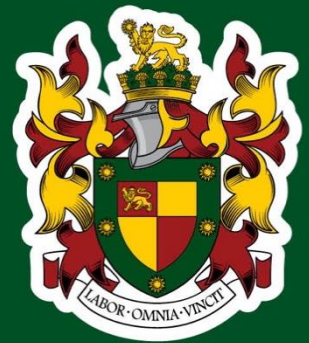




AGSB SPORT TERM REVIEW



ISSUE 8

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NATIONAL FINALS

OVER

260

FIXTURES ACROSS
ALL SPORTS

SOUTH AFRICA RUGBY AND HOCKEY TOUR

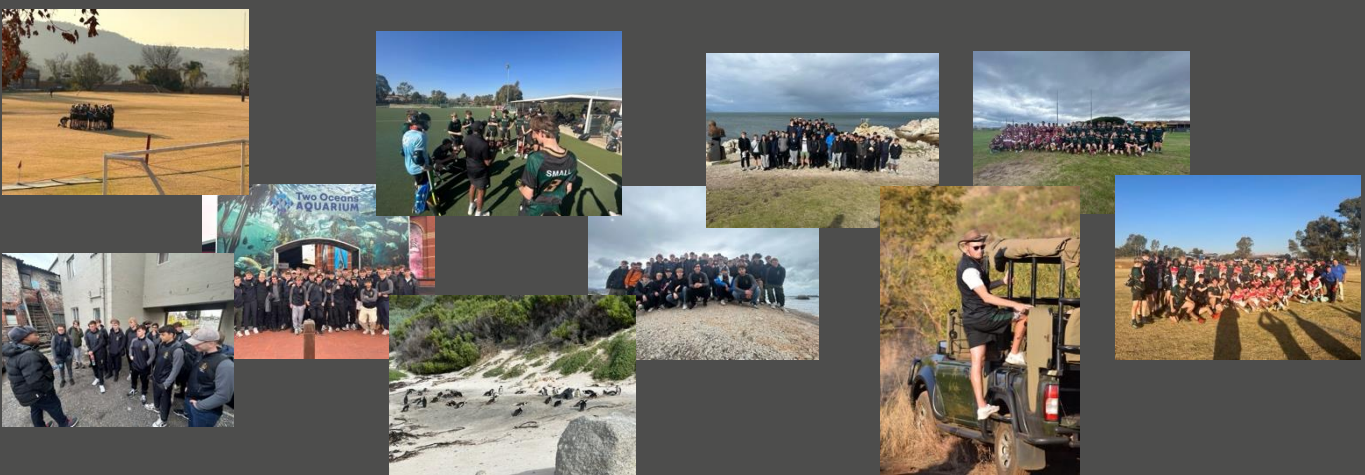
As we arrived at South Africa, the long flights and aeroplane food caused everyone to become drowsy. We had expected to go to Table Mountain on the first day, yet we bought the Manchester weather with us, causing the cable cars to be closed meaning we would be unable to go up to Table Mountain safely. Instead, we had gone to the aquarium at the V&A waterfront, which was still enjoyable. Due to this weather, our first fixture was cancelled for both Rugby and Hockey which gave us some downtime to chill and recover properly from the flights. We were able to go to the Waterfront shopping centre twice, which gave us the chance to try some famous Biltong. Furthermore, we dined at a restaurant opposite our hotel in central Cape Town, which was comparably cheap compared to English prices. Unsurprisingly, the South Africans knew how to cook meat on the grill, serving us tender steak and amazing sea food. We were lucky enough to go on a boat ride to seal island and see a colony of fur seals following this we visited Boulders Beach, a beach filled with African Penguins.



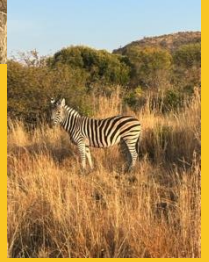
The most surprising part of Cape Town were the townships dotted across the city, leftover remnants of the apartheid government. These towns strike a resemblance to the favelas in Brazil, with extreme poverty, but an extreme sense of community within them. We were lucky enough to be able to look around one of these townships, called Langa. We were shown round, as the tour guides talked about the extreme living conditions forced upon them by the government during apartheid (most are still recovering). Some families live with 2 other large families in one room, with barely enough space to move around in. It gave us a sense of privilege to be able to enjoy the luxuries we have back at home. Most striking was the sense of community, where if you became successful, people within these townships' priority were to give back to their families and communities before treating themselves; something you rarely see back at home. We were able to try traditional South African food in a restaurant within Langa and were able to listen to some very well played music.

After Cape Town, we went by bus to Hermanus, a little seaside town just east of Cape Town. Before we checked in, we played our first fixture on South African soil vs Gansbaai School, with a hard-fought loss with the end score being 24-19, with a nice post-match function which connected both sides of the hemisphere. After this, we travelled to Curro Hermanus High School for the first Hockey fixture. In torrential rain the AGSB team came out comfortable winners 10-0. From here we checked into our hotel which was fabulous, having hot tubs which the boys used to recover. Due to the weather persisting, we couldn't go whale watching, so we decided to try and spot some on the cliffs edge, the views were superb, and we all had a great time. We decided to finish the day by going into the town, which bore a striking resemblance to Abersoch.

We landed in Johannesburg Airport, and immediately set our sights on our next fixtures vs Sutherland High School. We had a very physical Rugby game, and the unfortunate injury of our captain, Alfie Webb. The result was a 18-18 draw, which gave the team hope for the next match. The Hockey team once again secured a hard fought 7-0 win. After the post-match function, we checked into our hotel, and the boys were treated to a Nando's from the country it originated from. The following day we visited the High-Performance Centre in Pretoria for a training session, where we were put through our paces. Following this we went for a guided tour of Loftus Versfeld Stadium the home of the Blue Bulls. The next day we had a short coach ride to Croc City, where we saw massive Nile crocodiles and all types of crocodylians and reptiles. We were even able to try crocodile meat on a pizza. After croc city, we journeyed to our final fixture. After 15 minutes of extra time from the referee the opposition managed to get a once score victory over us on the Rugby field (not that we're bitter) resulted in an unfortunate loss, with glimpses of greatness from Dan Wheeler. The Hockey team secured their final win with another convincing 8-0 win. After our final fixture, we had as much downtime as we could want, and the boys were getting more and more excited for the theme park and safari. We had a day at Gold Reef City Theme Park which was thoroughly enjoyable.



SOUTH AFRICA



We travelled Pillinsburg and arrived at the games lodge with one ambition, seeing the big 5. On the first day, we ticked one off the checklist, seeing elephants at the overlook where we were having lunch. We were also able to see a couple zebras making their way to the water hole too. We then went on our first of three game drives, seeing a cheetah laid down in the bushes, and a pride of lions at nightfall. On the second day we were up bright and early for a 5am tour, which was highly successful being able to see rhinos, hippos and even buffalo. The last tour of the safari was the most successful, where we saw two leopards, a pride of lions and more rhinos and elephants. On our way back from the last tour, our truck unfortunately almost rolled over onto another truck, which meant we were stuck for about 30 minutes, 100 metres away from a lion pride. Eventually, we made it out and were able to go to the BBQ, to have some much-needed grub. After that, we stayed to have the awards ceremony, where awards were handed to the best tourer, the best try/goal and the best player for both the hockey and rugby teams. This gave the team a nice laugh and was a successful way to wrap up a successful tour.

Finn Shennan

DOUBLE COUNTY CRICKET SUCCESS



This year- in spite of the weather- has been a rather successful and high-scoring one for the AGSB U13 cricket A team. From stupendous hundreds to unbelievable hat tricks: it has been great to watch. From carrying heavy load from the garage to the pitches and warming up in the dull, grim weather: it hasn't been easy bouncing back from last year's outbreak.



Our first opponents of the Cheshire County Cup were Wilmslow High School at our home ground. We won the toss and opted to have a bat and knocked an astonishing 177 on the scorecard which was a great start to the season. The amount of six-hitting in the last 10 overs is what pulled our score up to nearly 180. With this score, we knew that we had sealed the game especially with the quick wickets generated by the pacers and the spinners wrapping the job off getting them all out for 56 in 15 overs. Wilmslow just never got off the mark with frequent wickets falling nearly every over. Good start to the cup year for the U13's, it is important that they carry it on to the second round.



We then flew off to St. Ambrose College to play them in the second round of the Cheshire Cup. The boys were raring to go from the start after winning the toss and electing to bat. The boys posted another high scoring innings with some great six-hitting by Charlie Rourke. At no point could the home team settle down the run rate so we ended up getting 1 less than last week's record with losing 6 wickets. A piece of fielding that us boys will remember for the rest of our lives was a great one-handed catch at deep mid wicket, a catch that no one would be expected to take. Yet again, we bowled really well, not letting the home side get off to a start picking up frequent wickets every over or two. Special mention to Aryan Dash picking up a 4-fer. The home side ended up getting all out for 66 in 17 overs- a great performance by AGSB yet again as we carry on in the cup run. We now move on to King's School Macclesfield.



Every boy had the word "Revenge" lingering on in their mind as we stepped out of the minibus. We looked at them, they looked at us in what will look like a ferocious contest. They obviously had a lot of confidence being the only team that has beat the AGSB U13 team in two years of school cricket, with also having the home advantage. We won the toss and opted to bowl first as chasing was the safer option looking at our big batting depth. We restricted the rivals to 82-5 after their 20 overs. We couldn't say that it was below par as it was the same score they put up last year on the same wicket. Special mention to Joseph O'Brien who picked up 3 wickets with his perplexing wrist spin. These 3 batters that Joe got were 3 very good batters who caused the damage when we had got defeated last time. We did well restricting them to 4 an over with all pacers bowling miserly spells. And wow, in a matter of no time, Charlie Rourke and Sithun de Silva getting 35 not out and 45 not out respectively, chased it down in 12 overs as the opening pair which was some high-level batting looking at how they had some highly-talented bowlers in their locker, no one expected us to get it wrapped up so quickly. We were all glad that we gave them their counterblow. Off we are to the semi finals!



In the penultimate game, we were playing against Alsager School finally back at home. We lost the toss and the away team put us in to bat. What you saw in this innings is something you would never see before, an outstanding 116 not out by the opening batsman Charlie Rourke. He was really glad to serve for the team in an essential match. We got a record score of 208-3 after 20 overs. What a score for an U13 team this was, there was so much potential in this team. We ended up grabbing the away side for 40 all out after 13 overs, winning by a huge margin of 168 runs. This was another record us as a team has set and will be a record which will probably stand for many years to come. The pacers got two wickets each and Joseph O'Brien again picked up 3, dismissing the three final scalps and securing our place in the finals!

After a week and a bit waiting for the other semi final to take place, we as a team were wondering who we would get in the final and it ended up with Birkenhead, another long ordeal. Everyone said that they were "in it to win it" and they wouldn't go back home without the trophy strapped next to them on the minibus. Some stellar performances were from Aryan Dash who got 4 wickets under pressure after the pacers had received a bit of tap in what was a good surge by the home side making the most use of the powerplay. Joseph O'Brien played another key role with the ball by not letting away many runs as he bowled in tandem with Dash. These two spinners let away minimal runs in the middle phase which was what changed the projected score by a lot. The pace bowlers bounced back at the end with taking a few quick-fire wickets which ended up wrapping Birkenhead off for 96-7 in their 20 overs: a score which was just below par. Well done to Krishav Rangaraju with getting a half century out of the 96 runs scored with Charlie Rourke playing an anchoring role with 35 not out. The boys ended up chasing it down in 18 overs, with Krishav playing a clear match-winning knock. It was great to see the boys looking so elated and jubilant holding the trophy high in the air.

This has ended a superb season for the boys, I am very proud for each and every one of them and it has been a great time spent with them this year. Each and every one makes a difference to the team, I am truly pleased about all their individual performances. Aryan Dash – Year 8

Year 9 XI

This summer (despite the weather) has been a very successful one for the AGSB U14 Cricket Team and which is shown by the deserving trophy we picked up at the end.

Cheadle Hulme School were our first opponents in the first round of the Cheshire County Cup. Despite a late surge from their lower order, we came away with the victory and progressed to the next round.

Next was a comfortable win at St Ambrose which meant we progressed through to the semi-final of the cup which was away at King's Macclesfield.

In that game we defended a below-par score of 73 thanks to some unbelievable bowling and great fielding all round, but our 2 spinners Joe O'Brien and Aryan Dash bowled superbly and both contributed match winning performances. I think this game provided some good learning opportunities for the team as we realised that the game is never over and we should never give up.

Then, we have the final of the Cheshire Cup against Birkenhead, which thanks to great batting performance from the middle order and Charlie Rourke in particular, who hit a crucial 40. We had enough runs for our bowlers to defend which meant we could come away with victory. I thought we showed some great determination and resilience to get over the line in this game and were deserving winners in my opinion.

This ended a superb season for the team after defending our title of cup champions and I am very proud of the individual and collective performances the team put in throughout.

Ed Manley

MEET THE CAPTAINS

Cricket

Name – Arjun Amudalapalli

Position - Opening bowler

Favourite subject - PE

Team I support - Man city

Sporting hero - Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Playing history - opening bowler for school 1st XI and Timperley 2nd XI

Best sporting achievement - Top 16 in UK with u15s club

Sporting aspirations - no.1 national side with school team

AGSB sport has given me the opportunity to play more sport and make friends through it while playing at a highly competitive standard.



Football

Name – Charlie Simon

Position - Striker

Favourite subject - PE

Team I support – Altrincham FC

Sporting hero – Cole Palmer

Playing history – Played in the Timperley and district league until U17's where I moved to Cheadle Heath Nomads in the NW youth alliance. Currently playing in U18 alliance and Cheshire League

Best sporting achievement – Playing in the FA youth Cup twice

Sporting aspirations – To win ESFA with the school or score a goal in the FA Cup

AGSB sport has allowed me to enjoy school and look forward to days which I have sports fixtures, this has helped me be motivated to school work as I will always have a sports fixture to look forward to in the coming weeks. It has also been somewhere I have developed a lot, AGBS sport has allowed me to gain experience playing multiple different sports and mainly football and developing my skills and confidence in life.



MEET THE CAPTAINS

Hockey

Name – Will Johnson

Position – Centre Midfield

Favourite subject – English Literature

Team I support – Stoke City

Sporting hero – Cristiano Ronaldo

Playing history – I began playing hockey in primary school and joined Bowdon Hockey Club in Year 5. I've continued to play since then at various levels

Best sporting achievement – Reaching the Club Tier 1 National Hockey semi-finals

Sporting aspirations – To win the national hockey finals

AGSB sport has provided me with many opportunities to try out and develop at a whole host of different sports, allowing me to find the ones I am passionate about. It has also given me opportunities to play against some of the best players and teams in the country and has most recently taken me (with the hockey and rugby squad) to South Africa to play over there and see some incredible things.



Rugby

Name – Finn Shennan

Position – Number 8

Favourite subject - Physics

Team I support – Sale Sharks

Sporting hero – Jonny Wilkinson

Playing history – I've played since I was 5 years old, and represented Sale Sharks for U16s and U17s, and AGBS first team for 3 years

Best sporting achievement – My greatest sporting achievement is being able to represent Sale Sharks for a period, which I am very proud of

Sporting aspirations – To play for Sale Sharks 1st XV

AGSB sport has shown me many other sports that I wouldn't have otherwise tried, given me opportunities in representing the school in different events and sports, and gave me the resources to develop my skills and become the best player I can be.



SPORT FOR ALL CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

Phase 2 of the project is now complete! The bottom fields have been fully drained and levelled. This will ensure the playing surfaces are of a high standard all year round. Additional drains have also been added to the top fields increasing the playing and training areas.

New senior rugby posts have been put in the 1st XV rugby pitch and look fantastic.

Thank you to all that have donated!



YR9 CRICKET TOUR

The Birmingham Tour wasn't just one that I was looking for, it was one that had been patiently waited for by all the cricketers in our squad. The feedback given from the students who had been on the tour before was all positive, it was great how only three days can significantly shape someone's memories. From visiting historical castles to lavish steakhouses, it wasn't just a cricket trip, it was a trip with a range of activities. From ding dong ditches to curtains falling in hotel rooms, the experience of not being with parents was memorable. Each and every one of us enjoyed it, especially winning 4 out of 4 matches (2 A team fixtures and 2 B team fixtures) with one day fully washed out, which was not what we were looking for. Some people on this trip had never played cricket before, they came out wanting to carry on with the sport. It really is a sport that creates long-term reminiscences, that is what all the thrill of being on a cricket tour - being with your friends.



Below you, I will share the packed schedule, which was really well planned by the teachers, we all show a lot of gratitude to them, especially how they had to improvise a full day. At no point were any of the crew feeling uninterested, we were always fixed in an activity, whether it was a quiz or going to the arcade.

Day 1: We were all in school eager to leave AGSB for a few days and arrive at our first destination, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. After some dull and grim weather in Manchester, as usual, we were hoping that it wasn't like this at where we were playing. To our luck: it wasn't. It was a great 1 and a half hours of being in the minibus with 11 other boys in their whites ready to get onto the cricket field. After listening to some blasting music and muttering with friends, we were there in no time. All we can remember from that match is a mind-boggling catch from Aahan Reddy. Well, done to Arik Cross and Aahan Reddy again performing with the bat getting 21 and 27 respectively. Arush Bhatia also did his job with a quickfire 29. This is what got us visitors up to a defendable score. Now, what a great effort by George Sinclair, emerging to be a great player who has got 4 wickets and gave away minimal runs, it was a great spell of bowling to watch. With his match-winning contributions, he got AGSB over the line! Meanwhile, the B team also posted a great score with Joseph Roden chipping in with the bat and Dev Charan with his ever so tricky to face line and length bowling. Not to miss out Arnav Narang with some amazing athleticism in the field. What a day for the AGSB boys! We packed our bags and headed off to the arcade to play a game of bowling. There were a range of games which everyone enjoyed, and we watched some rather innovative ways to bowl a ball! To eat, we went to the Khushi grill, an Indian restaurant.



They had some mouth-watering and rather hot curries in which everyone tried to devour, and it was topped off with various flavors of ice cream for pudding. Off we went to our hotels and some of us drifted off but some of us did the opposite... an amazing day planned by the three staff with two more entertaining days to come.

Day 2: Well, all of us eventually drifted off, some quicker than others... In the morning, none of us expected a lavish breakfast but there it was: scrambled eggs, fried bacon, baked beans, pork sausages were only some of the options on board. After we had all finished emptying the breakfast canteen, we went in the packed minibuses to get some lunch for the day ahead. We then headed off to Warwick Castle, a historical place in which everyone was looking forward to visit. And oh no, here came the rain. At no point did the rain stop, it was lightly drizzling until 7pm but not good conditions to play a game of cricket! The call of cancelling the match against Bablake School was made halfway through our visit of the Castle, we were hoping to get a collective net session for tomorrow's match, but we couldn't find anything nearby. Warwick Castle entertained us very well, there were a range of activities like: the eagle show, an historical re-enactment, buildings with lots of information about previous wars, souvenir shops and a maze. After this amazing experience, we went to a center with a similar pattern to laser quest. We had an extremely competitive game there, a great way to pass time. Another impromptu plan was to go back to the arcade. There were a range of games like table tennis, snooker, car racing games and prize-winning games which everyone adored. After everyone was forcefully dragged out of the arcade, we went across the road to Pizza Hut for dinner. This was a great time to chat after a long and tiring day at Warwick Castle, at this point, we had such a great time that not many people realized we were still here to play cricket! The scrumptious different types of pizza filled us up, closing another great day of our trip. The final thing we had planned for the whole day was a quiz back at the hotel. It was a mix of football, cricket and Warwick Castle questions which were extremely tough. No one really paid attention in Warwick Castle, so everyone scored poorly in this quiz. Well, done to the winning team who won a box of doughnuts each and a frisbee. Today, we had a bit more free time with each other in our rooms, this is when the events like curtains falling and people getting locked out of their rooms were happening. Whatever happened, it was a time that we would never forget.

Day 3: This was the last day of the trip, the AGSB crew made sure they relished it with a win for the A team and B team against Queen Mary's Grammar School. As we had our final breakfast at the hotel, we said byes to all the other residents there, checked out and ran off to Queen Mary's Grammar School. As we stepped out of the bus, we all made sure to enjoy it as this was a once in a lifetime experience. Luckily, both our games had got extended to 25 overs as we wanted to play some more cricket due to yesterday's wet weather. We were all warmed up and won the toss and chose to bat first. Well, done to Arush Bhatia who has had a great time with the bat in this tour and Ishan Maharjan who both got quickfire 50's, another stellar performance was from Harris Sardar who got 41 off 28 balls at the end. Job well done in the first innings for the AGSB boys A team as they posted 171/2 after their 25 overs. This was a score well over par on the big and slow outfield. Really well done to Sithun de Silva who got a fifer, the first one of the year for the AGSB A team, the more impressive part is that he got it in only 3 overs! Krishav Rangaraju also got 3 wickets to close a very impressive win of over 100 runs. Meanwhile, the B team also won their game with a great batting display by George Sinclair and some great leg spin bowling by Lucien Diver St-Amour, a multi-talented sportsperson who is also captain of the football A team for AGSB. There have been some players who have really improved in this tour and the staff were proud to see their progress and developed understanding of the game. 4/4 for the away army as they head jubilantly to the Miller and Carter steakhouse for the final part of their trip in Birmingham. The wide variety of dishes was devoured by the 26 boys who enjoyed the final company with their friends. After everyone had finished their meal, we had some prizes for the best bowler and batter and impressive player award for both teams. And here it was, the worst part of the trip, going home. We all despise a trip ending. They were some sleepy faces and sad faces on the bus, as we headed back to where we left. It was a lovely day in Manchester and the parents were all peering out of their car windows patiently waiting for the minibuses to arrive. That ended a lovely trip.

I just want to say, this is a trip that we all would recommend for the upcoming year 8's. We all say a big thank you to Mr. Rawson, Mr. Meakin and Mr. Parker for organizing the trip so well and all the activities and matches we played throughout the trip, it wouldn't have been any fun without your planning.

Ed Manley

