

# AGSB

2023-2024

ANNUAL REVIEW



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# HEAD MASTER'S ADDRESS



**I**t is an absolute pleasure to celebrate the achievements of our community during the 2023/24 year. I take great pride in reporting on our academic successes. At A Level, an impressive 28% of all grades were A\*, and 64% were A\* or A. Over three-quarters of the 'Class of 2023' were accepted to their first-choice universities, including nineteen who accepted a place at Oxford or Cambridge. At GCSE, our students also excelled, with 82% of grades at 9, 8, or 7, with 36% of entries at the highest grade of 9.

Our extra-curricular programme remains central to our school ethos, fostering both learning and personal development. Our performing arts continue to thrive. In music, our Big Band and Concert Band won the Gold award at the NCBF national finals held at Warwick School. In drama, an outstanding performance of West Side Story was a highlight of the year. Additionally, 50 students in Years 8-10 took their first LAMDA exams, with an astounding 96% achieving the highest grade of Distinction.

Sports fixtures thrived, with a large number of pupils participating. The 1st XI hockey squad reached the national final for the second consecutive year, and several football teams advanced to the latter stages of the Greater Manchester Cup and Trafford Cups. In cricket, both the Under 13 and 14 Cricket XI's were crowned Cheshire Champions 2024, and in racket sports, there was regional and national success in tennis, table tennis and badminton. Many individuals have excelled, achieving regional and national representation in football, hockey, rugby, cricket, athletics, badminton and tennis.

As much as this annual review is about celebrating the School's most recent past, AGSB must - as ever - continue to look to the future. In doing so, we have begun to focus on the emerging role of Generative AI in education. Tools like ChatGPT are now surpassing traditional search engines for fact-finding and are acting as critical friends that can debate, discuss, challenge, and coach. However, balancing AI with human intelligence will be crucial to our success moving forwards.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of the school community for their efforts this year. Without their commitment and talents, the breadth of activities and levels of

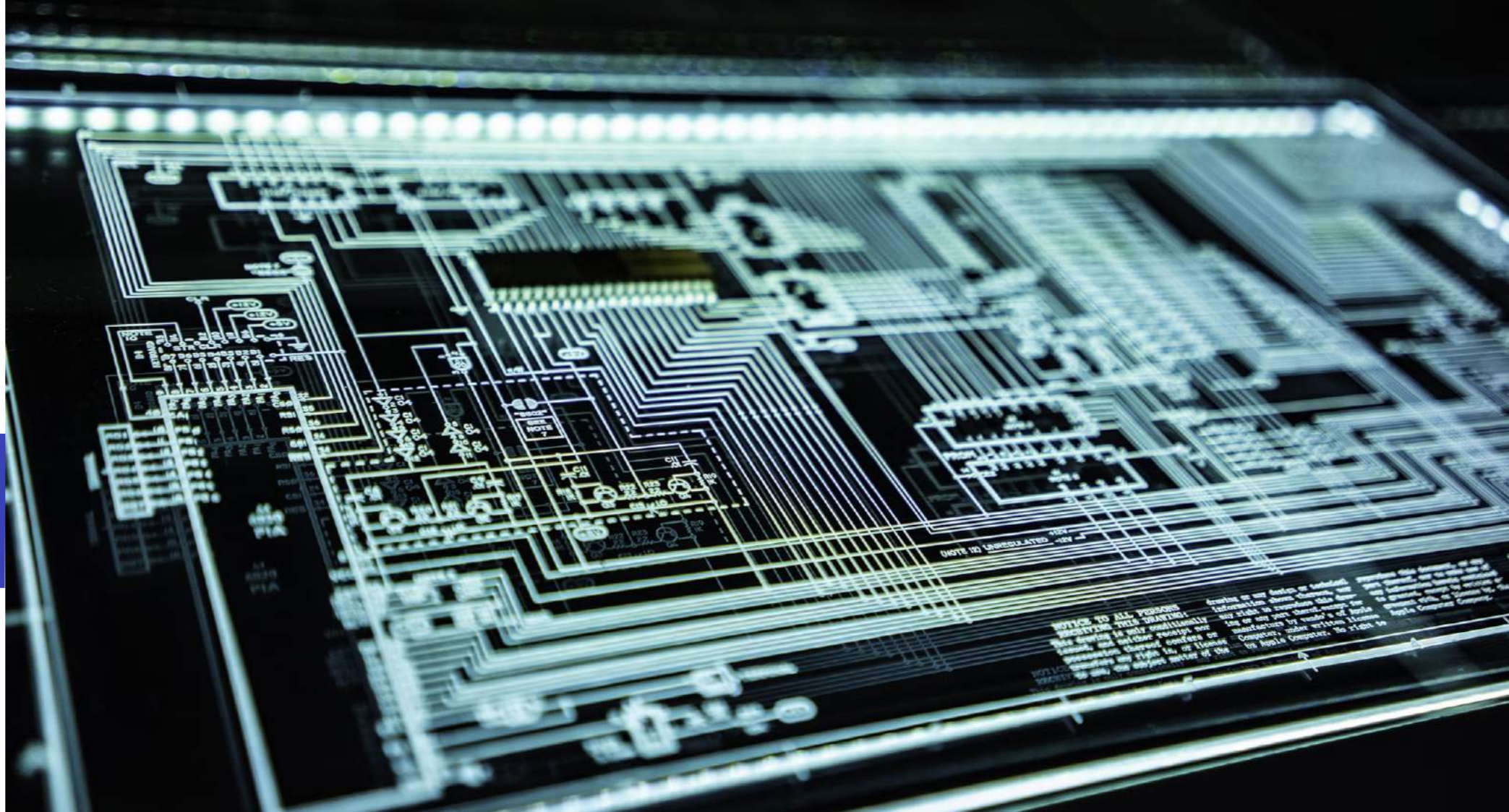
achievement you read about here would not be possible. It remains a huge privilege to lead such an inspiring school community.

G A Wright  
Head Master

**"It remains a huge privilege to lead...an inspiring school..."**  
- G A Wright



# EDITORS' NOTES



**W**elcome back to another edition of the Annual Review!

It has been an eventful year for us as a Committee, not least because this year has been entirely student-led by us, the Editors, but also because we now have more students than ever before contributing to this hallowed school tradition. Our team of 25 have worked tirelessly to put this all together, and the first thanks must go to them, without whom none of this would be possible. Being part of this team allows you to stretch, challenge and discover more about yourself and the community that we (as students) are here to serve.

And these guys have done just that. We hope you enjoy reading the content they have written or helped to collate.

Writing this now, we must admit the slight temptation to involve a certain ChatGPT in assisting us to find the right words to describe what a success this year has been at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. And this threat is a pertinent issue within every facet of our lives, if not increasingly so as AI becomes more powerful. However, AI can be really assistive as well; whether it be in the workplace, the classroom, on the wards or in

**“We hope you find some semblance of humanity in the following pages...”  
- The Editors**

developing countries, AI can have a profound impact on the world around us, if we use it responsibly. As a Committee, one of our next challenges is trying to integrate AI with what we normally do, so look out for any articles with a slightly robotic twist...

Technology has evolved quite heavily since we were children, back in the dark ages of 2007-2010 (we are still coming to terms with students being born in 2012/13...), but as we see a technological revolution within our society and our school, we implore you all, staff, student or parent,

to evolve cautiously with these changes. Remember to embrace the art, culture and history that looking outside at the blue of the sky- as opposed to the blue of a screen- can provide and let us remain the masters of our own destinies, despite a future with technology growing ever stronger.

We do hope you find some semblance of humanity in the following pages, even if some of it has a slightly ChatGPT-ish edge...

The Editors

## Zeena Albeldawi 2017



**M**rs Albeldawi worked in the Biology department of AGSB for over six years. In that time she became an integral and much valued member of the Biology team and we are very sorry to lose her. Her professionalism, organisation, and motivation to keep on improving were exceptional. Her dedication to her work enabled staff to deliver high quality practical work and students to experience the joy of practical science. Mrs Albeldawi is also a fabulous cook and our days were often brightened by the tempting treats she would bring in for us.

As she moves on to take up her former career, we will miss her (and the treats) very much, but we wish her the best success in the future.

A Welsby

## Charlotte Clark 2017



Charlotte Clark joined the AGSB English Department seven years ago in September 2017, after starting her teaching career at Rossall School on the Fylde Coast. Students and colleagues were immediately struck by her prodigious work ethic, arriving very early in the morning and seemingly completing a day's work before morning registration! Her students frequently commented on her caring, personalised approach to teaching, getting to know individuals very well and encouraging them to find a confident voice of their own.

Her lessons were highly interactive, bringing literary texts alive with deep explorations of theme, character and style. Within the department, Charlotte was famous for the exceptional order and neatness of her exercise books, with students' work beautifully presented and annotated with motivational comments. She was promoted swiftly to Second in English where she ensured that our students were well-catered for during the dark months of lockdown, and contributed greatly to the depth and richness of the English curriculum as a whole.

Her A-Level Literature students were especially privileged to have such an attentive, knowledgeable and inventive teacher, especially regarding dramatic texts. Drama has long been a passion for Charlotte and over the past few years, she has produced a series of truly excellent shows including *Les Misérables*, *West Side Story*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and even a brand-new student adaptation of *The Bacchae*.

Anyone who has had the good fortune to see these shows, or work on them, will agree that the quality bar has been raised to a very high level of professionalism. The long hours of dedication, teamwork and creativity that goes into these productions has been phenomenal. Charlotte has contributed so much across such a wide range of activities including Performing Shakespeare events, House competitions, theatre trips, and staff choir to name just a few.

A natural teacher with tremendous energy, communication and motivational skills, Charlotte is a great loss to the teaching profession, but we wish her all the very best as she moves on to a new and exciting career with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

M Davies

**M**rs Clark was in the audience of our production of *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, back in 2018, as a new member of staff at AGSB. She sought Mrs Jarratt out after the show with a huge smile on her face, asking if she could get involved in future productions and we've not looked back since!

From rewriting and inserting some Rick Astley chic into our production of 'Back to the 80's', to expertly handling extreme props like the man eating plant, Audrey II, in 'Little Shop of Horrors' to out of control runaway carts and enormous barricades in 'Les Misérables' and this year, the deadly washing line of 'West Side Story', Miss Clark's prowess in the wings knows no end.

It is her contribution in the build up to show week that is truly unsurpassed. Her dedication to rehearsals and script editing, working alongside the cast to ensure they feel comfortable in any staged situation and to guaranteeing our visiting cast members feel safe and valued is a testament to her hard work.

As we begin work on her final AGSB production, 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory', it is impossible to imagine what drama will be like without Miss Clark in it. She leaves the school having established Drama as a key part of the school's culture - imagination, inclusion and enjoyment really do bring out the magic in people. Thank you Miss Clark for everything you have done in your time here, don't be a stranger!

L Jarratt

**M**y first encounter with Mrs Clark was doing the Performing Shakespeare Competition in Year 9; though I was a somewhat unseasoned actor, Mrs Clark was there every step of the way to polish our acts and challenge us to experiment with the stagecraft of Shakespeare. She was there in every moment, and became our biggest fan when competing on the National stage down in London,

Mrs Clark's courage, however, is what I will miss most of all. To champion the performing arts at a school dominated by STEM subjects takes a significant level of bravery, to step outside of the status quo, to challenge the norm; it is this courage that she sought to encourage us all to channel into performance and our moments on stage. From encouraging me to audition for my first musical theatre role back in Year 9, to challenging me to venture beyond my comfort zone in performing 'Gee Officer Krupke', I, too, have learned to be brave. And I have Mrs Clark to thank for that.

T Ariyo

## Edward Hall 2002



**T**his summer, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys bids a fond farewell to Mr. Eddie Hall, who is retiring after an illustrious 22-year tenure as Deputy Head. Eddie, an Oxford graduate in History and an ardent Liverpool FC supporter, joined AGSB in 2002. Before his time with us, he held various roles in three other grammar schools, bringing with him a wealth of experience and dedication.

During his tenure at AGSB, Eddie became best known for his leadership in pastoral care and safeguarding. However, his contributions extended far beyond these roles. He also managed the academic curriculum at Key Stage 3, oversaw Staff Professional Development, and led a number of Teaching and Learning initiatives. Additionally, Eddie has proved to be an exceptional history teacher and a successful football coach, leading AGSB teams for nineteen years (including two Trafford Cup titles).

The position of a pastoral Deputy Head in a school of nearly 1,400 boys is undoubtedly challenging and not for the faint-hearted.

Yet, Eddie has embraced these challenges with exceptional dedication and excelled in every aspect of his role. Over the past 22 years, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the school, the staff, and most importantly, the students.

Eddie's care, compassion, and empathy have left a lasting impact on countless boys, parents, and colleagues. He has been instrumental in fostering a happy, tolerant, and respectful school community. His influence has been profound, creating an environment where every student can thrive.

As we bid Eddie farewell, we extend our heartfelt thanks for his remarkable contributions to Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. His legacy will continue to inspire and shape the school for years to come.

G A Wright



# SEARCH RESULTS...

After a quick search, we've finally found some new talent to join the AGSB team. We've done the sifting and the sorting, so let's see what results have been generated...

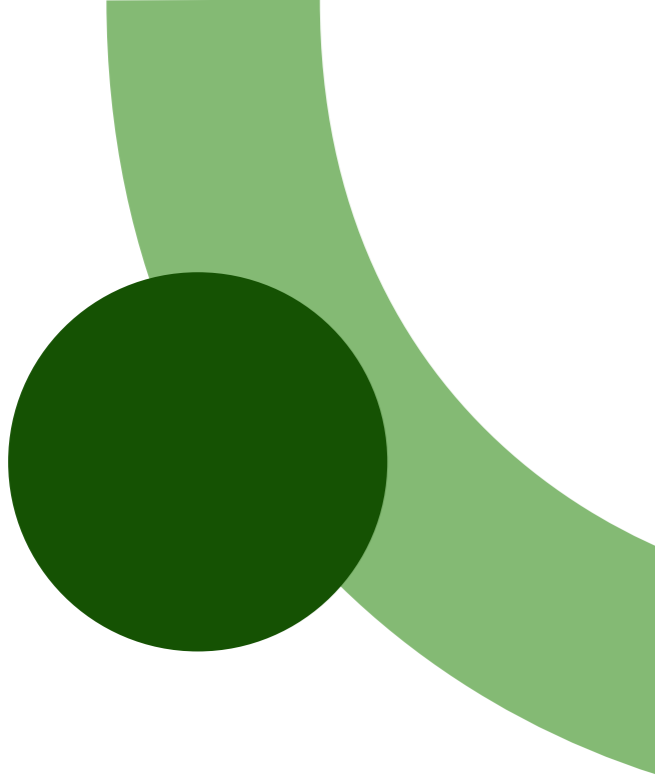


Name:	Mary Di Mauro	George Harrison. Yes, I've heard of the Beatles...	Nicola Leitch	Mr J Lockwood	Ms Munir
Place of birth:	Glasgow, Scotland	Manchester	Bolton	Warrington - the home of legends	Manchester
Specialty/ Department?	Learning Support	IT & Tech Support	Reception/Administration	Music and Cover	Cover Supervisor
Thoughts on AI?	AI can be great for use in medical imaging, improving diagnosis and healthcare outcomes.	I could probably do with some!	Unsure - not 100% safe...	Witnessing this technological turning point feels immensely special and has the potential to be a pinnacle of human achievement.	I don't really have one!
What is your favourite device?	My phone!	Any that work.	My phone	My MacBook computer	My phone
How often do you use AI to complete work?	Never.	As an AI language model, I don't use AI to complete work in the.. Sorry, I mean never!	Never.	I use it occasionally... but it's yet to be a common feature in my work. One day, maybe?	Never.
Which staff member would most likely break computer ethics?	I couldn't possibly say...	Definitely a close one. It's between Mr. Alsaadi and Mr. Alsaadi!	All of them - hahaha!	No member of staff would dare do such a thing!	No idea.
What was your first experience of owning a device like?	We had a computer room with a 20MB Colossus, CRT monitor, floppy disks, and thought it'd last forever.	I have great memories with the PS1, especially starting my Fifa 2005 managerial career with Hearts FC!	A pager, it felt good as I was more connected to the world than others.	It was our Windows 95 desktop from 1997. felt amazing but now seems more like a horse-drawn cart in comparison!	A Nokia and I enjoyed playing snake!
Most embarrassing moment?	Admitting (now) that my first device is currently a museum piece!	Definitely losing to Mr. Parker in the Staff Sumo Wrestling final.	Getting pranked, then my phone flew out of my hands and landed in the pool!	The first time I performed on stage, I tripped over on the steps and landed on my face!	Too many to mention!
Any hidden talents?	I love all styles of cooking. Frendang, spanakopita...	I can write with both hands!	No	If I do, then they are also hidden from me!	I am quite good at building flatpacks!



Name:	Mr N Mohammad	Mr A Marcano	Miss M Callisto
Place of birth:	Copenhagen	Maraval, Trinidad	Rainy Manchester!
Specialty/ Department?	English	PE, specialising in Hockey	English
Thoughts on AI?	A useful tool that will change the world for good and for bad.	Very scary, I'm not even sure if you're a real person ... I'm not sure that I'm real!	I quite like sci-fi/dystopia so I'm fascinated by all the dilemmas AI raises – its dangers and benefits. One of my fave collections of short stories is Isaac Asimov's I, Robot!
What is your favourite device?	Amazon Kindle	Aside from electronics, a hockey or tennis ball, football... doesn't matter.	I'm not mega plugged into my phone or socials if I'm honest. Gun to my head, though, I'd say my laptop!
How often do you use AI to complete work?	Rare, if ever though, I intend to learn more about how I can use it to assist with my workload.	Never. Full Stop.	Depends how pedantic we're being about what constitutes 'AI'... a fair bit though I'd say.
Which staff member would most likely break computer ethics?	Me! Sometimes I am tempted to take a hammer to the photocopier...	Anyone in the PE department.	I am not quite sure of the 'codified rules' of Computer Ethics but, I am sure I could find a way to do something idiotic..
What was your first experience of owning a device like?	A Nokia phone. I felt like I had gone into the future, though I could only phone and text on it!	It was probably a pager. Strange, but made you feel sophisticated.	A pastel-pink unit of a Nokia phone back in Y7... an endearing brick of a device that you could drop on the ground and form a crater in the earth with. It was cute, though!
Most embarrassing moment?	I once went to offer condolences for someone who had died, but I went to the wrong house and offered condolences to a very confused family!	Having to ask my primary-school-aged daughters how to do things on the phone is as bad as it gets for me.	Wish I had an entertaining anecdote but it's probably just saying something silly without thinking..
Any hidden talents?	I am a reasonably good card magician.	I'm a good listener.	No.





## 7 YEARS: A REFLECTION...

Unfortunately, my time at AGSB peaked in Year 7 with victory in the Trafford Cup - a first trophy win which would also prove to be my last. Given my decline on the football field, I've had to find other things to pass the time, leading me into some unexpected but brilliant experiences.

But firstly, I can't look back on my time at AGSB without reminding myself how privileged I have been to study here. While I'm sure that my science and maths teachers would attest to my limited capabilities in their subjects, I've found my passions in History, English and in Classics, beneath the masterly

eye of Emperor Ellis. I have been incredibly lucky to be surrounded by teachers who genuinely inspire, from Mr Croxton turning us into a loyal fanbase for Former Home Secretary Roy Jenkins to being helped to study Classical Greek in my spare time.

I've also lived through the golden age of extra-curricular events at AGSB, with the dawn of the house system bringing so many opportunities. The library has become a battle-ground in recent years and I've enjoyed debating clashes with the titans of K Chakrabarti and G Ravisankar.

**"The most important changes I have seen have been cultural."  
- J Roden**

The House Shout has also been a highlight, as it has been for so many. While I wouldn't class my contributions as particularly skilful, they've certainly been enthusiastic.

I've also found myself, somewhat inadvertently, involved in the blossoming drama and musical theatre culture at the school; I hope that my seminal performances as 'Bamatabois' and 'Nibbles' will echo through the ages despite the fact that they had no lines. Then, in October of this year, I was lucky enough to have Mrs Clark's support in putting on my own version of the ancient tragedy 'Bacchae'. I had long been waiting for an opportunity to force N McGregor into a kimono and, if nothing else, the play achieved that goal. Although Mrs Clark is leaving us, I hope that people continue to pursue their passions on the stage.

However, the most important changes I've seen throughout my time at AGSB have been cultural. I can remember a time where racist,

homophobic and sexist language was the norm on the playground and, although there is still much to be done, I am immensely proud to be part of a school that has taken such huge strides forward in recent years. The work of the Anti-Racism team and the LGBTQ+ society have been truly inspiring and I was pleased to play my own small part in delivering anti-misogyny assemblies this year. Being able to organise two fiercely competitive debates with AGGS was also a fun and rewarding challenge, especially when the motions were mixed up and we ended up having to freestyle our speeches.

I leave an AGSB which has changed from when I arrived. I myself have certainly changed too, although I am still waiting on a growth spurt. All of us leaving this year have been given so much by the school and I wish everyone the best of luck with the rest of their time here.

J Roden  
Head Prefect 2023-24

# 22 YEARS ON...

**T**uck your shirt in, please!

Well, where to begin now that my time is at an end. Twenty-two years seems a long time when you think about it. For most of you reading this, it is longer than your own existence on this earth.

For me when I arrived, I wanted to make a difference, to make my mark – on the school, on the staff and above all, to improve the experience of those students for whom I felt a great responsibility. I had an idea about what pastoral care meant to me.

It was not as some wanted and expected from me at the time – that was, for me to make boys scared of me and strongly encourage them into being obedient to the wishes of the school. Rather, I wanted to listen, to guide and to mould, not just young minds, but the system that would impact upon them. I had three daughters of my own and if that approach was unacceptable for mine, it was certainly not good enough for my 'adopted family' at AGSB.

I wanted more than that for those



in my care. And generally, I have been blessed to have had some part in the education and care, and hopefully development, of so many great minds who will go on to make such a difference long after I am gone.

At times, I have felt like John the Baptist, a voice crying out in the wilderness. A lone Scouser amidst the Bewildered, the Mistaken and the Lost – all those United and City fans, who had not heard the Truth as had been first told to God's Chosen People – Kopites. But they say a prophet is seldom heard in his own land.

I have taught history, R&P, PSHE, ran football teams, and a Go-Karting team for several years with some success nationally. Regrettably, I only taught Computer Studies for a year – a loss to the world of AI!

I hope those I have taught have felt they got a good deal. I hope they have smiled a lot during my time here, felt listened to and cared for. Even when they have sat in front of me being disciplined for errant behaviour, I hope they have felt that they were treated with respect and that the process was never vindictive, but the advice offered

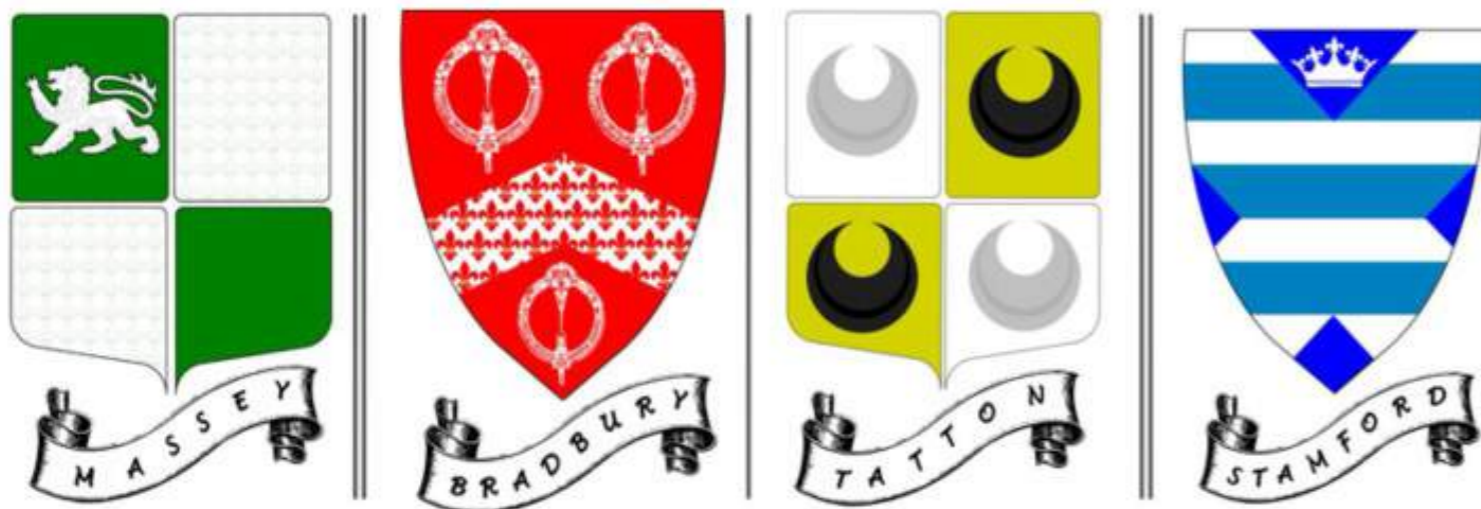
came from a good place, and was for their greater benefit.

I hope parents felt supported and that their children were being entrusted to a pastoral system that would cherish them as their own, and that the school is warm, approachable, understanding, and compassionate.

If all this is true, then I will have gone some way to achieving what I set out to do. Make a difference. And if I have, then I have so many colleagues, teaching and non-teaching, and Heads of Year to thank for helping me make this a school students and parents are proud to be part of.

E Hall  
AGSB Deputy Head (2002 – 2024)





## OVERALL HOUSE REVIEW

**T**his year (2023-24) has once again been a brilliant year with fantastic events full of House camaraderie and thousands of House Points awarded.

There are so many events that we enjoyed: Cross Country, Winter Sports Festival, Football, Cricket and Tug of War. Solo Music competition, Battle of the Bands and the Talent Show. Public Speaking, Debating and the Entrepreneurs competition. Chess, Pi Recital, Photography, Philosophy Ted Talks, University Challenge and Geography Quizzes. Baking, MFL, Languages translation and spelling bees, paper aeroplane competitions, plus many more.

There was also of course the Head Master's 'Big 3': Sports Day, House Shout and the Inaugural House Drama. All of which were incredible events.

The House Shout singing event was a crescendo of talent and enthusiasm, showcasing the vocal prowess of our students. Each house brought its unique flair to the stage, creating an atmosphere filled with performance, melody and rhythm. Congratulations (once again!) to Stamford for their outstanding performance and spirited renditions!

The inaugural House Drama Competition was a theatrical extravaganza, with students displaying their acting prowess and dramatic flair. The stage came alive with captivating performances, showcasing the creativity and dedication of each house. Massive congratulations to Bradbury for winning this spectacular event.

The Chess, Music, and Talent Show was a showcase of diverse skills and passions. Students exhibited their strategic prowess in chess, musical talents filled the air with harmony, and a plethora of talents dazzled the audience. The Cricket, Football and Sports Festivals brought together fierce competition and camaraderie on the field. The cerebral competitions of Public Speaking, and Debating, Quizzes, 6th Form University Challenge were a testament to the intellectual prowess of our students.

Whether on the pitch or the podium, each house has demonstrated excellence and eloquence.

Thanks must go to the House Sponsors and House Managers. Thanks to all the staff who have organised and supported events. Special thanks also to the House student leadership team, but most importantly huge thanks and congratulations to each and every student who represented their house in any events across this year.

As we reflect on the year gone by, let us celebrate the achievements and memories shared within our houses. Together, we have embodied the spirit of collaboration, competition, and community. Here's to another year filled with growth, success, and unforgettable moments!

M Soulsby



# MASSEY REVIEW 2024

**2**023-24 was another great year for Massey, with so many excellent performances in so many different competitions.

I must thank the Massey leadership team, consisting of:

- S Hafeez and V Renjit (Year 7)
- K Omer and J Esan (Year 8)
- M Chaudhri and D Chen (Year 9)
- O Fatola and Z Smith (Year 10)
- D Liu and R Xu (Year 11)
- W Draper and P Kumar (Year 12)
- House Captain - J Lennon-Butler
- Vice-Captain - W Morris

They have been instrumental in communicating with the house and ensuring Massey have full teams in

all competitions.

Highlights of the year include, Sports Day, Winter Sports Festivals, House Drama, along with many others.

Every year I get increasingly impressed with the hidden talents of the members of Massey. Every time I see a member of Massey give it their all, whether it is on the sports field, baking a cake, debating, or singing their hearts out in the amateur dramatics and House Shout, it fills me with immense pride.

I would like to finally thank J Lennon Butler and W Morris for all they have done as House Captain and Vice-Captain. Their hard work has been instrumental to Massey's successes.

S Meakin

**M**assey's 202324 season has been an absolute banger. Following on from our Sports Day success in July of last



year, we stormed into the new year with success after success. Not only did we win the Year 13 Public Speaking in September, but we won the House Photography in October, with strong performances in the House Shout, and we stormed to victory in the Year 8 Public Speaking in December, as well as raising an incredible £175 for the PFA in the Christmas House Entrepreneur Competition. We finished off 2023 with an incredible set of sporting achievements, coming in 1st or 2nd place in every Winter Sports Competition, as well as in the Year 7, 8, 9 and 13 House Football Competitions. The new year saw more victories, including 1st place in the Year 13 University Challenge and Year 11 Debating, and an impressive 2nd place for the Year 12's. The final big event of the year, the House Drama competition, saw Massey gaining 1st and 2nd place in the Duologue and Monologue categories, respectively.

These many victories are only a cherry picking of the immense number of successes of Massey House since I became House Captain. When I was selected, a large part of my vision was to see more integration and cooperation across year groups, and to encourage more Masseyites to take part in the House System. I have been so impressed to see just how many people have decided this year to give the House system a go, and contribute what they can to Massey, whether that be in sports, music, drama, academics or even baking. So many people in our house have dedicated their time and effort to helping Massey succeed, and I know that I speak for myself, Mr Meakin, and the entire house in thanking those people.



None of the success that we have seen in Massey over the past year would have been possible without the hard work of the Year House Leaders, who have worked their socks off organising and recruiting for House events to make sure everyone in Massey has had a chance to contribute to their house. This team of leaders have been such an asset to us, and I know that all of you who have held Massey leadership positions this year will continue being the heart and soul of the Massey community. As this academic year comes to a close and we begin to welcome the new one, we look to Massey's future, which I am glad to know will be in the safe hands of P Kumar and B Weeden; I wish them all the best in their new roles.

When I joined AGSB, there were people in Year 13 who were born in the 20th century (crazy, I know), and as I leave, the youngest of you in Year 7 will have been born in 2012. During this time, the House System has grown with the school and evolved to become an integral part of life at AGSB. Although the year groups before mine all helped to establish the House System, it is all of you in the years below who have made it something really impressive, and I am proud to have seen Massey evolve into such a strong and successful House. From myself, Will and the rest of the Massey Class of 2024, we wish you all the best of luck in leading Massey on to even more victories in the years ahead. A team above all and above all a team.

J Lennon-Butler



## BRADBURY REVIEW 2024

**A**nother fine year for Bradbury house with some fantastic successes in so many events, seeing our flag flying at the front of the school for most of the year again. I mentioned in my end of year report last year, "Our red flag has been on display for the best part of two whole years at the front of the school, this is due to the fantastic work done by our students around school and in lessons." What an achievement to have our flag flying for the best part of three years now. This confirms the status of work done by our students here at AGSB, not only from those in red but the competition in white, yellow, and blue who are always keeping us on our toes.

We have also had some major successes in the schools first Drama Competition, winning the trophy with

some outstanding performances in all three categories, with a particular mention to our house captain D Patil whose performance in the monologue section brought every emotion imaginable to the audience, even with an American accent.

We have also had some fantastic success in sport, the creative arts, the sciences and, of course, music.

However, it has not been all great for us, having our hearts and soul ripped out of us at the House Shout has meant we all had to pick up the pieces after that event back in October – some of us are still feeling it now and it pains me to write about it; the other houses talk about how we should have been higher, some even saying we were better than they were....But we all continue to learn, develop and like Captain Bradbury himself, keep going and doing our bit.



# BRADBURY REVIEW 2024 CONT.

At the time of writing this, we are in the last few weeks of school life for our Year 13 students, the last of our house which experienced a whole year without a house system. On behalf of everyone in Bradbury house, I wish them all the success they deserve in the coming exams and for their future plans once they leave our school. This year group, like all the others have taken on every competition and given everything a go, supported younger students, and have done their bit for the success of our house and the other houses too. I thank you for giving up your time to represent your house over the time you have been with us. It is also the last few weeks for our Year 11 students too. I would like to wish everyone the best of luck in your summer exams and your preparation for your further studies.

I would like to say thank you to our departing House Captain D Patil and Vice-Captain Y Rehman, they have served us well over this last year, leaving their legacy on our house and inspiring others to do their bit and become better human beings

within our school. They have been a major part of the schools prefect team and on behalf of the school in general, no matter what colour our tie, thank you!

Our house would also not function as well as it does without our house leadership team who put our teams together, get people involved, let others know what's going on and support me as House Manager. Thank you to A Kashif, A Narang, B Siddique, E Gnanapragasam, J Clark, J Foran, O Fryar and P Nucherla. There are couple of names I have not mentioned, those being A Jois, our Year 12 leader, who has recently been named our school's Head Prefect and W Johnson who is our new House Vice-Captain, with B Clark as House Captain.

Our house is going from strength to strength, we continue to put out strong teams against the other houses, continue to give it a go and that is the true Bradbury way. In some ways we also thank the other houses for their competitive spirit and wanting to be the best, as it encourages all of us to go that extra step to better ourselves.

I look forward to seeing what happens next!

D Smith





# STAMFORD REVIEW 2024

I am writing this just before the May half term, with our Year 8 cricketers putting in a valiant effort in the HSJS cricket final before we break up.

Yet again, Stamford continues to dominate in the field of music, with another clean sweep across the House Shout. I remain incredibly proud of the part that I played in the success of our House, which is to say, no part at all.

Our Musical Ensemble was brought together by our Year 13s, C Alty and T Quigley, who picked the music, organized the rehearsals, and sorted our Ensemble into the champions that they are. It has become a bit of

a tradition to wear sunglasses on the stage whenever the Ensemble perform, and they made another appearance this year – they were performing Superstitious. The Choir's performance of 'Goodnight Sweetheart' was fully arranged by our soon-to-be House Captain L Madden, who, by this point, has effectively got free reign over our singers. Our Unison performance of Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer' was outstanding – watching the colossus that is T Quigley stride out, guitar in hand, belting out an incredible solo will remain a lasting image for me.

Other successes followed: the Winter Sports competition, with our Year 10s cruising to victory in every event; the Year 12 Public Speaking Competition victory handed without question to J Belhaj and I Jones; J Tsai's chess victory in Year 7, and N Violaris's in Year 9; our linguists achieving victory in all three Translation Bees; the outstanding



Year 10 & 11 Cricket team batting their way to the top. As ever though, the first places are only a part of our successes – second places for our Year 13 University Challenge team, Year 8 & 13 Public Speaking, and a slew of third and fourth places across a complete range of events have still given us points towards the Saville-Laver Cup.

The biggest competition after the House Shout, however, was the newly introduced House Drama Competition. N Doyle and J Anyon-

Smith's MasterCook was masterful; S Vaddhireddy's Love on The Dole made us feel far from dolorous; and the musical performance of "Hello!" from the Book of Mormon blew the crowd away. When the judges have to ask which one of our Stamfordians is the professional Musical Theatre actor, you know that it is good.

Stamford has moved from strength to strength, so it is with a heavy heart that I know that I will not be managing our House next year. It has truly been an honour to watch our Stamfordians grow beyond the academic side of school; to marvel at the talents that have developed outside of the classroom which, ordinarily, I would not get a chance to see. This honour is about to be given to Mr Smyth. I wish him, and all Stamfordians, all of the successes that the next year brings. Onwards, Stamford!

A Flanagan



# TATTON REVIEW 2024



2024 has been a flamboyant extravaganza of events for us, in classic House Tatton style. Did we win the most trophies in the end? Maybe not. Did we have the most house points? Again, maybe not. But, were we the most entertaining house? Undoubtedly.

Let me take you through some of our most notable events across the year...

Starting off with a strong performance at Sports Day last year, the star of the show was D Dee, who zoomed down the 1500m track in his motorised wheelchair, catching everyone by surprise and setting the tone for the rest of the year.

A whole summer holiday later, a scarcity of raw singing ability in House Tatton did not stop us from putting on a show for the audience. We had students from all years dressing up as Astronauts, King Kongs and Devils to sing 'Hall of Fame', with A Akhter proudly swinging the House flag in the centre. In a House Shout first, we also brought hip-hop, silver chains and sunglasses to the acapella round with a rendition of Gold Digger led by M Song.

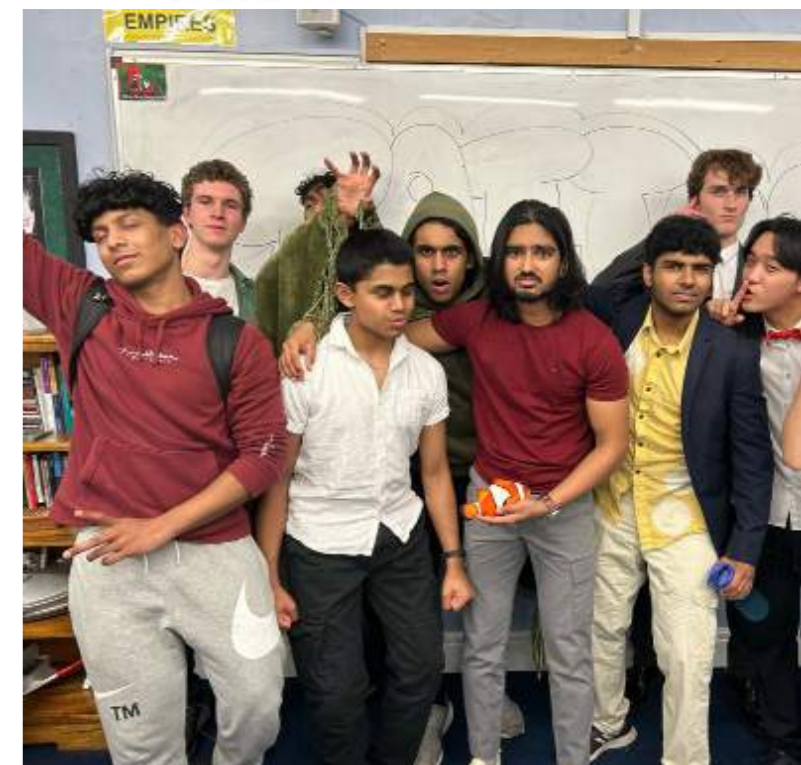
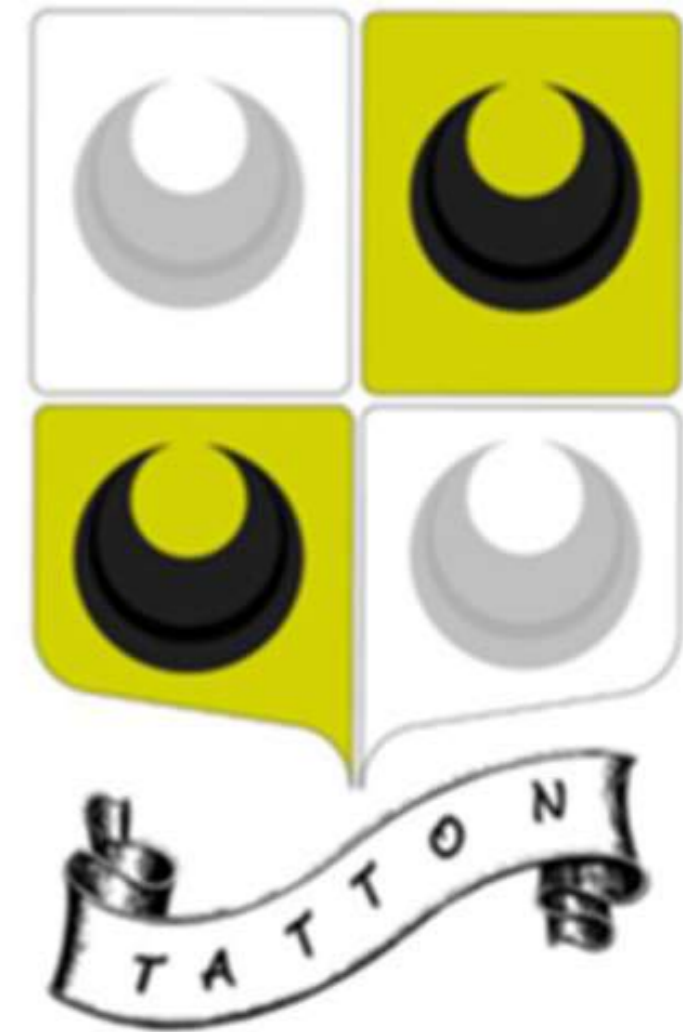
Christmas time saw us come out as champions at the House Entrepreneurs Competition, with our annual Nerf Gun competition and a full mini-golf experience boxed inside a classroom, led by our lucrative Year 12s, A Eldi and B Kurra.

Jumping back for a second, the audience of last year's Talent Show were in shock from young K Cui winning it with his Rubik's Cube performance. For everyone that was thinking, "Surely, he can't pull out the same tricks again!", he again left the audience speechless, returning with a blindfolded solving of the Rubik's cube, winning it for Tatton once again.

In the most recent House Drama, Tatton had an adorable Year 7 duo doing the duologue, in complete contrast to our complex, chaotic and animated musical theatre performance... skirts, flowers, cloaks, a shopping trolley and A Eldi in a dress in that shopping trolley - Tatton's version of We Don't Talk About Bruno left the audience in stitches.

Over the course of the year, it has been delightful to see the Tatton boys stepping up to their role, pushing the boundaries of what is possible and coming out with the new, novel, and innovative. And of course, there are countless other victories, star pupils and funny incidents that I haven't had the space to mention or that have slipped my mind as I write this. But if there's one thing I can guarantee, it's that whoever got involved had a lot of fun doing it (so get involved)!

G Ravisankar



# ANTI-RACISM REVIEW

The Anti-Racism School Society have been working incredibly hard this year, hosting assemblies and promoting a new initiative, The TARA Project, which stands for the Trafford Anti-Racism Alliance.

This is the brainchild of our student members of the group whose aim is to unite all schools in the area with one goal: promoting anti-racism and cultural awareness.

Invitations were sent to schools in the Trafford area to attend AGSB for a day of discussion and an exchange of ideas. Three schools attended: Urmston Grammar Academy, Altrincham College and St Ambrose College.

Our students worked incredibly hard to write a draft constitution and vision for the future. The students hosted and promoted discussions amongst all those present and a thorough exchange of ideas, experiences and hopes for the future were aired in a very positive and encouraging environment.



All the students from each school continue to remain in touch to discuss and further promote their joint enterprise with the hope of future meetings and exchange of ideas to continue all their hard work.

As well as this amazing project, the Society have hosted assemblies to the whole school for Black History Month. The theme was 'Women in STEM' and their confident and direct approach was well received by everyone.

The Anti-Racism Society meet once

a week to highlight and discuss any issues reported or noted that they feel need addressing. If you see anyone with an Anti-Racism Ambassador badge around school and you have a concern for yourself or have witnessed any inappropriate behaviour, you can speak to them in confidence and they will help you as best they can.

Well done to the whole Society for their hard work and achievements this year. Thanks must also go to Mr Hall and Mrs Chapman for all their support over the year.

A Jolly



# EDITOR'S CHOICE



## HOPE

How to look up to the light in a world that grows ever darker...

**H**ope can represent itself in many ways, like hope in nature, tradition, culture and the future. At these times, it is important that we hold onto hope as we endure the change and uncertainty the world has to offer.

For many, traditions give a sense of belonging to show us who we are and where we belong in the world. It is the identity that relates from the past to the present and makes sure we don't forget who we are. This is essential, as it brings communities, and even countries, together to celebrate their joint beliefs and unity. For example, some countries celebrate the 'Day of the Dead',

like Mexico, to battle the emotions of sorrow and grief with colourful and more vibrant celebrations by dancing, having face paints, drinking and eating, playing and sharing music. Another famous tradition rooted in the Muslim culture is Eid al-Fitr. There are two Eids in a year, but Eid al Fitr comes first in the Muslim calendar. Eid al-Fitr is very important to Muslims as it marks the end of Ramadan, and it brings families together as they consume special cuisines and eat during the day after a month of fasting.

Culture is also very important as it shows a lifestyle different from other people and shows individuality within the world. Recognising and understanding



those different cultures expands our knowledge into new horizons we have not seen before, and it shows mutual understanding and respect. Cultural diversity also removes stereotypes and prejudices, as well as promoting innovation and creativity using different perspectives. Culture also provides a base for our understanding of the world and it represents shared values, beliefs and traditions. For example, Japanese culture is very rich in Japanese history and glory. It emphasises harmony and respect while also having elements such as origami which contribute to the culture. They also have lots of pop culture like anime and manga which people all over the world find amusing and entertaining.

This gives us the impression that cultural diversity can lead to people becoming more connected, not just from one culture, but from around the globe.

If you look outside at sunset or sunrise each day, you are looking at either the beautiful beginning or end of the daily cycle. It shows opportunities and fresh starts with each beginning of a new cycle to

overcome challenges and hardships. Migration isn't uncommon in birds when the weather becomes a little bit too far out of their comfort zones. They symbolize resilience when you see them in unison flying to a better place where they can relax, giving us the determination and will to overcome challenges and obstacles that are thrown at us and gives us hope for the future.

As many obstacles can and will face us during our lives it is important to cling onto hope and never let go of traditions and culture to get us through those difficult times and show us who we really are. If animals and nature have resilience and show hope for a better future, all we can do is hope for a better future too.

A Moustafa



# ISOC REVIEW 2024

**W**hat. A. Year.

From the annual charity dinner to the football tournament, to the food sale, this year's committee has consistently put together amazing events, aimed to bring students and staff together. Of course, not all credit goes to the committee. All these events would not have been possible without the ISOC's dedicated volunteers, teachers overseeing events and guest speaker talks, and finally: anyone who turned up. No matter who we thank, and how much we thank, it will not be enough. So, we give you this end of year recap to help us all appreciate how far we have come, and how much we have accomplished.

As the academic year started, devastating floods and earthquakes in Morocco and Libya shook the world. As the disasters took place near our charity week, we thought that this year's charity week would aim to aid the cause in Morocco and Libya. This year, we were happy to announce that the event would be bigger and better than ever, this time hosting the event in Werneth Suite in Oldham. This big shift in



location gave us the motivation, which was driven by unity and a sense for charity, which would unfold that October Night...

The spiritual event started off with a beautiful and heartfelt recitation given by Qari' (reciter) A Al-Qattani, who read from Surah Al Rahman (The Most Merciful). After this we were given a brief introduction about the upcoming evening and the cause by President A Shah, as he explained the journey and roots of the ISOC, starting out as a small society for Muslims to pray in 1996, before we dove into the delicious starters. Once everyone had the

edge taken out of their hunger, the eating ceased to give way to a beautiful and inspiring talk given by Ustadh U Momani. At last, it became time for the main course, where we saw traditional Asian food served to the guests, as they enjoyed the scrumptious cuisine. Then came time for the auction, graciously led by A Tahoun. The unity shown, with people pooling money to buy one thing for as high a price as possible, was beautiful and heart-warming to see. Items varied from hampers to beautiful Islamic artworks, and even from a customized Xbox to women's handbags. The auction was followed by an amazing dessert

course, bringing a close to the outstanding 3 course meal. Then, an exciting raffle draw took place, hosted by S Ammar as guests were randomly chosen to collect one of three amazing prizes. To finish the evening, S Khan delivered a heartfelt recitation of Surah al Insan (The Man), and our Vice President A Hakimi gave a closing speech tying our core values together, ending the event on a sweet and soulful note.

Even though we had smashed the Charity Dinner, the Charity Week vibe was still buzzing in ISOC, and so, like last year, we organized not only an Own Clothes Day, but also an ISOC Champions League tournament, and we were delighted to see that despite the depressing rain and cold which November had to offer, the football and charity moods were still alight as brothers competed against each other for fame and glory, but also for charity for the sake of God. Our efforts were at last paid off as the final total for the 2023 Charity Dinner came in, amassing a grand sum of £14,575.00. We firstly thank God and everyone else involved in this cause.

Our sensational Charity Week didn't go unnoticed, and we were invited to the Charity Week's 'North Finale Event' in Bradford, in which various ISOCs, many of which were larger University ISOCs gathered as they were given certificates for raising money for generous causes.



## ISOC REVIEW 2024 CONT.

Our team representing AGSB ISOC were delighted to be nominated as 'Bumblebees of the Future', beating many ISOCs to get the award as we did our school proud.

Part of this year's committee's top priorities was to step up involvement from all years, and by the grace of God, they have achieved this and smashed all expectations. On the first activity of the year, D5 was full. This same enthusiasm and involvement were shown across the year, as the ISOC produced more engaging activities for students to take part in. An example of this is student-led talks. This initiative led to many brothers stepping out of their comfort zones to seek knowledge and present a topic meaningful to them. Another target was to bring all members together, no matter what

the age group. This was achieved with study circles, where a topic was presented and students from Year 7 through to Year 13 would discuss it together. The publicity team also stepped up this year, bringing five online activities daily, ranging from Blookets to Wordles, the infamous 'Two Truths, One Lie', and the 'Who What Where' Quiz. Now, not only did ISOC members enjoy the enthusiasm within D5, but they could also earn points for engaging in these activities. The top of the podium would earn prizes for their involvement in these activities.

As the new year started, the ISOC Committee discussed the potential of a new initiative. After thorough consideration, we were proud to announce the ISOC's first ever Homelessness Project. We accumulated a group of sixth formers who sat together and planned out a route through Manchester City Centre, where we would be distributing hot meals, drinks, and snacks to those less fortunate than us, giving them warmth during these chilly days. We are pleased to say that we

successfully distributed 50 full course meals, as we not only gained the immense rewards of feeding the homeless, but also became more grateful to God as we learnt just how fortunate and blessed we are.

The UTC season set in just before Ramadan started, as preparations started in December, and they paid off massively! The work and time given to making this the largest event of the year is truly unbelievable, and the Committee and the volunteers smash it every year; not a single stone is left unturned.

Once again what a year! Every year it is amazing to see new and old faces involved in the ISOC and the work and care and passion given into maintaining it. As we reflect on the successes of 2023-24, we look back on this year with happiness and the utmost gratitude to everyone, but above all: God. Praise be to Allah for aiding us in the beautiful community of the ISOC. We say goodbye to the legends of this year, the Year 13s, as they pave their own way in life, seeing how they have grown in the ISOC. We hope you all enjoyed the events and activities hosted this year and we look forward to a new year with a new committee, God willing. As salamu alaikum - May peace be upon you all.

S Ammar & A Kashif



# ISOC UTC CAMPAIGN 2024

From assemblies to events, from mains to napkins, and from drinks to forks, not a single thing goes unmissed when planning for the largest event of the school year; The Asian Food Sale. UTC- or Unity Through Charity- aims to unite students, faculty and teachers with the intention of raising money for those in need. This is what it has been about, year upon year, since the first food sale in 2016. This year, the cause chosen was inspired by the ongoing Sudan crisis, which has left many without homes, family and accessible essentials for life.

Firstly, a thank you to everyone who turned up - even if you didn't buy anything. Any effort shown is greatly appreciated by us. It takes effort from the committee, SLT and our wonderful volunteers who show enthusiasm and composure under the high demands of the yearly event. The volunteers of the ISOC range from Year 7 to Year 13, yet the unity they show is inspiring, and truly embodies the core of charity: unity.

Preparation began with selecting the days the event would take place



“Unity truly embodies the core of charity.”  
- S Ammar

on. From there, it is non-stop phone calls to different caterers for things like shawarma, biryani, sides, desserts and, of course- who can forget? The mango lassi. While this went on, the volunteer program was being sorted. Every single applicant being given a role, from stall leaders to queue managers, there was

not a single 'insignificant' role as everyone did their part to the best of their ability.

Year upon year, the food sale gets better and better, with new dishes, better organisation and new people ready to step in and do what they can to help. As a result of this you, the school, helped us raise more money for those less fortunate than us.

On the first day of the food sale, it was (as always) hectic. Yet it was the kind of hectic where the excitement in the air is tangible, and leaves everyone with a smile on their face. By the end of day one, not a single thing was left. All the shawarma, drinks and biryani were gone and unfortunately not everyone was able to enjoy the delicious items we had on offer! It quickly became apparent that we were going to need to massively stock up for day 2, and so, many car trips and phone calls later, we were looking at another hugely successful day; and that is exactly what we got.

While day 1 was busy, day 2 made it look quiet. There was not a single place in the Coleman Hall where you could hear yourself think due to the enthusiasm, and love of charity (and food) shown by

students and staff. In fact, day 2 was so busy, we had to bring in a relief shipment of foods such as kebabs, samosas and jalebis.

All in all, the Asian Food Sale was a massive success which saw £7,767.48 raised for the needy in Sudan. On behalf of the AGSB ISOC committee we send out a massive, final thank you to everyone who played a part in this event. You have all shown unity and have embodied the meaning of charity.

S Ammar

**HRF**  
Human Relief  
Foundation





# HSJS REVIEW 2023-24

Every day, minute, and second spent in Hindu, Sikh, and Jain Society has been nourished with joy, knowledge, and purpose. Every moment represents a story or experience that has bonded and strengthened our community every year. To celebrate our 6th anniversary of friendship and unity, let us take a moment to step back and reflect the recent events that we have encountered since September.

Every single session this year was a knowledgeable one; whether it was led by the future generation in our younger years such as Vishakh and Rishaan, or whether it was led by some of the oldest members of

our HSJS community - H Chandra Nair and S Chaitanyadas (previously known as Sumedh), our members were always inspired. Sessions seen this year at HSJS inspired a new level of creativity – Kahoots; workshops on Garba, Dandiya's, traditional dresses; and intriguing topics such as mythological creatures, A.I. and Hinduism, the ancient history of sport in India – whether you were religious or not, there was always something to learn or catch your attention.

Hindu Sikh and Jain society does not only inspire through sessions but also through events and socials where we bring people closer within our inclusive community. Inter-society events include the Shakti Competition, that instils ambition within our members to strive towards greatness; the Ice Skating Social, that allows our members to form new bonds with others in different years or strengthen the



existing bonds within their friend groups; volunteering schemes to help the community e.g. Sewa Week, where we bought and donated food to a local food bank and gave out water bottles in the Manchester Marathon and festivals such as Holi or Student Night Navratri, where our members had the opportunity to experience festivals together and celebrate with new people. But we did not just stop there; as we hosted events that allowed us to interact with other communities such as the competitive House Cricket and of course the flagship event we host every year: Utsav.

Utsav 2023 was by far the most popular year we had ever seen: with batches of tickets being sold within minutes; over 550 people attending the event over the 2 days and a whopping £5652 raised (over double the amount raised compared to the first year of Utsav!). With various dance performances, both traditional and modern;

singers (including a fake Arijit Singh!); plays from very talented actors, entertaining comedy acts and even an open dance floor at the end, the audience was never even given a chance to be bored. And all this entertainment was provided for a good cause with all donations going to our three chosen charities: Trafford Food bank, National Forest and Maggie's!

To summarise, HSJS had an immensely successful year, and this is only the beginning of a new era of inspiring Hinduism in not just our local community but the whole of the country – with HSJS being one of the first Hindu Society's from a college to be recognised in the National Hindu Student Forum (NHSF). This will give us the opportunity to connect and potentially collaborate with Hindu Societies across the nation! To conclude, I do not see anything but a bright future for our society to inspire a positive influence on society and I am excited to see how much further our society will develop in the upcoming years.

D Parekh





## CHECKMATE

The Year in Chess

**T**his year saw chess at AGSB shine once again, with numbers getting involved on the increase and many exciting young players in the lower years showing a keen interest. A very

promising level of skill was echoed by the house chess competitions with hard-fought battles across the year groups. Chess club also ran weekly on Wednesday and Thursday, an opportunity for people to socialise whilst also practising their chess. We also took part in fortnightly inter-school online tournaments on lichess, which were open to everyone, allowing a lot of students to have the opportunity of representing the school and gain the experience of playing a good standard of chess in a less pressurised environment.

On the more professional inter-school side of things, it was another year of success for AGSB's two teams. Both teams took part in the Ivan Gromov league with the A team finishing in a very impressive 4th place – competing against some of the best opposition across the country. It was also brilliant to see younger students gaining experience and one week we even fielded a team consisting of purely year 7's and 8's. Then we have over-the-board chess which is often quite new to players due to the boom in online chess over the past few years with the many chess websites and with many people developing an interest in chess during the pandemic when all chess was online for obvious

**“Many people developed an interest during the pandemic.”  
- S Vaddhiredy**

reasons. It is usually a slower rate of play where your ability to focus for longer periods of time is really put to the test.

We had friendly matches arranged for the Year 7's and 8's for them to get a taste of this classical format and we also had competitive matches in the U19s National Schools' Championships. The A team received an automatic qualification to the regional stage after being regional winners last year and the B team also qualified via a round-robin event at Urmston Grammar. Whilst the B team were unfortunately knocked out in the regional stage, the A team proceeded to win their matches to become regional champions, defeating Wilmslow 4-2 in the final and adding to last year's triumph. We now travel to Nottingham in the summer term to take part in the national finals!

Chess is growing and improving massively at AGSB, and it will be very interesting to see what the future holds.

A huge thank you must be said to Dr Sully for how much time and effort she continues to put into chess at school, and I think we are really starting to see chess scaling up at AGSB.

S Vaddhiredy

# CHRISTIAN UNION 2024



**T**hroughout this year, our focus was to guide people to the truth. Having multiple people presenting allowed for more topics to be covered, including books in the Old Testaments, the New Testaments, the topic of salvation, wisdom and more.

Our priority this year was to rebuild the union after it's decline after COVID. The numbers are slowly increasing, which is a positive sign, as more people can understand the truth, which allows each person to get closer to Christ, building and strengthening their relationship with Him. Our goal is to preach to everyone the Good News (the Gospel) of Our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ. By going in depth into scripture, we can learn about our God and his love for us. This is a much longer topic than what's been written, so please come along to the sessions open-minded, ready to hear and understand the Gospel and about our God's unconditional love and grace for us.

In terms of connections with other schools, we have merged with Sale Grammar School and Loreto Grammar School and will hopefully do shared events soon. We will also look to merge with AGGS and St. Ambrose to further strengthen our community. These mergers will allow for more inter-school interactions; grow a stronger

community; as well as making our sessions much better, by sharing presentations and having guest speakers.

We can't be Christian Union without being Christ-like, and being Christ-like we want to help everyone as much as possible. Whether it's to do with the faith, your academic progress, mental health, or any other concern, we would love to help you and you are free to come to us if you need help. As fellow brothers in Christ, we want to lead you to Christ, and we hope that our sessions and events will do just that!

God bless you all,

A Mathews, D Aju and J Jacob



# MIND VS METRICS

## The case for philosophy in a numbers-oriented world.

**W**hat does it mean to live a good life? Why are we here? Is there a God? I am sure we have all thought about these questions and similar in daily life. Whether it be walking through nature, on the bus or sitting on the toilet, big questions, and the potential problems and solutions they pose, serve an intrinsic purpose in our decision making, ethics, values, and social interactions. And these big questions form the basis for Philosophy, a subject whose value lies in developing a diverse skill set; navigating ethical issues and its everyday use in the workplace.

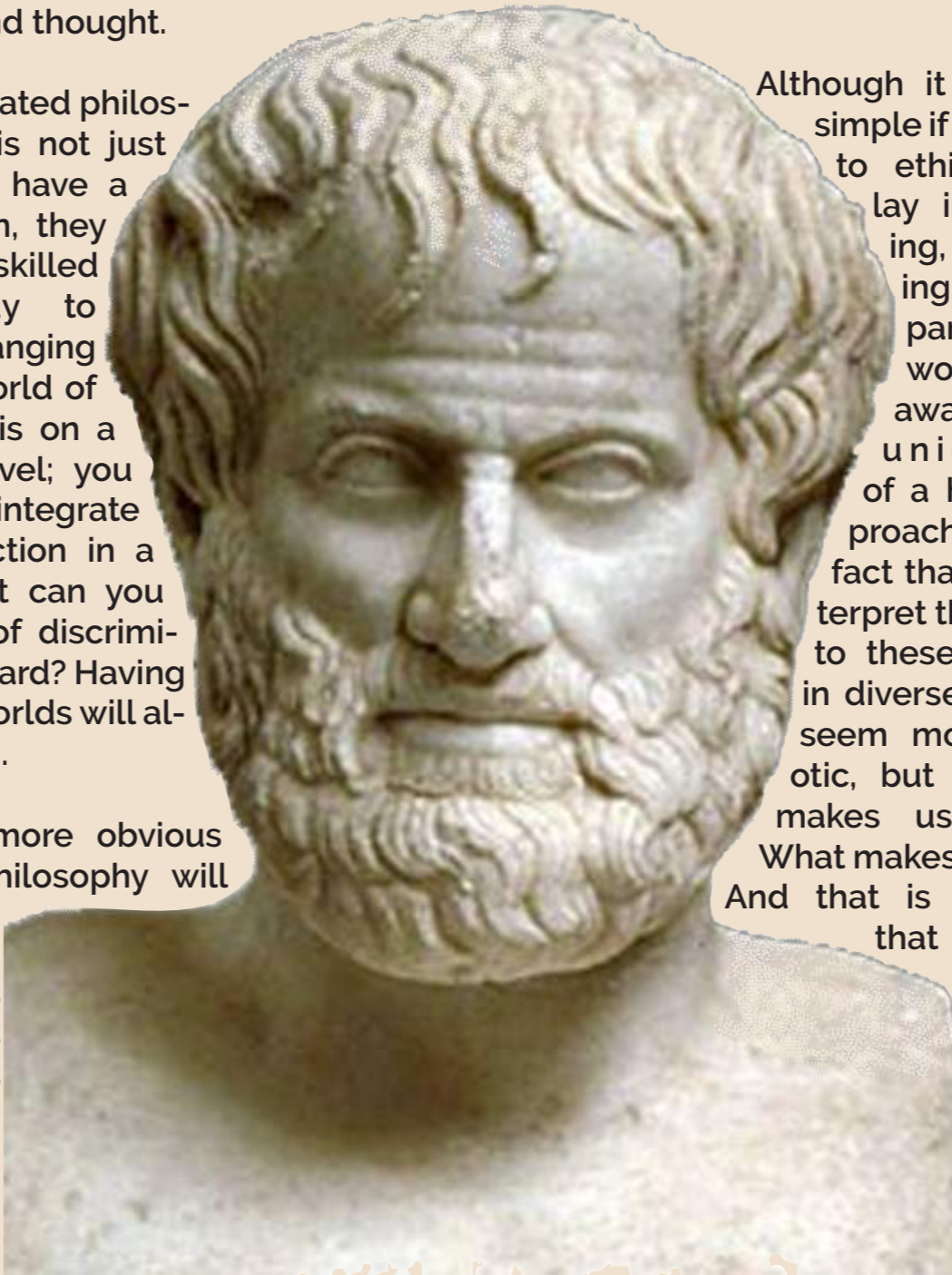
Mathematics plays an undoubtedly pivotal role in the natural function of our planet, from sunflowers to planetary motion. But although high levels of numeracy, problem solving and abstract reasoning are useful for developing well-rounded individuals, some of the world's most topical issues such as the dangers of AI, driverless vehicles and automation cannot simply be solved using a function or a formula. This is where philosophy steps in.

Philosophy contributes uniquely to the development of critical thinking,

problem solving and analysis, requiring a deeper understanding of the world and its complex, noisy, damaging inhabitants; us. The world of work similarly echoes the need to develop these skills. LinkedIn Learning, in 2023, identified research and analysis as key soft skills high in demand by employers, skills that can be honed through exposure to philosophical concepts, ideas and thought.

A skilled, sophisticated philosopher, therefore, is not just well prepared to have a deep conversation, they are versatile and skilled individuals, ready to navigate the changing dynamic of the world of work. Consider this on a more personal level; you may be able to integrate a hyperbolic function in a maths lesson, but can you tackle the roots of discrimination out on the yard? Having the best of both worlds will allow you to do both.

Secondly, on a more obvious note, studying philosophy will equip individuals with the skills to navigate difficult ethical dilemmas surround-



ing everyday life such as lying, theft, intensive farming, and environmental responsibility. This branch of philosophy known as Moral Philosophy is not concerned with polarising good or bad, but instead allows us to look at the world through different lenses and examine the significance of our actions on 3rd parties.

Although it would be simple if the answer to ethical issues lay in factorising, simplifying, and expanding, it would take away from the uniqueness of a human approach, and the fact that we all interpret the answers to these problems in diverse ways can seem morally chaotic, but it is what makes us different. What makes us human. And that is something that Philosophy protects. There is definitely

something valuable in that, don't you think?

To nail the coffin on your wilful ignorance, research by 'applytouni' indicates only a 1.1% gap exists between those employed or starting further study with degrees in Mathematical Sciences versus Philosophy so degrees in both are comparable in graduate prospects.

In closing, long gone are the days of rhetoric, abstract questions, and white men in togas. Philosophy is a subject grounded in the skills of constructing, criticising, analysing, and evaluating arguments using skills that are highly sought after in both domestic and academic settings. Thus, learning philosophy should not play second fiddle to, but rather complement mathematics, with its intellectual and practical enrichment.

Remember, all it takes is to ask a question.

T Ariyo

# BONJOUR PARIS!



The French department had a fantastic start to the academic year 2023-2024 after record-breaking exam results in the summer and students have continued to thrive and benefit from academic and co-curricular activities throughout the year.

2023 saw the return of the much-loved Paris trip taking the largest group ever. On July 17th, 62 Year 8 pupils and 7 staff boarded the coach at AGSB, bound for the famous French capital and city of lights. The excitement was palpable, to say the least, and lasted every minute of the trip (to be quite honest I still don't think it has settled). Pupils

had a fabulous time at our base, the Château de Grande Romaine. They made the most of every opportunity to visit the major sites including Europe's largest interactive museum and the mesmerizing ambient Montmartre on day one. The day in Paris centre was filled with a trip up the eye-catching Eiffel Tower, (and yes, all pupils did venture up - despite any fear of heights!). A much-deserved relaxing meander down the River Seine on the Bateaux Parisiens introduced beautiful sights from a very different viewpoint and judging by the unforgettable cheers on the boat

"The excitement was palpable, to say the least"  
-V Brennan

and the pupils were very enthused.

That day ended with a spectacular sunset atop the Arc de Triomphe, a much-enjoyed photo opportunity and spectacular views from a colossal historical monument.

The long-awaited trip to the very French 'Parc Asterix' was enjoyed to the maximum by all, not least the brand-new ride 'Toutatis' which was on many accounts, 'the best rollercoaster I have ever been on'. This was indeed a very action-packed trip full of energy, culture and fun. The sense of pride and achievement when students conversed in French as we

went about our voyage was a joy to see!

Au revoir et à bientôt Paris!

V Brennan





# ‘NICE’ TO SEE YOU

## French Study Immersion Trip 2024



October 2023 was indeed a most inspiring time for students of French in Years 11 to 13. For the first time ever, the new Nice, study immersion trip was launched, and what a raving success it proved to be! On October 8th, 20 students, Mrs Brennan and Mrs Blakeley set off from Liverpool John Lennon Airport for a week with french families, intensive language lessons, topped with cultural excursions along the prized and coveted, warmer climates and glorious sunshine of the Côte d'Azur. After settling in, the bespoke intensive French lessons at the prestigious Alpha B Language School began. It was a joy to see our students immersed and impressing the staff with their abilities and efforts in a new environment.

Being based in Nice itself was a feast for the eyes. With its rich history as colourful as the buildings and seven km-long promenade at the front of the web of

small streets, we really did explore and enjoy everything. A short train ride away was the exclusive town of Antibes, another historically-rich port and one of the liveliest and prettiest on the Riviera with its gorgeous old town of narrow cobbled streets, markets and cafes. Villefranche-sur-Mer, situated on the wooded slopes surrounding the magnificent roadstead, immediately east of Nice was a delight on another day.

Our final jaunt was to the Principality of Monaco. Known for its mild climate and dramatic landscape, Monaco has become - throughout the years - a hub for culture, luxury, sports, and business. The impressive 'Musée Océanographique' was fantastic, the palace a sight to behold and the views simply breathtaking

from the old town across the Mediterranean. 2024 will see 'le retour' of AGSB to Nice and its beautiful surroundings and we cannot wait to come back!

**“A raving success!”  
- V Brennan**



## LA PELICULA: SPANISH FILM TRIP

In February, we travelled to Manchester Metropolitan University to attend a Spanish essay writing workshop on the film "El Laberinto del Fauno" (Pan's Labyrinth) which we study for our A-Level. The workshop was very useful in covering an extensive range of topics and started off with a discussion on what it means to structure a successful argument in an essay.

We then looked at key vocabulary and were provided with a sheet of 250(!) connectives which will be a great revision source come exam time. Next, we considered the

characters and their journeys before a break for lunch. Post lunch we embarked on my favourite part of the day - a deep dive into the technical aspects of film: cinematography, makeup, costume, music and many more. Overall, it was an extremely helpful trip which I am sure will elevate our essays massively and a huge thanks must go to Ms Mattison for organising and accompanying us.

S Vaddhireddy



## SPANISH EXCHANGE

There was an anticipated arrival of students from Colegi Sagrada Familia in Barcelona for their six-day stay in Manchester with students from Year 10 and 12 ready to host. After the wonderful hospitality that we experienced in Sant Andreu, we knew that we too had to provide a warm welcome for the Spanish students.

During their stay, the Spaniards would be accompanied by their English exchange partner to school, and then leave to go on day trips to visit different sites of culture and importance in Manchester. An opportunity to go to the second-best side in Manchester was taken. Therefore, on their first full day, the Spaniards visited the Etihad Stadium and had an immersive tour. A highlight for their stay was the visit to Liverpool, which consisted of a tour of the museum of the famous Beatles.

As we had an experience with our exchange students in their lessons in Barcelona, it was only right that they also were able to have the experience with us, which fortunately for the Year 12s was a Spanish lesson, a real highlight for them having clear dominance in the subject.

We took our exchange partners to various places in and around Manchester, in what felt like the little time we had with them. Some of these were going to Knutsford, watching local and more prominent, professional football games, watching ice hockey, and visiting the famous Trafford Centre. The group scenario with large numbers created a unique atmosphere, which was relished and in both scenarios in Barcelona and Manchester, a close group sense was formed.

The time spent in both cities during the two weeks, despite some uncertainties, was fantastic, which hopefully created lifelong memories and friendships allowing all students involved to go into new experiences in life with assurance and self-confidence.

Thank you to Ms Mattison and Mr Cummins for accompanying us!

A Mesbahi

**"The opportunity to be immersed into the rich culture of Spain was priceless"**  
- A Mesbahi



## SPANISH EXCHANGE CONT.

**W**ithin a language, not only is the core learning of vocabulary and grammatical structures essential, but also true submersion in the culture and country itself, as language is so much more than words; it is about how we interact with others. Therefore, the Spanish exchange trip gave us the perfect opportunity to immerse ourselves in the Spanish lifestyle, as we were dropped into the lives of our Spanish counterparts for a week: the ultimate way to get to know what living in Spain is like!

Throughout the week, we had two parts to each weekday, with the 'school day' consisting of many days

out to places of interest in Barcelona, while the rest of the day being spent with our exchange partners, their friends and family, doing many fun activities that they had planned for us.

On weekdays, while our partners were at school, we visited a plethora of different sites ranging from places of historical importance, such as underground bunkers used during the Spanish Civil War, as well as those of cultural importance, such as Sagrada Familia, the historic church designed by Gaudi, which is still yet to be finished. As a big football fan, however, one of the highlights during the week was visiting the Olympic Stadium at Montjuic, where Barcelona F.C. currently play their home games (due to the reconstruction of the Camp Nou), which was open to the public.



We also spent a few days within the school, getting involved in lessons. This included Catalan, a language required to be learned at their school, which was particularly hard to understand as 90% of speech was in the language itself, adding a different language barrier to the equation! We were lucky that PE was one of the lessons we were able to get stuck into, with an early 8 A.M. start for a two-hour session. We played volleyball as well as football, with volleyball being a particular highlight, due to the varying levels of quality among us all.

The true value of the trip for me, and the group, came from great atmosphere created as we got to know people we had never met before, speaking in their language (where possible) and living life as a young Catalan. The culture felt so different in many ways, with differing school days, mealtimes, and obviously greater weather, in which

being outside in January was not a concern. Some of the activities we did were unforgettable, with a huge tapas meal for roughly 40 people as well as an evening football match on the beach, English vs Spaniards of course, with ourselves coming out victorious, winning 6-1!

From a personal standpoint, the trip itself was a once in a lifetime experience, with friends being made along the way, and the amiability of the family with which I stayed being something I will cherish long into the future, making me sure this won't be my last visit to the city of Barcelona.

A Buncall





# CHINESE REVIEW 2024

Every Monday lunchtime, if you stroll through the language corridor, you will undoubtedly notice the vibrant atmosphere in C18 - it's home to our popular student-led Mahjong Club. Mahjong, a classic game with a rich history spanning

over a millennium, captivating four players in strategic engagement. Within this club, we boast many skilled players. However, for those seeking to elevate their Mahjong prowess even further, Mrs Ding, affectionately known as the Queen of Mahjong, graciously offers her guidance.

In celebration of the Year of the Dragon, our Year 7 pupils embarked on an enriching Chinese Cultural Immersion Day at school. The day commenced with an outstanding joint presentation on Lunar New Year celebrations, skilfully led by R Sun, J To, and J Wang. This was followed by a compelling speech by Dr Neal, shedding light on his linguistic journey and experiences in China. The day unfolded with an array of authentic Chinese cultural workshops tailored for our Year 7 pupils. These included Chinese calligraphy under the guidance of Ms Wong, traditional Chinese ink painting led by Ms Cooke, and Chinese lantern making facilitated by Mrs Chapman.

Additionally, our pupils enjoyed participating in a Chinese choir, directed by Mrs Wallwork, Ms Li, and J Lo, as well as creating Chinese opera masks under the supervision of Mr Smith. They

also delved into Chinese history through a captivating talk by Mr Croxton. Furthermore, our Year 7 pupils delighted in experiencing traditional Chinese sports like feather Jianzi kicking and group long rope skipping, overseen and demonstrated by Mr Murray, Mr Soulsby, Ms Farrelly, and the supportive assistance of two parents, Ms Zhang and Ms Wei. To culminate the day, all Year 7 pupils were treated to a taster lesson in Chinese language conducted by Mrs Ding, where they marvelled at deciphering the meanings behind ancient Chinese characters etched on oracle bones, dating back over 3,500 years!

Seeking an authentic glimpse into Chinese culture within the UK? Look no further than Manchester Chinatown - the second-largest Chinatown in Europe! In May, our Year 10 students embarked on an exciting day trip there, where they indulged in a traditional Chinese Hot Pot meal and sampled some trendy bubble tea! Additionally, they explored Chinese supermarkets and artisanal craft shops, brimming with exotic treasures. The students really showcased the language skills they have acquired in lessons.

**"Oracle bones, dating back over 3500 years!"  
- J Ding**

J Ding



# Y8 TRANSLATION BEE

## GERMAN REVIEW 2024

**T**he German department has been as busy as ever this year. We have engaged in lots of national competitions, winning some and losing others, but enjoying the ride nonetheless! We have also had the pleasure of taking virtual tours around Germany in anticipation of our upcoming trip to Cologne for Year 9. Here are some experiences from the students this year.

### GCHQ Languages Competition

**T**his year in our German lessons we took part in the GCHQ Languages competition. There were a series of puzzles to complete, cracking codes that criminals sent between each other in different languages. Although we did not have any knowledge of most of the language, we had to use our linguistic skills to crack the

codes to intercept these messages. The competition was tough and out of over 2000 teams nationally, we came 68th! We look forward to trying to get into the top ten next year.

### Languagenut Competition

**O**ver the course of two weeks, we had to learn as much vocabulary in as many languages as possible. Within the first couple of days, our students had completed all the German learning (which was well over 1000 words). Across the department some students worked tirelessly to learn vocabulary from 14 different languages. AGSB came first nationally, and we had 5 students in the top 20, who all received Amazon vouchers from Languagenut! Our star of the competition was J Na, who scored over 14 million points, and came 2nd nationally! At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the next competition in June.

R Chapman

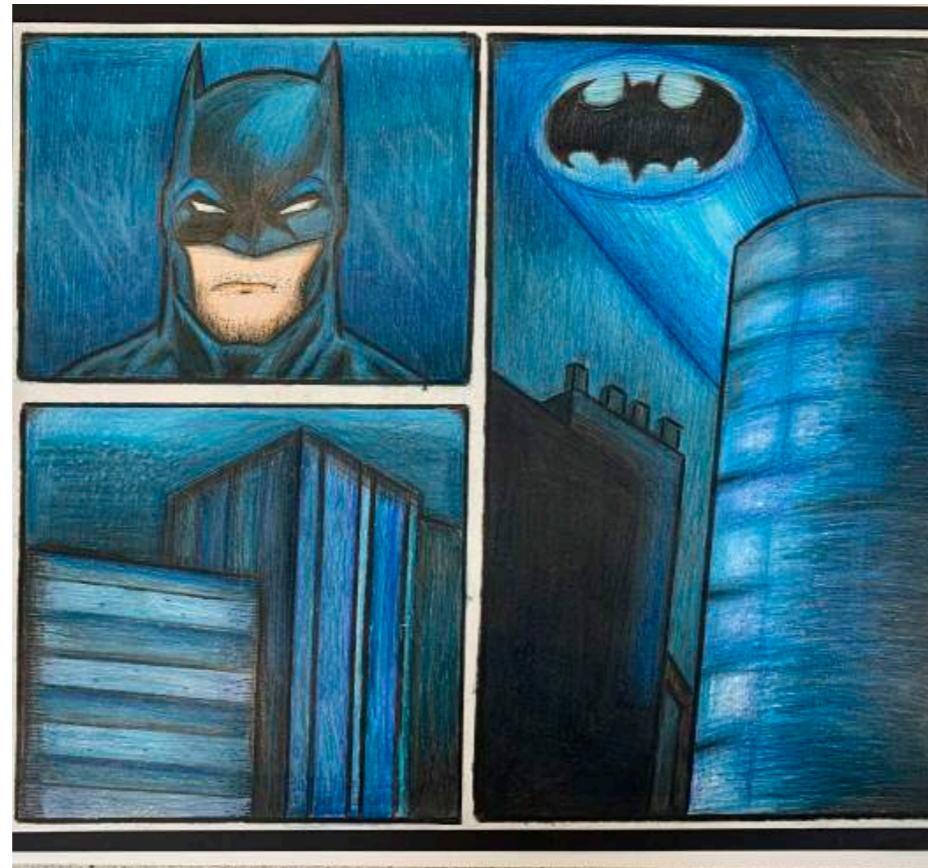
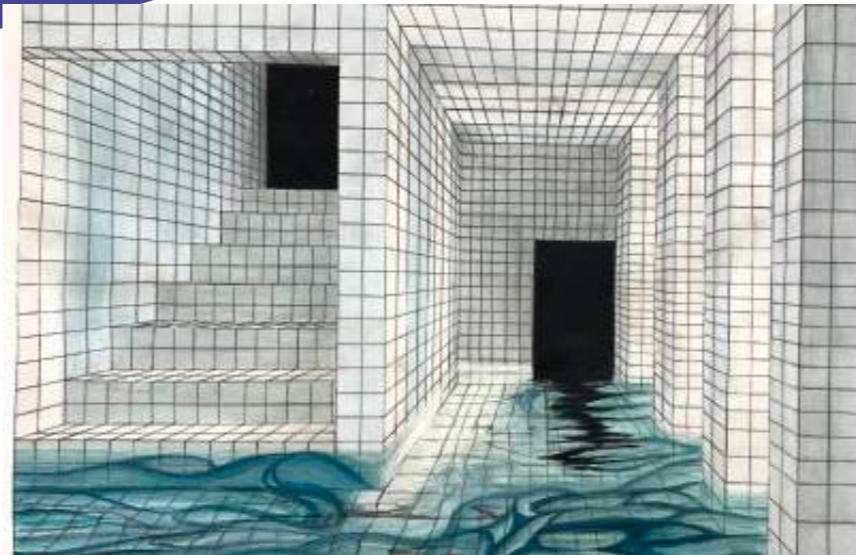
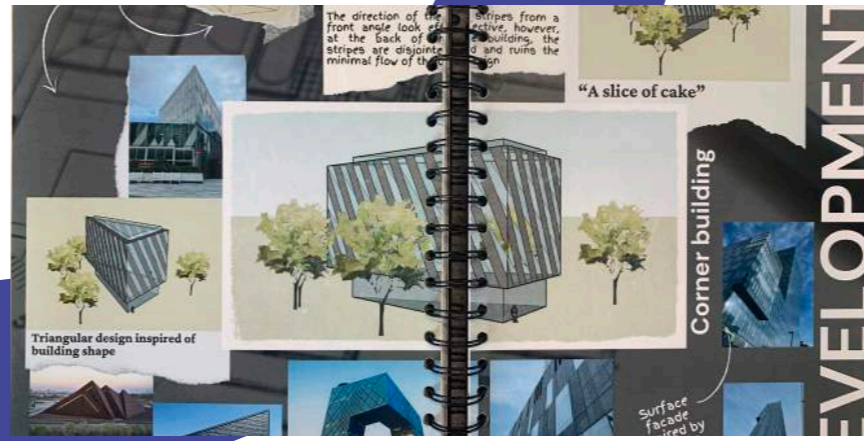
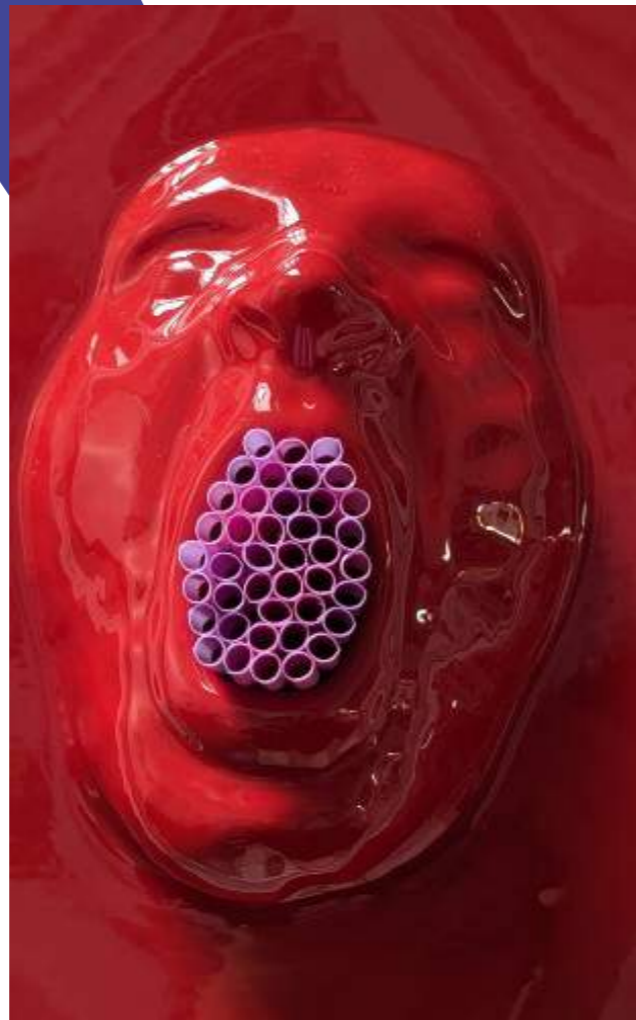


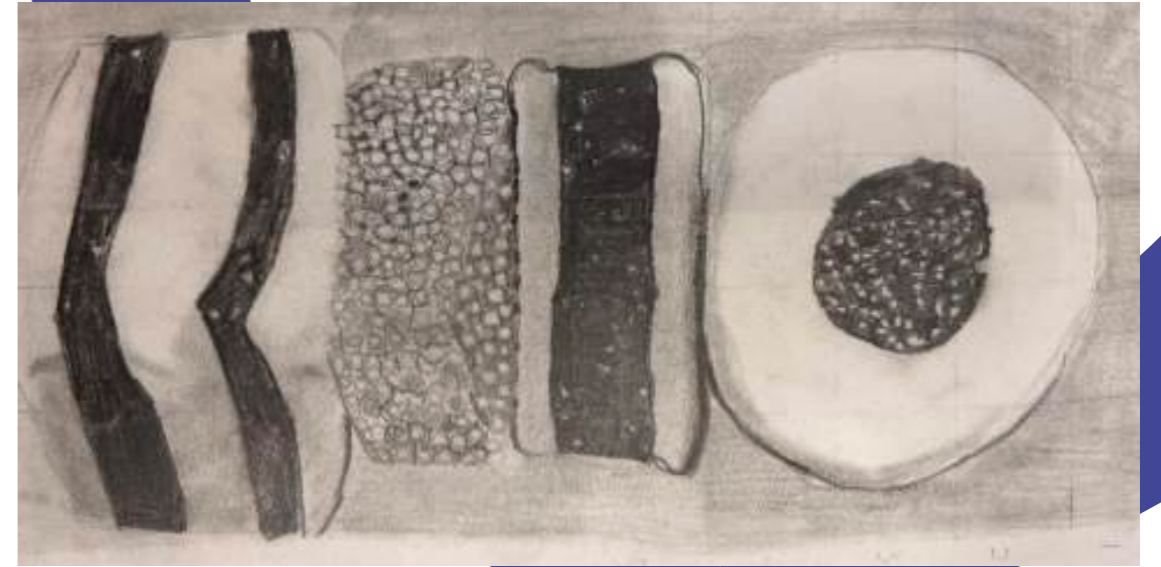
**Y**ear 8 took part in the Routes into Languages' Translation Bee National Competition. Every year, almost 14,000 contestants battle it out to become the country's fastest translator. They have one minute to translate as many sentences as possible using past, present and future tenses accurately. Clarity of pronunciation, as well as speed, are key elements to success in the competition. It involves a lot of practice and independent learning, and we are immensely proud of our students, who have shown dedication and commitment.

The school finals were held in March in the Coleman Hall and the regional finals for the North of England will be held at Lancaster University at the beginning of June. Representing the school are A Dash and R Vayetti in French, K Choudhury and H Umar in German and A Ghosh and A Konur in Spanish. This will be the opportunity for them to represent the school at the national finals at Cambridge University in July. We wish them all the best!

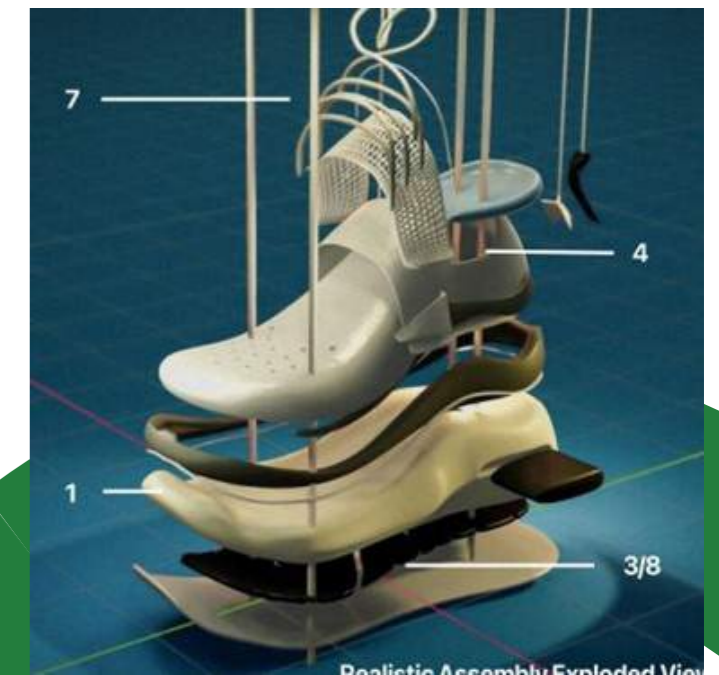
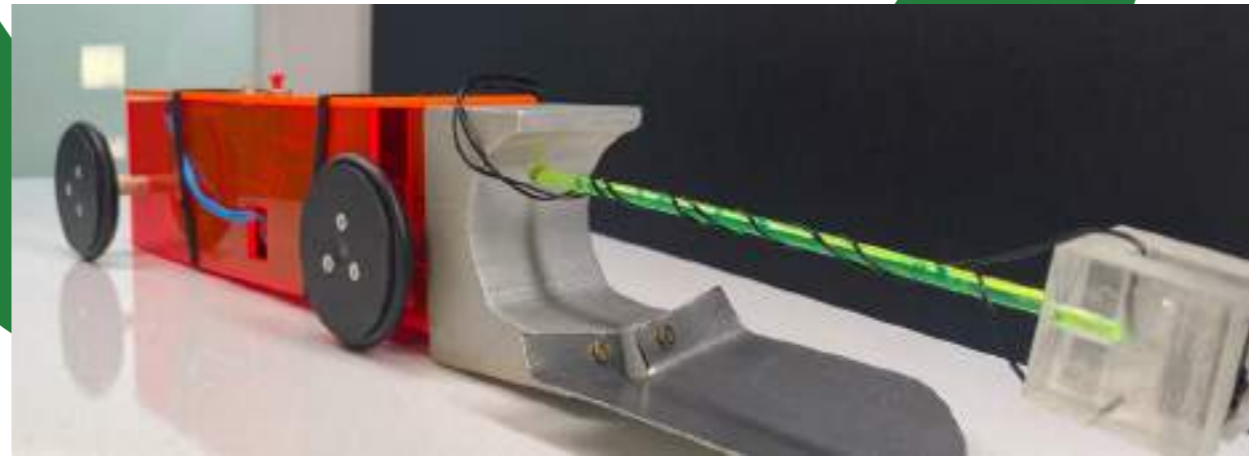
F Blakeley

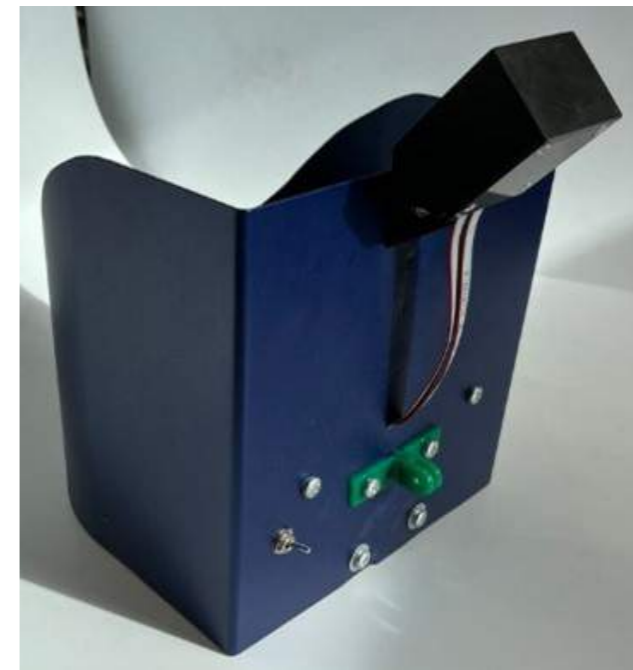
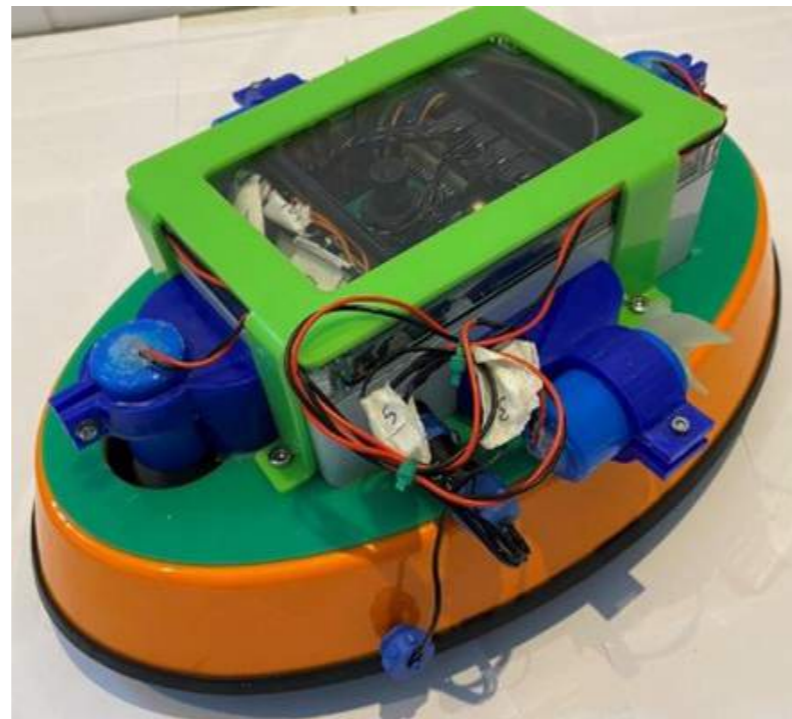
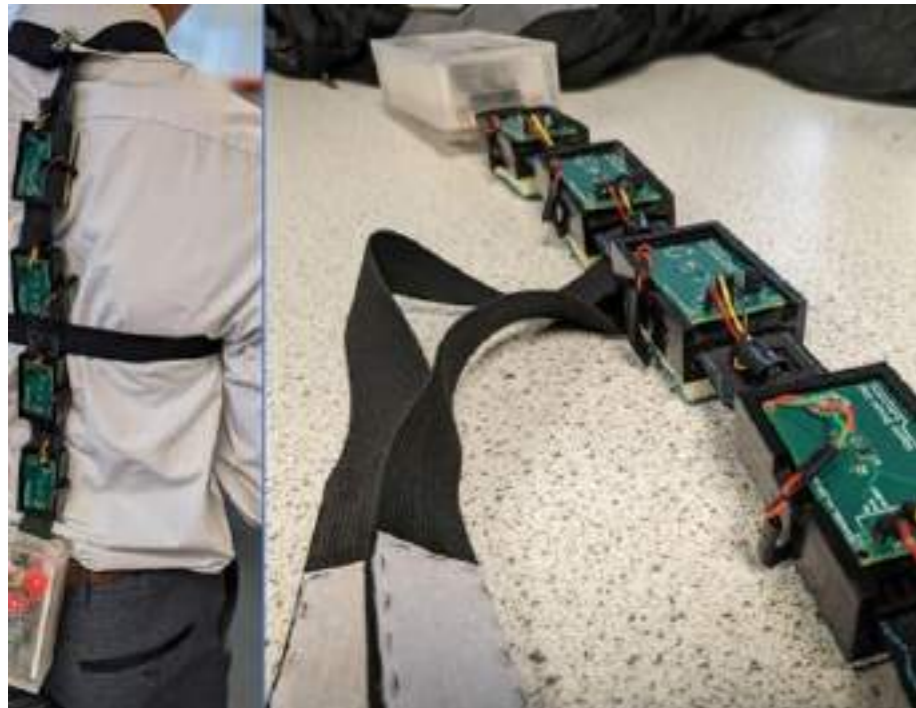
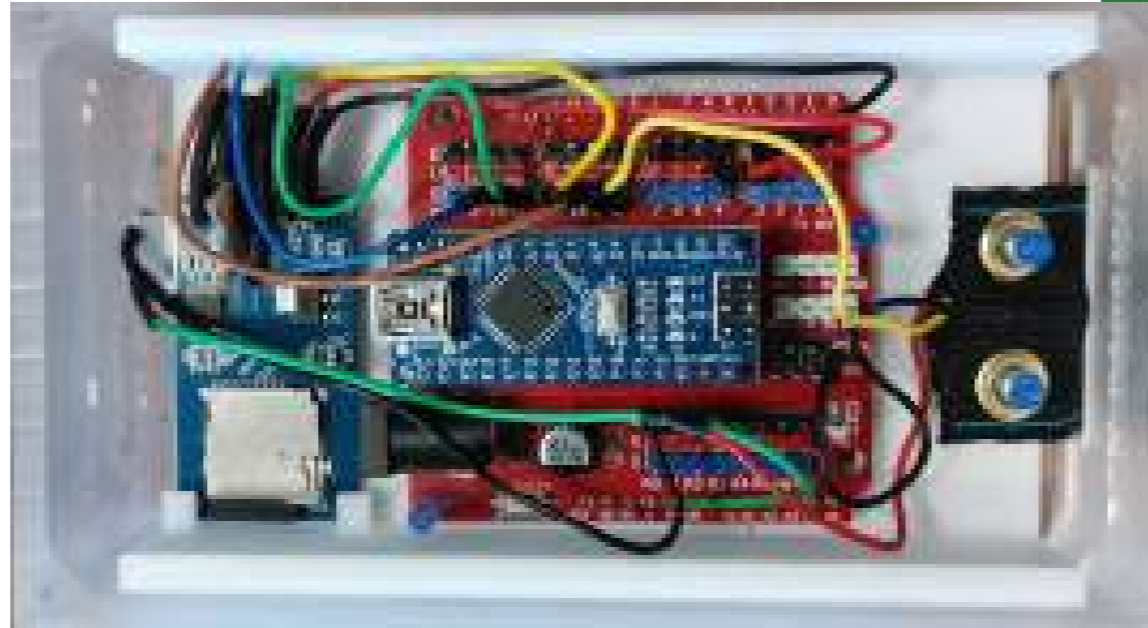
# ART GALLERY





# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY 2024





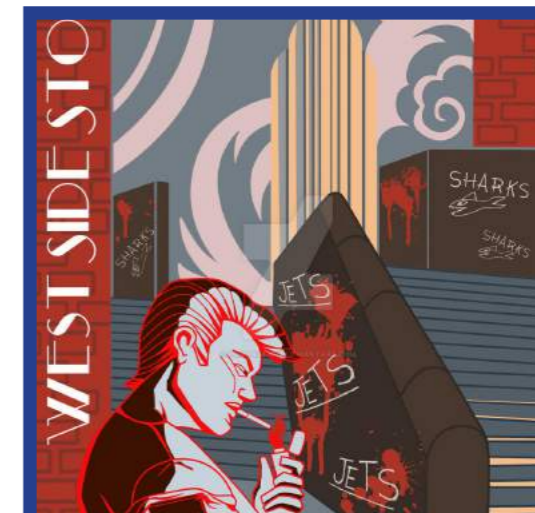
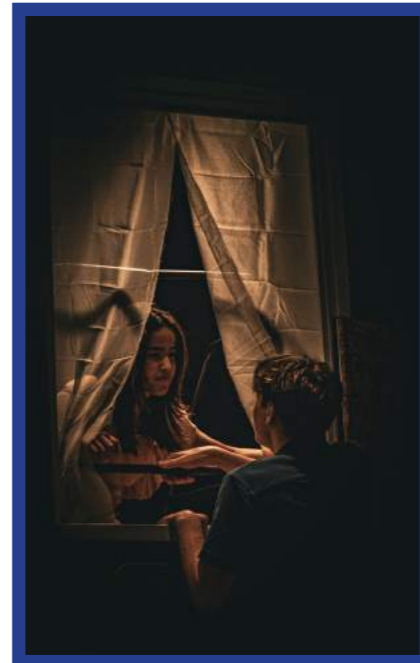
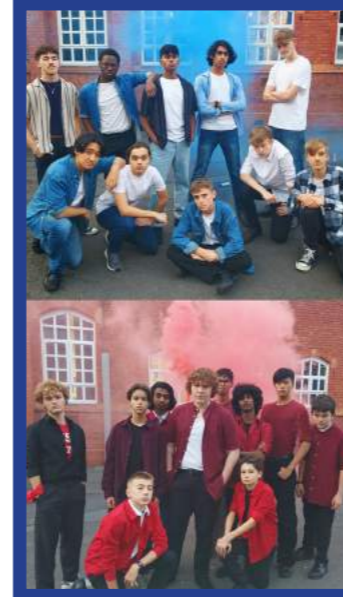
# MEMORIES OF MANHATTAN...

Earlier this year, in November, the Coleman Hall left the leafy Bowdon suburbs to become the more edgy Upper West Side of Manhattan, New York, when we took a trip to 1950s in performing 'West Side Story'. The skills of all the performers were second-to-none, even those (otherwise known as me) with two left feet! The cast, band and crew magnificently 'mambo'-d their way to the finish line in style, 'having their way' on all three nights of the mammoth production. We also had a lot of fun behind the scenes too, with plenty of laughs and memories to take away from the experience.

Thanks, as ever, must go to Mrs Jarratt, Mrs Clarke, Mr Monument and Mrs Hildage for all the hard work in getting this to run, and - '...someday, somewhere' - look out for tickets to our next school production (in conjunction with AGGS and Loreto) 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'!

Here are some memories of our time on stage...

T Ariyo





## THE YEAR IN ENGLISH

2024 was a remarkable year for English, filled with outstanding achievements by our AGSB students. From the notable success of Will Morris, a deeply serious and reserved student who secured a place to read English at Oxford, to the enriching theatre trip to see King Lear at Shakespeare North in Prescot, each achievement was a testament to their dedication and talent.

The English department takes pride in its inclusive events, such as World Book Day, which brought together a diverse array of dressed-up literary characters and a host of library activities, providing a source of joy and connection for all who participated. This year's Bookfest celebrated creativity through visiting speakers, genius writers, and

commemorated authors signing their works. AGSB's Sixth Form Book club further fostered a sense of community, bringing readers from AGSB, AGGS and Sale Grammar together to discuss classic texts such as The Great Gatsby or The Master and Margarita.

Drama has gone from strength to strength at AGSB. The school musical - West Side Story - was a roaring success. Year 13 student J Roden adapted The Bacchae for a modern context, and the Squire Stage Combat was delivered in a workshop on stage combat. Meanwhile, the LAMDA qualification has been an increasingly popular choice for all years.

Now in its third year, the Agora online newspaper has had a new editorial team at the helm this year. R Bhaskar, N Jacob, B Clark, D Howard, J Fish, B Weeden, F Jones and A Gadekar have all been very busy juggling editorial duties with their studies. Recent articles have been on many topics and highlight the broad expertise and interests of the AGSB students. Lego League, Engineering

Society, common decency in politics, and the Barcelona football tour are some of the topics covered.

The editorial team has made a great effort to attract a wider range of contributing writers, and it was great to see students from all over the years enter the recent article competition. A round of applause goes to N Hill in Year 9, R Reddy in Year 8, and F Porter in Year 7 for their winning articles. Do not worry if others' names are not mentioned, as all the students who entered have earned house points.

This year, the Creative Writing Club has been well attended by a dedicated group of imaginative writers and storytellers. Story dice, puppets, island worlds, chatterboxes, story consequences, robots, comics, word puzzles, and poetry have all appeared. The English Department welcomes new members who want to come along regularly or on an ad hoc basis.

Oracy is a major focus for the school. In the prestigious national ESU Churchill Public Speaking competition, the Y11 team reached the Finals in Cambridge for the first time ever. More locally, the fortnightly oracy competitions attracted great speakers, and heated debates from all years on many topics sparked interest in both the speakers and the audience.

English was a resounding success this year, with our students' breaking records and achieving all-time highs in competitions. The numerous events that were organized not only showcased the talent and hard work of our students but also brought together a wide audience, creating a sense of pride and inspiration for our school community on every occasion.

Once again, many thanks to the English Department for creating a platform for so many events to bloom and blossom into extraordinary times for all contributing members. We look forward to what happens next!

C Mahony



# COMPUTER SCIENCE: MINESWEEPERS

Manchester Uni's first-ever 'Minesweeper Competition' demanded secondary-school pupils to design, assemble, and program metal-detecting robots. Some eight or so schools took part. AGSB's team consisted of six students from Year 11: J Cai, Y Vijayakumaran, N Patel, D Ding, J Anup and Y Kurra.

The building of the robot was generally divided into two components: movement and metal-detecting. For the former, we decided to deviate from the standard two-wheeled design that the university had recommended and attempted something completely new. In essence, the plan was to assemble a tank-like chassis (from various parts purchased online), on top of which the circuitry and metal-detector would be attached. Perhaps we could modify some of the Arduino code too. Simple, right? Little did we know what was in store...

For the most part, seemingly straightforward processes were cumbersome at best. As for the simplest of tasks, none transpired without a fair share of "out-of-the-blue" setbacks and baffling outcomes. "...worked like a charm

at lunchtime, completely inanimate afterschool..." was the subject of many conundrums to confront our team. An explanation for why the robot could turn right effortlessly yet struggled so pitifully to turn left has remained reluctant to disclose itself to us. Over the two or so weeks we had, burns and electrocutions were not unusual either; those battery wires made it their mission to short-circuit whenever they were left to their own devices. As for the hot-glue-guns, it was often the case that a whole meal's-worth of energy was required to squeeze some 5 millimetres of it. You could say we were just incompetent, which wouldn't be an unfair assessment given that we fried the circuit board and had to buy a new one. Yet, with sustained dedication and an ounce of grammar-school ingenuity (with not a single lunchtime spared), the six of us managed to assemble our tank-tracked duct-taped monstrosity and deploy it on the competition day.



During the 'navigation' challenges, which entailed traversing a racecourse, our robot admittedly faltered behind the other teams (which is ironic because the initial reason for a unique tank-like chassis was in hopes of surpassing them) with its ungainly weight and untamed movement. However, after delivering a detailed presentation and having a well-deserved lunch, the six of us proceeded to win the metal-detecting 'mine-field challenge' by a commendable margin.

It must be noted that although the metal-detector itself was comically weak, this was compensated by sheer experience derived only from countless hours spent working with the devices; it almost became an intuition. All in all, we absolutely did not expect to win, but with our downcast moods (exacerbated by James' strong feeling of hopelessness) and tired minds, the brief applause and £30 Amazon vouchers were a serendipitous surprise.

Of course, I cannot conclude without extending our gratitude to Mr Carr for supporting our team throughout (plus getting the logistics of the event sorted) and the technology department for allowing us to use their rooms and equipment. Finally, many thanks to Manchester University's 'Electromagnetic Sensing Group' for the copious time they spent organising this unique and stimulating event, during which we have learnt loads. It was certainly an experience not to forget.

Y Vijayakumaran



# HISTORY AND POLITICS



It has been another action-packed year in the History and Politics Department both inside and beyond the classroom. This was a busy year for major historical anniversaries, including, amongst others, the 60th anniversary of the assassination of JFK in November 2023, the 30th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's inauguration in May 2024 and the 80th anniversary of D Day in June 2024. With so much History in the news, political controversy rife on both sides of the Atlantic and the forthcoming UK General Election and US Presidential Elections later this year, it is no wonder the subjects are thriving with growing numbers at GCSE and A Level.

History and Politics Society was rejuvenated this year by its outstanding President N McGregor and Vice President H Scherzer-Facchini. Never did a week pass without a packed audience from Year 7 to Year 13, enjoying presentations in C6 from a range of students on topics as varied as a crash course in Marxist-Leninism, Samurai Warriors and Catalan Independence. A special mention here must go to Year 7 students B Ford and E Ward, who really embraced the opportunities the society provides to younger students and delivered three presentations across the

“Never did a week pass without a packed audience from across Year 7 to Year 13 enjoying presentations”

year on Napoleon, the 1917 Russian Revolution and the Emu War. Nat, Hugo and the rest of the team have inspired a new generation of enthusiasts and have now passed on the baton to new President A Broughall, Vice President B Weeden, I Jones and W Millar, whose first major and exciting task is to organise our AGSB Mock Election 2024. Students with a passion for History and Politics have been highly fortunate this year to hear from a wide variety of guest speakers who have kindly shared their experiences and insights in

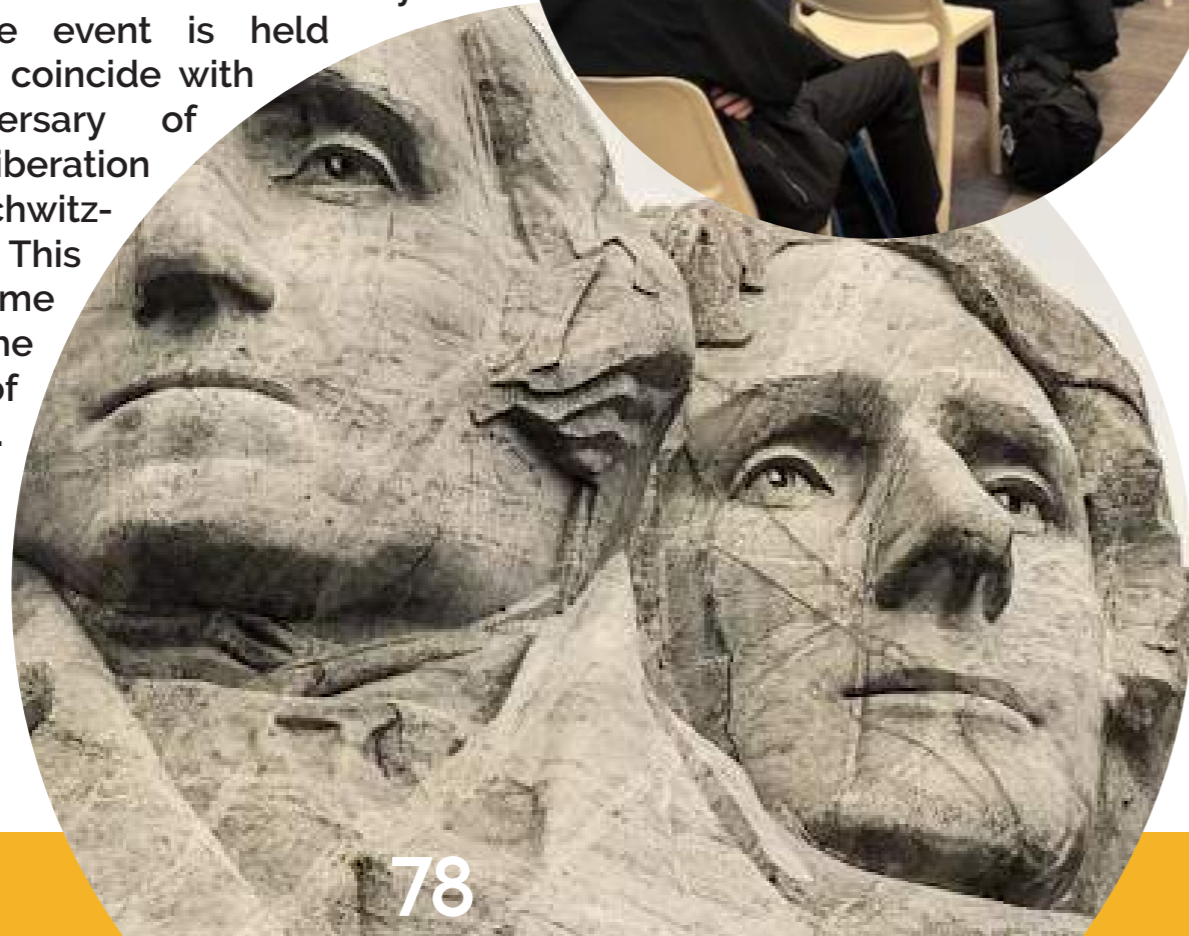
talks run by the History and Politics Society. Visiting speakers have included Old Alt and current Labour MP for Stretford & Urmston Andrew Western and no less than four of the candidates for Altrincham and Sale West in the forthcoming UK General Election; Old Alt Oliver Carroll (Conservative), Geraldine Coggins (Green Party), Connor Rand (Labour Party) and Jane Brophy (Liberal Democrats). Our speakers have been uniformly generous with their time and fully engaged with the wide range of perceptive and often challenging questions from our students. Budding AGSB politicians have been very lucky indeed!

N McGregor and H Scherzer-Facchini were joined by J Holmes in participating in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project overseen by the Holocaust Education Trust. This involved actively participating in preparatory seminars, a powerful 24-hour visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau and a project back in school which culminated in the delivery of insightful assemblies to all year groups. These were timed to coincide with International Holocaust Memorial Day in January, reflected on their life-impactful experiences and reinforced the importance of learning and applying the lessons of the Holocaust.

presentations and performances by groups of students from local primary and secondary schools, as well as music and recollections from leading members of the Trafford Jewish community. The event concluded with the Jewish Memorial Prayer and the lighting of Three Candles of Remembrance, symbolising both all victims of the Holocaust all other tragic genocides. The afternoon provided an opportunity for reflection and broadening of our understanding for all involved.

N Croxton

Mr Croxton accompanied a group of some of our most talented Year 9 historians to a thought-provoking Holocaust Memorial Event at the Robert Bolt Theatre at Sale Waterside in late January 2024. The event is held annually to coincide with the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This year's theme was 'The Fragility of Freedom'. It involved



# THE YEAR IN GEOGRAPHY



**A**nother year has gone by at AGSB Geography. The world around us remains ever-changing and our passion to explore it remains steadfast. In this section, we celebrate the curiosity, dedication and discoveries of our planet as we reflect on another year of exploration and learning, what us geographers do best!

This academic year, we saw the world unite against the climate challenge at COP28 in the UAE, the first COP event to ever be held in the Middle East, hence causing controversy. However, the world successfully united, with an agreement signalling 'the beginning of the end' of the fossil fuels era

that has been dominating global industry for decades. This was a revolutionary agreement for us geographers and climate activists, as it was the first COP to mention a global shift away from fossil fuels, which have been feeding heat into our climate for decades, causing mass consequences for the world around us.

The AGSB Geography Department was lucky to continue the monthly geography quiz, with help from our subject prefect team (A Buncall and H Chaudhry). Each month, students would gather at lunchtimes and complete a rigorous assessment regarding the geographical world around them in order to win prizes



and house points at the end of the year. The quiz saw students travelling all around the world in their imaginations, from Spain and Portugal to North America and Asia. There are still a few more quizzes to go (at the time of writing), so keep it up!

As we have already mentioned, the world around us is constantly changing, which is part of the reason for our annual field trips, which aid our local place studies. Students can broaden their understanding of areas locally, such as regeneration in Ancoats, or even further afield, with investigation of physical landforms in Wales. During the winter Ancoats trip, in which fresh snow was

underfoot, students collected data, both quantitative and qualitative, to further improve their theoretical knowledge learned in school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of getting to know the city on our doorstep in more depth. The study of physical landforms, glaciers, and rivers was even more hands-on, as students went into the Afon Conwy River, to collect primary data to aid their understanding of how channel depth and width affect the discharge of a river, which was an enjoyable experience for them, despite the drenched socks afterward!

On the following day, they climbed a corrie glacier, Cwm Idwal, to understand how the glacier has shaped the landscape today.

It was spectacular to see these great landforms in person, a massive change to the photos on the smart boards at school! Overall, the two fieldtrips served as effective accompaniments to the course, as well as having some great experiences on the way!

As another year comes to a close, we will continue to grow our understanding and appreciation for the dynamic world around us, over the summer and for many more years to come. But, until next year, may the spirit of exploration and guide us onwards!

A Buncall and H Chaudhry



# 'ROCK N ROLL'

The Geology Department has had a successful year as we look to grow the understanding of our subject throughout the school. We have introduced a Geology module to the Year 8 science curriculum, giving lower school students a greater understanding of the formation and structure of our planet and its constituent rocks. We also took part in the Year 8 science week celebrations holding workshops learning about the science of predicting volcanic eruptions.

In January we hosted our second annual Geology Christmas Lecture. This year approximately 200 guests listened to Prof. Marc Reichow of Leicester University discuss the possible impact of a Mt. Pinatubo sized eruption on Manchester. The Mt Pinatubo eruption of 1991 was one of the largest in the 20th century, needless to say, Altrincham didn't fare too well, despite being a good distance from the city centre, where the eruption originated. We are already planning next year's lecture and hope to welcome Prof. S Gupta of Imperial College London to discuss his work with the Mars rover missions.

We have been consolidating the return of pre-existing field trips post-COVID and have added a Year 11 field trip to our calendar. Now every year group studying Geology can look forward to a field trip during the year.

In March, the Year 13 Geologists undertook their annual migration to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Exploring the island from a new base this year, they were able to study both coastal and mountain regions in detail focusing on the formation of the island and its interesting geological past. As a piece of uplifted sea floor (an ophiolite) Cyprus provides a unique window into geological processes which are rarely seen.



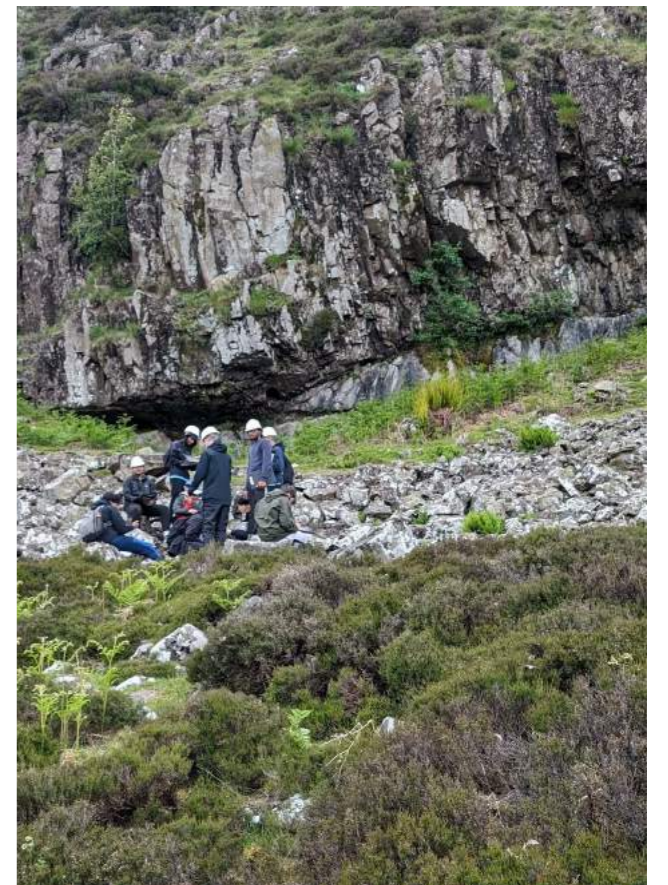
March also saw the first Year 11 trip to the Ecton Mine in Staffordshire. Here the students were able to carry out geotechnical engineering work planning a new access into the mine, whilst also having the opportunity to explore the mine itself.

April saw a slightly earlier than normal visit to Anglesey for the Year 10 Geology students. Thankfully, there wasn't an April shower in sight and the students were able to enjoy exploring the coast, experiencing geological fieldwork for the first time whilst trying to uncover the 500-million-year-old secrets that the rocks of Anglesey hold.

With the Year 12 Vale of Eden trip still to come (at the time of writing), we always have something to look forward to in the department!

Before Easter, a group of six Year 12 students qualified for the Geology Schools Challenge final at the Geological Society in London. To qualify they produced an outstanding parody of 'Breaking Bad' showing the formation of evaporites which received stand out feedback from the judges. Unfortunately, on the day they were unable to reproduce this performance and were not able to come home with the trophy. There's always next year, I suppose!

M Parker





# THE YEAR IN MATHS

## Pi Day Competition

Every year, students compete in the annual Pi-Day competition, memorising as many digits of Pi as possible. This year, we had over 30 entries from Year 7 and 8, who all amazed us with their abilities! Congratulations to E Ward (Year 7) for correctly reciting 65 digits!

B McCann

“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”  
— Albert Einstein

## House Paper Aeroplane Competition

In November, the Maths & Science departments collaborated to host the inaugural House Paper Aeroplane competition. There were over 40 entries from the KS3 year groups, and the event was judged by our Maths Prefects as well as our Y12 Further Mathematicians.

There were lots of different designs, however the following individuals came out as champions of the respective competitions. Congratulations to all involved!

- 1st place: C Cassidy from 9CD with 1510cm (Bradbury)
- 2nd place: E Harrison from 7BY with 1410cm (Massey)
- 3rd place: K Mohnot from 7CE with 1170cm (Massey)
- Best in Y8: R Nair from 8RW with 1120cm (Massey)

S Chancellor & S Hill



## UKMT Success

The Year 12 and 13 students participated in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, and achieved a fantastic 29 Gold, 21 Silver and 10 Bronze Certificates - outstanding!

In the Spring term, it was the turn of the Year 9-11s to compete in their UKMT Intermediate Challenge and they blew us away with their results - 40 Gold, 11 Silver and 5 Bronze Certificates! Special mention must go to D Liu in Year 11 for achieving full marks in his paper.

B McCann

## Codebreaking Competition

This year's codebreaking competition saw 21 teams sign up from Year 7 to Year 10. Each week's coding tasks were different, meaning teams needed a

wide range of strategies to complete the tasks. Tasks included a treasure hunt around the school; a cryptic photograph with hidden clues; a hidden message in an AGSB Twitter post; and a staff-classroom code!

The competition was won by R Nair in Year 8, under the team name of RA Codebreakers. Every year the competition has been won by a Year 8 team; do we need to set you more homework? Certificates were also given out to the best team in Year 10 - SAO (captain O Cheung) who came second overall, the best team in year 9 - Crack Codecaine (captain A Mokhtar) who came third overall, and the best team in Year 7 - The Galactic Disk Burners (captain S Yu) who came fourth overall.

S Chancellor and W Carr



# HOUSTON SPACE CENTRE

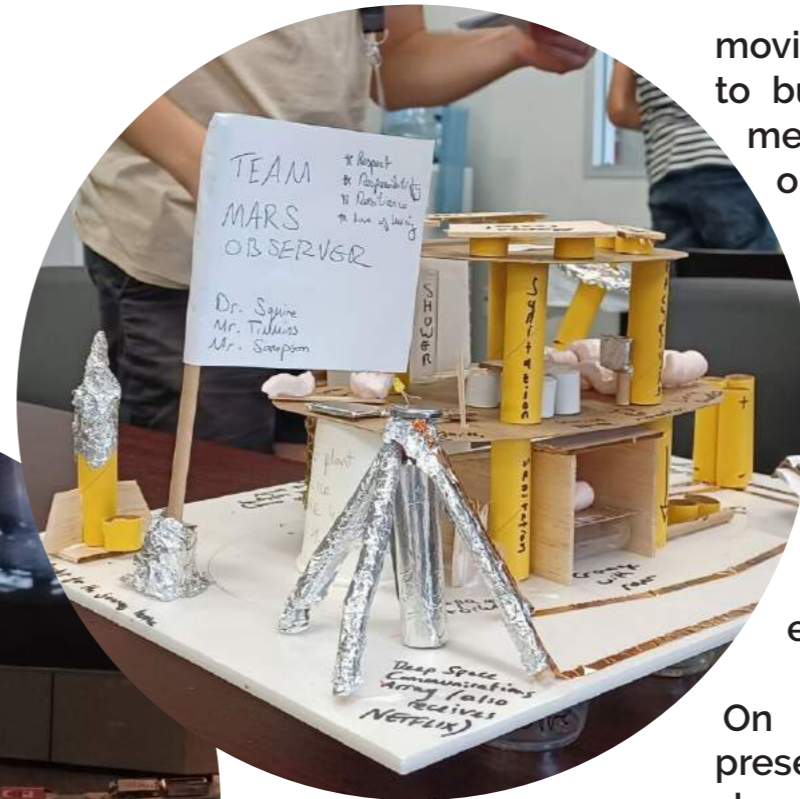
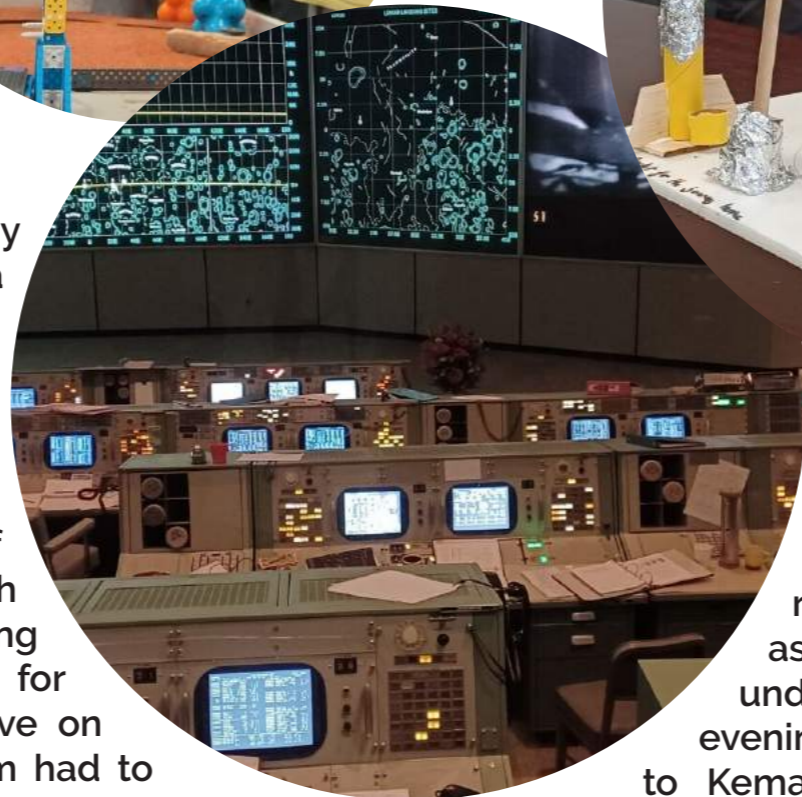
**W**e arrived at our hotel in Houston, Texas after a taxing 10-hour flight, tired but excited about what was to come in the following days. Waking up early next morning, we set off to Johnson Space Center after a brief breakfast in the hotel lobby.

We split into groups that would work on all the main assignments together throughout the week, each group competing with the other to win the gold medal that was to be handed out at the end of the 5 days. Our first main task of this trip was to create a small, 2-stage rocket, with a parachute mechanism. We followed the instructions provided to us by the staff, and each group ended up with a rocket close to 1 of the 2 available designs, primed to be launched for the next day. Our next task of the day was to select and use materials based on our knowledge of thermodynamics to protect a ball that was going to be dipped in liquid nitrogen, and a block of wood that was shortly blasted by fire.

On the second day, we started off by launching our rockets, most groups' rockets flight paths weren't

completely straight, with a few even going dangerously horizontal. Soon, we were briefed on our main task of the day, which was designing a habitat for astronauts to live on Mars. Each team had to research and efficiently use the resources available to build a model of a potential Mars base, finding solutions to needs such as energy, food, water and transport. We finished the day off with a visit to a nearby bowling alley where we also played laser tag, arcade games and even some pool.

On the third day, we visited Williams Pool, where we were taught basic SCUBA diving techniques and then had to apply them to complete tasks underwater that mimicked the type of tasks astronauts would have to



carry out in zero gravity. We also got to experiment with some underwater robotic equipment such as a camera-equipped underwater drone. When evening arrived, we took a coach to Kemah Boardwalk, a famous theme park built along the shores of Galveston Bay and Clear Lake and enjoyed dinner at Bubba Gump Shrimp there.

On the fourth day, we were taken on a tour of the Apollo 11 Mission Control room, a place where the most iconic spaceflight was managed from. Shortly after the visit to that historic room, we were briefed on our main assignments for the day which included building a robot and coding another. Each team had to design and construct a robot capable of picking up and

moving objects, some teams opted to build a robot with a scooping mechanism whereas other built one with a claw or some other sort of clenching system. We also had to use software to code another robot to complete a miniature track in the shortest amount of time possible, both tasks required teamwork in terms of the planning and logical thinking as well as creativity for the execution.

On the final day, we had a presentation from an astronaut who shared valuable advice and stories from his experience in space as well as other workers at NASA who shared knowledge on what it is like to work at such a massive agency. We finished our time at Johnson Space Center with an awards ceremony and then packed up for the 10 hour slog back home.

A Gautam





# BIOLOGY CHAMPIONS

Each year in May and June we run the online competitions run by the UKBC: the Biology Challenge for Year 10; and the Intermediate Biology Olympiad for Year 12. The students achieved some fantastic results! Look out for emails about these events during the year and congratulations to all those who have taken part this year.

K Crowther



# GENETIC REVOLUTION

Genetic engineering is the modification and manipulation of an organism's genetic makeup using technology. Right now, scientists across the world are developing a new way to alter the code of life itself – DNA. These discoveries are new explorations into biology and are bringing upon us a new era of science and health. This idea, dubbed CRISPR genetic editing, has the potential to bring upon a world with no genetic diseases, bodies that never age, apples that don't brown and many other possibilities, but those advancements are a far way off.

In fact, CRISPR has been occurring for a long time as a natural process part of a bacteria's immune system. This naturally occurring CRISPR system in bacteria has two main components: short pieces of repetitive DNA sequences called CRISPRs, and Cas which are CRISPR associated proteins. Cas is able to break DNA very precisely which will play a big role in genetic engineering as you will find out. When a virus invades a bacterium, Cas proteins cut out a piece of the virus's DNA and then that segment is placed in the bacterium's CRISPR region, so the bacterium has a record of the



"Altering the code of life itself"  
- A Gautam

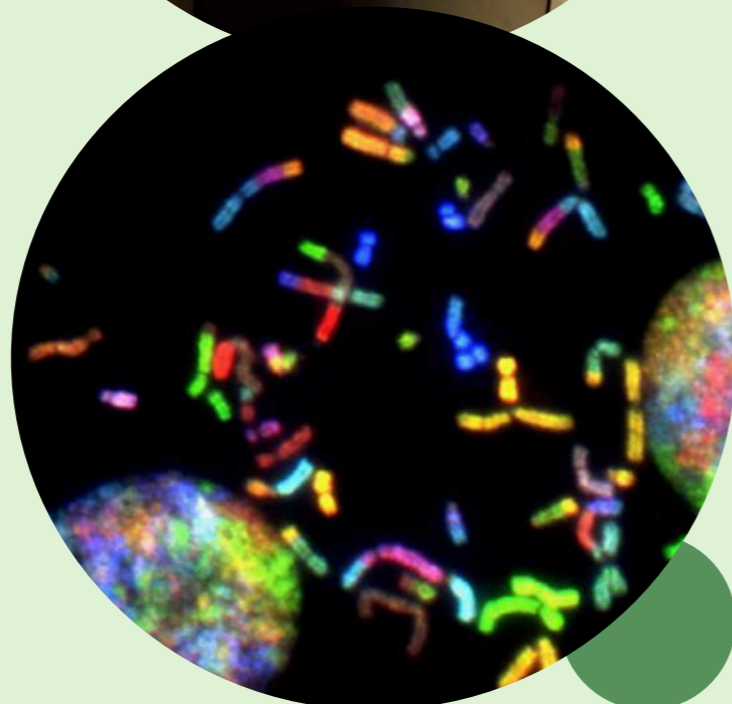
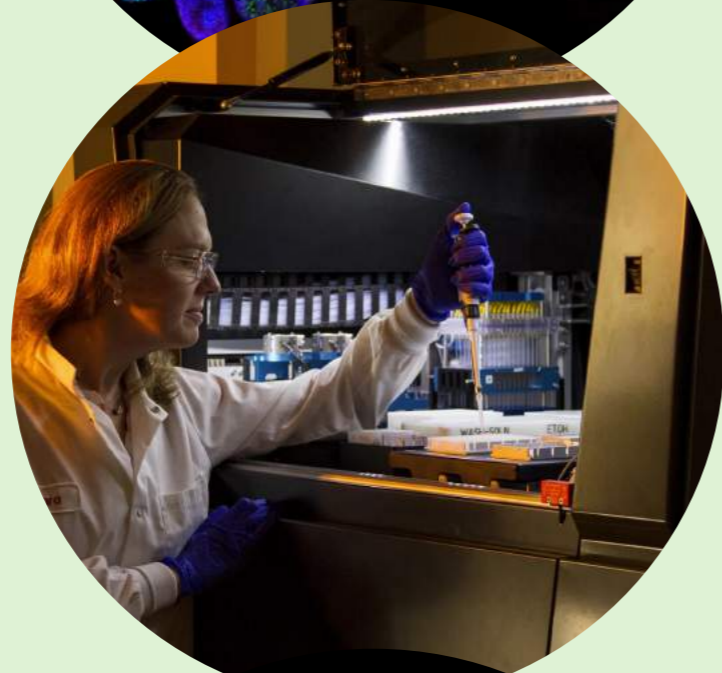
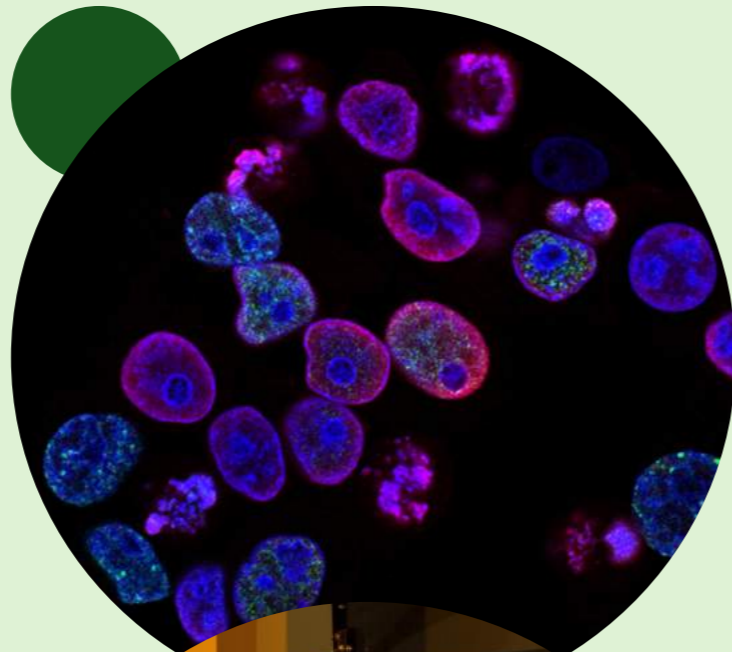
virus. The codes of the virus are then copied into short pieces of RNA, RNA has many functions but in the case of CRISPR, it binds to a special protein called Cas9. The outcome is a complex which acts essentially as a patrolling police office within the cell; it searches for a match to the virus's genes it was based off. If the same virus invades again, the complex recognises it immediately and the Cas9 destroys it. But how is this relevant to helping humans?

In 2012, scientists figured out how to manipulate CRISPR to not just target and destroy viral DNA, but any DNA within any organism. With the correct tools, this method can become the gene equivalent of a computer code-editing program giving scientists the power to modify the very substance that forms the base of every human trait. So now we know how this can help humans, but how do biologists actually do this in the lab? Well, they design an RNA that matches the gene they want to edit and bind it to Cas9. The RNA directs the Cas9 to the target gene and like with the bacterium, it destroys the target DNA. Once the DNA has been cut the cell will try to repair it.

Proteins called nucleases use a repair process called nonhomologous end joining, but it isn't very effective and so the DNA is still normally deemed unusable. Instead, scientists add a separate sequence of template DNA leading to a repair process called homology-directed repair. The template DNA acts as a blueprint and the result is the gene, which was originally destroyed by the scientists, is repaired into a gene which the scientists want.

I believe the best is yet to be understood about the capabilities of genetic engineering. But what is clear is that I won't be seeing any flying pigs - or similar mutant creatures - around any time soon!

A Gautam



## BADMINTON

U13

**T**he Under 13 badminton squad had an amazing season this time around. We managed to get through to the regional, then the national, finals by beating teams like Manchester Grammar and other powerhouses. In the national finals, our under 13 team won most games with the odd 2 losses. Eventually, our team placed 5th out of all of the schools who participated.

O Dev

## U16

The first competition that took place was the Schools Sports Magazine tournament, a knockout tournament consisting of schools from all over England.

The U16s had great success in this tournament. The B team won their 1st round, and then beat MGS 4-2. They then beat The Grammar School at Leeds. Unfortunately, the A and B teams were then drawn against each other, where the A team won. If the two teams had not been drawn against each other, the B team would have progressed further in the competition, as they were still a strong team. The A team then progressed to the quarter-finals, with previous wins against Wilmslow High School, Wirral Grammar School, and Penrith. The A team beat Tipton School to become Champions of the North.

The next task was the Semi-final against Bedford School. Going into the doubles the score was 2-2 with AGSB ahead on points. The match then ended 3-3 with AGSB winning on points. This was a very hard match for the team, so they did extremely well. We then travelled to Aylesbury, where we had to face Reading School. Unfortunately, they were too strong for us, but we still did very well to reach a badminton national finals and come second in England.

Both U16 teams then entered the Badminton England schools tournament where the U16 A team won the county round, with the B

team coming second. This meant that the A team were now in the regional finals. The regional finals were held in Bolton, and we had to play against two strong U16 sides. The standard was high, but the result of winning would be advancing to the national finals. We had to fight very hard for the first match, and the team won 3-2 in the end. We then played another school beating them 5-0 to also head to the national finals. Therefore, the U16 A team managed to reach the national finals, which will be played soon in Milton Keynes.

Overall, it's impressive to see such success in these recent tournaments

for the U16s considering the circumstances with COVID-19. You've also got to remember that the people in these teams may have only played with each other just this year, so there's been a lot of good teamwork and communication between players. Therefore, huge congratulations have to go to the players involved in the teams for doing as well as they have done. A huge thanks to Mr Rawson as well, who has spent a lot of time organising the fixtures and driving the various teams around the country. Without him, the school's success in badminton this year wouldn't have happened.

E Higton



# BASKETBALL

## U14

This year's season has really been a journey. We have all progressed so much and have strived to better ourselves and perfect our craft. As each day passed, we became better and better, supporting each other along the way.

Our first match was against North Cestrian. We were all a bit nervous about our first match, but we were also excited to play our first match of the season. It started off slow, but as the game progressed, we all started to enter our rhythm and the points were coming nonstop. Once we took the lead, there was no looking back and we went on to

win the match. We were all nothing short of ecstatic after winning our first match of the season. After that, we went on to win our next match against BTH.

Then came our biggest and most difficult match yet. Our match against Saint Ambrose. We all tried our hardest and played our best match yet, however, we fell just short. We ended up losing that match by only two points. We were all disappointed and saddened by the outcome, but we then pushed forward.

We then played our final match of the season against ACA. The game started rough, but we eventually hit our stride and came out with the win. We were all hopeful that we would qualify for the area cup, but unfortunately, due to our loss against Saint Ambrose, we were knocked out of the running.

"This season has really been a journey."  
- D Enahwou

It was an unfortunate ending to our season, but we all played our hardest and gave it everything we had until the very end, and we had lots of fun along the way. And that brings us to the close to our U14 basketball season.

D Enahwou

## U16

In our hardest game against St Ambrose, we showed resilience, determination and desire to win. It was our highlight of the season where we won 36-32 and it really outlined our teamwork and ability to perform under pressure. This shows great improvement from last year as we lost to them. This relentless pursuit of excellence and commitment to teamwork led us to the Trafford Champions title in a fantastic undefeated season.

The team really looks forward to more successes in future basketball seasons within school.

Finally, thank you to Mr Land and Mr Meakin for all the coaching and support. Their efforts do not go unappreciated.

H Suroor



# HOCKEY

## U14

**M**oving forwards after a pretty solid year in the 22/23 U14 hockey season, we hoped to develop a more passing based style of hockey and were hoping to get our hands on a trophy. With a smaller group of Year 9 hockey players it was down to the new bunch of Year 7's and the unexperienced Year 8's to step up, which they all did brilliantly. We started off the 23/24 season with an end-to-end game of Hockey vs King's Macclesfield where both teams putting on a great display. King's Macclesfield were leading 2-0 early on but with some great goals by J Radnall-Smith and C Ridley we were back in it before we, unfortunately, conceded a third which we couldn't come back from, meaning an early exit to the county cup. However, our next game was our only friendly where we played Sandbach and won with a strong and dominant performance leading to a brilliant 3-0 win.

This performance gave us great confidence leading us into an upcoming first round of the national cup against an extremely strong King's Chester side who ended up

coming runners up after a close game in the final. We started the game off strongly before leaking some stoppable goals and went into half time 1-0 down with spirits still high. Unfortunately for us, this King's Chester side scored another 3 goals without response which knocked us out of the National Cup into the National Plate. This meant we would be playing another strong team in Cheadle Hulme School where we went in with a few new faces from Year 7 and 8...

After a strong start we took the lead where newcomer C Rourke scored some absolutely brilliant finishes



which helped give us a 3-0 lead over a disappointed looking Cheadle. They did start to come back at us, but we stayed strong and had to grind out a well-deserved 3-2 win with L Vilarinho making a star performance between the posts. In the next round we came up against Solihull who had travelled a couple of hours to get to us and their trip was not wasted. They put on a dominant performance where we couldn't quite get going which was also slightly affected by missing players due to illness and injuries.

This meant we had reached the end of the hockey year not quite reaching

the heights we wanted to reach but putting on some great well-rounded performances with many standout performances all around the team from the more inexperienced players to the more experienced players with some great goals and hard work on and off the ball. Reaching round 3 of the national plate was probably our highlight of the season which I'm convinced the U14 hockey team will be looking to improve upon in the shortly arriving new season. Many thanks to Mr Meakin and Mr Marcano for their ongoing support towards all hockey groups, organising of matches as well as getting us around the North-West.

J Booth





## 1ST XI

I have been lucky enough to enjoy a golden age of hockey at AGSB in my 7 years playing for school. 2023-24 has been no different. The U18 first eleven reached national finals in both indoor hockey at Whitgift School in January and outdoor hockey at the Olympic Park, Lee Valley London in April, and although trophies evaded us this year, they were fantastic experiences. The U16 and U14 tams have also had very successful campaigns and the teams go from strength to strength.

AGSB hockey has some memorable hallmarks, that are intrinsic to our success. Last minute planning, uncomfortable minibus journeys and unfathomable tactics dreamt

up by the school's secret weapon, our coach Albert Marcano, are just a few. The dedication of Mr Meakin, the energy and amazing ability of players and support from our parents have all helped to drive us on and create truly incredible memories. The number of official team photos that we have from National Finals events is testament to the strength and depth that builds year on year at AGSB. We were especially proud to be awarded School Team of the year at the Senior Sports Awards. We finish our school career in July 2024 with a tour to South Africa which is a perfect finale that we are all looking forward to.

O Hatton



# FOOTBALL



## U13

Following on from a triumphant year of football in Year 7, we came into Year 8 with our heads held high and ready to conquer, which we did. 17 games unbeaten (following on from a previous 6 in Year 7). With an astounding 84 goals scored and only a minuscule 21 against us leaving us a ridiculously good 63 goal differential, 24 of which came from our centre of attack and absolute superstar B Stephens; with close followers, N Malik and S Imohoyan. Our most prolific win being an 11-0 hammering against St-Bede. Special mentions to J Randall-Smith who managed to score a bicycle kick off a corner in that game. Our season was progressing well, win after win after win. Then the Greater Manchester cup arrived, Wellington (the current holders) we drew. A tight game saw us through 5-3 with our best performance ever, an exceptional performance from many.

A breeze through our next games ensured the best form spike we have ever hit. Our trainings on Mondays, hosted by our wonderful coach Mr Cammack proved successful and we were flying. Little did we know that the Greater Manchester was not forgiving with our draws. St Matthew's was rumoured to have three Manchester United Academy players on their side. An optimistic tactic of drop back, soak up some

pressure and then catch them on the counter left them astounded. A 5-0 rampage followed. The celebrations in the rain were immense, once again a great team effort with outstanding performances, which continued through our next game, a 5-2 victory against Wellacre.

Unfortunately, after many injuries postponing games we hadn't played together for a while, our form slowed down and our year of football is over with two unfortunate losses in both cups, despite this, we are ready to come back next year stronger than ever and show everyone who AGSB really are!

Thank you also to Mr Bobin who has dedicated a lot of his time on Saturday mornings to help coach us and make us a better team!

L Diver St-Amour

**"We came into Year 8 with our heads held high and ready to conquer..."**  
- L Diver St-Amour



## U14

Following on from a relatively successful season in Year 8, we looked to improve on our results in cup competitions, as well as developing further as a team and adapting to the constant changes to the squad. Despite having already had a strong team, we welcomed new additions into the team for the opening game of the year against King's Chester (6-1), which was comfortably won, a similar pattern for most of our Saturday friendlies. Other games not so simple, such as that against Rossall, Stockport and Bolton. This meant we remained undefeated in our Saturday games, MGS (2-2) being our only game we didn't win. In February, we went on a tour of Barcelona, where we played some of our best pressing football and showed great spirit against two very technical, passing teams.

In the cup, we played Canon Slade,

who got to the Elite National Cup final in Year 8. Despite knowing the game would be tough, we played, though a bit shaky, reasonably well and the score was 3-3 at full-time. Unfortunately, we would get knocked out on pens. Almost 6 months later, we would play CHHS in the Plate. After going 1-0 down early on, we would come back to win 5-1. At the time of writing, we have a last 16 fixture against Buile Academy coming up. In the Trafford cup, we won against Stretford Grammar 4-2 to set up a quarter final against winners in Year 7 and finalists in Year 8, Wellington. Not being able to bring our strongest squad due to illness and injuries meant we would be defeated. Despite losing, we will meet Wellington again in the Plate if we beat Buile, where hopefully we can get as far as possible and maybe win the competition.

Looking back on a successful year, it is clear that we have developed together as a team, including hints of individual success; I Rourke is our top-scorer, his press, speed and strength motivate the team's attack, A Odumade remains a rock at the





## 2ND XI

The 2nd XI had a massively successful season this year, winning 5 and losing only once, scoring 20 goals in the process whilst only conceding 8.

The first game of the season was a 4-3 win away to King's Chester, with the result not being an accurate representation of the dominant display put on by the team. This was followed up by another 4-3 win, with Cormac Farrell scoring a last minute winner to complete the comeback from 3-1 down. We achieved our first clean sheet of the season with a 4-0 win against Bolton School, despite a makeshift defence to end the game.

L Giovanni continued his great run of form, scoring a hat-trick and his 7th goal in 3 games against his old school, MGS, including an incredible header in a 6-0 domination. Our first and only loss of the season came in the form of a 2-0 loss against King's Chester, with the team continuing to play impressive football in spite of a much-changed team. We finished our season with another win and another clean sheet, beating Stockport Grammar School 2-0.

D Visco

back, J Booth has impressed both within the country and in Barcelona, and D Abdool-Ghany and E Amri have firmly solidified their place as comedians of the team, constantly keeping chemistry and morale high. Many thanks to Mr Smyth for his continued dedication and advice in trainings and cup games, Mr Cammack for his support and Mr Evans and Mr Hayward for taking the team on Saturday mornings.

D Chen

## U15

Our Year 10 Football season has gone brilliantly as a whole. We have won 14 games and lost 2 so far. Our top goal scorer has been J Pearce, however everyone has contributed to our success. A highlight game for the season would have been the Greater Manchester Round of 16 game against East Manchester Academy, with several academy players. However, we held our own and won on penalties after a late equaliser.

C Brooks

## 1ST XI

Overall, although we didn't quite have the season we'd hoped for after the success we had last year, it was still a season packed with highs and lows that included some really positive moments and huge results. We had an encouraging start to the season with big wins over Rosall, St Bede's and Kings Chester and victories over Trinity and Cardinal Langley that put us into the fourth round of the English Schools Cup. This success then continued with a huge win over Cheadle and a fantastic comeback against Bluecoat that was certainly the highlight of our season. Despite trailing 2-0 late into the game, goals from Z Hatoor and S Dodd took the game to extra time and then penalties, in which T Williams helped us into the round of 32, where we met Wilmslow High.

Unfortunately, despite an early lead, Wilmslow managed a comeback and ended our cup run prematurely. Despite this loss, our season still seemed promising as we progressed to the semi-final of the Greater Manchester cup, hoping to retain the trophy. Prior to this we played our final Saturday game, defeating Stockport Grammar 5-1 in a reassuring win. However, we were unable to beat Cheadle Hulme in a lack lustre performance and our season came to an end.

Despite a trophy-less year and an



underwhelming season, we can take a number of positives as a team through some fantastic goals scored and a real togetherness shown even in our toughest moments. This year also proved how much we have developed as individuals but more importantly, as a team, which has been clear in some quality group displays throughout the season, something that has been aided by Mr Cammack's relentless dedication, not only this year but from the beginning of all of our times at AGSB.

S Dodd





# RUGBY

## U12

I am proud to say that this year has shown the start of a brand-new rugby team at AGSB. Despite, there being over 200 pupils in our

year, around 10 of us showed up to the very first rugby session. Since then, we have built up two entire squads, over 20 players consistently coming to training!

Though we did not have too many players initially, the number grew throughout the year. I was incredibly happy to see the number of players coming to training increasing. I was also impressed to see lots of players who had never played rugby before improving, whilst still enjoying themselves.

It is fair to say we had lots of ups and downs since most schools had more experience than us, but we saw two great victories, against Crossley Heath and Manchester Grammar School B team. We also played very well in the Lymm Rugby 7s Tournament, where we came out with 2 losses, 2 draws and 2 victories. I would like to personally congratulate anyone who has started rugby fresh at AGSB this year. Everyone has heaps of progress and determination.

This rugby season has sadly come to an end, but I am already looking forward to Autumn 2024, when we will restart as Under 13s. When we will come back as Year 8s, I am hoping to see some new people giving rugby a go. I think that if we put in some

more hard work and effort, we may be able to improve on some of this season's results.

D Goralki-Kelly

## U13

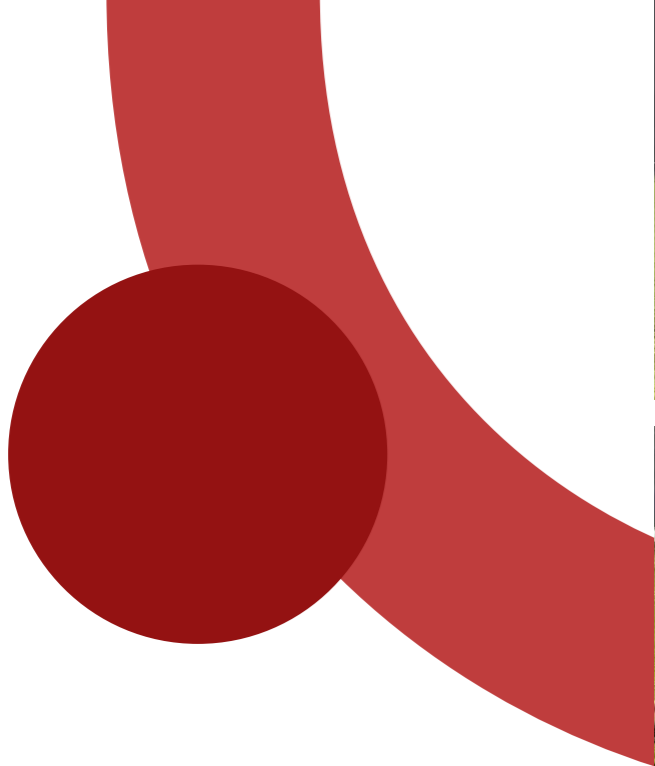
This year, we played better and started to get better and better results as we went through the year.

This year we had some of the worst weather throughout a season. With many pitches being waterlogged and it being really wet and muddy. But this team persevered and pushed through these times by making sure they went to training to improve.

**"Everyone has shown heaps of progress and determination."  
- D Goralki-Kelly**

Our coach was Mr. Birchall, who also plays Prop at Sale. Throughout this season he juggled both teaching us rugby and playing for Sale. He managed to be at training and help out our team. Unfortunately, he got injured but he still managed

to help us with sending the teams out and giving us tips. Whilst he was injured, we joined in with Year 9. When we were with them, we were helped by Mr. Cundick. He trained us along with the Year 9s which allowed us to carry on our season.



Our 15s season started a bit slow with us struggling in our matches to find a result, until the day came. After countless hours of training, we managed to get a win after many close games. After this we got better and better in how we played up to the 7s tournaments.

Our 7s tournaments were the best they have been yet, we won games in all of the tournaments that we played and had fun along the way. Unfortunately, one of our tournaments got called off due to the poor weather, but we still played two. One of these tournaments was in Blackpool which was an exciting adventure. We had a long drive to the match, but it was a fun coach journey.

Overall, every single one of our team improved massively throughout the year, becoming better at all skills and some new starters. Some people enjoyed it so much that they decided to join a rugby club outside of school. We have had much fun this year and all that's left to say is:

Let's get them next year!

B Moss



## U14

From the beginning, our team have constantly been forging a stronger relationship, overcoming teams and obstacles that have been thrown at us along the way. At the start of Year 9, Mr Cundick constantly upheld the mantra of "we not me" and throughout the year whichever opponents we faced, we stuck to this ideology. Whilst we were not always as successful as we would have hoped, it helped us become closer as a team and establish bonds we never had previously. On 9th September, was our first match of the season, against Birkenhead School. Unfortunately, we lost 33-36 however it was a hard-fought match and we saw how well we had begun to play together as a team. The next weekend we travelled to the outskirts of Blackpool to play AKS Lytham, and as a team we enjoyed our first victory winning 26-24.

As we carried on throughout the season, unfortunately the weather meant a few of our games were cancelled. However, after a short break we were back at it and as the season carried on, we slowly started to prepare for our trip to the Netherlands and on the 17th of October we arrived in Rotterdam. During the tour we played Oysterwijk and Gouda.

Both teams were extremely enjoyable to compete with, and in the club house, post-game we made some great connections and hopefully we will get the opportunity to play against them again. We obtained two great victories with a fantastic performance from the lads which only made us more excited for the rest of the season.

However, upon return to school we had work to do, as we trained and prepared for the greatly awaited match against Manchester Grammar School. In the first half it ended 5-0 to AGSB and by the end of the game we emerged victorious, winning 26-12.

As the season drew to an end, we came closer to our seven's tournaments. Whilst our first tournament didn't go quite to plan, we learnt from our mistakes, and it became quite clear the next week that we had input this into our rugby. We got to the final of the shield and narrowly lost to Sandbach School. Together, we experienced many highs and a few lows but collectively we have grown as a team still keeping in mind the philosophy Mr Cundick implanted in us from the start. Well done to all the lads and thank you to all the coaching staff (especially Mr Cundick) that made our season possible, and I can't wait for next season.

C Smurthwaite.

## U15

**Y**ear 10 have had a mixed season this year, but definitely a memorable one. We started off the year with a loss to Birkenhead and continued the losing streak until the start of October when we drew to Crossley Heath, after a bad decision from the referee...

We had some success in the Cup this year after losing the first round, we got sent to the national bowl where we beat Weaverham 33-0 in Round 2 and then lost very narrowly to Bolton School in Round 3.

With two of our Rugby 7's tournaments being cancelled, we had one away at the Grange. This was a very successful tournament as we won the group, not losing a game until the final where we lost to Wellington. Hopefully next year, we can recruit even more players and win some more games with our players moving into the senior team.

L Potter-Whittard

## 1ST XV

**I**t was a mixed year for the 1st XV this season. We managed a strong start at our pre-season tournament at Stockport before some challenging defeats in both National and Regional competitions. Some determined rugby was on display as we fought our way to a



brilliant win against St Anselm's later on in the year. It was great to have multiple Year 11's join the 1st XV ranks this season; the future of AGSB rugby is bright!

We ended the season off with an incredibly competitive Old Boy's game, always a highlight for everyone. Hopefully our best rugby is yet to come, with an incredible tour to South Africa lined up this Summer. Thank you to all those at AGSB Sport that have made this year happen, especially 1st XV coach Mr Meakin.

A Webb



# TENNIS

## U18

**T**he senior Tennis team had its best season since my time at the school, clinching the under 18s north of England championship. The team this year comprised myself (Z Thompson), R Roopesh, J Spencer, S McInstry and T Foreman. This year, we were fortunate enough to have R Roopesh playing in top form, off the back of a successful season playing ITFs. R Roopesh and J Spencer had also started the season as the Cheshire doubles champions. Success in the early rounds meant that we one of the four teams to battle it out for the north of England championships in Sunderland in March. Our first-round opponents were the prestigious

Stonyhurst College, coached by former British number 1 David Shaw. We won 5-1 against Stonyhurst to face Merciston School in the final. The final was close, with myself and R Roopesh taking the lead in the singles and it all coming down to a tight doubles match in which J Spencer and S McInstry prevailed against a high quality pairing. We still have the Glanville Cup competition to complete at the time of writing, but with myself being out with an injury and R Roopesh and J Spencer in their final GCSE year, it may be up to some of the young, upcoming stars of AGSB tennis such as G Okeke to help get us to the finals of this competition for the third time in the last four years.

Z Thompson

# TABLE TENNIS



**T**able Tennis has flourished this year! Over 80 students attend after school clubs each week across all age groups. There have been many individual and team successes. Notable performances include the U13 team (N Malik, J Pachigolla, S Eldi & C Rourke) and the U19 team (I Lawson, J Cuddy, K Malik & L Tse-Harrison) who, as the leading Trafford teams, succeeded in winning the Greater Manchester Championships and qualifying for the North West Zone Finals which were held in Blackburn.

Despite the North-West Zone Final being intensely competitive, the

U19's impressive performance secured a win and qualification for the National Schools Semi-Finals and the U13's finished as runners-up.

The National Schools Semi-Final held at Grantham in March was of an exceptional standard, and the U19 team: I Lawson and three U16 students (J Cuddy, K Malik & L Tse-Harrison) put up competitive performances throughout the day. The team were up against strong opposition, ending up in the same group as Grantham Table Tennis

**"Table Tennis has flourished this year!"  
- I Lawson**

College, who are all England ranked and were the eventual National Schools Winners.

AGSB also have two players who are through to the Individual National Schools Finals which are being held in Wolverhampton: N Malik U13 and I Lawson U19.

Congratulations to all the players who have played this season and a huge thanks to our fantastic coach, Brian Kean, for all the encouragement, wisdom and humour he has given us over the years. After more than 50 years of coaching

and developing Junior Table Tennis players, Brian has recently received a lifetime achievement award from Table Tennis England. Many congratulations on this well-deserved and quite remarkable achievement!

I Lawson



So here are a few facts about the Scout Group you may not know:

- The incumbent Headmaster is the Chairman of our Group.
- We are the largest Group in the area.
- We are one of the oldest Groups in the country; we were formed just 5 years after Baden-Powell created Scouting.

For me, Scouting is about adventure – it certainly introduced me to activities I would not have done otherwise. This spirit of adventure is personified by our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

So, what do Scouts do? Well, we go camping; we cook on wood fires; we build bivouacs (and sleep in them); we go hiking; we wild camp in the hills; we build rafts; we go rock climbing; we learn navigation skills and develop skills for life.

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

**M**y name is Tom, and I am the Group Scout Leader of the 3rd Altrincham (Grammar School) Scout Group. That is our building on the school grounds that looks like a Canadian Trading Post.

I was a pupil at AGSB back in the late 60's and was the school's architect for a time. So, my association with the school goes back a long way. And so does the Scout Group. We were formed in 1913, just one year after the school itself. The first Scout leaders were masters at the school and all the Scouts were pupils at the school. That is why we proudly have 'Grammar School' in our title.



*"Early one morning in June 2019, after two years of preparation and getting to know one another, "Swarm 44" were huddled at Manchester Airport departures, about to embark on the three-week-long WSJ. We were a group of 30 or so from all around Greater Manchester, and I was lucky enough to have 2 long-time friends joining me from 3rd Altrincham Scouts. A tiny amount of the 45,000 others from all around the world.*

Being in the Scouts offers opportunities for personal growth and development. Scouting encourages teamwork and leadership. It helps develop problem-solving skills and a sense of independence and self-reliance through outdoor activities and challenges. Being in Scouts can help build important life skills, make lifelong friendships, and create lasting memories...and it looks good on your CV

*The UK contingents' first few days were spent in New York City. We really got a feel for things, staying in dormitories at an NYC University campus, and fully immersed ourselves in all the best touristy activities. After exploring the Rockefeller Centre, Times Square, Central Park and much more, we headed across the States to West Virginia: our new home for the next 11 days.*

One of the truly great adventures that you can have as a Scout is to attend the World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) This is held in a different country every 4 years and is attended by several tens of thousands of Scouts from around the world. The closest thing to this in scale is Glastonbury Festival. Scouts from 3rd Altrincham have been to Jamborees in Australia, South Korea, Japan, and America. Here is an account from Eve who went to the Jamboree in the USA in 2019:



# AGSB STAFF LIST 2024

The site was massive! So big that you often had to get buses or walk miles to activities, but somehow, pitted in between Brazilians, Americans, and Australians, our little spot felt very homely. Once camp was officially declared open with a grand ceremony, we were left to our own devices for the next 11 days! We did loads: white water rafting, the biggest zipline (I think in the whole of the USA?), paddle boarding, climbing, hiking, and plenty of cultural activities. Sometimes, we would wake up at 3 or 4 A.M. to walk to an activity and camp out in queues!

Washington D.C. was our next stop and I much preferred it to NYC, but that might have been because it was not the same 40-odd degrees Celsius there! I loved the museums, the history, and the general vibe of the city. From there we headed outside of Vancouver for our final stop.

Canada was lovely and so were the people there. We took boat trips, tours around local towns, and even took a quick stop on our coach ride to the airport to see the amazing Niagara Falls.

After almost missing our flight home as a result, we were exhausted. It took a long time to get from place to place but we all felt like family by the end and piled in the coaches, sleeping on each other's shoulders.

It was all amazing from start to finish. I still keep in touch with friends from

my contingent and it's crazy to see how much we have all grown since! From being 16 doing our GCSEs when we first met to 22 now, degrees, houses, and new jobs later! If you are reading this and ever get the chance to go, then GO. It really is once in a lifetime!"

So, if you love the outdoors, are looking for new experiences and adventures, want to make new friends and have fun, why not join us?

For more information, email us at: [group@3rdaltrinchamscoouts.co.uk](mailto:group@3rdaltrinchamscoouts.co.uk) or visit our website: [www.3rdaltrinchamscoouts.co.uk](http://www.3rdaltrinchamscoouts.co.uk).

T Green



Name:	Role:	Code:	Responsibility:
Mr G A Wright	Head Master		
Mr E Hall	Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)	EH	Child Protection Officer/Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs S Weil	Deputy Headteacher (Academic)	SW	
+Mr T Ayebare	Maths	AE	Head of Year 9
Mr R Baker	Technology	BK	Head of Technology
Mrs F Bates	Learning Support Assistant	FB	
*Mr D Birchall	Maths: PE	BH	Head of Year 10
*Mr D Birtwell	PE	BL	Head of PE (Curriculum)
*Ms S Blaize	Biology	BZ	
Mrs F Blakeley	MFL	BY	
Mrs V Brennan	MFL	BN	Head of French
Mr M Bromley	Geography	BM	Head of Geography
Miss M Callisto	English	CS	
*Mr R Cammack	PE	RC	Head of Year 8
Mr W Carr	Computer Science	CR	
+Ms A Cathcart	History	CH	Assistant Head – Inclusion/SENDco
Mrs S Chancellor	Maths	CO	KS3 Maths Co-Ordinator
+Mrs E Chapman	English	CP	Head of Year 11
Mrs R Chapman	MFL	CN	Head of German; Head of Languages
Miss C Clark	English	CK	Drama Co-Ordinator
Mrs M Clutterbuck	Business Studies: Economics	CB	
Dr R Cocks	Learning Support Assistant	RK	
Miss F Cooke	Art	CE	Head of Art
Mrs K Crowther	Biology	CT	Outreach Co-Ordinator
Mr N Croxton	History: Politics	CX	Head of History; Politics; ITT Co-ordinator
+Mr R Cummins	Maths: Computer Science	CU	
Mr J Cundick	Technology	CD	
Mr M Davies	English	DV	Head of English
Ms M Di Mauro	Learning Support Assistant	DO	Y7 SEND Link
Mrs J Ding	Chinese	DG	Lead Teacher of Chinese
Ms H Drake	Technology: Art	DE	
Mr P Ellis	Latin: Classics	EL	Lead Teacher of Latin
Dr L Evers	Chemistry	EY	
Mrs M Farrell	Learning Support Assistant	MF	Assistant SENDCo, Lead Teaching Assistant; Y12/Y13 SEND Link
Ms N Farrelly	MFL	FA	
Mr A Flanagan	Chemistry	FN	House Manager (Stamford)
Mr A Giffen	Geology: Physics	GA	House Manager (Tatton)
Mr A Gooch	Maths	GH	Timetabler/Responsibility for Activities Week
Mrs G Gordon	MFL	GO	
Mrs V Gordon	Food and Nutrition	VG	
Mr E Hall	History	EH	Deputy Head; Pastoral & Staff Welfare; Child Protection Officer/DSL
Mr A Haines	Maths	HT	
Mrs H Haines	English	HL	
+Dr Z Hepden	Philosophy & Ethics: Politics	ZH	Head of Year 13
Miss R Hildage	English	RH	Second in English Department
Mrs S Hill	Chemistry	HI	Head of KS3 Science
Miss E Jackson	Geography	JK	
Mrs L Jarratt	Music	JT	
Mr C Kidd	Biology	KD	Head of Year 12
Mr D Land	Maths	LN	
Miss K Lee	Art	EE	
Mrs C Lightowler	D&T	LE	
Mr J Lockwood (ECT)	Music	LD	
Mr T Lowe	Philosophy & Ethics	LW	
Mrs C Maguire	History	MG	
Mrs C Mahony	English	CM	Library Co-ordinator
Mr A Marciano	PE	AM	Head of Hockey
Dr J Marsden	Chemistry	MD	Higher Education Officer
Ms L Mattison	MFL	MA	Head of Spanish
Mrs B McCann	Maths	CC	Second in Maths Department
Miss J McCourt	Maths	JM	

*Mr S Meakin	PE	MK	Head of PE (Sport) and House Manager (Massey)
Mr N Mohammad	English	MH	
Mr M Monument	Music	MM	Director of Music
Mrs S Morgan-Khan	Maths	MO	
*Mr T Murray	Business Studies: Economics	MR	Assistant Head; Head of Sixth Form
Mrs C Newton	Business Studies: Economics	NW	Head of Business Studies/Economics; Enterprise Educ. Coordinator
Mr G Olney	Maths	OL	
Mr M Parker	Geology	PA	Head of Geology
Mr R Perkins	Philosophy & Ethics	PS	Head of Philosophy, Ethics & PSHE
*Miss C Pickering	Learning Support Assistant	PG	Y8/Y9 SEND Link
Miss K Potter	Maths	PT	Head of Maths
*Mr A Rawson	PE	RW	
Mr C Rawson	Chemistry	RN	Head of Chemistry
Mr G Reeder	Physics	RD	Head of Physics
Mr A Sampson	Philosophy & Ethics	AS	ACE Co-Ordinator
Ms G Sawamura	Learning Support Assistant	SU	Y10/Y11 SEND Link
Mr J Scott (ECT)	Physics	SO	
*Mrs H Short	Maths	SH	Admissions/Induction; Head of Year 7; Dep. Child Prot. Officer/DSL
*Mr D Smith	Technology: Computer Science	SM	House Manager (Bradbury)
Mr S Smith	Business Studies: Economics	SI	
Mr M Smyth (ECT)	PE	SE	
*Mr M Soulsby	PE	SB	Assistant Head (Development)
Dr S Squire	Physics	SQ	Head of Science
Dr V Sully	Chemistry	SY	
Mr L Suthard	Physics	LS	
Dr E Thomas	Biology	TS	Assistant Head – Teaching and Learning
Mr J Timmins	Computer Science	TM	Head of Comp Science (AGSB); Head of IT Operations (HET)
Mrs J Wallwork	MFL	WK	
Mrs A Ward	Biology	WD	
Mrs S Weil	Geography	SW	Deputy Head; Geography
Ms A Welsby	Biology	WY	
Mr P Williams	Geography	WL	Head of Biology
Mr A Gallamore	Head of Careers (HET)		

Name:	Role:
Mrs H Armstrong	Payroll Administrator
Mrs S Barry	Finance Assistant
Mrs S Brett	HET Business Support Manager
Mrs M Brickell	Head Master's PA
*Mrs V Carpenter	Finance Assistant
Mrs O Champion	Admissions Manager
Mrs B Clift	ARR, Examinations & Cover Administrator
Mrs A Coale	Systems & Processes Administrator:
Mrs S Dickerson	Admissions Assistant
Mrs F Harding	Resources Technician
Mrs P Howell	Exams Officer
Ms J Hutchinson	UCAS Co-Ordinator
Mrs J Jackson	HET Chief Finance Operating Officer
*Mrs L Jackson	Finance Assistant
*Mrs A Jolly	Attendance Administrator
Mrs J Lacon	HET Finance & Planning Manager
Mrs A Lavin	Examinations & Data Assistant
*Miss N Leitch	Receptionist
Mrs K Lord	Resources Technician
Mrs G Marson	Library Assistant
*Mrs P Mullin	Administration Assistant
Miss F Munir	Cover Supervisor
*Ms A Passey	Administration Assistant
Miss J Syers	HET Trust Accountant
Mrs G Williamson	Sixth Form Officer
*Mr A Alsaadi	Network Manager
Mr J Hawksworth	ICT Technician
Mr B Moss	Trainee ICT Technician
Mr G Harrison	Trainee ICT Technician
	Assistant to Site Manager

Mr S Drinkwater	Assistant to Site Manager
Mr P Hadwen	Grounds Maintenance
Mr G Heathcote	Assistant to Site Manager
Miss C Higginson	Site Manager
*Mr P Lee	Assistant to Estates Officer
Mr I Taylor	Estates Officer
Mr S Yeates	
*Mrs Z Albeldawi	Science Technician (Biology)
*Mrs S Connoly	Science Technician (Biology)
Mr J Ferguson	Science Technician (Biology)
*Miss O Frankland	Science Technician (Chemistry) & Health & Safety Co-Ordinator
* Mr M Gilks	Science Technician (Physics)
*Mr G Binns	Technician (Technology)
Mrs S Embleton	Technician (Food & Art)
Miss C Atack	Saxophone
Mr A Bold	Drums
Mrs Z Burke	Cello
Ms E Burkhardt	Saxophone & Flute
Mr A Dineen	Guitar
Mr N Hodges	Violin
Mr J Hulme	Brass
Mr H Lewis	Lower Brass
Mrs S Lewis	Woodwind
Mr B McNamee	Vocal
Ms H Peller	Bassoon
Ms B Reynolds	Classical Guitar
	* First Aider
	+ Mental Health First Aider



# ALTRINCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

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With Special Thanks to:

Tosin Ariyo, Ahmed Sadiq & Ehan Sajjad  
(Editors)

AGSB Publications Committee

Mr G A Wright for proofreading and  
sponsoring, and all those who have  
provided content.

**The New  
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We've rebranded to align with  
the traditions we exist to  
uphold.

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**PUBLICATION**

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

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YEARS OF PUBLICATIONS

