions. I look forward to supporting all teams taking part in sporting fixtures on Saturday mornings. I will also be working closely with James as Head Boy, his Deputies and his team of Senior Prefects. I am sure that they will lead the school forward during their tenure as well as being excellent role models for the younger boys.

As always at the start of another academic year, we welcome new colleagues, teaching and non-teaching, who join the AGSB staff. I am sure that they will settle in quickly and will soon become valued members of our successful and friendly community. We welcome two new classroom teachers this term: Miss Rosie Hildage will join the English department and Mrs Sarah Chancellor will be teaching Maths. Mrs Amy Bridgeman will join the Science department as a Science Technician.

Head Master

Autumn term at AGSB signals new beginnings. On behalf of our leadership team I would like to welcome all the new starters at AGSB: Year 7s, sixth formers, staff and our new headmaster. For those new to AGSB, this is the beginning of a happy and productive time in our school community. For those returning, there are new opportunities out there – be that sport, music, drama or any of the vast number of extracurricular activities on offer. If you can't find something you like, start your own club as I'm sure somebody else shares your interest.

There are also opportunities to go abroad as part of a sports team or as a language exchange which are great experiences. AGSB is not just about achieving academic excellence, it is about developing a wide range of interests outside the classroom.

It's a great privilege to be Head Boy this year and work with our new Head, Mr Wright, as he builds on the fantastic legacy of core values and culture left by Mr Gartside and begins a new chapter in the school's history. No doubt he will have ideas that may change some aspects of AGSB. Change is not always comfortable in the short term, particularly for those of us who have been here for many years. However, I am certain that any changes will benefit the school and allow it to continue to flourish.

As some of you will know, I spend much of my time playing sport. Key to a team's success is a strong leadership group. Here at AGSB this includes three Deputy Head Boys and seven Senior Prefects. This year our student leadership group is a great mix of personalities and talents and I am sure that we will be successful in supporting the staff and ensuring AGSB continues to move forward. I would like to wish everyone a productive and successful year.

James Mazarelo

"My key aim this term is to get 'under the skin' of AGSB"

CAROL TURNER RIP

"What pie is it today Carol?" This was how most of my conversations started whilst on duty Monday lunchtimes. We would speak about our weekends and also what we would do in the future. It is unfair that the future we spoke about was taken away from Carol. She lost her fight against cancer of the womb in April and leaves her sister, brother and mother far too soon. Carol always spoke warmly about her time with Sodexo here at AGSB and is an example of what makes our school so special. I will miss her smile which was always as warm as the steaming hot pies.

Alan Williams

Eulogy for Carol – Our Baker, Our Friend

Cakes & cookies were her passion and as you can imagine were a huge hit with the pupils. There was always a huge variety out for sale and you would think a swarm of locusts had passed over after break time, such was the popularity of her baking. This was great for our sales figures and continued to go from strength to strength. She was always looking for new ideas to try out. The amount of samples I had to try. It's no wonder I couldn't lose any weight! She would always say "Give over, there's nothing on ya!" If you ever went near her cakes on the racking, God help you, she'd have your fingers for it! She had her own routine and she organised her bakes and woe betide anyone who messed it up.

Carol was so dedicated to her job, travelling in excess of 60 miles each day and always first one in, if only to nab the oven space before anyone else could get near it!. Not only was she always in before 6.30am, she would always make sure all jobs were completed before leaving and when we had any functions she would always stay to help out, to the point where we had to tell her to go home. At lunch, Carol would serve on the main counter, a job which she enjoyed doing but it was very busy and sometimes stressful. You couldn't get in her way by trying to help though because if you did, boy did she let you know – in her own direct way. We'd laugh about it later and Carol subsequently earned the nickname "Godzilla," she was also nicknamed 'Darth Vader' by Helen due to her 'dark side'

Carol could also give out the names as well. Head Chef Mark was known as 'Gordon' – no need to explain why! Julie was affectionately named "Dolly". For months Julie thought this was after Dolly Parton but on asking, Carol raised her eyes to the ceiling and said "Nooo dear 'Dolly Daydream'! Julie was also known for her love of learning Spanish or rather the red wine that followed. Carol would always say "Ohhh she's off out, we all know what that means" and the next morning Carol would always have Julie's hangover breakfast waiting for her. There were many sayings that Carol used to say, we called them 'Carolisms' " If you've time to lean, then you've time to clean" and another regularly heard was " That's the way it is, if you don't like it you can stick it " and everyone was addressed as 'Yes Dear'

Every member of the team remembers Carol for her helpful, thoughtful and kind manner. Even when busy herself she would often tell someone "you leave that, I'll do it". She would always enquire how you were feeling if you were unwell or had problems to deal with. When Carol was first diagnosed it was a shock, but she was determined to fight. She didn't want any fuss and her stubborn streak shone through. She wasn't going to be beaten. She just got on with it.

In March we wanted to do something as a fundraiser for Carol, and it only seemed appropriate to do something involving cake. 'The Great Carol Cake Off' was born. Teaching staff, Sodexo staff and 6th formers all got involved. We held a cake baking competition, with an auction of the whole cakes, a cake sale and Easter egg tombola. One cake was in a bidding war between a teacher and some 6th formers – fetching a whopping £90.00. At the end of break time we had raised over £1000. This is a testament to everyone wanting to support such a special lady, and with the hope that she would get to treat herself. Sadly that wasn't to be and it is with great sorrow that we have to say goodbye.

Thank you Carol and God Bless.

Tricia Bowden



THIS IS YOUR LIFE

"I am planning to move on from being Headmaster at the end of August"

These were the words that we heard last October during a training day. For once we were all completely silent and a little shocked. The person who had managed the school since 2003 was now telling us he was leaving. What would we do now? The obvious, arrange a party! I asked HM's permission to have an event, to which he replied no. Unfortunately, that didn't really work with the plan I had in mind so started planning anyway. I took the idea to the social committee and we all got our heads into thinking about exactly what the event would be like. Recruiting staff with expertise was as easy as anything. I knew it was going to be a walk in the park with Mrs Harvey-Voyce on the drama production with Ms Hennessy, and Ms DJ on the music entertainment.

After months of planning the 6th July was suddenly upon us. Taking 10 hours to cut down the school plants for the tables, decorate the Coleman and Stamford Halls and the Sixth Form centre, we all pitched in to complete everything.

The night came, drinks were flowing and the guests were arriving. Suddenly 153 people were there and the plan was now a reality. The night started with Mr Hall completely abandoning the speech that had been written for him but he had everyone laughing so survived Mrs Harvey-Voyce's death stare. We then sat down to a fabulous 3 course meal that was prepared and served by our wonderful caterers, Sodexo. During the meal we were entertained by the musically talented AGSB students.

After the meal and a speech from Mr Jones (Vice Chair of Governors), we went to the Coleman Hall for a "This is your life" style evening (YouTube is your friend). Mr Moran (previous Head of English) was a fantastic host for the evening and his quick-witted jokes went down very well. Mr Shorten (previous Head of Art and a fabulous actor) started the drama by being an old Headmaster. There were 2 more drama pieces performed by Mr Baker, Mr Herrington, Mrs R Chapman, Dr Hepden, Mr Croxton, Mrs Williamson, Mr Kidd, Mrs Newton, Mrs Weil and Mrs Brickell and Desmond the Dragon from Rochdale AFC made an appearance. After HM's speech, Mr McKinnon did a DJ set until way beyond our bed times. We ended the night by eating a fabulous cake made by Mrs Lord and Ms Blaize.

Well done to all performers on the night (Alex Patel, Luke Rink, Milo MacDonald, Henry Smith and Rob Cooper for the musical entertainment during the meal and Alex Volkovoy, Henry Murphy, Tom Vernon, Arjun Jay, Ben Fowler, Sid Surya, Angus Gilchrist, Tom Rimmer, Will Ashley, Matty Curry, Chris Patel, George Thornicroft, Sammy Breingan, Kai Simpson, Alex Patel and James Foy for performing the song "Mr Gartside"). Thank you to Henry Barlow for filming and editing the productions. Also thank you Christian James, Chair of the Old Alt for providing the invitations, Mr McKinnon for providing the music and being the DJ and to the PFA for the donations. Also thanks to the Governors for supporting the event.

The social committee is as follows: Mrs R Chapman, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Landsborough, Mrs Harrop, Mrs Bates, Mrs Harvey-Voyce, Mrs Lord, Mrs Newton, Mrs Clutterbuck, Mrs Pickering and Mrs Coale.

Rashenda Chapman



JAMES DYSON

In 2016, James Dyson met with the Government to discuss the shortage of engineers in Britain. This is partly due to the fact that as a nation, we do not understand what engineers actually do. Many feel that engineers work in overalls and fix things when they break. This stereotype could not be further from the truth. The Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology was founded to offer a unique opportunity for students to undertake a rigorous degree alongside a challenging job all with a good salary and no tuition fees. This bespoke Bachelor of Engineering degree has been developed by Dyson engineers and WMG Warwick University. The course covers the fundamentals of engineering in years one and two, and delivers more specialised electronic and mechanical engineering content in years three and four.

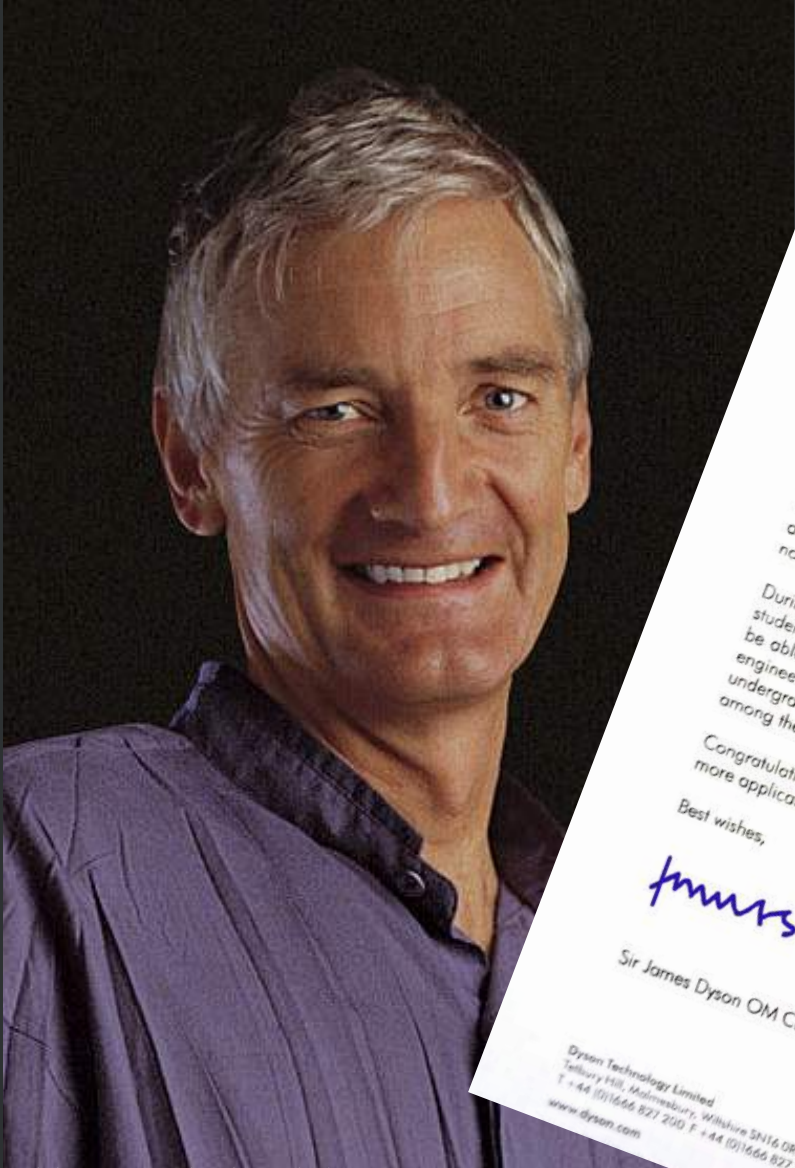
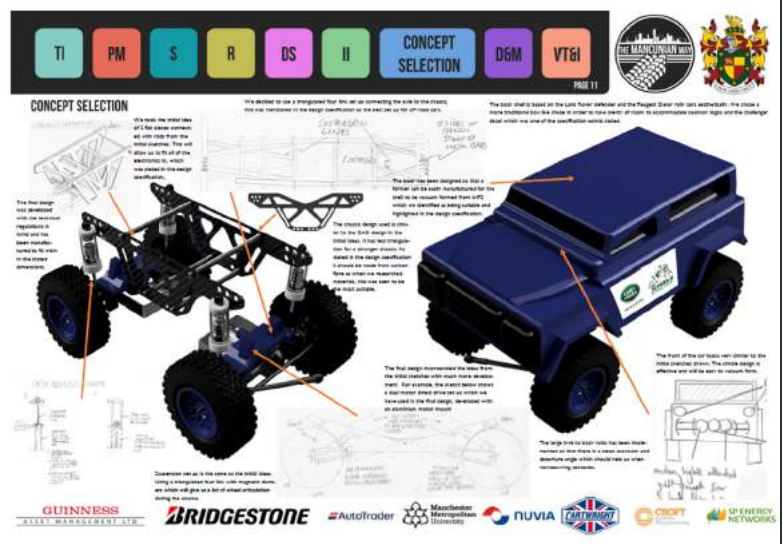
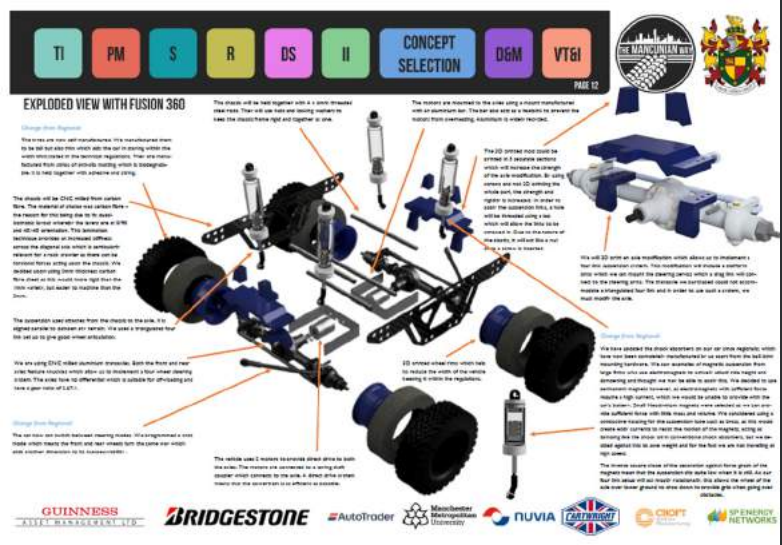
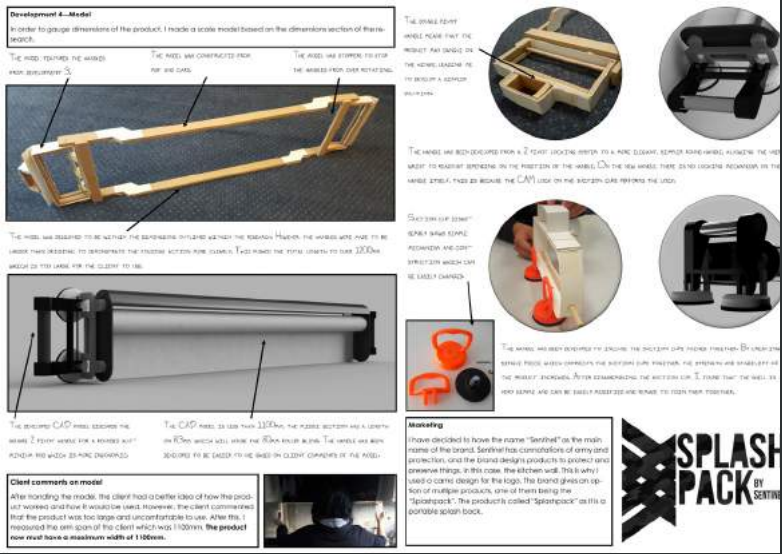
The academic content will initially be delivered by WMG University of Warwick; hands-on experience will be gained developing Dyson products and working alongside the company’s current engineering team of 3,000 – which it is looking to double by 2020. Through the Institute, James Dyson will invest £15million over the next five years with the specific intention of tackling, head-on, what he describes as the dearth of skilled engineers in the UK. There are just 25 places on this prestigious course making it more competitive than Oxford and Cambridge. The school is very proud to announce that two of our Design and Technology students have been offered places this year. This is an amazing achievement but very well deserved as a consequence of their approach and attitude towards their A-level Product Design studies. Shafae Ali and Luke Kwan beat off the competition through a variety of online, telephone and face to face interviews to win their places.

The degree is spread over four years. In the first two, you’ll study engineering modules across all kinds of functions and disciplines. In years three and four, you’ll specialise in mechanical engineering, electronics, or a combination of both.

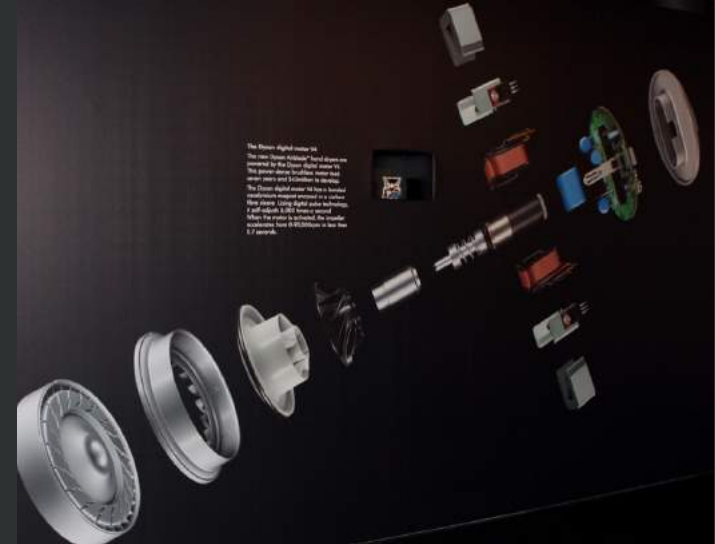
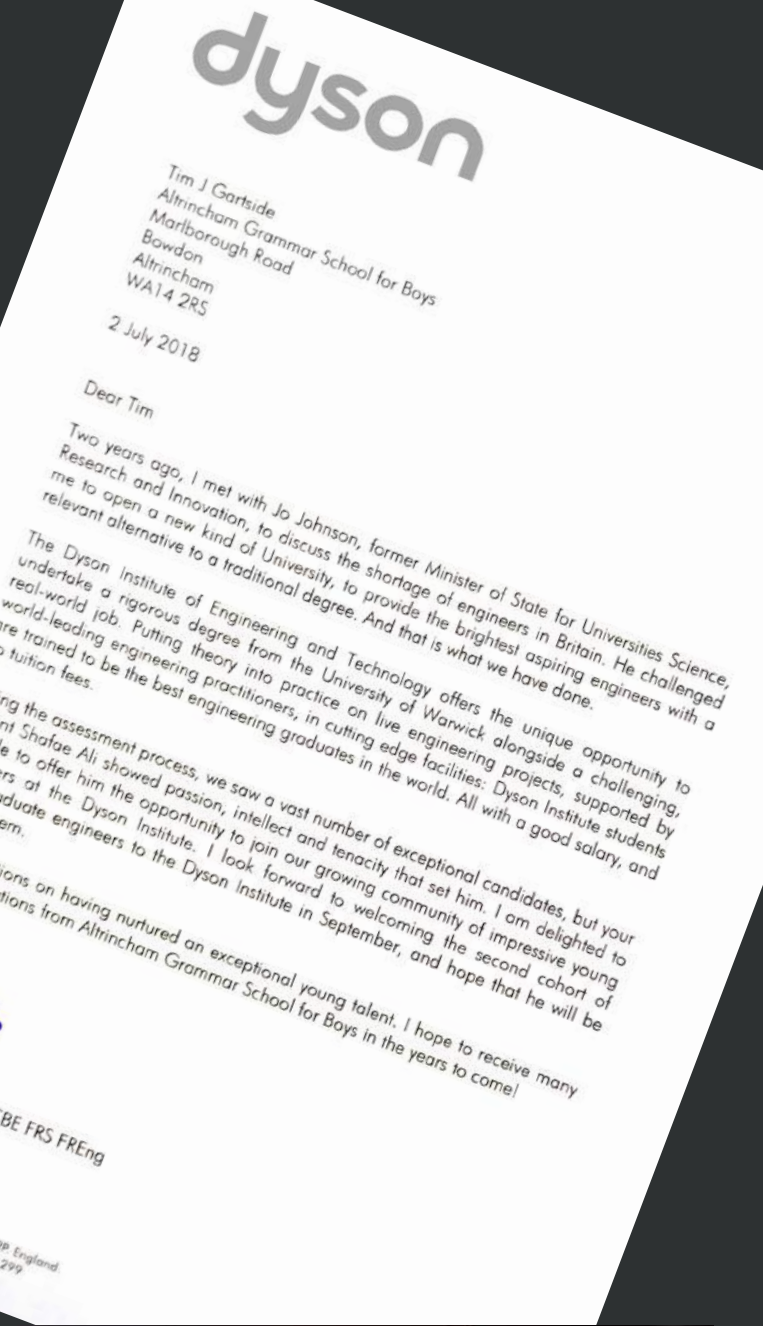
Robert Baker

You can read more about this opportunity at <https://www.dysoninstitute.com/the-degree/>.

Have you got what it takes? The Degree - Dyson Institute www.dysoninstitute.com



Credit https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:James_Dyson



Credit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/earinaldiphography>

SHINE AWARDS 2018

On Monday 2nd July, Mr Williams, Mr Binns, James Legg, Isaac Cooper and George Thornicroft travelled down to London to attend the annual school media awards hosted by 'Shine'. There is a variety of awards to be given out to a selection of schools across the UK for the most outstanding and highly commended for each category. This year we were nominated for, 'Best Homepage', 'Best Business Strategy', 'Best Feature Article' and 'Best Online'. We reached the finals stage for 'Best Feature Article' which was George's 'Transgender and Proud' article which has been widely recognised by the BBC and taught in upper school PSE lessons. We were also fortunate enough to reach the finals stage for the 'Best Business Strategy' which is run by Isaac Cooper.

On arrival we were greeted with refreshments and a selection of workshops which we were able to attend. The workshops varied from talks with Google employees to sessions on cartoon drawing. Google's workshop showed us how much we rely on the internet for facts, day to day information and more important activities such as transferring money.

We won 'Best Feature Article' and were highly commended in 'Best Business Strategy'. This was an extremely proud moment for all involved and a memory I'm sure both boys won't forget. In the future we are hoping to enter other categories such as 'Best Cartoon'. We will be holding a competition for who can draw the best cartoon and will be entering that in the Shine awards.

On Tuesday 3rd July we travelled into London and visited The London Dungeons followed by a ride on the London Eye. We then departed London Euston bound for Manchester Piccadilly. Unfortunately for the older members of the trip, the excitement was too much and they took this opportunity to 'rest their eyes'.

This was a great two - day trip for everyone and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks again to Mr Williams and Mr Binns for organising the trip and ensuring all ran smoothly.

James Legg



Imagery Credit: Ray Schram

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING

'A good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly, knowing that at the end he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger'
(Nelson Mandela)

In a world in which the responses to the rise of Brexit and Trump have been so divided, the need to engage with contrasting perspectives has arguably never been greater. With that in mind, we set out last year to provide students of all ages with the opportunity to engage in public speaking and debating competitions in which they could advocate positions on a wide variety of engaging, contested and at times controversial topical matters.

Given the success of the competitions in the first year, we will be repeating the programme in 2018-2019 using completely fresh motions, with the added bonus for those participating that our winning teams will then play-off against their counterparts from AGGS.

Our 2018-2019 programme will kick-off with a Year 13 Public Speaking Competition on the motion 'This house believes that Stephen Hawking's exalted reputation exceeds the scale of his scientific achievements' on Thursday 27 September in the Library. Public Speaking Competitions will then run on a fortnightly basis until mid-January 2019 as we work our way down from Year 13 to Year 7 with motions on topics as varied as enlightened despotism, vegan diets and the impact of the computer revolution.

Debating Competitions, which again help students develop their oracy, advocacy and rhetorical skills but are more

interactive and place a greater emphasis on participants' ability to think and respond on their feet, will then run from mid-January to mid-May. Our motions this year will explore the utility of pain, the value of modern art and the case for limiting access for smokers to a publicly-funded healthcare system.

There is a huge body of evidence to suggest that competitive Public Speaking and Debating develops students' research, higher-level thinking and interpersonal skills. It also builds confidence, resilience and cultural capital. It is no coincidence that prestigious universities, here and elsewhere, value participation in such competitions so highly. Whether you plan a career in the medical profession, education, law or the arts, participation in these activities can only enhance your experience and prospects.

In the words of Oxford University:
'Debate as the constructed exercise common in high school competition and politics with strict rules and format is a hugely valuable tool and the cornerstone of tutorials, of essays and of speeches, both at our university and at the famed Oxford Union.'

If you did not get involved last year, I would strongly encourage you to look out for more information from mid-September and put yourself forward. Opportunity awaits.

Nick Croxton



THIS IS MY AGSB

What is it like being a member of AGSB? On open evening I had the pleasure of listening to Krish Chakrabarti and Eesah Amin who shared their experiences of life at AGSB. Here is what they had to say

Alan Williams

I hope you will all enjoy your time at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. My name is Krish Chakrabarti, and I am now in Year 8. You must be buzzing with questions about how the school works and the new things you may have to understand when attending this school, but I must assure you that there is not a whole lot to stress about.

Many of my older, primary school friends, often ask me: Do I get bullied? Do I fail tests? How much homework do you get? What is it like having only boys in my school? But, by far the most popular question is whether I like, or enjoy my school? Personally, I enjoyed having a much wider selection of subjects and topics within them, allowing me to understand subjects I had never encountered before or never really understood.

I also enjoy having a range of teachers, as it means I get to work in different departments and meet lots of members of staff. They help me understand the subjects and the school. I will admit, it was a struggle to find my way around and understand how the school works and its rules, but once you have gone through the brunt of it all in the first three to five months and you are not feeling like a tourist asking fellow students for directions, you can just cruise along.

There are lots of opportunities to go on school trips at AGSB. In October last year after just 5 weeks in school the whole of year 7 went on a camping trip in the woods. We were able to get to know each other better and make new friends. We learned how to light fires, use a knife and cook outside. We built shelters and spent the night in them. We mainly got covered in mud and didn't wash for three days, it was great!

Initially, when I found out that I would be travelling to school on my own, I was quite terrified to be honest, but if there is one main aspect this school emphasises to all pupils, it is the importance of being independent. In subjects like PSHE, you learn how to manage money, and how to be responsible when living alone, and in bush craft it teaches you how to pull your own weight, and to never take a backseat and let other people do the work.

Overall, my first year in this school has been a thrill and I cannot wait to see what is in store for me next year. Thank you very much for listening to me.

Krish Chakrabarti

'One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world'- this is a quote from Malala Yousafzai someone who was willing to give her life for good education – thankfully there is no lack of this in AGSB.

My name is Eesah Amin, I am a pupil in Y10; and I am proud to be a student here for a multitude of reasons ranging from the extra-curricular activities to the engaging and most importantly approachable teachers. I look back at my past four years and I think that I've had an enjoyable time, well as enjoyable as school can be.

I went into Year 10 expecting to not enjoy physics, but I have come out of every lesson beaming and I just got an A*. Something I never thought I would achieve but thanks to my brilliant teacher, Dr. Squire, I have achieved what I felt to be the impossible.

I cannot even begin to describe how many opportunities I have had in just the past year let alone my last four. I've competed, and won I'd like to add, in debates, taken part in national speaking competitions, sung in concerts put on by our brilliant music department and so much more. I won't lie, GCSE's are daunting without a shadow of a doubt – although I really don't feel worried.

We have just had our mocks, but they felt like perfectly normal end of year tests. Thanks to the teaching methods and constant support by my teachers, I have never felt more confident and prepared for this time next year. My peers and myself are proud to bear the words 'work conquers all' on our blazers, a statement that describes the core ethos carried out in all our studies.

There is no point sugar coating it, there will be some hard times in your years ahead. I know I have had some. Last year during the summer holiday I had a very serious accident and broke my back in four places. Thankfully, as you can see, I am recovering well – the school was remarkably supportive and understanding of my injury and has been assisting my family and myself all year round. The pastoral care has been more than incredible. They have helped me deal with my work due to my significant time off school. This school does not just care about our education it also cares about our wellbeing.

On a lighter note there are a plethora of school trips to go on from local day trips such as Alton Towers to long international trips to Berlin, Italy, Austria, Orlando and even China!

In Year 9 you will choose your 10 subjects to carry on for the following two years as your GCSE's and you must choose what you are interested in not what your friends are interested in. You will enjoy YOUR preferred subjects and this way you will make more friends by spending time with people you wouldn't ordinarily talk to. Charity plays a large part in your time at school – every year your form must take part in a school wide effort to raise money for a chosen charity by organising an event or a series of events. Cinema week is a personal favourite, but you are only limited by your imagination. It is this love that has created the Junior Chads Challenge, an organisation dedicated to raising money for hospitals in the memory of a student who died of cancer ten years ago. He affected us to such an extent we are still growing and expanding

Eesah Amin



FUNDRAISING RECAP

2018 was a great year for fundraising at the school. Year 13 and some Year 12 students have raised a grand total of over £10,000 during the year for some great causes. Most of these events have involved teachers as well as students, such as the teachers' arm wrestling competition.

First, we raised £417 for EducAid, a charity company that run an educational network consisting of free schools, teacher training and tertiary programmes in Sierra Leone. They provide the best quality education they can for vulnerable young children. This money was raised by a voluntary donation of £3 when students paid for their UCAS applications.

Next, we have the Islamic Society, led by Reza Shabeer and Faiz Salim, who raised a grand total of £2,227.52 after holding an Asian food sale in the Coleman Hall in aid of Doctors Worldwide.

Thanks to the students, we helped paint Hale and Altrincham pink as a part of prevent breast cancer event, raising £410 in total. A team of pink dressed superstars then created pink bows and made a whole school event, raising awareness for breast cancer. This also included a sports afternoon, with special mentions to Paul Allen, Ramon Davis and Dylan

Morris. Overall, we raised £1829 for Prevent Breast Cancer.

The Sodexo team and Mrs Bowden aimed to raise a few hundred pounds earlier this year for Carol, a former member of the Sodexo team, by organising a cake sale. This was a very memorable event for us, as the Sodexo team and Mrs Bowden exceeded their goal, raising a total of £1045.

Chad's Challenges set up 5 events over the year: the first one was a Star Wars themed tea party which raised £846 for the Willow foundation; the second was a ladies night that raised £2500 for the Christie, managed by Billy Horton; and the penultimate and final events were the arm wrestling competitions, one for male and one for female teachers, where the students could spectate! Overall, Chad's Challenges have raised a staggering sum of £82,500. 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of Chad's Challenges and to mark this occasion, Michelle Mulholland along with 9 others, will be running the Manchester 10K – raising thousands for Christie while doing so. Further towards the end of the year, Chad's Challenges also set up mini stalls selling sweets and drinks to raise more money for the Christie.

Ibrahim Jamal

MANCHESTER COLLEGE HACK

On 25th and 26th June, the year 12 Computer Science set went to Loreto College to take part in an event lead by the Hive Learning Network. The event asked students ages 16-18 to choose one of three challenges, each set by a sponsor for the event, to be completed within 2 days.

CDL, a software innovations company based in Stockport, was the headline sponsor of the event, with their challenge being to recreate the arcade game "Asteroids" using software called Greenfoot; programming it in Java. Autotrader, an online marketplace for motor vehicles, sponsored a challenge that asked those that partook to create a game that encouraged people of all backgrounds and capabilities to become interested in the world of technology. The third challenge was sponsored by CyberFirst, which is part of the National Cyber Security Centre, and asked for a tool to be made, for navigation around our school or college.

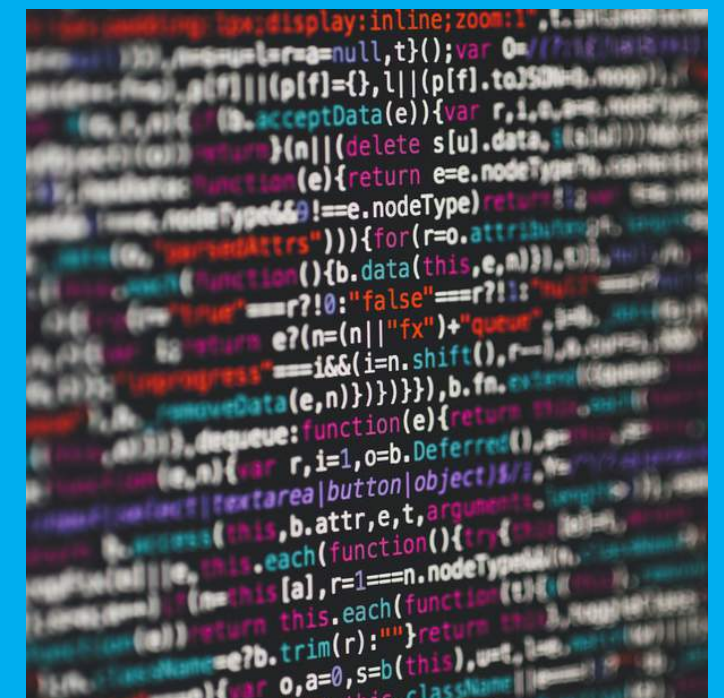
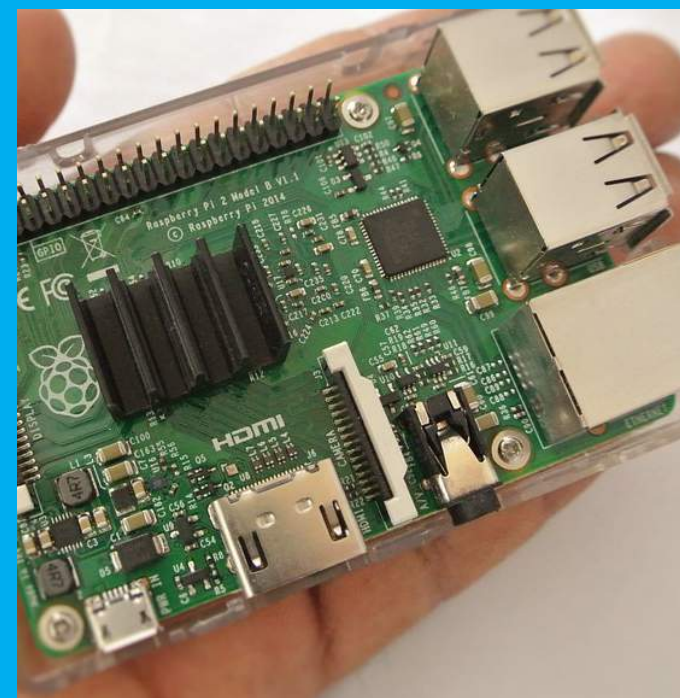
Students that attempted the CDL challenge had a few different approaches. Some attempted the game with the software they asked for while others made it in a language with which they were familiar. One group had the difficulty increasing with the pace of the music, while another group used a Raspberry Pi as a controller. However, due to CDL's criteria for this challenge, the winners were myself (Salman Ahmed), Matthew Coull and Danylo Blackburn from our school, due to our "capability to learn quickly" and "the encouragement between team members".

The Autotrader challenge was less popular, however those who attempted it tried unique approaches. The winning team was, incidentally, Yash Yeola, Will Griffiths and Luke Martin from our school. Their concept was a procedurally generated maze (which means it randomises every time you play it) made using python. The player had to move a robot from one end of the maze to another, using program-like commands in a text box. The team included a help document so those who were less familiar with coding could play.

Finally, the CyberFirst event was approached using Raspberry Pi as a mini robot, that were programmed to avoid certain obstacles, and correct their course to navigate across a map. However, the winning team was from Rochdale College and demonstrated a capability to overcome several difficulties, ending up with a still functioning piece of software that navigated using voice prompts.

Overall, it was a successful event that allowed us to connect to a community of people not just in other schools but those in the industry too, as there were mentors and representatives from each company that made the event something I would recommend to you.

Salman Ahmed



CHADS CHALLENGE TEA PARTY

Our 11th Annual Tea Party in aid of the Willow Foundation. Our Theme was Disney V Super Heroes.
Some Stats and Thank Yous !
Grand Total for event £1000
Overall Auction £434.05 (Super Heroes total £221.05 who beat the Disney Total of £213)

Thanks to:
Sodexo for providing the hot drinks and lovely premium cakes, Plus of course Julie and Janice our gorgeous Ugly Sisters; Wilko, Sainsbury's in Hale and Hills Bakery, Vue Cinema for donations; The Forms for their donations and their Star Bakers; Our Poster design Team; Chad's Challenges Super Chefs, James, Mithylan, Theo, Pavan & Joe; Michelle and Mrs Harvey Voyce for all they do in advance; Mr Murray for the auction; The band – Ben, Mithylan and Jai; Ms Blaize - for the amazing Batman Cake; Mr Baker and Mrs King for Judging and providing the use of Food & Nutrition; All the staff, students who came along to support us and the rest of the school for P4 cake consumption. All managed by Gleb, James and David

12BK	1st Place Disney - Princess Castle by Will Aloul	£85
12TM	2nd Place Super Heroes Ultimate Heroes by Luke Holland & Pavan Nayani	£90
12DV	Super Heroes - Gotham by Monty Harrison- Sterling & Sami Rehman	£10
12HE	Disney - Star Wars by Harry Saxton Martin & Luke Kelly	£8
12MD	Super Heroes - Mount Justice by Ben Pattoff and Joseph Haddad	£16
12BN	Disney - Monsters Inc by Will Hood and Greg Edmundson	£50
12CP	Disney - Snow White – by Will Oliver and Ramon Davis	£25
12SQ	Super Heroes - Marshmallow Man	£5.05
Staff	Disney - Ms Blaize	£100
Student	3rd place Disney - Chocolate Cake by Jai Pantling Gill Williamson	£45



ART EXHIBITION

At the start of July, some of our Year 12 Art students had the opportunity to display their work at the Gateway Gallery in Hale. It can be very difficult for upcoming artists to get their work exhibited in this kind of environment so we are very grateful to Susan Eyres for setting up the school's art exhibition so that students from all across the North West can display their work.

This exhibition was an attempt to bridge the gap between upcoming and mainstream established artists and you can see examples of work from Harry Proudley and William Aloul below. The catalogue for this exhibition can be viewed online by visiting <http://online.pubhtml5.com/ozmt/dzpr/#p=1>

Robert Baker



A couple of weeks ago, the school was approached about the opportunity for some students to exhibit a piece of their work in the 'Gateway' Art Gallery in Hale as part of an interschools art competition to promote youth artwork. Harry Proudly, Luke Martin and I were selected to display some of our work. It was a unique experience as having the chance to exhibit in a real gallery is something which is extremely difficult to get without being an established artist. It was therefore something we were all completely unfamiliar with and very excited about. On delivering the work to the gallery, it was received with compliments and was then put up as part of the 'Schools Exhibition' to be on display to the public for nearly two weeks. Seeing my work on display there felt completely surreal as it was a situation I never thought I would find myself in.

The work was judged by professional artists and regular exhibitors at the gallery, and televised interviews of artists and students were also carried out by the 'That's Manchester' TV channel. The piece I submitted was a 2m tall scale replica of the Empire State Building with a war torn exterior, which was intended to show the potential for the damaging effects of war and inform viewers of how conflict isn't just fighting, but also the destruction of landmarks of human achievement such as the Empire State building, which would once have stood as a world-famous symbol of what humanity is capable of.

Sadly, none of our pieces were selected as the winner, but I was fortunate enough to be notified of interest in my work from a collector based in London. A couple of days later I receive confirmation that it has been sold for £500, a sum I could never have expected to get for it (but was in no rush to complain about). All in all, it has been an incredible thing to be involved in and my advice to any other budding artists is to just keep producing art in the way you enjoy and don't be afraid to put yourself out there because as this experience has shown me, there are those who will recognise and value what you can do, you just have to find them. Good luck.

Will Aloul



SPORTS DAY

On 10th July, the whole school was off timetable for the annual sports day competition. Tensions were high despite the scorching heat, as all the years competed with each other to earn the title as the best form. Everyone participated in the spectacular event, whether they played sport, raised money for different organisations and charities, or by simply supporting their peers and classmates.

There were a variety of events including the discus, javelin, shotput, high jump, long jump, 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m and finally the grueling 1500m run. Particularly nail-biting were the inter-form relay races, as the whole school was watching and it was a true test of each form's ability. Another notable event was the staff relay race against pupils, which was unfairly included multiple PE staff, and created a surge of patriotism for pupils against the teachers. The best Year 7 form was 7WL, the best Year 8 form was 8EE, the best Year 9 form was 9EL and the best year 10 form was 10RW. Unfortunately, Year 11s couldn't participate due to their GCSE exams. Overall it was a memorable and extraordinary day.

Shiven Aarya



DURHAM CRICKET TOUR

From 20th until 23rd of June, a selection of the school's cricket squad from years 8 and 10 went to Durham on a cricket tour. Each year group played two games. One game had 40 overs and the other 20. They played against Durham School and were mostly victorious. The year 8 team won both matches but the year 10 team lost the match consisting of 40 overs but won the match of 20 overs.

As well as playing cricket, the boys also watched it. They enjoyed the One Day International between England and Australia. They really enjoyed this as they could learn skills from professionals whilst enjoying themselves.

Overall, everyone enjoyed the event and had a great time. The boys were really pleased with their results and are motivated to improve in future.

Taiyyib Arshad

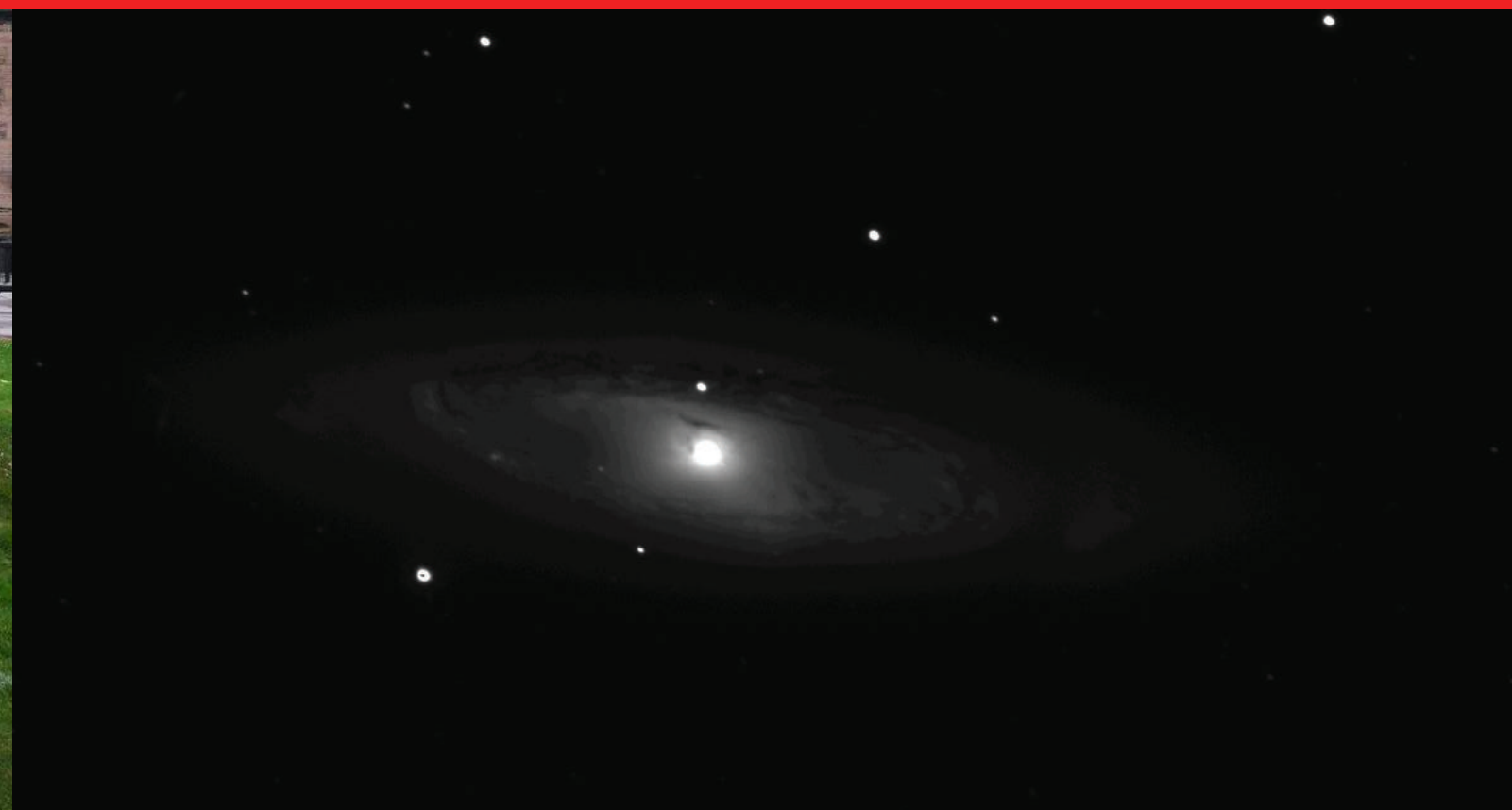
ASTRONOMY CLUB: FIRST EXAMS

This year has seen the beginning of the new Astronomy Club, whose ultimate aim is to get an Astronomy GCSE in the new 9-1 system. Recently, the club had its first year of examinations and the results showed that most of the students have the ability to get a 7 or 8 in the GCSE. While this exam did not have some of the harder written questions, students got high scores of around 55 to 60 out of 66. These results show that the club is doing quite well in its aim of getting people to take the new GCSE. Nearly everyone got a 6 or above (an old B) and most got a 7 or 8 (an old A/A*). It is also great fun to do the different activities.

The second part of the GCSE is of course the practical, which consists of two observations (one naked-eye and one with binoculars or a telescope). The weather, as you will all agree, has been particularly good for observing, especially sunspots or shadows. At night the skies are clear (though it does not get dark until very late) which is also useful.

Thanks to Mrs Gaydhani for putting in all the effort required to make the club a success and giving us something to do on Wednesday afternoons. Next year, once the current set of students have taken their GCSE, Mrs. Gaydhani will be teaching another set of year 8 and 9s. Look out for the Astronomy club then if you're interested!

Joshodeep Sarma.



SHOOTING STAR



“Edward was the youngest member of the squad”

Earlier in the year at the National Shooting Centre in Wolverhampton, Scouts representing their county gathered from as far away as London West, Devon, Surrey, Hampshire, Cheshire, Leicester, Greater Manchester West, and West Mercia for a shooting competition.

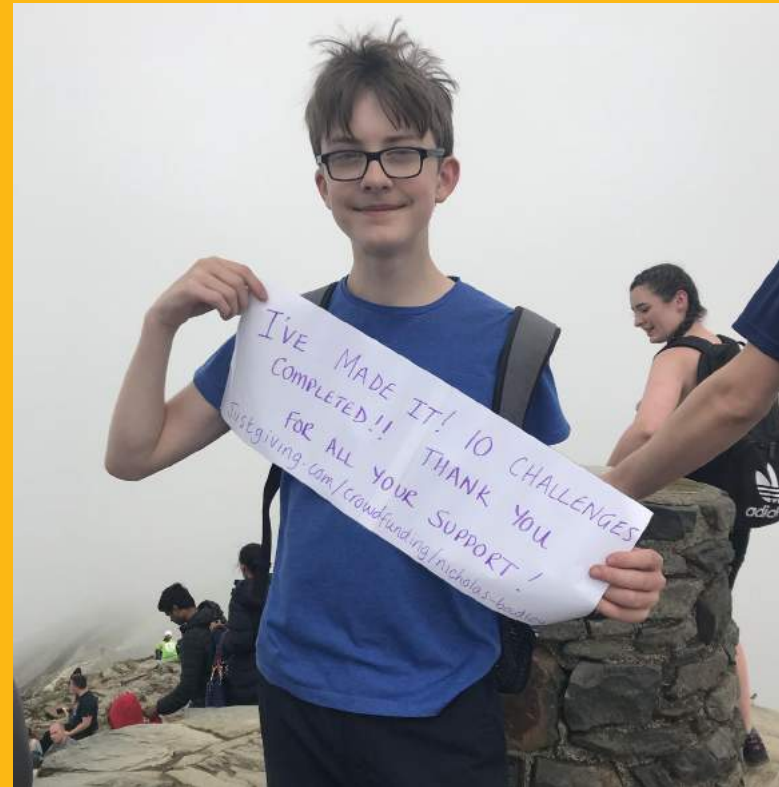
The Scout teams had to include an under 13 year old and an over 18 year old with other members of any age in between. This included a mixture of boys and girls. The competition was indoor, using .22 rifles and pistols shooting at 5 targets 25 meters away with one shot per target.

Greater Manchester West, which represents the best shots from Scouts all over Greater Manchester West, came second in the rifle and first in the pistol shooting, which placed them 2nd best team overall.

I am delighted to report that Edward in Year 8 was the youngest member of the Greater Manchester West squad at 12 years old and he was the only representative of the 3rd Altrincham (Grammar) troop. Great things are expected of Edward and he is already proving to be a sharp shooter and one for the future

Antony Hall

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE



“In total, he raised nearly £500”

Nicholas, who has just started Year 10 is currently in the process of completing his bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. For the physical part of the award, he chose to challenge himself to complete 100 kilometers in ten weeks, raising money for Grappenhall Community Library. This is where Nicolas volunteers his time every weekend. His very first challenge was cycling from his home in Grappenhall, Warrington to school, following the school bus route! The total distance was 16kms.

His challenges have included cycling from Abergele to Llandudno, climbing Mam Tor, cycling and swimming a mini 'biathlon' and finally climbing Snowdon. In total, he raised nearly £500 supplying enough arts and crafts equipment for the library for the next two and a half years!

His Mum says "Nick is very unassuming - he didn't really want me to tell you he'd done this - but as his parents, we are so proud of what he has achieved and felt that the school ought to know. It's wonderful Nick is being recognised for his efforts as he's worked so hard over the last 10 weeks (I must admit, we are fitter as a family because of it!)".

In June Nicolas completed his two expedition practice, in preparation for the real thing this September. He is aiming to raise as much money as possible and has set up his own just giving page. For more information visit:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nicholas-badley

Alan Williams

PHYSICS TRIP

On a hot summer Thursday morning, a group of 11 Physics students left AGSB to take part in a Nuclear Physics masterclass. After a short trip, we arrived at the Daresbury Laboratory, which was to be our site for the day. To start the masterclass off, we were given a brief introduction to the subject of nuclear physics, which was followed by a talk regarding different types of gamma ray detectors. After learning the theory, we were given a chance to gain hands on experience by investigating how well copper and aluminium blocked the radiation coming from a caesium source. The computer software made the process effortless and engaging, allowing us to finish in no time and proceed to the next activity.

For our next session we were taken to a room full of computers in order to demonstrate the significance of software in particle physics. Throughout the hour, we ran various simulations of behaviour of different radioactive sources to see how they would interact with the detectors. Some of them were very straight forward, whilst other particles deflected at unexpected angles, creating some very complex images. After investigating the graphs of data gathered from the simulation we had our brief lunch break in the sun outside. On returning to the centre, we were given the opportunity to speak to some of the University Physics students and ask them questions about the course. During the session, the group kept students busy answering all our questions about the courses and university life in general. They were very helpful, and we left the session much more aware of some aspects of the courses.

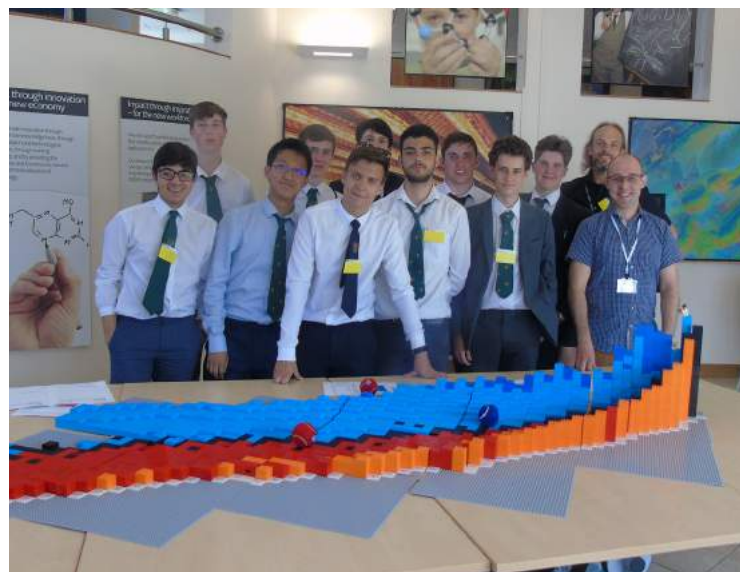
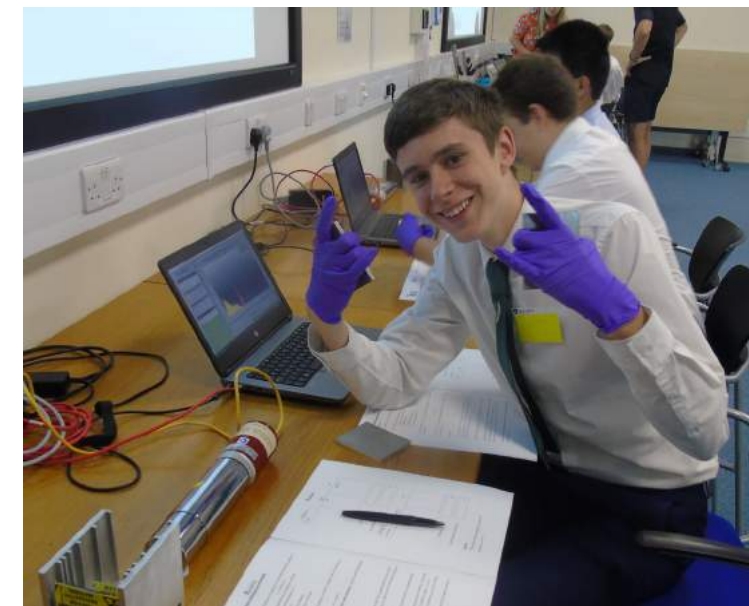
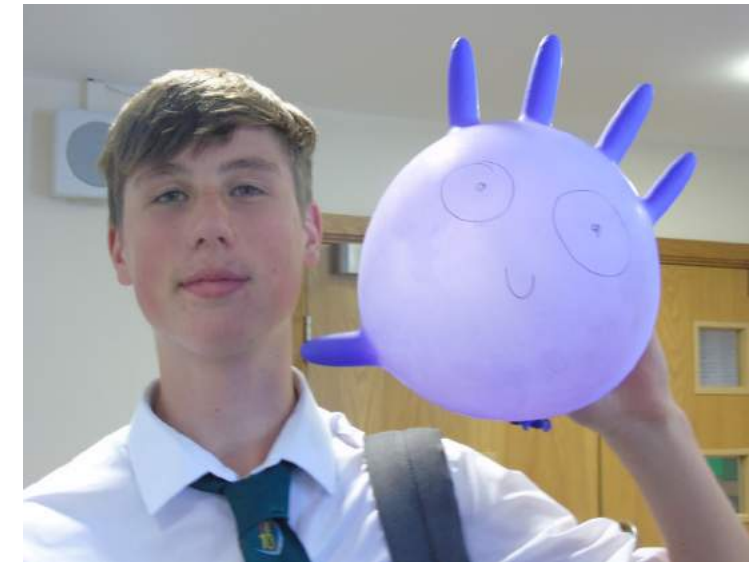
After a long walk down the corridor, we entered an auditorium filled, to our excitement, with Lego bricks. During the introduction, we found out that the bricks would be used to create a 3-D model of the chart that described the

ways different isotopes of the elements decayed. Each group of students built a small section of the model and these sections were combined to produce an impressive sculpture that covered the whole table. This was then used to study how smaller elements fused together to form large atoms. The session allowed us to channel our inner children whilst messing with the Lego bricks and also proved to be very educational and everyone left having learnt something new.

The final lecture of the day took us out of the world of research and complicated ideas into the world of power stations, specifically the nuclear ones. During the talk, many of the myths regarding the danger of nuclear power were debunked and it was stated that nuclear power was the safest and one of the best methods of power production. It was also stated that most of the major accidents such as Chernobyl and Fukushima were revealed to have occurred due to human error and mismanagement rather than the failure of safety precautions. It was also stated that other power generation methods have been shown to be a lot more harmful to the environment and have even higher casualty rates. On that note, the lecture ended, allowing time to announce the winner of the photography competition and a quiz. Unfortunately, AGSB came short of the top of the podium in both events, coming second with the photo of the particle accelerator tower and losing to another school by a fraction of a second with their answer.

Despite not winning, the atmosphere was cheerful as everyone got on the bus after an eventful day. We would like to thank Dr Squire for organising this event as we enjoyed it thoroughly. Further thanks go to Mr Reeder for driving us there and accompanying our group during the day. It was a good experience that I would recommend to all Year 12 physicists to attend next year.

Gleb Vinnychenko



CHESTER ZOO YEAR 7

On 19th of June 2018, all of Year 7 went on a biology trip to Chester Zoo. We got straight on the coaches as school began and embarked on the thirty-minute drive to the zoo. When we arrived there, we all piled out of the coaches and walked to the main entrance, and there we lined up in our forms. Three teachers guided us through the menagerie and gave us the safety procedures and a booklet about adaptations that we were expected to fill in about all of the animals in the zoo.

The teachers then led us in separate form groups to the different animal exhibitions. Our group went first to visit the elephants, strolling in their sandy area. Many people got their phones out at this point to take pictures of the fascinating giants and we filled in our booklets in the appropriate section. Next we walked to the butterfly enclosure, with free flying butterflies in a garden-like area with a bridge over a river, all in a big greenhouse. The butterflies would sometimes land on you and we got some very good pictures of butterflies on flowers. This part of the zoo also had section we had to fill in and everybody did so.

We then went to see the giraffes and okapis for a short time then the penguins which were opposite them. The penguins' area was like a huge fishing tank and it was captivating to see the penguins swirling in the water and swimming past us on the other side of the glass container's sides. Sometimes the penguins would flip in the air to catch the fish the zookeepers would throw at them and it was difficult to catch a picture of them at any time. We then went to the bat enclosure and it was so dark inside that it made

you jump when a bat, or what seemed like a bat, rushed past your face. The bats would occasionally land on the odd person, making them stagger back in fright!

Everyone was almost glad to leave the bat enclosure, but excited at the same time. We washed our hands before we left and then ate lunch on some benches near the lion enclosure. Then we went to see the orangutans, then to the tropical realm with poison dart frogs and snakes. We then went to the free flying bird enclosure then out to the lions, all the time filling in the booklet we were given at the beginning about these mesmerising creatures.

One side of the zoo was dedicated to island creatures like the tiger. We strolled around this area, trying to spot all the creatures, then we headed back to see the zebras and giraffes once more and finally the rhinos. Our trip was coming to an end; however, we still had the trip to the gift shop and everyone rushed to the shop as soon as the teacher said they could. Twenty minutes later, we were all carrying a Chester Zoo souvenir and then we loaded back into the coaches and began the journey back to school.

We arrived at school at three o'clock and we were let home early, leaving everyone in high spirits after the fun-filled day at the zoo.

Ibrahim Jamal



SUMMER CONCERT

On 25th, 26th and 27th June this year, the Music Department organised the summer concert. These summer concerts are for years 7 and 8. What made this year's special is that this is the first year that Y8 has performed with their class groups, as in previous years the Music department has not had enough instruments for two year groups to have their lessons and also to practice at home at the same time. Therefore, the music was wonderful and so were the refreshments (courtesy of the Food and Nutrition department). The only reason that so many students participated was that the Music Department made it possible.

The Music Department has long held the dream to be able to have free music lessons in class for lower school students. Until recently, this program was only available to Year 7 students, but now they have enough instruments for both year groups to participate.

Across the country, our school is one of a very small number to offer free music lessons to all Year 7 and 8 students. It has been proven that learning Music can help enormously in the ability to learn other subjects and is therefore useful in that way. Learning Music and learning to read Music is a life skill which can help get into jobs and universities.

Thanks must go to all members of the Music Department for all the hard work they have put into this and how much they have been able to do. We need to appreciate the music lessons that we often take for granted, and not moan about practicing. We should all do our utmost to support the Music Department by buying concert tickets.

Joshodeep Sarma

WIMBLEDON 2018

On Friday 15th June students from years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a "Road to Wimbledon" tournament.

The Road to Wimbledon Tournament is the biggest junior tournament in British tennis and gives all under 14 players (Year 9 and below) the fantastic opportunity to compete on the world-renowned grass courts at Wimbledon if they progress through the competition. Schools are encouraged stage a tournament for their players rated between 10.2 and 7.1; the lower numbers corresponding to the higher rating.

The tournament was hosted in the tranquil surroundings of the Hale Lawn Tennis Club and was organised by Mr Furness, the Tennis Coach at AGSB. The participants were initially put

into groups with all players playing each other over one set, the winner of each group then playing in semi-finals with the winners progressing to the final. There were no strawberries and cream in sight as every player gave their all as the group matches began.

The winner of the Road to Wimbledon competition was Nic Harney of Year 8, who took one step closer to the grass courts of SW19 by prevailing 4-2 over Michael Comber in a very tense and competitive finale to the competition. Nic will now move on to compete in the County finals of the competition.

A massive thanks to Mr Furness and the PE staff who put together an excellent competition which everyone enjoyed.

Isaac Cooper



TEACHER ARM WRESTLE



On Friday 23th March, the Junior Chad's Challenges Team held a Female Teacher Arm Wrestling Competition, consisting of fourteen teachers who volunteered their lunchtime to help the cause of preventing breast cancer. The event was set up by Soroush Heydari and a small group of students ranging from all years. The overall winner was Dr. Stedman from the English Department, after beating Mrs Cooke from Art, Mrs Brennan from French and Mrs Ding from the Chinese. The favourite to win was Mrs Brennan (in her eyes), but Dr. Stedman had other plans!

In total, the Junior Chad's Challenges Team raised over £160 for the event and have plans for other exciting events this year.

Massive congratulations and well done to all participants and to the Junior Chad's Challenges Team who set up the event. Who will be the favourite for this year?

George Thornicroft



Y12 LAMDA NIGHT

LAMDA Y12/13 Drama Showcase Evening

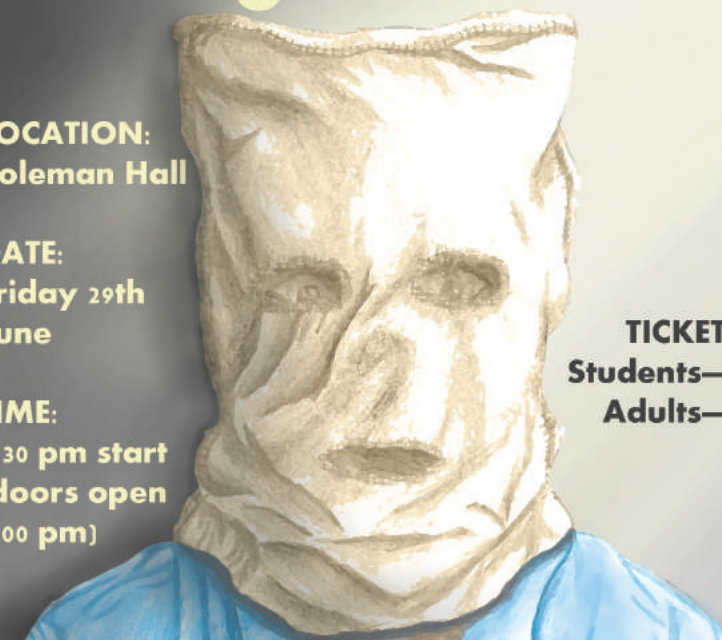


LOCATION:
Coleman Hall

DATE:
Friday 29th
June

TIME:
6:30 pm start
(doors open
6:00 pm)

TICKETS:
Students—£1
Adults—£2



Back in September, me and the rest of Year 12 were presented with a choice of how to spend our Wednesday fifth periods. It was between Games, Volunteering and 'LAMDA' (a.k.a. Drama). For me, the decision was pretty easy – I was already doing a sport and volunteering outside of school, leaving something new to try. The next ten months began with an introduction to the wonderful Jennifer Hennessy, actress/teacher extraordinaire. Fast forward to late June, and we had completed a 'London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts' Grade 8 examination and had performed a self-assembled, scripted and directed 20-minute play, both during the same day.

It took a day or two, but it suddenly hit us that in under a year, we had learnt an entire GCSE-course-worth of dramatic techniques and had managed to incorporate most – if not all – of them into an entire theatrical piece – the plot, lines, staging and even set of which we had created completely on our own... with just a bit of help from Jenny. The sense of accomplishment and camaraderie that we felt – a result of many weeks of sharing ideas, discussing, arguing, and settling – was like no other.

LAMDA had not only offered a stage to showcase our talents (literally), but it also gave us two hours per week to let loose and truly be ourselves... ironically, by being other people... even if they were a murderous prostitute, or a paedophilic step-mother (both actual roles in our two plays). We genuinely can't thank Jenny and Mrs Harvey-Voyce enough.

Soroush Heydari



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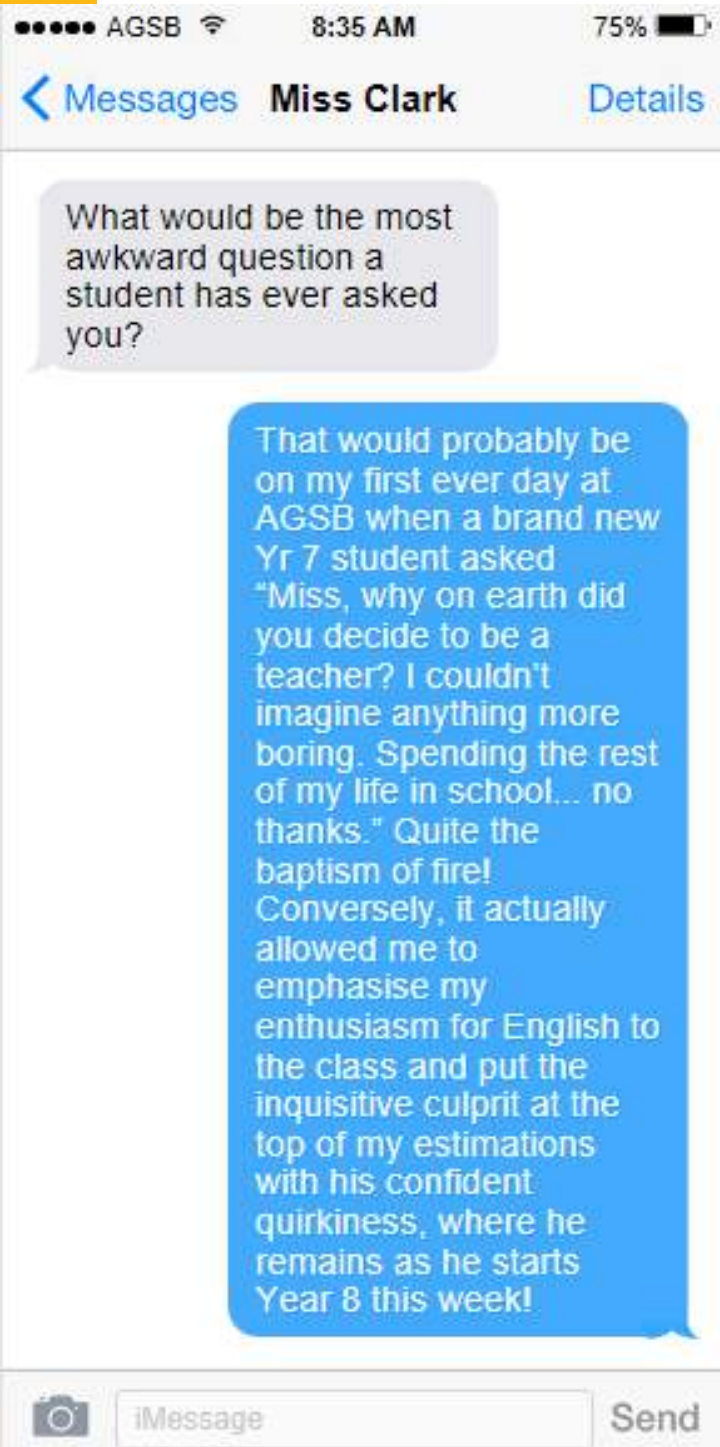
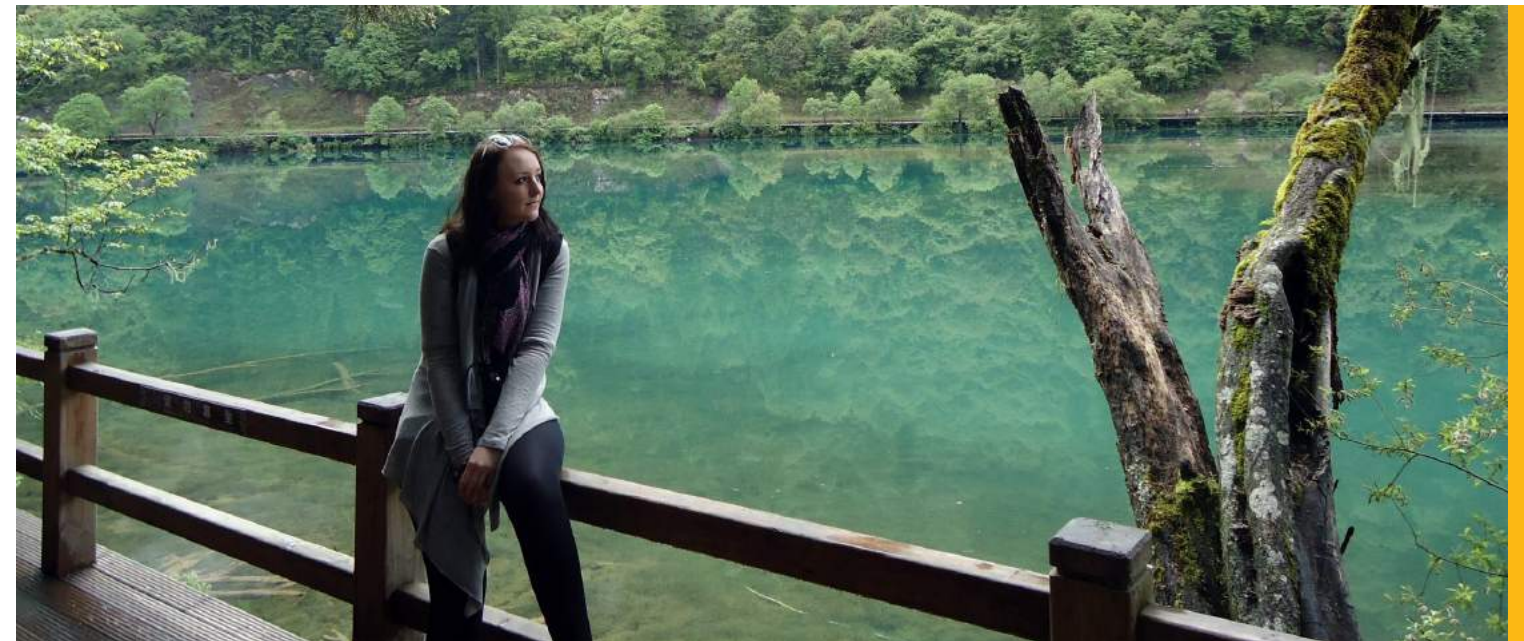
Engenius is hosted by a team from the Engineers without Borders society at the University of Bristol, and recorded with help from BURST student radio. The podcast is not-for-profit, and entirely student-organised.

To ask a question, submit an idea, or just say hi,
email us at engeniuspodcast@gmail.com.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS CLARK

Miss Clark joined us in 2017 and continues to teach English. She has made a positive impact to the school and shares her passion for reading with every pupil she teaches. Last year I had the fortune of being taught by her and she gave me a much better insight into English than I had previously experienced. I have really enjoyed conducting this interview and hope that you enjoy reading it.

James Legg



Do you ever wish you could change your job?

On the tired days when I've read the phrase 'it makes the reader want to read on' for the 20th time then maybe, but usually no. To quote Mr Gareth Southgate 'We have to write our own stories. We always have to believe in what is possible in life and not be hindered by history or expectation.' Being entrusted to help you incredible young men on your own paths, to writing your own stories, feels like a privilege every single day.

What is the weirdest thing a student has said?

I often get accidentally called 'mum' which I find weird, especially back in my first week of teaching when an 18-year-old sixth former said it to a very weirded out 22-year-old me. Alongside that, a standout would be "Miss I reckon Hamlet's more your type of guy than Macbeth. Plus, who wouldn't want to live happily ever after in Denmark - it's more exotic than Glasgow."

What were you like as a student?

Painfully shy, obsessed with reading, obsessed with Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen and probably sporting a bad '90s haircut!

What made you decide to be an English teacher over another subject?

That's an easy one. At the heart of it, English teaches us how to empathise with others. It allows us a window into the raw, unabridged emotions of another's lived experience and gives us the antidotes to cope with big life problems ourselves. I couldn't think of a more important subject to teach.





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