



Dear parents/carers,

Exploring Future Partnerships for AGS

Anthony Gell School has gained a great deal of success from working in partnership with other schools and organisations. As a founder member and lead school in 'Peak 11', AGS was able to strengthen its provision and enhance its credentials. Although *Peak 11* is not able to function as it once did, we have continued to play an active role in the Derbyshire 'Connected Schools' group. In addition to the secondary school partnerships, AGS benefits greatly from the mutual support provided to members of the 'Cluster of Gell Schools' (COGS). These partnerships, combined with our commitment to engage in the very best support available to us, have helped AGS students to achieve outstanding levels of success, within an inclusive environment which provides high quality teaching and excellent pastoral care.

The AGS governing body have worked tirelessly in support of the school, our staff and our students. Our governors have carefully monitored and helped guide the school's development; regularly evaluating our position and provision in terms of the national, regional and local educational landscape. Governors have encouraged us to develop high quality systems leadership, be outward looking and access the best support available, in our pursuit of excellence and in our drive to achieve our shared goals whilst maintaining our core values.

As part of their work, the AGS governors have undertaken regular reviews of the different models which have been available to us. As early as 2015, AGS governors have sought information on the various types of partnership available to schools, and have reviewed this at regular intervals amidst a changing national, regional and local landscape. Both I and the governors have been happy with our decision to remain a maintained school under the control of the Local Authority, as we firmly believed that this was the correct decision for AGS.

Our most recent research has led us to believe that the time is right to explore one of the options available to good schools in more detail, and we have started a conversation with a few Derbyshire schools and academies about what might be possible if we were to enter into a formal partnership together.

We would like to include you in any decisions regarding a change of status for AGS and/or any new formal federation with other schools and will therefore be writing to you at various points in the months ahead to provide updates and give you the opportunity to make your opinion known during a period of consultation. As well as parents/carers, we will also be working closely with staff and students to ensure everyone is kept well-informed and involved in the process.

We will continue to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of remaining as a Local Authority maintained school, as we seek to shape our future with the best interests of our students, our staff and our community at the heart of our choice. We will look to take advantage of opportunities which best secure the future development of AGS, continue to build on our strengths by working with others, whilst retaining the ethos and philosophy which has been, and will remain, a fundamental cornerstone of AGS.

We are committed to ensure that any decision taken will not weaken the strong bonds and excellent working relationship we have with all of our partner primary schools, as we continue to work together to provide high quality education across all Key Stages.

I will write again shortly with more detail regarding the possible partnership AGS could co-create and provide you with information about our research to date. Anthony Gell School has grown and developed over many years; often at the forefront of innovative change, with clarity of thought founded on sound principles of education. Decisions have always been made with the wellbeing of children and young people in mind. This approach will guide us in the months and years ahead, as we continue to make decisions which will better ensure the ongoing provision of high-quality comprehensive education in this part of the Derbyshire Dales and Amber Valley.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Kelly
Headteacher