



THE WORD

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ONLINE



HEAD TO HEAD



I always enjoy the summer term at school. The days are longer, the weather is warmer and drier (sometimes) and public and school examinations draw together the excellent learning which has taken place during the rest of the school year. We look forward to Activities Week, lunchtimes on the school field and the summer holidays.

For both Alex and me, this summer term will be especially memorable for it will be our last term in our present roles. Alex will have an intensive period taking A Level examination before going to University next year (hopefully, Cambridge to study Music) and he will be preparing to hand on the Head Boy responsibilities to his successor. I will be busy preparing the ground for Graeme Wright, my successor as Head Master, to take up the reins and giving more time to my role as Executive Head of the Hamblin Education Trust, supporting both Graeme and Lee Bergin, Head at North Cestrian School, as they develop and grow their schools.

Both Alex and I can look forward to exciting new opportunities and at the same time, the summer term will be a period for both of us to look back and reflect upon some extremely happy and successful times whilst we have been at AGSB. Over his seven years with us, Alex has seized every opportunity to soak up the knowledge and understanding which will help him to thrive at Cambridge and at the same time he has embraced with great enthusiasm the extra-curricular opportunities provided, such as playing rugby for the school team and making a huge contribution to school Drama and Music. He can take great pride in his achievements and I too take pride that during my time at AGSB I have played a small part in giving similar opportunities to thousands of students who have enjoyed and learned much from being a member of the AGSB community.

Head Master

**“I take pride
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I hope that everybody enjoyed an Easter break with an ideal mix of relaxation and productivity as we enter the business end of the year. We are all, unfortunately, shorter on time than we first think as we push on towards the culmination of one, two, three or more years' work in the form of final exams. For Mr Gartside and myself, it is the final time of embarking on an all-important summer term.

As I work towards my A level exams, I think back to how I have used the summer term during exam seasons in the past. While sitting GCSEs, prioritising and meticulous organisation were essential in order to achieve some success, and in order to enjoy a long summer break without any serious worries leading up to results day. This can be applied to everyone's summer term; such a game plan is key to achieving success and then being able to rest at ease, satisfied with the summer terms' achievements.

These achievements can exist in many forms. As always with AGSB, school life exists beyond the classroom and although the summer term is associated with hard work and exams, it is also synonymous with cricket matches, sports day, music performances and competitions of all kinds, aspects in which I have relished taking part during seven years at the school. In my first assembly in Year 7, Mr Cummins, my then Head of Year, stressed how inconceivably rapidly the years at the school would go by. This has proven to be conclusive, so make the most of all aspects of the summer term! They won't be there for ever.

On a personal note, my last year at the school has been my most enjoyable thus far and I consider myself privileged to have been Head Boy in the unique and spectacular environment that Mr Gartside has nurtured during his time as Head Master. I would like to extend the best of luck to all of the school community, for this summer term, and in future endeavours thereafter.

Alex Patel

WOMEN'S ACTIVISM - JOELI'S STORY

Manchester Metropolitan University is celebrating 100 years since (a selection of) women gained the right to vote and is holding events to celebrate women's activism. On Tuesday 6th March, I was invited by the MMU to attend the 'Women's Activism Then and Now' event after they published my article – which was centred around the subject of gender equality – on their Sylvia Pankhurst blog.

The event commenced with a talk from Joeli Brearley – the founder of Pregnant then Screwed and was followed by a screening of the movie Suffragette.

Joeli set up Pregnant then Screwed in 2015 – an organisation that offers “a safe space for mothers to tell their stories of pregnancy or maternity discrimination and to receive the support and protection they need” – after she had gone through pregnancy discrimination herself. She was fired by her employer the day after she'd announced that she was four months pregnant with her first child. Bewildered by the events that had occurred, she sought help but – in doing so – came to the realisation that the Government and the justice system was failing women like herself.

Once Joeli had recovered from such a traumatic turn of events, she was determined to shed light upon the issues with the justice system and this is when she set up Pregnant then Screwed. Soon after, her story was picked up by the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire and this led to it mushrooming from something small into an international campaign demanding changes in the law with regards to reducing the motherhood penalty, which would force companies and businesses to re-examine their conscious and unconscious bias to mother's in the workplace.

In October 2017, Joeli organised a protest which would attempt to reinforce her legislative demands. Subsequently,

these demands have been raised in Parliament and she now has the backing of 102 MPs.

Joeli's talk was followed by a screening of the movie Suffragette, a 2015 motion picture starring Helena Bonham Carter, Carey Mulligan and Meryl Streep. The movie – directed by Sarah Gavron and written by Abi Morgan – celebrates the efforts of ordinary, working class women in early 20th Century Britain, who came together to fight for the right to vote.

Dr Sally Jones – reader in entrepreneurship and gender studies at MMU – stated that: “As we commemorate 100 years since (some) women got the vote, it's important to acknowledge the courage and determination of those women who came together over a century ago to challenge inequality. However, this year we have also learned of, for example, the large gender pay gap across many UK business sectors, and we know that many women still face discrimination and injustice in their public and private lives. That is why it is also important to acknowledge and celebrate modern day activists, such as Joeli, who are continuing the fight for women's equality.”

For more information:

Joeli's Organisation –
www.pregnantthenscrewed.com

MMU Sylvia Pankhurst Blog –
<https://mmusylvia pankhurstgenderresearch.wordpress.com/>

Kyle Panchal-Taylor

PREGNANT THEN SCREWED



LAND ROVER WORLD FINALISTS!

Six students from Altrincham Grammar School for Boys will be representing Great Britain in the Land Rover in Schools 4x4 challenge World Final. Chris Jurkowski, Shafae Ali, William Atkins, Tom Watson and Ishan Jain and I made up the six-man team which were fortunate enough to achieve 2nd place in the Professional Class and win Best Engineered Vehicle in the school's first year in the competition. Although the location of this year's final is yet to be announced, last year's final was held at the Yas Marina circuit in Abu Dhabi.

In the challenge, teams design and build remote controlled 4x4 vehicles that must prove their capabilities on a rugged obstacle course. From developing a body shell and engineering a chassis to coding electronics for sensors and creating a portfolio, we have put in hundreds of hours of work.

The Mancunian Way team had previously won 1st place in the North West Regional Finals in February before finishing 2nd in the Professional Class at the National final held at the British Motor Museum in March. The team was up against twenty four others, all vying for a place in the prestigious World Finals where the top three UK teams will be up against students from over seventeen different countries including Australia, Brazil, Portugal and South Africa.

The two-day event consisted of five areas of judging: Track performance, Scrutinizing, Pit Display, Verbal Presentation and Engineering Judging. The whole event was livestreamed on the Land Rover 4x4 in Schools Youtube channel where nearly two thousand people saw us finish stone cold last on the track performance, not once, but twice.

Having amassed an appalling 25/100 points at our first attempt on the track and 31/100 points on our second go (which happened on day two), morale was low. The car was simply too difficult to control on the circuit which meant that we struggled on nearly every element.

Fear not, however. We were simply luring our competitors into a false sense of security – or at least that's what we told ourselves. The scoreboard listing the points for all the track performances was on display all day, with our team climbing from last at the start of the day to last at the end of the day!

We didn't let this dampen our spirits however and we soldiered on into our verbal presentation where we showcased our car design, the engineering that went into it and the development journey. After this, we had engineering judging where we were prodded and probed with questions about our car. This was a great opportunity to exhibit our knowledge which we used to design and manufacture the car.

Before the competition, we also prepared a twenty page long portfolio and an exhibition display, both of which we were also being judged on.

As we took our seats for the awards ceremony on the second day, we were calm. All of us apart from the ever-optimistic Will had accepted that the only thing we would be walking

away from the competition with would be the free lanyard we were given on arrival. I must also stress at this point, that the lanyard was of unparalleled quality and I would have been content to leave the competition with just that. Anyway, it was to our complete and utter shock that the words "And the award for the best engineered vehicle goes to" was followed by "The Mancunian Way from Altrincham Grammar School" pronounced Aintringham for some unknown reason.. This was followed by a nomination for best verbal presentation. While we were offended to not even be nominated for best track performance, the awards had nearly concluded, with only the top prizes to be given out. Third place was read out, it wasn't us and the dream was dead...

Or was it? Second place. Professional Class. And off to the World Finals. The Mancunian Way. Aintringham Grammar School For Boys.

After I had picked up my head that had just fallen off, we made our way to the podium and proudly stood as runners up only to the well deserved winners, Team Edge from King's School, Worcester.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for the competition: Guinness Asset Management, Bridgestone, Autotrader, Croft Additive Manufacture, SP Energy Networks, Cartwrights, Nuvia, Manchester Metropolitan University and of course the D&T department, AGSB Sport and the School as a whole.

We now start work for the World final and our car needs a lot of modifications to be track competitive. If you know of any companies, local or otherwise, that would like to join the list of our esteemed sponsors, please email luke.kwan@ntlworld.com to receive a sponsor pack containing all of the information. This is a unique opportunity to get your product or business advertised on a world wide stage.

Luke Kwan



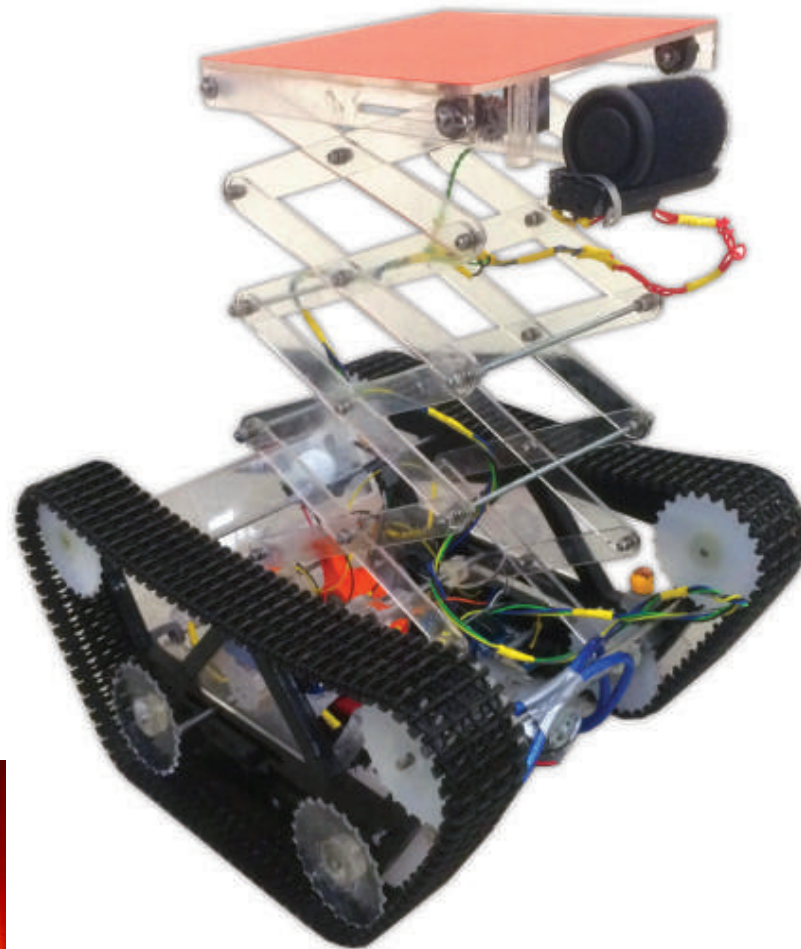
AN ENGINEERS PERSPECTIVE

Now into his third year at Bristol University, Tom Bewley is continuing his drive to get people involved in engineering. I asked him for an update since his appearance on the One Show and The Word last year, as usual he didn't disappoint.

"I honestly cannot stress enough how valuable it has been to have a practical and intuitive understanding of how mechanical/electrical products are built during my engineering degree. In second year we spent a lot of time in the workshop building remote control robots for use in disaster relief operations. You could tell straight away who had design and manufacture skills and who didn't, the difference showed in the build quality of the machines and everyone's marks. Our robot won - he's called Zeus. I even used resistor colour codes at one point!"

Anecdotally, I see people all the time making decisions that are just downright daft (e.g. using CAD to design something that's impossible to assemble because there's no way to put a screw in). I definitely think it's because they've not had enough practice of visualising things spatially and actually designing for manufacture!

Only last week one of our best professors had a 'proper rant' about how young people now have very little understanding of how things really work, even if they understand all the equations, because they've never actually made anything,

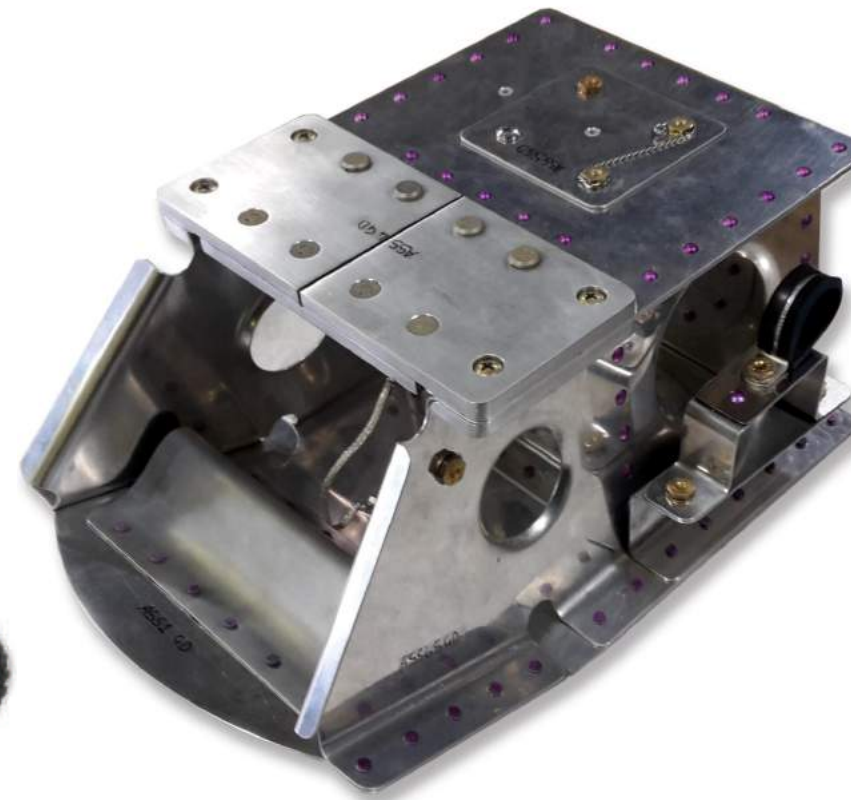


or taken something apart to see how it works. Standing out in this respect makes a huge difference, even as far as applying for graduate jobs and beyond.

I am currently building a machine vision system to monitor and predict the growth of plants in indoor farms; prototyping a vacuum-based storage device for coffee beans with some friends; I will be applying to a seriously funky PhD programme in Artificial Intelligent and Robotics at Oxford (<http://aims.robots.ox.ac.uk/>) which will be a tough ask.

On a side note (which is actually pretty relevant), I'm in the early stages of setting up a podcast with a bunch of other engineers at Bristol, focussed on communicating just how awesome and super-super-super important engineering and design is - our main target audience is actually GCSE and A-Level students. It's probably clear that this sort of thing is really important to me!"

Tom Bewley



control, keeping the area tidy etc. all played a big part in task. I was offered jobs by both companies and chose Thomas Cook Aircraft Engineering.

Since working for Thomas Cook, there isn't a day that goes by where I don't use the basic skills that I picked up from A Level D&T. Even in terms of the academic side of the subject, I'm currently taking exams to eventually apply to become a licensed aircraft engineer, which can lead to signing off an aircraft as safe to fly after maintenance. Having learnt basic material properties and manufacturing processes in A Level has meant that when doing some of these exams, it's more revision instead of learning everything from scratch.

I wouldn't change anything and would strongly recommend the subject to anyone considering a career in engineering. Anyone can learn theory from a textbook but when it comes to hand skills and presenting work, A Level D&T is a fantastic opportunity to get some experience in doing that and having something that can seriously increase your chances when applying for jobs/universities. The experience that the tech teachers and Mr Binns have is too good to not take advantage of. And most importantly of all, despite the long nights staying up to do work before deadlines, it's a pretty fun course and a good laugh!"

George Donovan

Another ex-student who is excelling away from AGSB is George Donovan. George chose a non-conventional approach to his post AGSB studies. He opted for an apprenticeship at Thomas Cook after several offers.

"Tech helped me massively to get where I am now, and without it I don't think I'd be here. First off, in terms of applying for jobs in the engineering industry - I was offered interviews with both Airbus and Thomas Cook Aircraft Engineering for an apprenticeship, both of whom asked to bring along pieces of work which I had produced. I took my A level project to both, along with the portfolio/folder. Presenting work was something we did a lot in A Level, so this helped massively when it came to presenting work under pressure to an audience. Feedback from both Airbus and Thomas Cook was that they were both very Impressed with the quality of work and folder work, all of which was learnt throughout the school years.

As well as the interview process for both jobs, I had to do a practical task which involved using basic hand skills to work to a drawing to produce a small piece. The hand skills learned in tech once again helped massively, and going the extra mile to protect work and have good tool



TEN YEARS OF CHAD'S CHALLENGE

Chad's Challenges is now in its 10th Year with the 10th anniversary of Chad's death being commemorated in September of this year.

When writing this my initial thought was to put together a list of events and to take this opportunity to look back over the 10 years as I often think back to previous events and smile (remember the Bond night fashion show anyone?).

There are now thousands of family, friends and students from AGSB and other local schools who have planned or attended events. Students have taken skills and ideas (including the power of cake) forward to their Universities and Employers. We even have an international impact with students working on charity projects throughout the world. All involved say that their time on our team taught them valuable skills – and of course they have "had fun and made people smile and raised loads of money". Chad's Hope fund at the Christie now has over £77,000 and in total over £100,000 has been raised.

However, it is often the things in the pipeline that make you realise what a great legacy we have from Chad. 10 years on and we are still "going strong" and growing.

From a team of four at our first Tea Party in 2008, when Chad, who despite being so ill wanted to thank Willow for taking him and his family to Centre Parcs.

Chad's Challenges in the Sixth Form have recently:

- held the Big Fat quiz of the year and Ladies Evening for The Christie
- hosted a Star Wars themed bake off and tea party for

Willow

- Worn Pink and helped "Paint Hale Pink" for Prevent Breast Cancer

Junior Chad's Challenges in Year 11 have:

- Organised a Sixth Form V Staff Football for St Anns Hospice
- Devised and presented (and refereed) Teacher Arm Wrestling for The Christie
- run pop up tuck shops from the Christie

Last year Michelle Mullholland and I also received the British Citizen Award for Volunteering and Fund Raising – we are very touched to have been nominated by the team and you may spot the BCAV after our names – but we have yet to wear our medals in public.

In our Pipeline is the Tea Party for Willow, a 10 km run by Friends and Family for The Christie and something special in September for our 10th Anniversary

Perhaps it is working with these amazing people, but I don't think Michelle and I have aged in the last 10 years! Thank you for working with us and keep up the good work.

Gill Williamson



CHAD'S CHALLENGES LADIES EVENING

The Chad's Challenges team raised an amazing £2120 during the Ladies Evening which was held in the Sixth Form Centre on the evening of Tuesday 21st November.

This year we welcomed back Becky and Judith of MillieBelle who put together a fabulous fashion show, with models from our staff and friends, with hair kindly styled by the Red Angel salon.

As the evening progressed we shopped at the excellent line-up of luxury stalls, snacked and caught up with friends. We also witnessed the first performance of the "Alex Patel Combo" (so named by Mrs. Williamson) - who kept us all entertained with classics and a bit of improvisation. A big thank you to Alex, Henry and Luke.

The typical grey tones of the sixth form common room had once again been transformed into a festive AGSB green and red lighting and we used a professional sound system for the event supplied by Keytech.

The "White Hot Chilli Peppers", a very talented Knutsford based band performed an outstanding set of music and we are very grateful that they added top quality entertainment to our event.

Just after eight o'clock, the winners of the silent auction were announced, which raised over £600. Our famous raffle

followed. We would like to thank all of the local businesses from Hale and Altrincham who donated prizes and ingredients in response to the dedicated effort of the Chad's Challenges Team and our Chief Exec – Will and Billy, the Project Managers for this event. This is a very special event each year in which Michelle and her family take part and really feel the support and love of all involved. If you would like to join the Chad's Challenge team, please speak to Mrs. Williamson in the sixth form office. Any and all help is much appreciated!

Gill Williamson and Michelle Mulholland (BCAv's)



FUTURE STARS

Yaqoob, Year 10, has had a great table tennis career over the past three years with the school team. During this time he has played consistently and with an immense amount of skill. Year after year he improved and helped the school team to victory in local competitions; further proving that Altrincham Grammar School for Boys is truly the best in the area. In Year 8, Yaqoob and the school team took part in the South-West Manchester competition and, as expected, they completely dominated the other teams and won!

Yaqoob has been practicing for the past four years, at least twice a week, with games played far and wide. He has taken this time to refine his skill and is now trying out new serves and grips that will help propel him further.

"I really love the sport because it is really enjoyable, and you can play anywhere you want. I play on my kitchen and dining tables. My father also used to play when he was younger, so the sport gives us something that we can do together."

Ewan, from Year 10, has been playing tennis for the past seven years and now boasts a wide variety of qualifications and tournament wins. He plays for the school's A team in national competitions, participating in various under 16 and under 18 competitions, usually around Lymm and Cheshire. Even more

impressive, he is an LTA accredited tennis leader, regularly and confidently running tournaments and coaching sessions. "I've been playing since I was seven, which is often a bit late for tennis players; Andy Murray started when he was seven and it worked for him"

He plays five times a week, on all surfaces, enduring any weather and temperature. He is an extremely determined player who will hopefully go on to do bigger and better things. "Obviously I enjoy winning but just the sensation of striking a perfect ace, or a beautiful drop shot is like nothing you can feel or even imagine. I thoroughly enjoy watching tennis: I've been to the ATP World Tour Finals every year since 2011. Most of all I enjoy teaching and encouraging others and I love watching them improve."

Awais Khawaja

OFFICE 365: YOUR HELPFUL NEW FRIEND

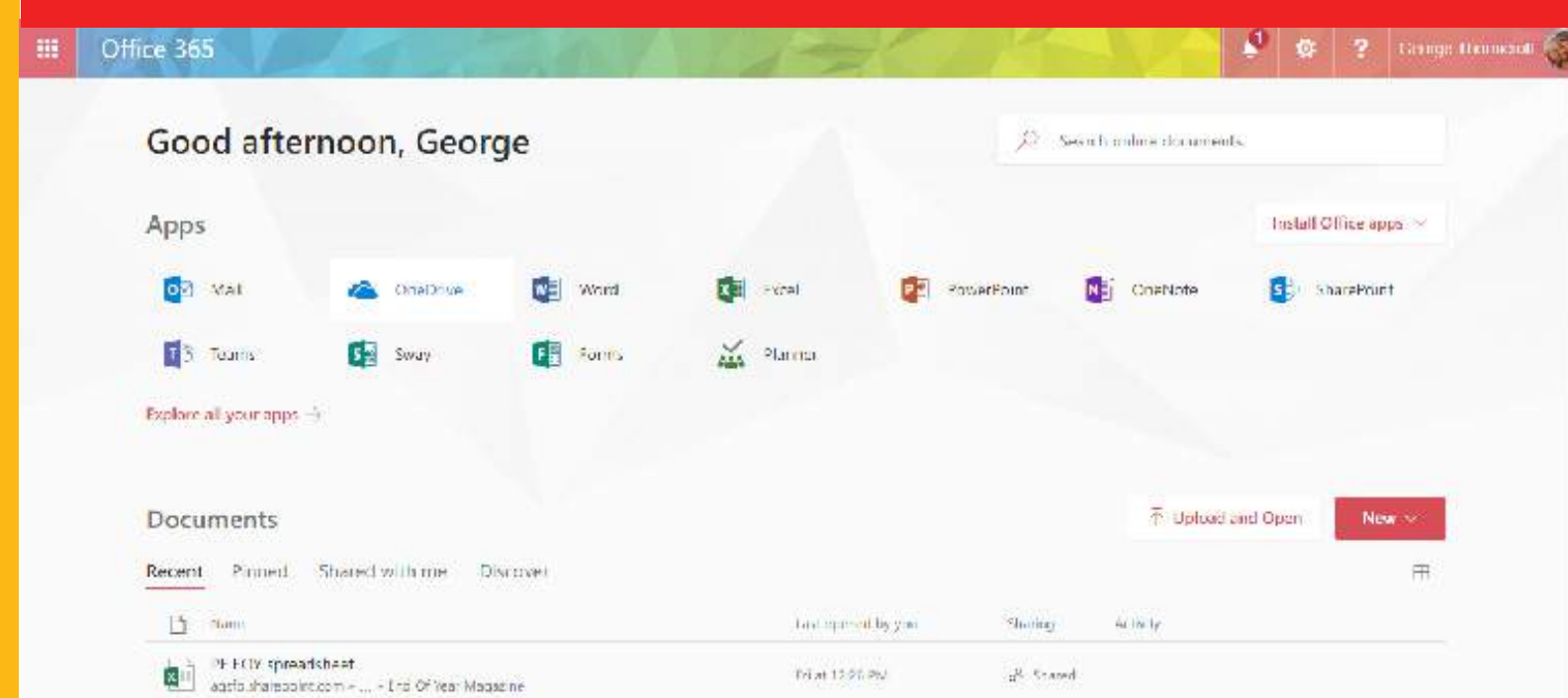
Office 365 is a wonderful hub of many resources that can be used at home, in school or pretty much anywhere in the world on any device as long as you have an internet connection. It makes doing homework easier, especially since you can do it on the home from school, in the car on the way to your friend's house or at any point ever!

Many people underestimate how good the online versions of Office Apps are. The online versions of Word, PowerPoint, Excel and OneNote are easy tools to use and have been design to work on PCs, tablets or even mobile phones. There are a lot of benefits for using the online version, such as the frequent autosave, always the latest software, sharing files when working as a team or the fact you can access it from anywhere.

OneDrive is also a fantastic example of a very useful app that can save your skin in many situations. Forgotten to print off homework in for Period 4? Download it off your OneDrive and print it off at lunchtime. Need to work with friends on the same piece of work on the same time? Share it with them and work on it at the same time in real time. The possibilities are endless!

If you have any questions, speak to your Computer Programming teacher, Mr Timmins in S10 or Mr Carr in S9.

George Thornicroft



ALTER CASH

Over the last year the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been undergoing a huge change. There is a clear change in our government as we are in the process of leaving the European Union, there are changes in the syllabus and grading system of the new GCSEs. However, this change is to do with the money that we spend every day.

There has been a new polymer £5 note which was released on 13th September 2016, a new £1 coin, that is twelve sided was released on 28th March 2017. There has been another new note released which is the polymer £10 note on 14th September 2017, there has also been a new £2 coin that was released in limited supply in Hampshire in July, later on in 2017 that coin was in wider circulation across the UK. The different types of money do feature certain people who are significant in Britain's history. The new £5 note contains a picture of Winston Churchill who was the Prime Minister during the Second World War. The new £10 note and the limited supply £2-coin feature Jane Austen. She was a novelist, one of her books is a GCSE set text, Pride and Prejudice. This year marks her 200th death anniversary.

The old £5 note ceased being legal tender on 5th May, the round £1 coin ceased being legal tender on 15th October. The old paper £10 note ceased to be legal tender on 1st March 2018. The Bank of England plans to issue a new polymer £20 note which features Joseph Mallord William Turner (JMW Turner) by 2020. There are currently no plans to replace the paper £50 note as there are not so many in circulation.

The new polymer notes have a see through window which features the Queens portraits, this is a way of checking that the note is legitimate. The words 'Bank of England' are printed in a raised ink, this is another security feature. There are still many more sophisticated security features. The polymer £10 note features Winchester Cathedral, on the front it is shown in gold and on the back in silver. There is a quill at the side of the window which changes colour, from purple to orange. There is a hologram which contains the word "Ten" which then changes to "Pounds" when the note is tilted. The hologram of the coronation crown appears three-dimensional and multi-coloured when the note is tilted, beneath the Queen's portrait there are tiny letters and numbers which are only visible under a microscope.

The tactile features were developed with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), they include a series of raised dots in the top left hand corner of the polymer £10 note. There were tactile features on notes before, each note is a different size, colour and also has numbers written in bold. This helps blind and partially-sighted people identify the notes.

The twelve sided £1 coin also has benefits. It is said to have anti-counterfeiting technology that is designed into the coin. It has milled edges, two metals, a special high security feature that is embedded in the metal of the coin. There are also secret images which are only visible from certain viewing conditions. In accordance to the Royal Mint the rate of counterfeit £1 coins in the UK did decline from 3.03% in May 2014 to 2.55% in May 2015. This new £1 coin should make the percentage fall a lot quicker.

The release of a new type of money unleashes a craze as everyone wants to try and get it, in school students are willing to give more money to fellow student just to get the new polymer note. The number of the bank note triggered another craze, as any 'AA' and 'AK47' notes are believed to be rare and worth a lot of money. They go for thousands of pounds on sites like eBay. When we sell at lunchtime we get people coming with cash just to change their paper note into the new polymer note, not to actually buy anything.

As well as the craze there are some problems to people who have received the new notes or coins. There are many machines that don't accept the new notes/coins soon after it is released. The twelve sided £1 coin wouldn't work on many shopping trolleys.

The change of notes from paper to polymer has been necessary for a number of reasons. The Bank of England believes that it is cleaner, as shiny plastics don't get as wet or dirty as paper. It is believed to be more secure, the see-through windows are difficult to copy, therefore making it harder for criminals to make counterfeits. They are believed to be longer lasting as they don't tear as easily as paper. It is expected that they can cope with extreme conditions such as going to the washing machine. They are expected to last five years, two-and-a-half times longer than the current paper notes.

The main controversy is that there are traces of beef and pork gelatin in the new polymer £5 and £10 notes. This issue has concerned certain vegetarians, vegans and some religious groups.

The UK isn't the first country to have polymer notes. They are in circulation in more than twenty countries not just in Europe and North America but in all the continents. Those countries include: Australia, Canada, Bolivia, Romania, Gambia, Vietnam, Nicaragua and many more.

Anish Das



A TRIP TO CHINA TOWN

Ni hao!

On Thursday 1st March 2018, ten students from Year 10 Chinese and two teachers embarked on a journey to Chinatown in the centre of Manchester. While the conditions were less than preferable, we had a goal in mind: to eat as much hotpot as we could. We took the tram into the heart of the city, got off and hurriedly followed Mrs Ding's frantic directions to get out of the blizzard-like snow and up to the magnificent archway that welcomes us to Chinatown.

With our hoods up, gloves on and scarves covering our freezing faces we walked into a Chinese supermarket. While this wasn't the buffet restaurant, it was the location of our first task, shopping. As well as the fact that everything is in mandarin, a major difference is the wide variety of different foods that you would not expect to find in your average Tesco or Sainsbury's, this included a moving lobster in the seafood section which was unusual to say the least. After purchasing as much as we could of Mrs Ding's weekly shopping as well as any small Chinese confectionary for ourselves, we moved on to a small Chinese museum/shop. The shop was decorated with an assortment of Chinese paintings, models and ornaments and after talking to the people in and around the shop (in mandarin, of course) we found the little place profoundly interesting and the people very pleasant, friendly and welcoming.

At 12 o'clock the Chinese buffet restaurant opened, the 12 of us rushed indoors to escape the bitter cold and the amazing staff quickly got us a table to fit all of us at once. The table itself was a huge rounded table similar to a table a traditional Chinese

family might own. In China a whole extended family could sit together around the table to share and enjoy the meal, just like we did! The first thing to do before eating hotpot is making the dipping sauce, this is usually made up of sesame seed sauce, soy sauce, chili sauce and whatever else you choose to add in. The other thing to do before having the hotpot was to quickly work out how to use chopsticks from Mr Smith as otherwise we would be sticking our hands in the boiling pot.

The menu itself consisted of about fifty different options of meats and vegetables, including tripe and intestine, we pretty much ticked everything off. The various meats were handed out on huge platters, mainly beef and lamb, or as Kai liked to say- 'rou' (mandarin for meat) and we threw all the food into the pot. After approximately one minute in the pot the meat was ready to eat - we tried our best to pick it up using our limited chopsticks skills and after numerous attempts we managed to eat it. It was definitely worth it!

Around ten cows and a couple of pigs' intestines later we were almost completely full, we'd all said the word 'rou' one too many times and it was time to leave. After stopping off for a 15-minute Krispy Kreme break, we hopped onto the tram and said goodbye to Manchester, all after a great day out in Chinatown.

Kieran Guy



DAZZLED BY LIVE POETRY

On Monday 26th February sixty GCSE students set off on a mind-blowing excursion to the Manchester Opera House. We were privileged to listen to recitations of a wide variety of poems. This would help us for our GCSE English Literature, the examination is tough as students have to learn: a nineteenth century novel, a play by Shakespeare, a play or novel written after 1914; fifteen different poems. This trip was a real help.

We listened to live poetry readings from Gillian Clarke, Carol Ann Duffy (Britain's first female poet laureate), Simon Armitage, Maura Dooley, Daljit Nagra, Imtiaz Dharker and the one and only legend John Agard. We had the opportunity to ask the poets questions regarding their poems. We had sessions with chief examiners on the skills which are vital for success in GCSE English Literature. The hardest part of this examination must be the 'Unseen Poetry' section; we were told how to compare the two poems effectively. The students were privileged to be able to see sample answers.

The entrance into the Manchester Opera House was rather peculiar as all the students bags were searched due to increased security. Simon Powell, the founder of Poetry Live started this event approximately two decades ago and thanks to his son, Daniel Powell, it is still running.

The event commenced with Tony Child's guidance to Unseen Poetry; we were advised on how to approach the question.

Gillian Clarke and Carol Duffy were the first two poets in the limelight. The next poet on stage was Daljit Nagra, his poem explored the life of British Sikhs. He read an extract from the Ramayana, one of the most significant Hindu epics. There was also a Ghazal reading, Ghazals are a type of amatory or ode which originated in Persia. Many of his poems contained words

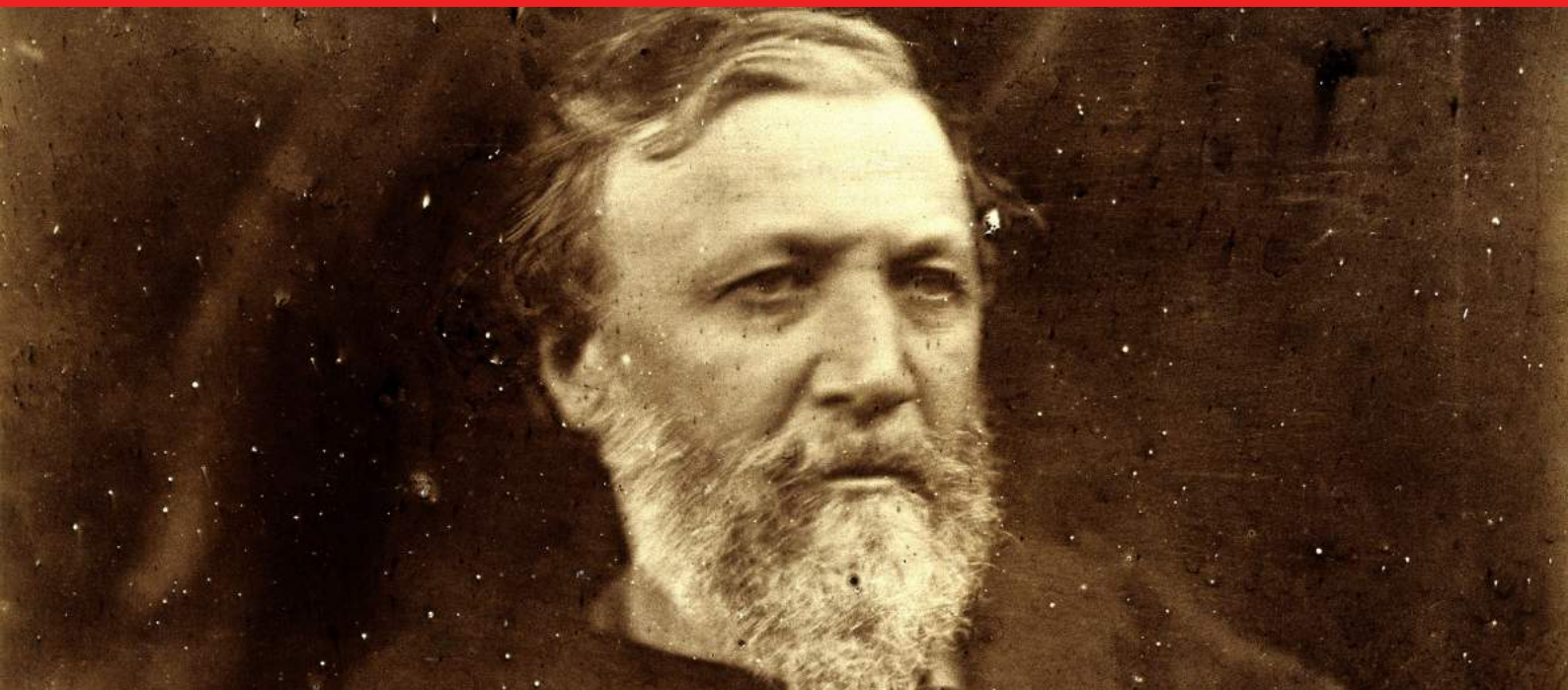
“PAPER WHICH LETS LIGHT SHINE THROUGH”

that were Punjabi (North Indian language). Simon Armitage was the next to appear on stage, he amused everyone with clever reading of his poems. Imtiaz Dharker was next. She read out a number of poems which had words that were alluding to Eastern cultures, e.g. Namaz. She currently lives in Mumbai and London, she read out a poem talking about the dabbawallas in Mumbai. The dabbawallas are the people who deliver lunchboxes to your home or to your work place, this is a strenuous job in a city which has a population of more than twenty million. This poem consisted of words in South-Asian languages: dal (lentils), chaaval (rice), baingan (aubergine) and roti (Indian bread).

The second session of Unseen Poetry was very particular because it considered how to master the comparison question. The last poet to step on stage was John Agard. He was most certainly given the heartiest welcome. He made the event very lively by requesting the audience to do a bit of singing.

The bonus must be that our school was given a complementary GCSE poetry live poster. This wonderful trip was very well organised and for that we must thank Mr Davies, Mrs Chapman and the entire English department.

Anish Das





250 WORDS ON... ESPORTS

Technology is rapidly embedding itself in every part of our world, including sporting events, resulting in the globalisation of physical sports (such as American Football) and the rise of electronic sports. However our story begins back in 1972, when Stanford University hosted a competition for "Spacewar", the top prize was a year's subscription to "Rolling Stone", worth \$30 today. The first person to make a living from esports was Dennis "Thresh" Fong, who earned around \$100,000 per year from playing video games "Quake" and "Doom", he was especially famous for his ability to predict his opponent's actions.

The new millenia passed, and Counter-Strike 1.6 became the most established game of the decade, unbeknownst to my younger self. Teams from Sweden and Brazil dominated the scene, such as Fnatic, SK Gaming, Ninjas in Pyjamas and MIBR, three of which still own a roster today. Despite

large eSports events still being in their infancy, Counter Strike 1.6 still has the 5th highest total prize pool of any game in existence.

2009 saw the rise of a new kind of game, seeing the brief success of the original Dota in 2005, Riot Games published League of Legends, which hosted its first global LAN event in 2011, the Season 1 World Championships with a modest prize pool of \$98,500 split between 8 teams from 4 regions. The recent Season 7 World Championship in Autumn 2017, which boasted a prize pool of over \$4.5 million split between twenty four teams from thirteen regions, was won by Samsung Galaxy of Korea, taking home a huge 37.5% of the money.

What do you think the next 250 word article should be?

Tom Hurrell

POLE STAR PLANETARIUM

Many people find that understanding the universe and everything within it is difficult. It all seems so bizarre that we are only one planet, a single drop of water in a massive, never-ending ocean. We find that amazing but also very confusing. Our guide within the planetarium talked to us about each of the planets in our Solar System in turn and gave us valuable information on them. He also showed us the sun and taught us about how it produces heat and energy and the reactions that happen at its core. All of this was told to us by the amazing, Richard Lake, who, with his light-hearted jokes and powerful knowledge taught us about our solar system.

The Planetarium is an inflatable sphere with a 180-degree projector pointing at the roof. This resulted in a very interactive, almost 3D experience. Considering the size, it was inflated to, the graphics were very good and the views that were shown, were very detailed and dynamic. All the things projected onto the ceiling were made to fit with it and give a view all around you, kind of like virtual reality but just with the bottom section missing. A highlight was a beautiful

scene of the stars where we saw the various constellations and showed the shapes that they formed.

The HD video of the space station showed Tim Peake's ascension to space in beautiful detail, even showing the window on the side of the rocket. It then showed how he entered the space station. The video then proceeded to take apart the space station and talk about its individual parts as well as the daily routines of the astronauts.

The event was bought to AGSB by the Ogden Trust with the help of Melissa Lord. It was attended by all of Year 8, the Year 9 Astronomy club and our Year 13 Physicists. Pupils also attended from other Trafford schools; NCS, AGGS, St Ambrose, Altrincham College and Sale High School. The Ogden Trust offer sponsorship for students studying Physics at A level as well as many courses and lectures. See <https://www.ogdentrust.com/> for further details.

Rodin Khalilazar



EXAM MASTERCLASS

To succeed in your GCSE's you must revise. All the effort and work can, at first, seem extremely daunting and off-putting. However, you need to remember that you have a full 2 years to produce your notes and you can make them anytime, even as soon as you start Year 10. In order to succeed, you not only need to revise, but revise efficiently. For some Year 10 students the step up to GCSE can be tough. Below Mrs Weil looks at the top tips to ensure that you can maximise your potential and get the best results you possibly can.

Awais Khawaja

Get Organised

Create a place for your revision materials to be stored e.g. large folder/ box files. You should have one for each subject.

Collect topic lists for all your subjects. These are available on the school website under 'Study Skills Pack' <https://www.agsb.co.uk/students/>.

Ideally the topic lists should be presented in the first column of a table. There should be some blank columns to the right of the topic list. Once the topic list is in this format, it should be printed and put in the front of your file.

Produce /collate full notes to revise from

You must have full notes to revise from. For the topics you study in Year 10 you might be able to write these notes from your exercise books and other resources given to you by your teacher. This process is useful in itself. In Year 11 it might be more difficult for you to keep up with all your work and write notes for all your subjects. Although you should aim for this, it might work better for you to photocopy some pages of your text book, include pages from your exercise book. This is fine but you must make sure that you have all of the information

**“Any
of these
steps can be
completed at
any time”**

If you have followed the advice so far, by the time you come to your trial exams (April Y10 and Dec Y11) or GCSE exams, the information that you are going to learn should be organised and ready for you to begin the more INTENSIVE, REVISION.

Intensive Revision:

As a guideline, you should aim to start revising more intensively 6- 8 weeks before trial exams and 12-14 weeks before the GCSE exams.

You should be working for 1-2 hours per night and a few hours on each day at the weekend.

You should gradually increase this to full working days at the weekend as the exams approach.

Ideas for testing yourself:

Read a page of notes/ topic and then turn the information over so that you cannot see it. Then you should answer an exam question, make a list of key terms/facts, produce an annotated diagram, teach someone else the topic, produce a mind map, produce a table of pros/cons/ consequences.

THE CRUCIAL PART OF THE REVISION PROCESS IS MAKING SURE YOU DO THE ABOVE TESTING STRATEGIES WITHOUT LOOKING AT YOUR NOTES

How to manage your time effectively

Our brains remember the beginning and end of revision sessions and so you should create more by having short breaks.

Breaks should be proportionate to the study e.g. 3-4 minute break every 20 minutes

Reviewing

Reviewing information is important...If we learn something new, in general it will start fading in our minds after a few hours (unless it is particularly exciting).

However, if we revise it again in the next four hours, it will take about 24 hours before it starts to fade. Revise it in the next 24 hour period and it will last for four days, then one and a half weeks, then one month, and so on. If you follow the steps outlined in this document, the course content will be consolidated in your brain, making the final months of revision much, much easier.

Revision should take place throughout the course, it is not just for the final weeks before the exam!

Our brains work best when:

We use distributed practice to revise notes

We link what we are learning to something we already know.

We attach an emotion to what we are learning (e.g. if we can relate to it, or if it is funny/ surprising/ interesting).

We can see where our learning fits into the 'bigger picture' – like a jigsaw.

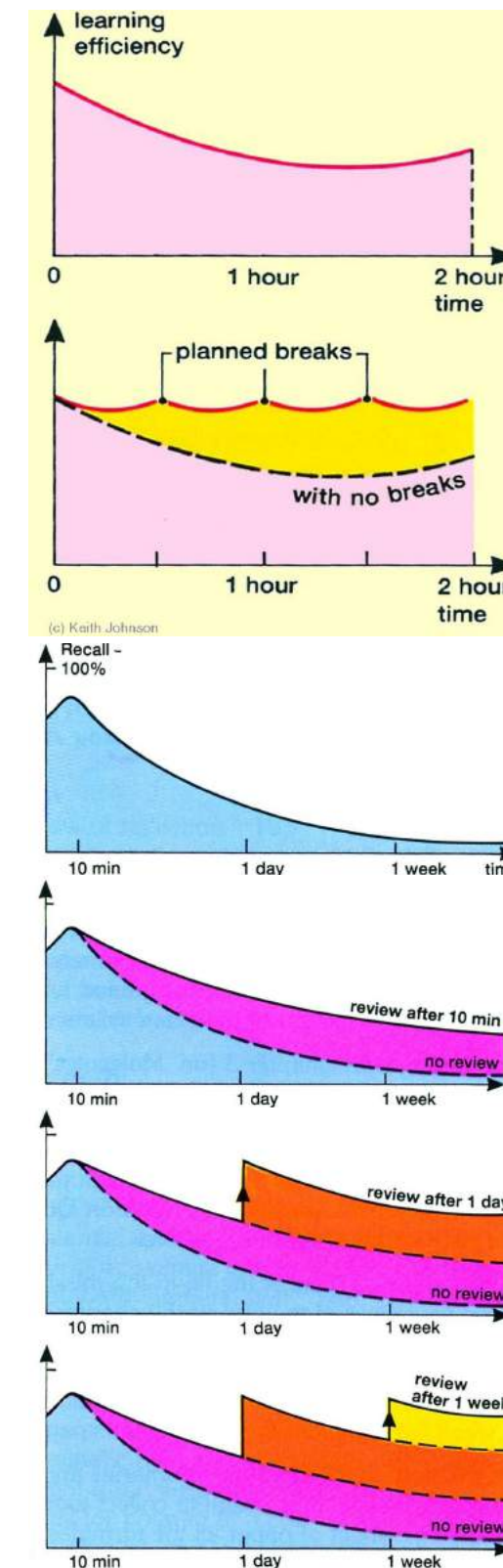
Final Tips:

Try to remain positive and remember that our brains are amazing and your capacity to learn is infinite.

Your brain can do whatever you train it to do.

The only barrier to your success is how hard you are prepared to work.

Suzanne Weil



INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD MASTER

In 2003 George W Bush and Tony Blair were preparing for the invasion of Iraq, but closer to home Tim Gartside plotted his own invasion of AGSB. Both Bush and Blair saw their popularity plummet in the fifteen years since, however the same cannot be said of the Head whose popularity has remained *consistent* throughout this time. Lunar Adriano's quote of "People don't appreciate you or know your value until you're gone" will certainly be tested. So as this is the last edition of The Word that the Head will do his write up for (late). We thought that it was only right and fitting to try to get some nuggets of information from HM himself.

Alan Williams

What is one point of your career you wish to forget about?

Once, through no fault of my own, we set the wrong exam for some students.

Out of the years that you were at the school, which year do you think was the most action packed or the one you liked the most?

Easily the 2012 celebrations, due to the normal schedule running alongside the extra large scale celebrations.

What has been your most memorable moment whilst being Head Master at the school?

There have been many memorable moments, and so heres two, firstly the opening of The Grammar with Andrew Flintoff, because this was the culmination of a big project, and the 2012 celebrations were also memorable.

Which subjects were your favourite in school?

Definitely History, Politics and English.

Do you have any hidden passions or dreams you wished you had pursued?

We have had some fantastic productions but I regret not making drama a larger part of the school curriculum.

Will you un-ban phones before you leave?

No, but they are increasingly being used in a positive way for the school.

Can you remember how you felt when you were given the role of Head Master?

Shocked, as I didn't expect it, I was purely applying for practice.

What football team do you support?

Rochdale AFC, the mighty?

If you could choose one song to be added to the assembly Hymn Book, what would it be and why?

Cornerstone, by Hillsong, because it is one that we sing at St. Mary's.

How big of an impact do you think you have had on the school since you started?

A reasonable impact but as always with a large organisation it has always been a team effort.

What has been your best moment outside of school?

Rochdale AFC being promoted twice, and more recently Rochdale drawing against Spurs with a last minute goal.








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