



Anthony Gell School

15 September 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to my first update during the 2021-22 academic year. I hope that you and your family have had as good a summer break as possible, and managed to make the most of the gradual reduction in restrictions.

The staff and many of the families who are part of AGS had a summer of very mixed emotions; with excellent results for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 being confirmed by the exam boards in August, before we received the very tragic and devastating news about the death of one of our students. Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with Jack's family and we are providing support for others in school who need our help at this time. Tragedies such as this are very difficult to even begin to comprehend but we can be comforted a little, in the knowledge that we all have the heartfelt and much valued support of others within our community. We will, when the time is right, help facilitate opportunities and events to remember Jack and celebrate his life.

We have welcomed a new group of Year 7 students into school and they have already started to impress us. They have settled quickly, grown in confidence, and made an impressive start in and out of their lessons.

In addition to the new starters in Year 7, we have a record number of students starting their new courses in Year 12. Our Sixth Form continues to grow in terms of student numbers, facilities and curriculum breadth, which is very pleasing.

It was wonderful to be able to see so many of our students from last year's Year 11, 12 and 13 achieve qualifications which enabled them to progress on their preferred pathways. There are lots of Universities from across the UK who will once again benefit from having one or more AGS students join them. Several of our students secured highly sought-after apprenticeships or have entered into employment with training. Some of last year's Year 11 have not moved into the AGS Sixth Form, but have instead secured places in nearby colleges and post-16 providers, on courses well-suited to their talents and aspirations. We wish all of our leavers well and we look forward to hearing of their successes in the future.

Wood Street, Wirksworth, Derbyshire DE4 4DX

Headteacher: **Malcolm Kelly**

www.anthonygell.co.uk

T 01629 825577

E enquiries@anthonygell.co.uk

Term started before term started this year! We were able to coordinate a programme of lateral flow testing for all students who wanted to be part of this, here in school, before they continue to test at home. Our testing programme enabled students to return to lessons on the first day of their new term, with learning quickly getting underway in all year groups on 6 September. Students of all ages have made very good starts to the 2021-22 academic year and have impressed with their attitudes towards learning and support of one another. We continue to be Covid aware and our approach is a sensible and sensitive one, as we seek to strike the appropriate balance between fewer restrictions and considerate behaviour.

Government ministers have announced, within the last two days, that a programme of Covid vaccination will be extended to include children aged 12-15. We await detail regarding this programme and I will therefore write to you separately about this when more is known.

I am looking forward to the new school year, hoping that we will have fewer disruptions but knowing that we will still need to be alert and ready for changes if required. Our approach has been tested under some of the most extreme conditions in the last 18 months, but it has proved to be robust and successful. The young people in our care have been supported through these turbulent times and have continued to achieve great things. Their resilience and undoubted talents, combined with our support in school and at home, will help them to go on to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Thank you for your continued support in making this a reality.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Kelly
Headteacher