

AGSB LATEST NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Parents,

A reminder to students: Whole School Photograph: Monday 3rd October

I hope you all enjoyed the September issue of the Word online for more news about AGBS. If you missed it please click the link here: <http://www.agsb.co.uk/media/1312/issue-18-word.pdf>.

Grammar Schools and AGBS in the news

You will have seen the latest Government proposal to expand existing grammar schools and to open new ones in areas of the country which do not benefit from them. I did not expect this proposal but it is very welcome because it recognises that in most areas where there are such schools the opportunities for *all* pupils to do well are enhanced. The Trafford area is, perhaps, the best example in the country due to the high performing secondary schools of all types and the excellent primary schools which feed into them.

The media interest has offered a golden opportunity to feature AGBS as an excellent grammar school. TV cameras from Sky News visited when the story was first featured and another report from ITN was on the news last week featuring interviews with some Sixth Form Politics students. I did a live interview on BBC Breakfast which meant I had to go to the studios in Salford and sit on the famous red sofa!

Finally, photos of the School have appeared regularly in newspaper and website articles about grammar schools.



Our 1912 frontage and the School corridors seem to fit journalists' and photographers' image of what a grammar school should look like.

I think there are serious doubts about whether the current proposals will get very far in the House of Commons and House of Lords because the Conservative majority is small. But if nothing else something that was always taboo – that Grammar schools might expand – has now been challenged by the Prime Minister.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Calendar showing events in School up until Christmas is now available on the website. Click here for more information: <http://www.agsb.co.uk/calendars/school-calendar/>. Draft 2017-18 term dates will be published on the website very soon.

JOURNEYS TO AND FROM SCHOOL

There are a few important issues to update you on:

1. Marlborough Road has been especially congested recently before and after school. The reasons for this are:
 - Due to some large buses which were sent by Transport for Greater Manchester to ferry pupils to and from AGSB and other local schools to various locations;
 - Parking on Marlborough Road near the traffic lights by people who either work in Hale or catch the train from Hale Station – thus narrowing the road and affecting the flow of traffic;
 - Sixth Formers and others parking on the road rather than in the North car park.

These factors have added to an often busy Marlborough Road.

2. School has worked alongside Altrincham Prep School and Transport for Greater Manchester to resolve these issues. Very soon the buses will change their drop-off and pick-up points to a designated bus stop in Hale. We are ensuring as much as possible that Marlborough Road is kept clear of parked cars and that staff, students and visitors use the large car parks at both ends of School. We are in discussions with Trafford Council (working with Altrincham Prep School) about changes to parking restrictions on Marlborough Road.

However, you can all help as well in the following ways:

- * I ask families who **live within walking distance** of the School not to bring your son in the car but to allow him to walk to the site where possible. There are other families who have no choice but to arrive by car and I am sure you will appreciate our concern to make the immediate environment as safe as possible for *all* pupils and avoid causing traffic congestion when it is not necessary. Because of the changes to local bus services it is all the more important to refrain from pulling up in Marlborough Road. Instead, drop your son off at a safe place further away from School allowing him to walk to Marlborough Road.
- * **Please do not block the entrance** to The Grammar car park if you drop your son off there (there are double yellow lines clearly marked on the road):
 - you should **slowly** drive straight into that car park and pull up further down outside The Grammar building itself
 - **please do not stop suddenly just inside the car park.**This will ease congestion on Marlborough Road and enable staff cars to enter The Grammar car park safely without having to block the entrance.
- * Please also take **care when pulling up** near the entrance to the School's car park at the North end of Marlborough Road (near the Bowdon Hotel). This is a car park for AGSB staff and Sixth Form students and all need to have clear access to the gates in front of the service road. **Please refrain from turning round in this area.**

SIXTH FORM

* Thursday 20th October

Sixth Form Open Evening, 7pm

Ladies Fashion, Musicals and Treats Evening

Don't forget the very popular **Chad's Challenges Ladies Fashion, Musicals and Treats Evening** which this year is being held on **Tuesday 22nd November**, 7pm in the Sixth Form Common Room. Tickets cost £5 which includes our fabulous raffle! For more details please contact Gill (gwilliamson@agsb.co.uk). As always, many thanks for your support.

Gill and the Chad's Challenges Team

SODEXO

Important news regarding the new £5 note



Please be advised that our cash loading machine in the Stamford Hall **does not accept** the new £5 note. Also, in March 2017 the new £1 coin will be introduced. At this time, Sodexo will be looking to come in to line with the School and become cashless.

(We will however continue to accept cash payment for purchases made in The Grammar and the Sixth Form Centre).

Therefore we would kindly ask that parents use the Parent Pay system more, to load money for morning break and lunchtime purchases. We are giving you plenty of notice so that all parents can get used to the system of not sending cash in to School with your sons.

Many Thanks for your cooperation.

Patricia Bowden,
Sodexo Catering Manager

ATTENDANCE

A note will be emailed separately to all parents, advising on attendance protocols and any changes which have come into effect this year – please look out for this information shortly.

PFA NEWS

Dear all,

I hope you are well. I have some dates for your diaries:

- **Saturday 8th October** An evening of Indian Food and Entertainment
- **Monday 10th October** PFA AGM and meeting
- **Friday 11th November** Annual Quiz
- **Sunday 4th December** Christmas Fair
- **Saturday 4th February 2017** PFA Winter Ball

Saturday 8 October

Our next event on **Saturday 8 October**, in conjunction with ASR Charitable Trust, is an evening of **Indian Food and entertainment**. Three courses of home-made Indian food are included and this promises to be a fabulous event for all the family. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/asr-pfa-anniversary-event-8-october-2016-tickets-28094660887> or contact us for more details. Further information is also available from ASR on 07739 464262 / 07751 038117.

AGM and meeting – Monday 10th October

Our AGM and the next committee meeting is on **Monday 10th October** in the School Library, commencing at 7.30pm. We would welcome any parents who would like to come. This is open to everyone and we would welcome you, even if you can only spare an hour from time to time. At the meeting, we will be talking about fundraising goals and future events – all suggestions are welcome.

Annual Quiz – Friday 11th November

The date has now been set for the Quiz, and further information will follow shortly. Please enter this into your diaries. The quiz is open to all the family. We'll be running a bar, and you are welcome to bring a picnic.

Kind regards,
Nick Davis, Chair, PFA
Asb_pfa@hotmail.co.uk

PFA FRIENDS LOTTO

The **July 2016** winners were:

1. Dr D C Rosof Williams
2. Mr D J Madden
3. Mrs V Navaratnam

No Lotto is drawn in August

The **September 2016** winners were:

1. Miss J L Elliott
2. Mr R C Belfield
3. Dr J Hopkins

These winners have been notified directly by post.

Mr Kinney, Treasurer PFA

DEPUTY HEAD'S DROP-IN FOR PARENTS

If you have any concerns or issues which you would like to share with School, Mr Hall is available on Fridays Week B during the afternoon between 2.30pm and 4pm. If you would like to make an appointment please email alavin@agsb.co.uk or telephone School and ask to speak to Mrs Lavin.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Free School Meals are available to any full-time student who is still at school and eligible. Please follow the link to apply: <https://myfreeschoolmeals.com/>

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Remember to keep an eye on our [School Calendar](#) for information on upcoming events.

Key dates are:



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| * Monday 3rd October | Whole School Photograph, <i>weather permitting</i> |
| * Saturday 8th October | ASR Evening of Indian Food and Entertainment |
| * Monday 10th October | PFA AGM and Meeting |
| * Thursday 13th October | Y10 Work Experience Parents' meeting, 7pm |
| * Tuesday 18th October | Y7 Bushcraft Trip |
| * Thursday 20th October | Sixth Form Open Evening, 7pm |
| * Thursday 20th October | School closes for Half Term |
| * Monday 31st October | School term resumes |
| * Thursday 17th November | GCSE Awards Evening |
| * Thursday 15th December | A Level Awards Evening |

