



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

A Grammar School with Academy Status
Head Master: Mr G. A. Wright MA (Hons) FRCA
Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, WA14 2RS

21 September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Students have only been back for two weeks and already school is running at full speed. There is a great sense of purpose around the site and it is going to be a challenge to keep up with all the activities in the term ahead. I would like to congratulate our new students who have joined AGSB in Year 7 and Year 12. Changing schools is a significant event and they have made an excellent start.

Every school has a distinctive ethos; a set of values that are manifested in the activities and interactions of everyday life. I have always believed that the ethos at every level in a school is a major contributor to educational success. My assemblies this week have been focused on the importance of both personal and collective values. Staff and students have been asked to shortlist what they believe to be the core values that underpin life here at AGSB. I will keep you updated on our findings.

On Saturday 15th September we held our Entrance Exam for entry in September 2018. We had a record number of boys applying for a place at the school this year and I would like to thank the Admissions team, support staff, Year 12 students and all the teaching staff for their efforts in making this huge logistical exercise run extremely smoothly.

This afternoon I held my first 'Lunch with the Head Master' event. I very much enjoyed meeting a selection of Year 13 students who provided some excellent insights into the undoubted strengths of the school, and also some potential areas for development.

Today we welcomed a number of students and staff from Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium School in Fellbach near Stuttgart. We wish them a successful visit (for more information on this please see overleaf).

There are a number of rugby and football fixtures taking place this Saturday. I hope to meet some of you on the touchline.

I wish you and your families well for the weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G.A. Wright', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr G. A. Wright
Head Master



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German Exchange Trip 2018



The German Exchange has been taking place with Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium School (FSG) in Fellbach near Stuttgart since the year 2000. It was the school our former Head of German Mrs Harris, attended as a child. The relationship between our two schools has continued to grow and currently over 250 students have visited each other's schools in that time. This also includes Mr Flanagan from Chemistry who was a student on the exchange in 2007 and 2008. Many of the students take part in the exchange multiple times and visit in their holidays as they have developed lasting friendships and relationships between the families.

In 2008, our swing band visited Fellbach to play in a concert and FSG's swing band returned the favour a few months later to play a concert in Altrincham. Fellbach is one of the larger towns to the North East of Stuttgart. It is a region of Germany called Baden-Württemberg near the Black Forest. It is a wealthy area with many successful vineyards and world famous companies such as Mercedes Benz, Porsche and Bosch. FSG is a popular co-educational school whose students and staff excel in languages, History, Politics and Science. It is a similar school to AGSB with its successes and ethos, without the uniform of course...

This year, I will take part in the 17th German exchange and once again lead the trip with Ms Smith (German). We are taking 23 of our students, including two 6th formers who are on their 4th year of the exchange and 10 students in Year's 10 and 11 who are re-visiting their partners for another year (or two in the case of the Year 11's). We also have 11 Year 9 students who are taking part in the exchange for the first time, ensuring the future for this highly successful trip.

The students will be practicing their language skills in Germany and the UK as well as experiencing each others school and home life. We are taking trips in the UK to Blackpool and to Liverpool (for the Beatles Experience) as well as the trips and experiences planned by the host families. In Germany, we are heading to Beberhausen and the university town of Tübingen, as well as a tour of the Ritter Sport Factory and the Stuttgart Palaeontology Museum.

There is an information page for parents and boys on the exchange. This can be found here: [German Exchange Trip 2018](#)

Mr D Smith – German Exchange Leader



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Sporting Successes

Congratulations to Will Nicholson who has been chosen to play for the U18's Sale Sharks Rugby DPP.

Congratulations to the following who have all recently represented England in Hockey: James Vallely, Nikash Henshaw and Ben Robinson.

Congratulations also to Danny Chen who represented his County playing Badminton.

Well done to Matt Armstrong and Nugith Jayawarna who have both represented their County at Cricket.

Congratulations to Neil Bhabuta, U17's National Badminton Champion in both Singles and Doubles.

Well done to Ben Lee who has represented his county at Golf and to **Ed Loveland** who has represented the National side in Lacrosse.

All sporting fixtures for this term can be found [here](#):

Music Success

Congratulations to Mithylan Ganeshwaran who recently sat and passed his violin diploma during the summer break and passed with a merit.

Art Success

Congratulations to Will Aloul who recently exhibited his school artwork (a two metre high sculpture of the Empire State Building) in a gallery in Hale – it was bought for £500 by a London based buyer.

Parents – please do share with us your son's achievements so that we can include them in future Newsletters.

The Year 7 Extra-Curricular Fair



Last week Year 7 faced the daunting task of deciding which clubs and societies they will take part in this year. There are 50 clubs and societies at AGSB that run over the course of the year, ranging from Chess Club and Warhammer Club to the Politics and History Society, Creative Writing, the Publications Committee and the Musical Theatre Society.

Central to our ethos is the belief that you should not only be inspired by academic success, but also engage in a comprehensive range of enrichment because it is here where our students learn those aptitudes and attitudes they will need in the world of work.

For full details of our extra-curricular activities please click [here](#)



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Reading Tips from the English Department

A number of colleagues, students and parents have asked recently for ideas for recommended reading, generating discussions about books, and making a reading log.

20 TASKS FOR READING AT HOME:

FOR EACH BOOK....Write down the date/title/author and then try any of the following quick tasks to make a record/reminder of the book:

1. Review the book in exactly 50 words
2. Tweet your views on it in 280 characters
3. Summarise the plot in 16 words
4. Two Good, Two Bad: write down the two best things about it- and the two worst
5. Log into Goodreads.com and leave an online review
6. Re-title the book: give it the title it really *should* have had
7. Hero and Zero: name the best character and the worst - and one reason why
8. Something I didn't know: write down at least one new fact/thought you got from it
9. First line/last line - write them down
10. Blurb re-write: the publishers need a new blurb for the back cover - write it
11. Hollywood adaptation: a big studio are going to make the film - they need a title, slogan and a 30 second 'deep-voice' trailer
12. T-shirt quote: select one or two classic quotes for the T-shirt of the book
13. Better Cover: sketch a new cover to replace that wholly inadequate one
14. Dear Author: write a short, polite email to the author pointing the amazing/troubling features of the book
15. Alternative last paragraph: sort out that frustrating last section by re-writing it
16. 10 years on: write the first paragraph of the sequel....ten years later
17. The Franchise: this is so good it should be a series of 7 novels - write down their titles and briefly what will happen in all 7 books
18. Casting Agent: who can you see playing the main roles in the TV series of this book?
19. If you liked this.....: make a list of other books that are similar to this so others know what to read next
20. Book Conference: share your reading log with a colleague/teacher/parent and have a chat about the good, the bad, and the ugly...

Thank You

Many thanks to the following members of the Swing Band who have performed in every assembly this week:

Kevin Gao; Harry Armitage; Bertie Spencer; Sammy Breingan; Rui Yuen; Henry Smith; Sam Tse and Kai Simpson.



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School Hours

Please be aware that the school day officially starts at **08:40am**. We are unable to be responsible for your sons if they arrive on the school premises before 08:00am and therefore we would ask you not to drop students off before this time unless absolutely necessary.

Parking/dropping of in the vicinity of the School

We would like to remind all Parents/Carers to please respect our neighbours by not parking or collecting your sons from either Marlborough Road, Heath Road or the surrounding area. It is essential that we avoid traffic congestion at all costs – traffic problems are an annoyance to our neighbours and pose a health and safety risk to our students. Please also bear in mind that the Grammar Gym car park is a one way system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Forthcoming dates for September 2018

Autumn Term 2018

Wed 26-Sep-18 to 28-Sep-18	Y13 Biology Field Trip to Wales
Wed 26-Sep-18	Outlook Expeditions Information Evening 7pm
Thu 27-Sep-18	Y7 CATS Exams
Thu 27-Sep-18	Y13 Public Speaking Competition 12.30pm
Tue 02-Oct-18	Y12/13 French Trip to Aix-en-Provence
Wed 03-Oct-18 to 05-Oct-18	Y7 Bushcraft Trip
Wed 03-Oct-18 to 05-Oct-18	Y11 Geology Trip to Anglesey
Wed 03-Oct-18	PFA Welcome Evening for new Y7 Parents 7pm
Tue 09-Oct-18 to 16-Oct-18	German Exchange – AGSB visit Germany
Sun 14-Oct-18 to 19-Oct-18	Y9 Rugby Tour to Holland
Tue 16-Oct-18	Y10 Work Experience Parents' Meeting 7pm



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Wed 17-Oct-18	GCSE Awards Evening 7.30pm (School closes early)
Thu 18-Oct-18	School closes for October Half Term 3.25pm
Mon 29-Oct-18	School Opens after October Half Term
Wed 31-Oct-18	Y11 Parents Evening 5pm

Term dates can be found [here](#).

Don't forget to follow us on  @agsb_official



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