



# Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

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

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We have enjoyed another excellent week at AGSB. Attendance has been at 99% since the beginning of term and we have had superb levels of commitment from all year groups. There are a few things that need adjusting and we will continue to adapt quickly when issues arise. From the outset, we have encouraged all boys to raise concerns with their teachers if they notice anything that we have missed. Schools are, of course, in the learning business and, during the time of Covid-19, this needs to be as true for the whole organisation as it is for our pupils.

There has been lots of talk in the educational world about the need to 'rebuild' school communities, but from what I've seen over the first 12 days of term, there's not too much conscious effort that needs to go into that. The academic life of the School is once more in full swing; departments are delivering full curriculums, teachers are assessing for any gaps in knowledge and understanding from lockdown and Year 13 UCAS early entrants are finalising their personal statements.

The co-curricular programme is beginning to get going and we are following School protocol by keeping year groups in bubbles for all activities. The Music department have been busy setting up the teaching environments to allow music making to take place in a safe way. Instrumental lessons have now resumed and our visiting teachers have greatly enjoyed welcoming their students back to MU8 and MU9. As we are unable to hold full size cross year group ensembles due to Covid restrictions, Mr Monument and his team are now starting up some small year group ensembles, which are taking place at lunchtimes.

The AGSB Sports department are planning to offer as many opportunities as possible this term. Although our usual sporting fixture list is on hold, our Sport+ timetable (that can be found overleaf) promises to offer competitive and enjoyable sporting opportunities for all. Of course, safety and hygiene is held in the highest regard with all equipment, changing rooms and playing spaces cleaned and sterilised for each year group bubble and after each session.

The new Senior Prefect Team will be introducing themselves to all year groups next week and will begin to promote the upcoming House events which include Tug O War, House Dash, House debating, House Chess and House 'Picking the positives out of lockdown'!

It has been wonderful to welcome back the whole school community and our central aim is to keep the School safe and open. As the Government introduce new tougher measures to suppress the virus, please remind your sons of the importance of social distancing, wearing face coverings on public transport, keeping to the 'rule of 6' and staying at home if they have any symptoms.

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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## AGSB Alumni News



Congratulations to Old Altrinchamian, Douglas James-Taylor (Class of 2020), who has been signed by Stoke City. Douglas who left us in July after securing three impressive A Levels, previously played for Salford City. He was always a prodigious talent on the sports field, whether running in tries for fun in Rugby Sevens or showing his athletic prowess on the track. His most notable contributions however were on the football pitch, where he really was a cut above a very talented year group. Trafford champions in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 and Greater Manchester Champions in Year 8 and 9; this was an exceptional year group. He was also a big part of the success at Senior level, when the team reached the last eight in the English Schools' National Cup before narrowly losing to Thomas Telford. Douglas really did have it all – he could

turn his talents to top score as striker or pull the strings in central midfield. He was strong, two footed and quick but also had an excellent temperament and good tactical awareness. He had the remarkable ability to seemingly expend little energy and not look interested and then turn games on their head with a 10-minute burst of skill. When he was truly on his game, you could only stand back and admire his ability. We are delighted that Stoke have recognised his talents at Salford and signed him to their Under 23 team. Had they come to a few school games, they could have picked him up years before.

We wish Douglas all the best at Stoke and will be keeping a close eye on his progress. Fans of FIFA and Fantasy League may soon be able to recruit a very familiar name.

*Mr Birtwell – Head of PE (Curriculum)*

## AGSB boys raising money for Alzheimer's Research UK



Four AGSB pupils (Aiyush G, Thomas W, Tom F and Mayek G) have raised money to fund vital research into dementia.

Mayek G explains: "the four of us decided we would cycle the equivalent length of Britain from John o' Groats to Land's End, approximately 874 miles, between us to raise money to fund dementia research. We chose this feat as it symbolised the resilience needed by those who suffer from the disease and their families who have to endure the turmoil caused.

As of today, having recently finished cycling the equivalent length of Britain we have raised **£2,611 for Alzheimer's Research UK**, exceeding the target we set of £1000 by 261%. The initial target was



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surpassed within 24 hours of launching the page and we have received donations from across the globe. A week ago, the campaign also received a certificate from JustGiving as our fundraiser raised the most money (within the top 1%) of fundraisers on the platform in August. Serving, as a testament to the commitment, resilience and teamwork that has enabled us to spread awareness of the vital need to fund dementia research.

Despite this achievement, there is still a dire lack of funding and it's, for this reason, we would like our peers and their families to support this cause by visiting and donating to our campaign: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cycling-for-dementia>

*Mayek G 12CT*

## The AGSB Senior Prefect Team 2020-21



We wish our Senior Prefect Team 2020-21 all the very best for the year ahead! (L-R Back row: Kai S; Archie E; James B; Tom V; Feran A and Matty C. L-R Front row: Chris P; Belema B (Head Boy) and Deylan D).



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## AGSB House System



This morning the House Managers and the Senior Prefects held their individual Year 7 House Musters to discuss the forthcoming House events.

## Free Parental Webinars



Elevate are running a series of Parent Webinars and AGSB have have exclusive access to: **Empowering Parents to Reinforce Study Skills at Home.** The Topics Covered are:

**22 September - Independent Learning:** How to know that your child is focusing on the right kind of work that gets top marks.

**14 October - Time Management:** How to resolve battles over homework and workload, get on the same page and help balance life & academics.

**10 November – Exams:** Developing a pre-exam roadmap with your child to maximise their chances of success and keep overwhelm at bay.

**01 December - Stress & Wellbeing:** Understanding your child's stress triggers, symptoms, and a tool-kit for stabilising during tough periods.

Register here: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register/>



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**Webinar Format:** The webinars run **online** from **6pm – 7pm** and are live, where a senior presenter shares Elevate's key research and skills, plus answers questions so parents can get the specific tools they need.

## AGSB in the Community

We have recently received an email from a member of the general public that four of our students: Tom W, Charlie S, Will M and Aaron L deserve a special thank you. They helped to lift a man who suffers from multiple sclerosis back into his wheelchair after it overturned in a road in Altrincham. The boys were quick to stop and help and it is wonderful to hear that our boys demonstrated such care and attention.

## Library Book Amnesty

We have exciting news coming about the brand-new library! You can follow our virtual library for news, reviews and competitions at Instagram under the name **agsblibrary**.

As we are stock-taking in preparation for the move, we have noticed that some books are missing so have decided to run a Book Amnesty. Any books you have found at home can be returned to a box outside the Library, no questions asked. We would just like to see our books find their way home.

*Mrs C Mahony*  
*English Teacher*

## AGSB Food & Nutrition



Great first practical for Year 11 students this week. Seasonal ingredients – home grown apples. Delicious filo and puff pastry turnovers and apple and blackberry crumbles. Lots of new rules to follow but it was great to see the classroom busy. Well done Year 11 – we hope to have Year 10 back in the kitchen soon!

## Philosophy, Ethics & Personal Development



Mr Sampson who has recently joined the P & E Department, has set up a Philosophy and Ethics Twitter page. For up-to-date news from the P & E Department, please follow @AGSBPandE.



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## AGSB Sport

Sports+ Timetable 2020/21							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	SENIOR	Saturday 09.00-11.00	
	<b>After School</b>						<b>House Sport/Festivals/Fixtures</b>
15.15 - 16.45	Peel Hall	Year 7 Badminton	Year 8 Badminton	Year 9 Badminton	Year 10 Badminton		
		Miss Frankland	Miss Frankland	Mr Rawson	Mr Birchall		
				Year 11 Badminton			
				Mr Rawson			
	Hughes Hall	Year 7 Table Tennis	Year 8 Table Tennis	Year 9 Table Tennis			
		Mr Meakin	Mr Meakin	Mr Donovan			
	Astro	Year 7 Football Squad	Year 8 Football Squad	Year 9 Football Squad	Year 10 Football		
		Mr Cammack	Mr Cammack & Mr Donovan	Mr Sheridan & Mr Butchart	Mr Birtwell		
		Year 7 Development Football	Year 10&11 Hockey		Year 7/8/9 Hockey		
		Mr Donovan	Mr Marciano		Mr Marciano		
	Fields	Year 7 Rugby	Year 8 Rugby	Year 9 Rugby	Yr 10 Rugby		
		Mr Soulsby	Mr Birchall	Mr Smith	Mr Rawson		
		Year 11 Rugby		Senior Rugby			
		Mr Meakin		Mr Meakin			
				Senior Football			
			Mr Birtwell				
Tennis Courts	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis			
	AGSB Year 7 Lessons	AGSB Year 8 Lessons	AGSB Year 9 Lessons	AGSB Year 10 Lessons			

The AGSB sports department values physical activity and sport to promote good physical and mental health. During this time of Covid, we want to offer as many opportunities as possible that are both safe and enjoyable. Our Sport+ timetable has been attached that offers a balanced and safe environment and is a comprehensive as possible in these times.

We have followed school protocol and kept Year groups in bubbles for their extra-curricular activities. Safety and hygiene are held in the highest regard with all equipment, changing rooms and playing spaces cleaned and sterilised for each year group bubble and after each lesson.

Mr Meakin – Head of PE (Sport)

## AGSB Alumni News

**FT** Well done to Old Altrinchamian, Sam Lopez (Class of 2020), who won the 2020 Financial Times Secondary Schools Political Blog Competition with his insightful piece: *"We must manage the public's expectations of politicians"*.





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## A "ONE PAGE" SUMMARY OF OUR SEPTEMBER 2020 GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS



## AGSB SEPTEMBER 2020 GUIDANCE

### TRANSPORT, UNIFORM, ARRIVAL AND EXIT

Transport to run as advertised. Students to follow all guidance for safety.  
Normal school uniform expectations including PE/Games.  
Use your prescribed year group entrance and move directly to your tutor room.  
Exit school by your prescribed gate - do not congregate.



### SCHOOL DAY

Each year group treated as one 'group', tutor rooms zoned by year group.  
Start times are 8:35 & 8:45 and end time is either 2:55pm, 3pm or 3.10pm depending on your year group.  
Lunch & P4 either at 12.20 or 1.00pm depending on year group.  
Increased movement time (10 minutes) in a distanced and controlled manner.



### PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND HYGIENE

Strict internal One-way system to enable distanced movement across the site.  
Hand sanitisers throughout the buildings, anti-viral spray in classroom.  
Disinfectant wipes and sprays in multi use classrooms to enable more regular cleaning of surfaces.  
Increased regularity of cleaning across School site.



### FACE COVERINGS

Must be worn on all forms of shared transport to and from School.  
Must be worn during all movements around the one - way system in School  
Not expected during lesson time but may be worn by request to the member of staff  
Hand sanitiser, mask storage and regular cleaning essential



### SOCIAL TIME AND DINING FACILITIES

Dining facilities will be available and protection measures in place.  
Lunch times staggered, and social space allocated to minimise interaction



### EXPECTATIONS AND COMMUNITY

Behaviour expectations, including additional safety requirements, remain high  
It is imperative that behaviour outside School respects the community.  
Students must arrive/exit School with respect for the distancing measures in place.  
Students must respect all the distancing control measures on the School site.  
Students should minimise contact with students from other year groups.  
Students must not congregate in and around School or the local community.



### HOUSE, EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND EVENING EVENTS

House events to be reviewed in line with guidance and safety Clubs, societies and fixtures to be reviewed and limited new programme created.  
No evening events or large gatherings for parents/visitors.  
No domestic residential or international visits in autumn term.  
Autumn term parent events to be held virtually.  
Virtual open events with small on-site tour outside School hours by appointment.





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## New Campaign to prevent spread of Coronavirus indoors this winter



As we approach winter and inevitably spend more time indoors, we need to keep following this important advice to control the spread of the virus.

**'Hands. Face. Space'** emphasises important elements of the guidance we want everybody to remember: wash your hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household.

Following these simple steps could make a significant difference in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and help protect you and your friends, colleagues and family from the virus.

## Noticeboard for Parents

### Raising Awareness of Online Child Exploitation

With technology becoming so integrated into our lives, it's now more important than ever for parents and carers to be having open and honest conversations about online safety. Parents are encouraged to think about teaching online safety as they would road safety or 'stranger danger'. [The TSSP website](#) has lots of resources for parents to access for advice for you to have a look at



Be sure to follow the Head Master on Twitter for the latest and most up-to-date information @agsb\_official.

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS.  
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