



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

16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Schools nationwide are facing challenging times in light of the developing and worrying local and national Coronavirus picture. This week the Prime Minister and Education Secretary announced that GCSE and A Level exams will go ahead, as they believe them to be *"the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment"*. Rest assured, we continue to watch the evolving national debate on the 2021 Public Examinations with very close interest, and will do all that we can to ensure that our pupils here at AGSB are informed, guided and prepared for whatever eventuality.

As you are aware, there are a number of pupils and some staff who are currently self-isolating. Under the leadership of Dr Thomas (Assistant Head – Teaching & Learning), we continue to take best practice from the lockdown period and combine it with more traditional methods of teaching to offer the best experience for our pupils. You will have received a remote learning update and guide yesterday from Dr Thomas.

Since early September, the 6th Form team have been working tirelessly to meet the October 15 deadline for early UCAS applications. The Covid secure process that the team have had to follow this year has made this even more demanding than usual. As part of our support for these early applicants, we are holding a range of mock exams today to support students who will be taking their BMAT in a few weeks and also for students who are applying to Oxford and Cambridge. We wish the 90 students who have applied for either Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science the very best over the next few months.

On Saturday we held our Entrance Exam which this year proved particularly challenging for obvious reasons, however, I would like to thank all involved for the wonderful organisational effort made to ensure that all applicants were able to sit the exam in a safe and relaxed environment.

We are continuing to do all we can to ensure that the boys can still engage with our co-curricular programme. Through the House system, we continue to hold weekend sports festivals, photography competitions and next week we are holding the inaugural AGSB House University Challenge with myself taking over from Jeremy Paxman in the quiz master's chair! It is also marvellous to hear the year group ensembles practice during the lunch break.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that we have a new House Sponsor for Massey House. Leavitt Walmsley Associates (LWA) are an award-winning firm of accountants who have been part of the South Manchester community for 25 years. I would like to thank Managing Director, Les Leavitt for his generosity and support of AGSB and the House System. The School, Massey House and LWA are looking forward to a strong partnership throughout 2020-21 and beyond (the full story on this can be found overleaf).

My very best wishes for the remainder of this half of term, and for the break itself.

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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New House Sponsors - Massey



We are now proud to introduce our new Massey House Sponsors – Leavitt Walmsley Associates (LWA). Yesterday, Managing Director, Les Leavitt came to school for a photo shoot with our Massey House Manager - Mr Meakin, the Head Boy - Belema B, the House Captain - Kai S and his Deputy - Chris P.

Mr Leavitt's sentiments are detailed below:

"LWA has been part of the South Manchester community for 25 years and many of our current team started their careers with us from a young age. Our ethos is to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs and business people, so to be involved with Altrincham Grammar School for Boys is a great privilege. We're looking forward to being the Massey House sponsor this year and to all the reciprocal opportunities ahead."



Free Parental Webinars



Elevate are running a series of Parent Webinars and AGSB have exclusive access to: **Empowering Parents to Reinforce Study Skills at Home**. The last two sessions are due to take place on:

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/>

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.



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Great Work!

Yusuf H (9RW) has written a fantastic piece of work on economic migration using Sadio Mane as an example. He carefully constructed a comprehensive argument for why migrants would choose to live in the UK using the statistical evidence he gathered during the lesson. He also went above and beyond in doing extra research about Mane and the socio-economic conditions of Senegal. This was a very mature piece of work from a Year 9 student.

Mr P Williams
Acting Head of Geography

GCSE & A Level Examinations Next Year



This week, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, announced that GCSE and A Level Exams will take place three weeks' later in 2021 to give students more time for preparation. Further details to come later in the term. Click the [link](#) for full information.

AGSB Alumni



Congratulations to Old Alt, Alistair Crossdale, who is one of six uncapped players named in Eddie Jones' England Rugby Squad who are beginning preparations for their Autumn campaign. We wish Ali the very best for the weeks ahead.

Great to see Old Alt, Success Anyanwu on the BBC news last week. Success featured in a BBC documentary about being a black student at Cambridge University – he is studying medicine at Girton college, Cambridge.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-54437262>



[Being black at Cambridge](#)

The BBC has followed three black students during their first year at the UK's University of Cambridge.



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AGSB Year 9 Winter House Sports Festival



A great result for Bradbury House last Saturday, they came out on top in the Year 9 Winter Sports Competition. Well done to all who took part!



AGSB Music



Fantastic to see the Year 10 String Quartet performing in their first rehearsal of the term this week.



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AGSB Careers

AGSB's newly appointed Head of Careers, Mr Gallamore, is now settled within the school and has spent the term predominantly interviewing the Year 11's about their choices beyond GCSE. As an Old Boy of the school himself, he has been impressed by the ability, resilience, and dedication of all learners so far and is confident they all have great futures ahead of them.

To keep the wider school and parents updated he is producing a monthly newsletter which will be emailed out around the 15th of each month and is also providing regular careers related updates on the @agsb_careers Twitter handle which we would encourage you to follow.

Please click on the link below to access the latest Careers Newsletter which has been sent to all parents and students. In particular, this month features a very informative interview with a local social media company about how the boys can use the various platforms to boost their career opportunities as well as tips for managing their content appropriately.

<https://sway.office.com/UgizEgPADTdunOJ2?ref=Link>

Mr A Gallamore
Head of Careers

AGSB Library



The Library has so far delivered 90 books this half term! To celebrate, we are offering a special prize to the student who is order number 100 next week! Remember to get your orders in for Monday so that they can be delivered on the last day of term, Thursday 22nd October, ready for you to enjoy over the half term break! Don't forget to look on agsblibrary Instagram for the latest releases, news and reviews.

Mrs Marson and Mrs Mahony

PFA



The Parents and Friends Association, or 'PFA' for short, plays a vital role in supporting the school by raising funds for projects that enhance and enrich your sons' life at AGSB. The items they fund are considered carefully so that the money raised supports the students, not just academically, but socially and mentally too. Investments have been large and small, from £13,000 for the Show My Homework

App to new clocks for the exam rooms, as well as an ongoing commitment to supporting mental health awareness at AGSB by funding guest speakers and supporting mentoring programmes.

The PFA are also looking for good second-hand uniform and in particular sportswear and if any parents would like to donate, please contact the PFA direct.



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It has been a challenging year for fundraising however, there are already a number of plans in the pipeline. If anyone wishes to help the PFA with any of their events, please contact either Nigel Hiett – nhiett@agsb.co.uk or Anna Jones on alex.anna.jones@gmail.com.

Noticeboard for Parents

Important Message for Parents collecting students after school

Parents who are collecting their sons either directly after school or after they have been playing sport, **should not** drive into the Grammar Car Park as this car park is for **staff only**. Please also refrain from parking right outside the gates to the Grammar as this causes an obstruction and reduces visibility for those members of staff who are trying to exit the car park.

Parents Please Note:

Please **do not** send your son into School if they have a cough or a high temperature. Apart from the obvious risk to others in our community, it adds to existing anxieties.

SCHOOL BUS

We have been notified by Transport for Greater Manchester that the school buses will now have “bubble areas” for each school and students from AGSB will now be required to sit in the following areas on each bus:

- 750: Students to sit downstairs left**
- 751: Students to sit downstairs left**
- 752: Students to sit downstairs in the wheelchair space area**
- 753: Students to sit downstairs left**
- 758: Students to sit downstairs in the wheelchair space area**

If the bus that your son travels to school on is not listed above it is because we have not been notified of a bubble area for that bus.

Please also remind your son(s) that he is required to wear a face covering at all times on the bus.

Staff News

Congratulations to Dr Hepden for having an article she co-wrote published in “*Politics Review*” which is due to be released in November. Click on the attached [link](#) to read the article.



Trafford are putting together a weekly email newsletter for young people in Trafford which contains advice, information and important messages for young people of secondary school age. There are also competitions and freebies. Click [here](#) to read.



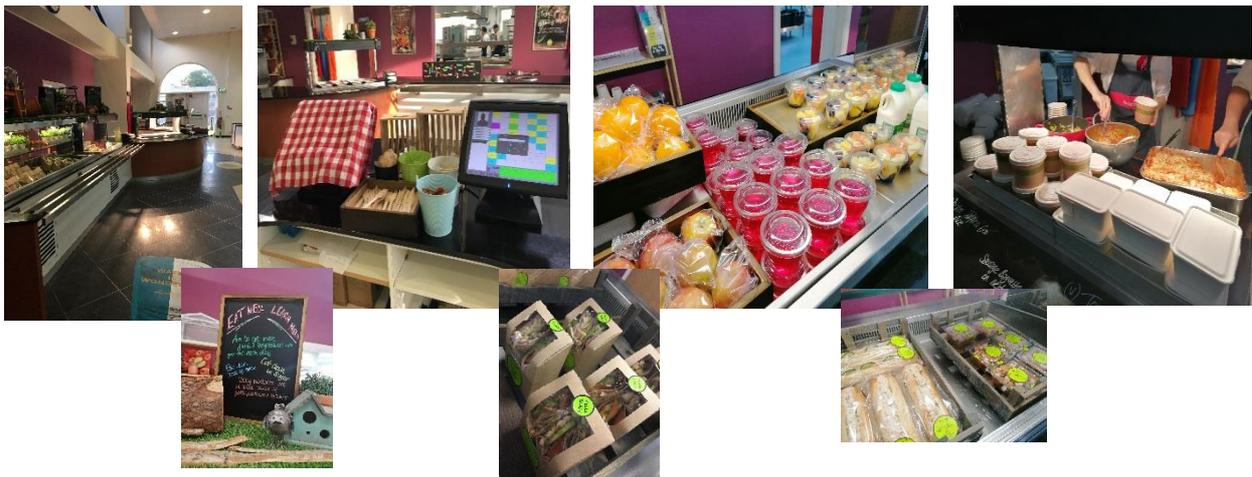
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SODEXO SEPTEMBER NEW TERM – “NEW NORMAL”

The start to this new term has been a challenge for everyone due to Coronavirus and here in Sodexo at AGSB we have embraced the new ways of working and look to improve our offer every day. Pupils are now fed in four different areas over two sittings in the Stamford Hall, two sittings in the Grammar, two sittings in the 6th Form and one sitting in the Marquee. We are continually working with the school to ensure that everyone is kept safe & that service disruption is kept to a minimum. Dining areas and service counters are sanitised in between sittings and staff wear masks & gloves at all till points with social distancing being at the forefront of everyone’s mind.

All of our food is freshly prepared daily with the same focus on high quality, fresh and wholesome ingredients. All food items on display are now pre-packaged and hot food is boxed ready to “Grab ‘n Go”. We now use environmentally friendly boxes and pots and we now have wooden cutlery instead of plastic. The new style offer seems to be very popular and as everything is ready to go, service through the counter is now quicker.



The Cleaning team in Sodexo have been working relentlessly to keep all areas sanitised throughout the school, with regular preventative cleaning of all touch points including door handles, tables and chairs, toilet areas and communal areas. This is an ongoing daily routine, done many times throughout the day and because the staff are being called upon to do reactive cleaning, the team are always on hand to keep the school safe and clean.

Mrs Patricia Bowden
Catering Manager





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Forthcoming dates for October & November 2020

Thu 22-10-2020	School Closes for October Half Term
Thu 12-11-2020	Y13 Parents Evening (Online)
Wed 18-11-2020 & Thu 19-11-2020	Y11 Parents Evening (Online)
Thu 26-11-2020	Y7 Parent/Tutor Meeting (Online)



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

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