

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Please consider supporting...

The Aylesburian Annual Fund

Reg Charity No. 1089244 | Supporting the learning & teaching facilities at AGS



What a difference The Aylesburian Annual Fund can make!



A brand new IT classroom. The positive impact of Fundraising (above)

Last year, we focused on the refurbishment of the rapidly deteriorating IT rooms and together with our incredibly hard working PTA, we have been able to fund the complete refurbishment of two IT rooms.

This year we will focus on the refurbishment of the Maths classrooms and a further IT room.

But we cannot do this without your help.

The Financial Reality

AGS is still one of the lowest funded schools in the country – still in the bottom 20.

This year our funding amounts to an average of £4,451 per student. This has to cover all teaching and learning costs. £4,451 per student is only just sufficient to meet our basic operating costs and absolutely nothing further. (80% of our current budget is allocated to teachers' salaries). The 20% remaining is for everything else!

For year ending Aug '18 we have reported a £50,000 deficit. Next year, this will increase to a deficit of £135,000. This is not unlike many other schools but it does mean we cannot maintain, enhance or improve school buildings.

We would never fundraise to top up the School budget but we do fundraise to enrich and enhance facilities and the extra curricular opportunities. We simply have to.

This is where you come in.

Through regular giving you can help us to realise projects that urgently need our attention (this year – Maths and IT) and it will enrich the educational experience for your sons.

Please support us if you can by setting up a regular donation to the School. £20 a month would make a tremendous difference. Every student will benefit from your support and, any donation, at any value, really is very much appreciated.

<http://www.ags.bucks.sch.uk/the-aylesburian-annual-fund/>

Further details please contact: acox@ags.bucks.sch.uk

Thank you.

Alison Cox, Development Director

A £20 a month donation is £25 a month for the School (with 25% Gift aid). That is an annual donation of £300. Over 7 years that equals £2,100. It costs between £30,000 and £50,000 to refurbish a classroom (depending on the subject). There are nearly 900 families in our School. If everyone gave a little every month, we could complete the entire refurbishment of Maths this year.

*Past donations to the School from Trusts, Old Aylesburians and current and former Parents has enabled us to refurbish our **Science Centre**, our **Sixth Form Centre** and our **Library**, in addition to smaller scale refurbishment and development projects including the **Foundation Hall**, the **Fitness Suite** and the **'Old' Gym**.*

MATHS IN ACTION TRIP – UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

49 Year 10s had the opportunity to attend talks by professional academics, including broadcaster Dr Emily Grossman and engineer Hugh Hunt. The day consisted of 5 lectures, including useful tips and techniques on both revision and the exam, along with speeches on modern uses of mathematics and statistics. Hugh Hunt's talk on Spinning Things explained how a spinning top works and how spaceships navigate through the galaxy using centrifugal forces. Personally, my favourite was a talk called 'Lies, Damned Lies and Newspapers', informing us on recognising incorrect statistics, and by what methods sources can be trusted.

During the day, interactive activities and questions were posed to the audience, especially in the talk by Alex Bellos – author of 'Alex in Numberland' and the Guardian puzzle column. We also had the chance to win prizes by answering puzzling problem solving questions. Overall, the trip was enjoyable, not only interesting but it gave us an insight into how mathematics is used in the real world – an entertaining change to the school day! A special thanks to Mrs Smith, Mr Mansfield, Mr Brittain and Mr Smith for organising the trip.

Ashwin Aggarwal, Ph10

AFTER SCHOOL JAPANESE CLASS

At the beginning of this academic year in September we were delighted to be able to launch an after school Japanese class, taught by Mrs Ohashi and funded by the Japan Foundation. The class is now attended by 21 students from Years 8 to 10. Students are following the beginner course currently, with the aim of taking Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level N5 in July 2020 followed by GCSE Japanese in June 2021. We are very grateful to the Japan Foundation for funding this class and enabling us to continue a long tradition of teaching Japanese at AGS.

Mr T J Crapper
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

SUCCESS AT THE SENIOR TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE REGIONAL HEAT

On 8th November, a well-rehearsed AGS team of Fred Phillips (D13), Michael Roach (Ph13), Fitz Steger-Lewis (D12) and Karan Elangovan (L11) travelled the short distance to the John Colet School in Wendover for the Senior Team Maths Challenge Regional Heat following weeks of practise sessions. We were greeted at the entrance by the competition runners who wasted no time in reminding us of AGS' victory at this stage in both of the last two years – we had a high reputation to live up to.



We gave ourselves the best start possible in the group round, scoring a maximum of 60/60 marks. Feeling very pleased with this score, we quickly scanned the room to try to spot if any other teams had mirrored this result. However, before we could determine whether or not they had, it was onto the next round: the cross-number.

This round, similar to a crossword, required us to split up our team into two pairs so that one pair could work on the across clues and the other pair on the down clues. We again scored highly on this round as each pair lost only one mark each giving us 60/62.

At this stage in the competition there was a short break during which we learned that, despite our best efforts, there was at least one school ahead of us who had managed to only lose one mark over the opening two rounds. Therefore, we went into the final round without a shred of complacency as we knew this was our only opportunity to take the lead.

This final round, by far the hardest due to its tight time limits, was called 'The Shuttle'. It consisted of what were essentially four mini mathematical relays each four questions long. Again we were split into pairs so that each pair would answer alternating questions. This was the round we had spent the most time practising and as a result we were able to get every single answer right, a great achievement by all members of the team. We dropped only three points due to losing a time bonus to a very challenging combinatorics problem.



As the final standings were being read out, we were still unsure of our position but when

our earlier opposition, Dr Challoner's Grammar School, were named in second place we all suddenly felt quietly confident of a first-place finish – it turns out that our performance in the final round led to us winning the competition by over ten points which bodes well for us as we will head to the National Final in the new year.

I'd like to congratulate all the other members of the team and thank Mrs Smith for running our lunchtime preparation sessions and Mr Datta for taking us to and from the competition and supervising us while we were there.

Michael Roach, Ph13



Malawi Initiative Exchange:

Winter 2018 Newsletter

MALAWI WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Welcome to Malawi

By Ashwin Aggarwal

With just 3 months remaining until the March 2019 trip to Malawi, students are aiming to complete their fundraising goals of £650, with most pushing for £1000. Equipment is also being collected, including items such as glasses, school equipment, shoes etc. and all of this hugely contributes to the lives of Malawian children.

Students also take part in constructing schools and placing equipment. It is concerning to know that in Malawi, a third of adults cannot read literature or write and if this continues, it is clear that many students will not be set up for the future. This is where a role comes in; a charity in which children who are not so lucky get a chance to be educated and set up for the future.

What happened last year?

During the last exchange in 2017, two classrooms were constructed along with donations of portable blackboards and teaching resources.

Following this experience, a small group of students from Malawi are given the opportunity to return to England, trying out the British culture.

Fundraising

In order to take part in this trip, students must fundraise to help provide for this excellent cause. It's amazing to know that only £3000 will provide a nursery for children, so we raise money through quiz nights, car boot sales, concerts and many more activities.



If you would like to donate, please visit our [JustGiving](http://www.justgiving.com/agsmall) website:

<http://www.justgiving.com/agsmall>
[osa](http://www.justgiving.com/agsmall)



How can you help

Every week, buckets are placed out in house assemblies, helping to fund the trip. Any spare change is greatly appreciated by the school and Malawi. If everybody in the school gave 20p a week, we could give Malawi a total of £250 a school week, or £9750 in the AGS school calendar year. All this money goes for a good cause, so if your son has any spare change, please feel free to donate.

However, AGS doesn't just help Malawi through money. Items such as educational posters, games, sports equipment, glasses and much more are greatly appreciated as students take bags of equipment yearly to Malawi. So, if you have any spare equipment or any other educational benefits, please drop this at the school office, as it would be greatly welcomed by Malawian students.

Current Affairs of Malawi – Travel Spends

Recently, President Mutharika has set out plans to reform Malawian roads and transport methods. These include rebuilding motorways in Lilongwe, which are day to day packed with traffic. The project is being backed by the Malawi government and Road Fund administration, with the budget already being overspent. However, this will hopefully make travel more efficient for the desperate repair needed

Malawi Government poverty statistics released

On 8th December, the Malawian Government released data confirming the failure to provide houses for the poor. This data was found 40,000 houses below the targets set by the government, meaning that these people have still no house to live in. This is where we can help, providing education for those who live in suppressive conditions. Although we cannot build houses for the poor, we can give them modern schools with updated facilities.

Events

Recently, Ashwin Aggarwal did a coffee morning raising £350 for Malawi. It was a huge success with much attendees and contributions.

Often, there are delicious cakes for sale in the quad at break, remember to snap them up before they all go! You can donate to the AGS Malawi page on Just Giving and visit the website (listed to the right.)

Contacts

If you would like to raise money for us, by climbing a mountain, completing a marathon or any other amazing feat, and then please be aware we can pay some of your expenses, which may be able to make your fundraising endeavour possible. For details, please contact agsmalawi@ags.bucks.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can email Mr Corby at mcorby@ags.bucks.sch.uk

Thank you



Donating 50 mattresses and 5 beds to St Luke's Hospital



Providing sewing machines and textiles

Just Giving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/agsmalosa>

Malawi website:

<http://malawi.ags.bucks.sch.uk/>

Malawi website:

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