

AGSB LATEST NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the September issue of the Word online for more news about AGSB. If you missed it please click the link here: <https://www.agsb.co.uk/media/1927/word-issue-21.pdf>

Public Examination Results

Congratulations to our students in Years 11, 12 and 13 on achieving some excellent exam results this year. The public examination landscape has changed with new GCSE's in English and Mathematics which are designed to provide a tougher test and with reformed A Levels providing different styles of questioning and in Science subjects, more mathematical content. Next year most GCSE subjects will be examined under the new 9 to 1 grading system.

At A level, 25% of subject entries were at A* and 80% at A*/A/B. almost all students who wished to go to University won places on their chosen courses at their first or second choice Universities. Some students have decided to take Gap years and/or a direct entry into employment and training. We are very proud of the achievements of all of our A Level students after spending seven years at AGSB.

At GCSE our students achieved excellent grades. 40% of entries were at A* or in English and Mathematics 8/9. This was the highest percentage the school has ever achieved – even exceeding the years of rampant grade inflation between 2017 and 2010. 72% of entries were at A*/A or in English and Mathematics, 9 to 7 – another superb result. We are pleased that the number of students who achieved Grade 9 – the new top grade – exceeded our predictions, both in English Language and Literature and in Mathematics.

The Governing Body

After six years of excellent service to the Governing Body, most recently as Chair of Governors, **Sharon Kupusarevic** has retired from the Governing Body and in her place as Chair of Governors, **Ann Balfour**, has agreed to take on this significant role and Darren Jones will become Vice Chair. On behalf of everybody at AGSB, I would like to thank Sharon for all the work that she has done during her years as a Governor. During her time as Chair of Curriculum Committee and as Chair of Governors, there have been significant reforms in education and she has helped us to steer through some choppy waters with great skill.

We also welcome onto the Governing Body two new parent Governors, **Laura Foy** and **Nisha Sathi** whose details should you wish to contact either of them are available on the school website or by contacting the school office.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Calendar showing events in School up until Christmas is now available on the website. Click here for more information: <https://www.agsb.co.uk/calendars/school-calendar/>

Parents of Year 12 students, please note that this year's GCSE Awards evening will be held in October, not November. The event is planned for **Thursday, 19th October** and our guest of honour will be Mr Brendan Moriarty, Consultant Eye Surgeon, who qualified in medicine from Cambridge University. He trained in ophthalmology at the Bristol Eye Hospital, the Western Ophthalmic Hospital (London), the Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor) and St Paul's Eye Hospital (Liverpool). In 1987 he was appointed as fellow to the Dept. of

Glaucoma at the Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. He also has extensive experience in third world eye care and was Medical Director to Project ORBIS, the internationally renowned 'flying eye hospital'. He remains a visiting expert in glaucoma and cataract surgery to Project ORBIS and is a regular volunteer and advisor. In addition, he spent two years as fellow to the Medical Research Council, devising laser treatment to prevent blindness from sickle cell disease. During his time in Jamaica, he established free cataract facilities and introduced the rubella prevention programme to tackle childhood blindness. He was recognised for this work by the International Man of Achievement award in 1989.

JOURNEYS TO AND FROM SCHOOL

There are a few important issues to update you on:

1. Marlborough Road and the area around school is always busy between 8.20am and 8.45am and between 3.15pm and 3.40pm. There are two schools on Marlborough Road. We continue to work with Altrincham Prep School and the Trafford Traffic Department to reduce congestion and there are plans in place to extend parking restrictions at the Bowdon Hotel end of the 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 do not drop off or wait for your son on Heath Road (alongside the railway line). This is a very narrow road and residents do need access to and from their driveways at all times.
- * 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.

SOME KEY DATES

This year the Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students and for students of other schools thinking of joining our Sixth form will be held on **Thursday, 9th November 2017**.



Key dates are:

- * **Thursday, 21st September** PFA Welcome evening for new Parents
- * **Thursday 19th October** School closes for Half Term
- * **Monday 30th October** School term resumes
- * **Thursday 19th October** GCSE Awards Evening
- * **Monday 18th December 2017** A Level Awards Evening

PFA NEWS

Dear all

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

Events planned so far include:

Thursday 21 st September 2017	<p>Welcome evening for new parents</p> <p>We will be writing separately to year 7 parents about this opportunity to find out more about the school and the PFA, and to meet your son's form teacher as well as parents of other children in his form.</p>
Date to be confirmed in October	<p>Annual Quiz</p> <p>Pit your wits against parents, teachers and students in this popular annual event.</p>
Early November to early December	<p>Annual Raffle</p> <p>Top prize to be announced ... Tickets will be released mid-November... watch this space.</p>
Sunday 3rd December 2017	<p>Xmas Fair</p> <p>Our annual Christmas Fair, including the famous 1000 bottle tombola.</p>

Monthly meetings

We organise these events at our meetings, held at 7.30pm in the school library. All are welcome.

The first meeting this year is on **Monday 18th September 2017**, and at that meeting we will confirm the meeting dates for the rest of the year.

Our AGM will be held the following month (October), date to be confirmed, also starting at 7.30pm.

We are a friendly, welcoming group, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Second Hand Uniform

We operate a very popular second-hand uniform service, kindly run by Emma Young. We are always looking for donations of old uniform: please clear out your cupboards!

Easyfundraising

If you haven't looked already, please take a couple of minutes to look at www.easyfundraising.com/agsbpfa - by clicking via easyfundraising to many retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis and various travel agents, the retailer will make a small percentage donation to us.

Kind regards,
AGSB PFA
Agsb_pfa@hotmail.co.uk

STAFF VACANCIES

We have two current vacancies at School. If you are interested or know someone who may want to apply details of both posts are on the School website:

- A Biology Technician – Monday to Friday – term time only
- A Resources Technician (training provided) – two days a week (Tuesday & Wednesday) – term time only

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/>