



AGS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 15



Summer 2006

Old for New

In September, Anthony Gell is moving back to a four House system. The move comes partly due to the retirement of Mike Law who has been Head of Wright House for over 10 years but also to further improve the pastoral and academic support we can give to our students.

Each new House will have five tutor groups and be led by a senior tutor. Anne Gibbon, currently Head of Arkwright House, will become Head of Pastoral Care and will take an overview of all the Houses and continue her support for all of our students.

Of course, as soon as the new structure was announced, everyone asked the same question: What are we going to call the new Houses? The only answer was to ask the students. The rules were that each House name had to start with a different letter and the names had to be ones that would stand the test of time. We received many suggestions and the twelve most common were put to the student vote.

Despite the number of choices, one set of names led the voting from start to finish. It was clear that students felt we should return to the traditional four House names of Arkwright, Wright, Fearne and Gell and so that is what we intend to do.

The new tutor group names and numbers will be announced before the end of term and the students in the two tutor groups which have been disbanded have been consulted about their new groupings. The new senior tutors are Mr Brierley for Wright, Ms Cox for Arkwright, Ms Hughes for Fearne and Mr Whittall for Gell.

We are all looking forward to developing the new system in September and hope that it will lead to many inter-House competitions and friendly rivalry whilst allowing us to monitor the progress of our new Year 7 students more carefully than ever.

Festival of Languages

Y7 had a world cup fest during cross-curricular day. We used ICT to play translating games to learn some of the languages spoken in the participating countries. We also labelled maps and made posters about the countries who started out in the World Cup

Before lunch we did all about food!! That was the best part of the day I think!! We tasted loads of different food like biscuits, chocolate with nuts in, cheeses and salami! In the afternoon we made footballs out of big pieces of card. We decorated one side of the ball with footballers' faces and on the other side with football words in that language! The day was really fun and we all had a good time. The banners and posters in the hall look great and make the hall look a lot more colourful!!

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

Anthony Gell Well

This year's well design promotes 'Healthy Eating', and the charity we are supporting is Diabetes Uk. We want to encourage people to eat more fruit and vegetables, and to 'BEE HEALTHY, BEE HAPPY'

Year 7 students contributed to the design, in particular: Juliette Carlton – Thoquenne, Melissa Kenny, Chris Moore, Jade Moorhouse, Jack Randall, Molly Smith, Aisha Sobey, and Vicky Vallance.

Over one week, approximately 150 students helped to create the Well Dressing.

The finished well was displayed in the Memorial gardens and raised £188 – 44p for 'Diabetes Uk'.



Talk Time with Darren Rippon

A member of Y7, Avril Pickford has recently met with Local Councillor David Rippon to ask his opinions about the problem of children sleeping on the street as part of a PSE project. When asked, he said that he would ask the Prime Minister to provide money and resources for children sleeping on the streets as well as encouraging anyone who has run away or is thinking about it to contact a support group.

Wirksworth 700

Anthony Gell students of all ages are getting involved with the Wirksworth 700 Pageant – part of a long weekend of celebrations to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the granting of Wirksworth's market charter by King Edward I in 1306.

The pageant, which tells the history of the town from lime formation to the present day, will be held on Saturday 15th July in St Mary's churchyard and is a true community affair with Anthony Gell having a high profile.



A group of Anthony Gell Year 8 students wrote, and are acting in, a piece about Richard Arkwright and other Year 8 pupils joined local artist Karen Woods and a small group of local Primary school pupils to make giant puppets to perform in a piece written by Ellie Adams from Year 12. Other Gell students have joined local community theatre groups and are performing with them, whilst others are joining Debi Hedderwick's dancers, or appearing with Wirksworth Army Cadets as the Roman Army – even Mr Whittall, Mr Dixon & Mrs Dean have agreed to take part in the Pageant!

Simon Groom, ex-Blue Peter presenter is to be the commentator for the Pageant which includes drama, comedy, dance, music, song and puppets and it is being co-ordinated by Charlotte Rattenbury – we're sure that she'll manage to persuade even more AGS staff and students to get involved somehow!

Survivors Students at Sudbury

Twelve year 9 boys have experienced a woodland survival course at Spring Wood this June. Have they survived? It's hard to tell really but it was great fun. It was part of the introduction to their Youth Award Bronze course starting in September.



Well done lads Jack Clay, Jack Heappey, Mark Briddon, Adam Webster, Nathan Spencer, Nathan Hallows, Declan Redshaw, Rhys Kinder, Tom Ashton, Ryan Johnston and Kaine Parkin.

Nine students from Anthony Gell School with three friends from Alderwasley School have made the first of three visits to Sudbury Hall. They are involved in a research project helping the National Trust make decisions about the refurbishment of the Museum of Childhood in 2007/8. Students are to suggest ideas that will improve facilities in the museum and will interview members of the public to obtain their views. The students will complete a transect to show the results of their observations.

On the next visit in July they are going to tell Staff at Sudbury Hall about their own childhood memories and bring objects that remind them of when they were very young. The students are Charlotte David, Scott Greenhough, Thomas Lumbard, Karl Schoenemann, Luke Sayles, Amy Russell, Zoe Tearnan, Craig Fletcher, Kevin Beastall, Jake Hewitt, Lauren Kyte and Charlotte.

Fruity Friday Gravel Day

As part of our efforts to become a healthy school we are raising the focus on healthy eating. Later this term a Whole School Approach to Food policy will be presented to Governors, so thank you to everyone for your contributions and comments. Thank you also to Y7 and Y8 students who took part in a national drinks' survey. In return for taking part we will buy some healthy eating posters for display. We joined in with the nation's 'Fruity Friday' and raised £39 in aid of World Cancer Research. Thanks in particular to Miss Foster and her helpers for making such delicious home-made fruit smoothies Delicious. Miss Cox was the lucky winner of 'Find Pip the Strawberry'... thanks to the 6th form who joined in with the staff for this fund raising activity.



Supported by AGS Foundation Governors

Work is nearing an end on this project and great progress was made last week when two lorry loads of gravel were delivered. The students involved in the project worked all morning to get the gravel moved and embedded in the path. They were working with three members of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers all of whom were very impressed with the level of effort shown by the students. At present the path is nearly finished, the flower bed



is blooming and one of the two benches has been built and positioned. Over the next three weeks a second bench will be constructed, a bird table will be put up and a set of steps will be cut into the steep bank down towards the brook. The Year 8 students involved in the project have shown great commitment and responsibility in their work and deserve great credit for their achievements.

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Sport Report

SPORTS DAY 2006

Well, not exactly perfect weather, but thankfully the rain held off and Sports Day 2006 went ahead. It was a great day with pupils from Y7 – 9 competing for their PE group either NORTH or SOUTH. In the morning all the throwing and jumping finals were held with many tightly contested competitions, especially the high jump. The wind didn't prove too much of a hazard with throwing, in fact it could even have helped a little. We were very excited to have two new school records in the Javelin thrown by Cara Iheanacho in Y8 and Mae Wilson in Y9. All their hard work at athletics club paid off and we were able to witness their great achievements, well done girls.



It was in the afternoon when the boys decided to claim their achievements and many came close to breaking records! It was Andrew Holmes for Y8 in the 100m and Jack Clay for Y9 in the 800m who took the records today. Congratulations to them both for outstanding races!

Overall it was SOUTH who won on the day although it was a very close competition, so well done to all who took part. It was great to see a few staff donning their trainers for the last race of the day with a 4 x 100m relay. Teams were made up of staff and 6th formers and provided a good bit of entertainment.

A special thanks must go to the caretaking staff for making the sports field a great venue for the day and to the PE department for organising such a fantastic event.



Gell girls make the East Midlands U17 team

Sarah Matkin and Hannah Buchanan have been successful in their quest to play representative Basketball after a great year for the school team.

FIBA, the world governing body, have made 2006 "The year of the Women" in world basketball. England Basketball have continued this vision and organised a regional tournament for girls born in or before 1989.

Sarah and Hannah attended a trial held at Jessie Boot Arena in Nottingham along with 23 other girls from Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire.

The girls are now set to represent the East Midlands in a 10 team regional tournament to be held over the weekend 30th June – 2nd July at the English Institute of Sport, Sheffield. Over the weekend all the England coaches will be on hand to see the teams play. Let's hope the girls have a great weekend.

Dates for your diary - Autumn term 2006

Thurs 17th August

A2 results from 9:30 am

AS results from 11:00 am

Thurs 24th August

GCSE results 10:00 am

Tues 5th September

School opens for Y7, 12 & 13

Wed 6th September

School open for ALL students

Fri 20th October

Staff training day

Mon 23rd to Fri 27th Oct

Half term

Wed 20th Dec

Staff training day

Thurs 21st to Tues 2nd Jan

Christmas holidays

A separate communication with more details and activities, parents' evenings, reports and coursework information will be available in September.