



Anthony Gell School



A guide for parents of new students

2021 - 2022

WELCOME TO AGS

Care - Aspire - Achieve



Anthony Gell is a community in which learners are safe and happy, well supported and inspired. Within this learning environment students are confident, aware of their potential and work hard in order to achieve academic excellence and self-fulfilment. Students and staff share a sense of pride in our collective achievements and a sense of belonging to something really quite special.

This booklet aims to answer some of those questions that we are asked most often. We are sure that you will have others. Please do ask them.



THE SCHOOL DAY

What are the important times of the school day?

SIXTH FORM, FEARNE & GELL	ARKWRIGHT, NIGHTINGALE & WRIGHT	TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY
LESSON 1	LESSON 1	9.00AM TO 10.05AM
LESSON 2	LESSON 2	10.05AM TO 11.05AM
BREAK	BREAK	11.05AM TO 11.30AM
LESSON 3	LESSON 3	11.30AM TO 12.30PM
TUTOR TIME	LUNCH	12.30PM TO 12.50PM
LUNCH (ALL STUDENTS)	LUNCH (ALL STUDENTS)	12.50PM TO 1.10PM
LUNCH	TUTOR TIME	1.10PM TO 1.30PM
LESSON 4	LESSON 4	1.30PM TO 2.30PM
LESSON 5	LESSON 5	2.30PM TO 3.30PM

What is a tutor group and a teaching group?

Tutor groups are in one of five Houses (Arkwright, Fearne, Gell, Nightingale or Wright). They will stay in this tutor group until they move into Year 12.

Tutor groups have names A1 to A5, F1 to F5, G1 to G5, N1 to N5 and W1 to W5. Your child's tutor is your main point of contact with the school, plus the pastoral manager for each house.

Mrs Pickford is an Assistant Headteacher at Anthony Gell School and Head of Pastoral Care who coordinates the pastoral system.

Our teaching groups in Year 7 are all mixed ability groups. Students will be put in ability sets in Maths after Christmas but there is no other setting by ability until Year 8.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if my child gets the bus to school?

All the buses should get your child to school by 8.45am. If you have any problems with buses, please phone Mrs Pickford at school. If you are entitled to a bus pass you should receive this before the first day of term. You can apply online at: www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Staff will see your child safely on to the buses each evening and students in Year 7 will be allowed out five minutes early for the first week in September to make sure they catch them!

What if my child is not able to attend school?

Please phone school on the first day your child is away. Please send a note to school when your child returns, addressed to his/her Tutor. If you do not contact school then you will be contacted by our Pastoral Managers to clarify the reason for your child's absence.

We work closely with the Education Welfare Service to help solve any attendance problems that occur. We give rewards to students who maintain 100% attendance and also reward and acknowledge very good attendance throughout the school. As you will know, there are new rules making the authorisation of term time absence only possible in exceptional circumstances.

What should my child do if they feel ill whilst in school?

Firstly, they should tell the class Teacher. If they are not in a lesson then they should find their Tutor or a member of staff who is on duty. Your child may be sent to rest in the medical room. We will, of course, phone you immediately if we feel it is necessary for them to be taken home.

If your child phones you and asks to come home, please phone the school to find out the details. We will never ask your child to ring you. We ask students not to use mobile phones to contact parents if they are ill.

What will my child need to bring?

Basic equipment is vital. All students should have pens, pencils, rubber, ruler and preferably some simple geometrical instruments such as a pair of compasses, set squares and a protractor. They also need a calculator and these can be purchased for around £4.50 in school.

They will certainly need a bag to carry all their books and folders around in. PE kit is sold through 'Kick off Sport' in Matlock, you can arrange for it to be delivered to the school or to your home. Please visit the website at www.kickoffsport.co.uk.

Can I buy things more cheaply at school?

We sell calculators and dictionaries on a non-profit making basis, provided they are for use in school. We also sell basic stationery items in the Library.

How is my child likely to react to the new school?

Probably with a mixture of excitement and apprehension. Most students get very tired in the first few weeks. Moving around every hour, carrying bags is very different from their primary school. They will soon get used to it.



What should I do if I have concerns about my child?

Please contact school sooner rather than later. Most problems are sorted out quickly and easily. Don't worry if the problem seems small or trivial, we would rather know about it and put your mind at rest. In the first instance, please phone or email to contact your child's Tutor or their Pastoral Manager or subject teacher or the Head of Department if it is a subject specific concern. You can contact any member of staff via the enquiries@anthonygell.co.uk by simply stating which teacher your email is for the attention of. For telephone contact the school switchboard is open from 7.45am to 4.15pm and there are always staff in school a lot later than this! We will make sure we get back to you within 24 hours within the working week.

When will I first find out about my child's progress?

We monitor the progress of all students very carefully. We have already had detailed information from the Primary Schools and staff have communicated with colleagues in each school. We do a workcheck on each student after the first half term. Your child's Tutor will then invite you to meet them after half term, we will advise you of the date nearer the time.

If you have any questions before then, please ring and make an appointment with a member of staff.

Academic Progress

You will receive an achievement and effort report for each term. These are issued at the beginning of January, immediately after Easter and just before the summer break. There are usually two parents evenings each year during once each year group.

Access to the school computer network

Students at Anthony Gell School will be set up with access to Office 365 Education for free, including online (and mobile) versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and now Microsoft Teams, plus additional classroom tools. We will cover how to access and use this technology during the year 6 induction lessons which will be held in September.

Rewards and Consequences

We award students with reward points for a range of good behaviour, including attendance or for being helpful at school or in the community. Points are awarded by class teachers and tutors and we will send e-certificates home. There are an array of rewards including vouchers for the school canteen; Amazon vouchers and entry into the big prize for students who receive the most amount of positive points. All reward points contribute to competitions between the five Houses leading to further rewards and ultimately the House shield.

We expect good behaviour from our students both in school and on trips and activities. If students choose not to follow one of the school rules, we have a number of consequences we will use, which are logged as negative points on PARS, including detentions, catching up on work missed, or withdrawal from class. We use formal exclusions very rarely.

INSIGHT

INSIGHT, is a web-based parental engagement piece of software, available to all Parents/Carers. You will receive a log in for this.

A significant benefit of using INSIGHT as a Parent is that you can access your child's progress, timetable and attendance information. Furthermore, all information on their achievements and behaviour.





What subjects will they do?

We have a two week timetable with 50 one-hour lessons. These lessons are divided up as follows:

- English
- Maths
- Humanities (History, Geography and RE)
- Science
- French
- Technology
- Music
- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- PE
- Personal and Social Education
- Computing



What about homework?

Your child will be given a homework timetable on the first day. Maths and English will both set one homework each week. Your child will also be given one longer homework task from one of their subjects each week. Please encourage them to keep up to date and to record their homework in their planner.

Each student will be given a planner at the beginning of the year. We aim to promote good study skills for the future. All homework tasks will be available online.

What happens at lunchtime?

The Canteen serves excellent meals at a very reasonable cost. Food is also available at break. Students are welcome to bring in packed lunches if you prefer. All payments for food in the Canteen will be through Parent Pay.

We are working to make our food as healthy as possible. There are no vending machines in school and chilled water is always available in the Hall. Students can drink water in lessons if they have a suitable bottle. They are not allowed to drink anything else in lessons.

There are lots of activities at lunchtimes including sports, arts and computing and we encourage all students to get involved. We will give your child more details once they have had a chance to settle in.

What if my child is going on a trip?

We will always inform you if your child is going out of school for any reason. This could include lessons outside of school as well as trips. It is vital that you keep us informed in any change of your email address so we contact you. These letters are also available on the school's website.

We have activities days at the end of the year with a wide variety of trips and in-school activities.

Activities include Science trips, Ski and Sports trips and a wide variety of other trips connected to the curriculum. There is also activity day at Lea Green in the first term of Year 7.



Valuables

Lockers are available at a small rental charge. However, we encourage students not to bring valuables to school. Items such as mobile phones must not be used in lessons and are brought to school at your own risk. If your child needs to bring a musical instrument into school please ensure it is appropriately insured.

The school does not accept responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged valuables and our insurance does not cover their loss.

PE staff will collect any valuables and lock them away during PE lessons.

Please ensure that all your child's belongings have their name on them.

Free Meals

Your son/daughter may be entitled to free meals. As a general guideline, these are available to people in receipt of Income Support or income based Job Seekers Allowance. You can apply online at the Derbyshire County Council website.

Accounts are topped up automatically if students are on free meals. This ensures that no-one need know that an individual student is on free meals. We encourage you to apply if you are eligible even if your son/daughter does not wish to take a free meal as the school receives Pupil Premium funding which will benefit your child in other ways.

Students with additional needs

If your child has additional needs, please talk to our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo), Dr Cyster who will be able to tell you what support is available and how to access it.

There have been significant national changes to how students with additional needs are supported. We will keep you up to date.

Keeping in touch

We use an email system to communicate with parents as well as occasional phone calls. This allows us to send out general or more individual messages to parents. Please let us know if you change your number or email address so that we can keep our records up to date. You can reply to emails, the reply will go to the member of staff who sent the email.

Pupil Premium Funding

Students are entitled to support from the Pupil Premium Funding if they have had Free School Meals at any point in the last 6 years, are in care or have a parent in the Armed Services. We use the money to pay for extra support, particularly in Maths and English and to provide equipment and access to activities.

Calendar 2021 - 2022

We will send you regular letters with dates of important events and the calendar on our website is updated weekly. The term dates are as follows:

Autumn: Friday 3rd September 2021

Spring: Monday 10th January 2022

Summer: Monday 25th April 2022



Please check the INSET days as these may affect the start and end to a school holiday

Holidays

Please do not arrange family holidays during term time. Absence from school disrupts progress and can cause friendship problems to occur.

Under National regulations, Headteachers can only authorise leave in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised holidays taken will be recorded as such and may then come to the attention of the Education Welfare Service and can result in a fixed penalty or prosecution.

Bad weather

We try to keep the school open if at all possible. However, many of our staff travel quite a long distance to school and in bad weather it may be that we do not have enough staff to keep the school open safely.

You can ring school from 7.15am on days when there is very bad weather. We will also put a message out on Radio Derby as soon as possible and put a message on our own website. We will also use our emailing service. You can also follow us on Twitter on @AGS_Wirksworth

Contacts

If you need to contact school you can use telephone or email.



Telephone

01629 825577 from 8.00am until around 5.00pm. The phone may be answered after this time, but it does depend on staff availability.



Email

Our general email address is enquiries@anthonygell.co.uk



Web

Our website address is www.anthonygell.co.uk

All the letters we send out are also on our website so you can download any from there.



Twitter

Follow us in Twitter @AGS_Wirksworth

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I have had a great year at AGS because the lessons have been really fun and the teachers are really friendly.

Year 7 Student

“

It's really interesting and you get lots of opportunities, like sports teams and trips.

Year 7 Student

“

Anthony Gell is a lot bigger than my primary school, but that made it easy to make lots of new friends when I arrived.

Year 7 Student

