



AGS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 16



Autumn 2006

Anti-Bullying Award

On Friday 1st December Anthony Gell School proudly received an ABC Anti-bullying Commitment Award in Good Practice. Mrs Gibbon and four Anthony Gell School pupils went to Matlock County Hall to collect the award which was presented by councillor Anne Weston. The four pupils: Rachel Rostron, Eve Sheppard, Hannah Buchanan and Katy Jones delivered a speech giving information on our schools anti-bullying work; with a focus on our peer listening scheme. We are one of the few secondary schools in Derbyshire to have received the award. The next step is the intermediate Award, which we hope to receive next year.



Page 1
Anti-Bullying
Castleton
Step by Step
Page 2
Wetter Ex-
change
Dance in Die
International
School

Page 3
Nightcaps &
Candles
Masterchef
Children in
Need

Page 4
Sport Report

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**A great big
thank you to
all of them for
their hard
work.**

Castleton Step by Step

Nellie Walker-Thompson from 7W has written a recount of her recent trip to Castleton with the Humanities Department.

On 20th-21st of November Year 7 went on a trip to Castleton to find out more about the village. During the trip 7W and 7A visited Peveril Castle. We were amazed by what we saw as we could see for miles upon end. The group also visited Treak Cliff Cavern where they saw loads of stalagmites and stalactites. Also, we had to duck high and low through the cavern, and to top it all off we stayed at Castleton youth hostel which was very beautiful, each of the children was allowed to share a room with their friends. Also we were given free time to go and have a look around shops and get to know where we were. Whilst we were in our free time we had to do this questionnaire sheet, this meant that we were reading maps and investigating things around us. Then on the 22nd-23rd of November 7F and 7G went to Castleton and had the same wonderful experience as what 7W and 7A had.

Step by Step is a new development based around Anthony Gell School. We have a number of professionals working in partnership to give a wide range of support to our students.

The Step by Step team includes: Connexions, Behaviour Support Services, Education Welfare Officer, Safer Neighbourhood Team, school nurse, Safe Speak, Educational Psychologist, CAMHS and our very own Peer Listeners.

A leaflet explaining Step by Step in more detail should be with you shortly but in the meantime if you wish to know more then please contact Helen Jackson in school.

International School

Anthony Gell received the International School Award from the British Council for the second time in September!

The ISA not only reflects on the opportunities our students have to travel abroad and experience other cultures but also values how the international dimension is explored across all subjects. The dossier we put together is a record of international work in 2005-6 and includes accounts of the Sports Tour to Holland, the Ski Trip to Austria, the Leisure and Tourism Conference in Barcelona, the Y7 Trip to Phantasialand and the Exchange Visit and Dance Residential in Germany. It also includes accounts of the fantastic work to come out of the artists residency from Mamelodi, South Africa and the Asian Arts cross-phase creative project on Diwali.

The World Cup 2006, with the Fifa motto "making friends around the world" offered an excellent opportunity to explore the international dimension via football in many subjects.

Mrs Taylor put the dossier together and went to London in October to receive the award from the British Council.

The British Council commended the school as "...champion ambassadors for best practice in the International dimension and the Award is highlighted by the DfES as a major prize for excellence in this field".

One of our major international links is with Wetter in Germany so please read on to hear about this year's exchange

Wetter Exchange Die Dance

Wetter Exchange Visit – in its 21st year is one of the longest running home to home exchange partnerships in the country! Very many thanks to all the students and families who have hosted so generously over the years.

We hosted our friends from Wetter in glorious November weather. Together we enjoyed a variety of educational and recreational activities. We created an International Magazine together, took part in a bi-lingual mock trial at the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham, enjoyed a hands-on water treatment workshop at Carsington Water and gave our friends from Wetter an active history lesson with fireworks, bonfires and burning of effigies! At the end of the visit many people had made lots of new friends and we are looking forward to meeting up again in February.

Ollie Smith in Y9 hosted a visitor and reports back on the experience for us here.

"There were nineteen students in total staying with different families in this area. Over the week there was a variety of different activities that were intended to entertain and inform the students about British life and culture. The activities were well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The exchange students returned home after a week and apparently they really enjoyed their stay. We thank the teachers for organising it and we look forward to the return trip in February."

Over the autumn half term members of the Anthony Gell Sixth Form together with Debi Hedderwick's dance group INdependDANCE joined forces with the Wirksworth Twinning Association visit to Die. Their performance of "L'Homme Qui Plantait Des Arbres" - a dance piece incorporating narration in French was a huge success and was very well received by the audience in Die.



Lillie Hedderwick Turner was inspired to write a report.

"It was a very enjoyable and fun-packed trip which was made even better by the lovely and very friendly French people who welcomed us. I loved walking through the town. The bit I enjoyed the most was the performing on Tuesday—the audience was good and the atmosphere was alive!"

Nightcaps and Candles



On Thursday 14th December, Anthony Gell School will be transformed in to a Christmas wonderland full of Panto nonsense, scroogeey meanness, talking toys and festive dances! This years Christmas show will be shown to year 7 and 8 students in the afternoon and then opened up to the general public in the evening. With a theme of Nightcaps and Candles we will have various dances and plays ready to show off the schools excellent performing arts talent.

There will be three plays and a variety of dances including a panto in which Wee Willie Winkie is stolen by Santa Claus who is sick and tired of the kids not believing in him because they are all tucked up, asleep by the time he reaches them. There is also a sinister toy commando who wants to take over the play room by eliminating the toys one by one, only clever Barbie and her chums can stop him and finally Christmas carol with songs, dances, much meanness and a little bit of Christmas cheer. God bless us everyone.



Tickets cost £4 for adults and £2.50 for concessions. Tickets have been on sale from school reception since the beginning of December so make sure you've got yours!

Masterchef

Over the past three weeks, students from AGS and several local primary schools have been taking part in a cookery activity. The menus and recipes they have been using all focus on food from different countries allowing students to take home French, Italian, Greek, Chinese and French dishes for their families to share. The series of sessions has been organised by the Food Technology teacher here at Anthony Gell, Ms Foster. The students from Anthony Gell have been leading and guiding the Year 6 students through the recipes and have shown great patience, cooperation and understanding as well as very strong technical skills.

It has also been really pleasing to see how much the Year 6 students have enjoyed the challenge and to see how they have progressed in terms of organisation and technique by the end of the three weeks. Several of their parents came in to observe and taste their efforts and all were very impressed.

Children in Need

Yet again the day was a fantastic success with everyone taking part in great spirits.

The silver coin line up was 144 metres, this is the equivalent of:

- the length of a rugby union field
- the longest wavelength observed so far in radio astronomy
- the distance you would travel before coming to a complete stop if you were moving at 60 MPH in the wet.

There were people dressing up, slavery, sixth form students getting their legs waxed (Ouch!), car washing, climbing the height of Kilimanjaro on the climbing wall, people tied together, cakes being sold and statues in the Tech room display window. But of course the teachers couldn't just let the children have fun, they had to join in too! They all wore yellow and had a scratch card competition for a bottle of wine.

The day raised well over £1000 so well done and thank you to everyone who took part.

Sport Report

The whole of this page has been produced by Year 10 boys who are involved in a football and literacy project jointly run by AGS and Derby County Football Club

Interview with Ashley Watts, Leisure Centre Manager

A major development that Ashley told us about was the re-branding of the climbing wall. The climbing wall is now called 'The Face' and will have a new logo. It is hoped that the new image will help recruit more people with disabilities, women and young girls into climbing.

In the near future they hope to acquire a number of spinning bikes costing £1200 each. These bikes are very technical and are much better than a normal exercise bike. They will be made available for Anthony Gell classes.

The leisure centre staff, Matt and Karen, have offered to help people do work out programmes for the gym. If you are a member of the fitness suite you can ask for a fitness programme now.

Ashley is keen to promote forthcoming events including

- Regional wrestling championships
- Kick boxing championships
- Live music and dance
- Battle of the Bands next summer
- And especially for Mrs Brown the Salsa

By Darren Cartwright, Will Boam, Matthew Allsop, Steven Oulton and Jack Clay

Interview with two Derby County Coaches

Q. What are the good parts about coaching?

A. David says that he enjoys coaching as a whole. He says he was too small to play football he wanted to get involved. Luke says he is passionate about working for Derby and said he is a Derby fan through and through, he also said he loves to see students improve.

Q. What age groups do you enjoy coaching?

A. David said that younger students also girls are better to teach because they listen more and don't think they know it all. Luke said that he likes teaching technical skills such as passing and shooting so it was easier for him to teach the older students.

Q. Do you visit many schools?

A. They said that they go into about fifteen schools a week and see about 25,000 people a year. They also said that they got an award from the PFA for having the best holiday course for youngsters out of all 92 clubs in England.

Q. Who's your favourite player for Derby?

A. Luke said Marc Edworthy because he is one of Derby's senior players and gives 100% all the time, also he said that his all time favourite was Igor Stimac.

David said that his favourite player is Giles Barnes because he is the best young player this season.

Q. Final thoughts?

A. Luke said his ambition was to be the manager of Derby County. David said that doing community projects such as this one brings more benefits to the club.

Interview by Jacob Bradbury, Jake Lynam, Jimmy Redfern, Lawrence Wright, Rhys Kinder.

Interview with Miss Adnitt, PE Teacher

Q: Do you think that sport affects peoples' lives?

A: I think sport can make people feel very happy and help people communicate.

Q: What do you think about the Y10 football team?

A: Absolutely amazing, outstanding, brilliant. However I think we should share our success in assemblies the day after the matches are played.

Q: Do team sports develop team play?

A: Team sports help people learn to work with different people, people that you usually wouldn't want to work with, as in different ages and different types of people. Also it makes you co-operate with people you may have fallen out with.

Q: What sport clubs are there available in school?

A: There are a lot of school teams available to play in for all years. We have hockey clubs, dance clubs, football and basketball. There is a cross country running club at Monday lunch and there has been a competition too. There are also outside clubs that can double potential and bring out the best in the students that participate.

By Matt Redshaw, Mitchell Robinson, Toby Howard and George Riach

Dates for your diary - Spring term 2007

Wed 20th Dec – Tues 2nd Jan: Christmas holidays.

Thurs 4th Jan: 7:00 Certificate evening

Wed 17th Jan: School closed for staff training

Thurs 25th Jan: Y12 & Y13 Parents' evening

Thurs 1st Feb: Y11 Parents' evening

Mon 12th Feb – Fri 16th Feb

School closed for half term

Thurs 1st March: Y9 Parents' evening

Mon 5th March: Y9 Option evening

Fri 30th March: School closed for staff training

Mon 2nd – Fri 13th April: Easter holidays