



Anthony Gell School **PROSPECTUS**



2021 - 2022

CARE • ASPIRE • ACHIEVE

Welcome to **Anthony Gell** **SCHOOL**

Anthony Gell School is a successful, ambitious, and high-performing school at the heart of the local community. We pride ourselves on providing a first-class learning experience and encourage all students to be aspirational, work hard and achieve great things, no matter where their interests or talents may lie.

We firmly believe that every child should be able to access high quality education in an environment in which they are safe, happy, and cared for. Our staff support this ethos and work hard in order to give every child the chance to excel.

The sense of mutual respect and understanding is clearly evident throughout the school. Students and staff are proud of their school. We enjoy working and learning together.

Recent results show excellent academic outcomes in Key Stages 4 and 5. We offer a broad curriculum and give students the opportunities to acquire a wide range of knowledge and skills which will equip them well for the future.

Malcolm Kelly
Headteacher

Excellent teaching and learning are central to our commitment to personal growth and a desire to meet the individual needs of students.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to you to visit the school and experience the 'buzz' of learning in this vibrant community.



A Great Place to LEARN

EXCELLENT PROVISION

built over time

“The excellent support, community involvement and extra-curricular activities sets AGS apart from other schools. It has contributed to my child’s confidence, and fed into both his academic achievement, and his development as a person.”

YEAR 11 PARENT

Our school dates back to the foundation of a Free Grammar School by Anthony Gell in 1576. We have been on our current site since 1907 and became a comprehensive school in 1965. We believe that the school retains traditions associated with its long history, but also that it reflects much of what is best in the fast-changing progressive world of education.

We are a popular and over-subscribed school with around 850 students on roll, approximately 50 teaching staff, and a large team of support staff. Our premises facilitate high quality learning in a wide range of subjects.



The main building, technology block, library, Sixth Form study room and the original buildings have all recently had substantial upgrades.

We have well-equipped science labs, workshops, a wide variety of classrooms and teaching spaces as well as a state of the art computer network with over 200 workstations throughout the school.

The school is situated in extensive and attractive grounds, which support a wide range of activities. Improvements since 2000 have included the building of a large sports hall, indoor climbing walls and a fitness suite on site, as well as three flood-lit artificial pitches. These outstanding sports facilities serve the needs of both the school and the local community.

OUR AIMS

To ensure that each individual is given maximum help and encouragement in identifying and fulfilling their potential.

To ensure that all students achieve appropriate qualifications at the highest possible level and that they leave school with a range of skills and knowledge appropriate to the demands of adult life in the twenty-first century.

To ensure that students develop a critical awareness of and tolerance for the beliefs, opinions and traditions of others, irrespective of race, creed or gender.

To ensure that students acquire the adaptability and flexibility needed to operate in a world of very rapid change.

To help students develop the power to express their ideas and beliefs through a wide variety of media.



“ This school is one of a kind; you have many options with a caring and welcoming environment that helps us achieve and be the best we can be. ”

YEAR 9 STUDENT

A Progressive, Personalised CURRICULUM

Our students follow a rigorous, stimulating and diverse curriculum which is designed to challenge, reward and realise the potential of each and every child. Individual aptitudes and abilities are carefully evaluated to ensure appropriate programmes of study.

'How' students learn is as important as 'what' they learn. The ability to become an independent learner, with a thirst for knowledge, is an essential foundation for life-long learning.

“Pupils demonstrate positive attitudes to learning and take pride in their work.”

OFSTED 2018





Sixth Form STUDY

“The support I have had from my teachers and Sixth Form tutors has enabled me to advance my academic, personal, and social skills as well as provide me with memories and lifelong friends.”

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

One of the great advantages of an 11-18 school is the smooth progression of students from GCSE into post-16 courses. A large number of students continue their education at Anthony Gell School and follow Advanced Level or BTEC courses.

Our thriving and successful Sixth Form is characterised by an excellent teacher to student ratio alongside high levels of academic and pastoral support from a team of specialist staff. We endeavour to establish an adult environment in which to study; blending a healthy degree of independence with expert advice and guidance.

Learning Beyond THE CLASSROOM

A student's timetabled lessons are only a part of the learning experience.

Within school, there are numerous clubs for all ability levels in areas such as: drama, science, mathematics, computing, technical Lego, chess, robotics, film, dance and poetry. There are also opportunities for students to develop leadership skills including: School Council membership, sports leadership and peer mentoring.

We have exchange links with Wetter in Germany and Die in France. Foreign travel also extends to sport and music, with overseas tours in both. The school has been awarded the British Council's International School Award on three occasions.

We provide a number of residential experiences for students to enjoy as well as a wide range of day visits and trips.

“The AGS values of inclusivity, individual expression, a strong sense of community, trust and high expectations are ones I share.”
AGS TEACHER





Excelling in SPORTS

Anthony Gell School has an outstanding sporting reputation and takes part in many local, regional and national competitions, as well as providing a wide range of recreational clubs and activities for students to enjoy. Although our emphasis is on participation and enjoyment for all, our competitive reputation is strong. Several of our students perform at the highest levels in their chosen disciplines with international performers in most year groups.

“Anthony Gell makes sure that all its students’ needs are met. The school’s friendly staff make the learning environment fun and safe for you to be yourself.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

We also provide off-site and applied learning experiences for all students; with opportunities to try a wide variety of outdoor pursuits, including sailing boats owned by the school at nearby Carsington Water.



...AND THE ARTS

We have a strong commitment to the Arts. Many students learn to play musical instruments and there is a wide variety of musical groups, small and large, formal and informal. Beyond school we have strong links with local orchestras and choirs. We work closely with skilled peripatetic music teachers and are pleased that such large numbers of children opt to develop their skills with these staff. We serve as a centre for instrument lessons for children from a number of our neighbouring primary schools and a thriving Music Centre takes place in school on Saturday mornings.

Our commitment to providing all students with opportunities to develop skills in the arts is also supported by an excellent extra-curricular programme. Our extra-curricular programme includes regular visits to theatres as well as presenting several school-based drama productions each year including *Aida*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *We Will Rock You* and *Grease* in recent years. We also regularly present showcases of our students' work in Art, Media, Technology and Dance. We are proud to be a chosen venue of the annual Wirksworth Arts Festival.

Parental **PARTNERSHIP**

We recognise that the active interest and support of parents is vital to the success of young people at school. It is because of this that we seek the closest possible cooperation between staff and parents.

Interactive software enables parents to be kept fully informed of their child's progress in school, attendance, punctuality, homework, rewards and sanctions.

A Community of LEARNERS

We embrace the community as a resource - it supports much of what we do. Our students visit, survey, interview and sketch in the community; and local employers provide work placements that we value very highly.

Our philosophy is simple - Anthony Gell School should not be viewed as separate from the community which it serves.



“ The teachers and support staff have helped our daughters to discover subjects they love. The school has helped them grow in confidence, develop their own identities and widen their social skills.

YEAR 11 PARENT

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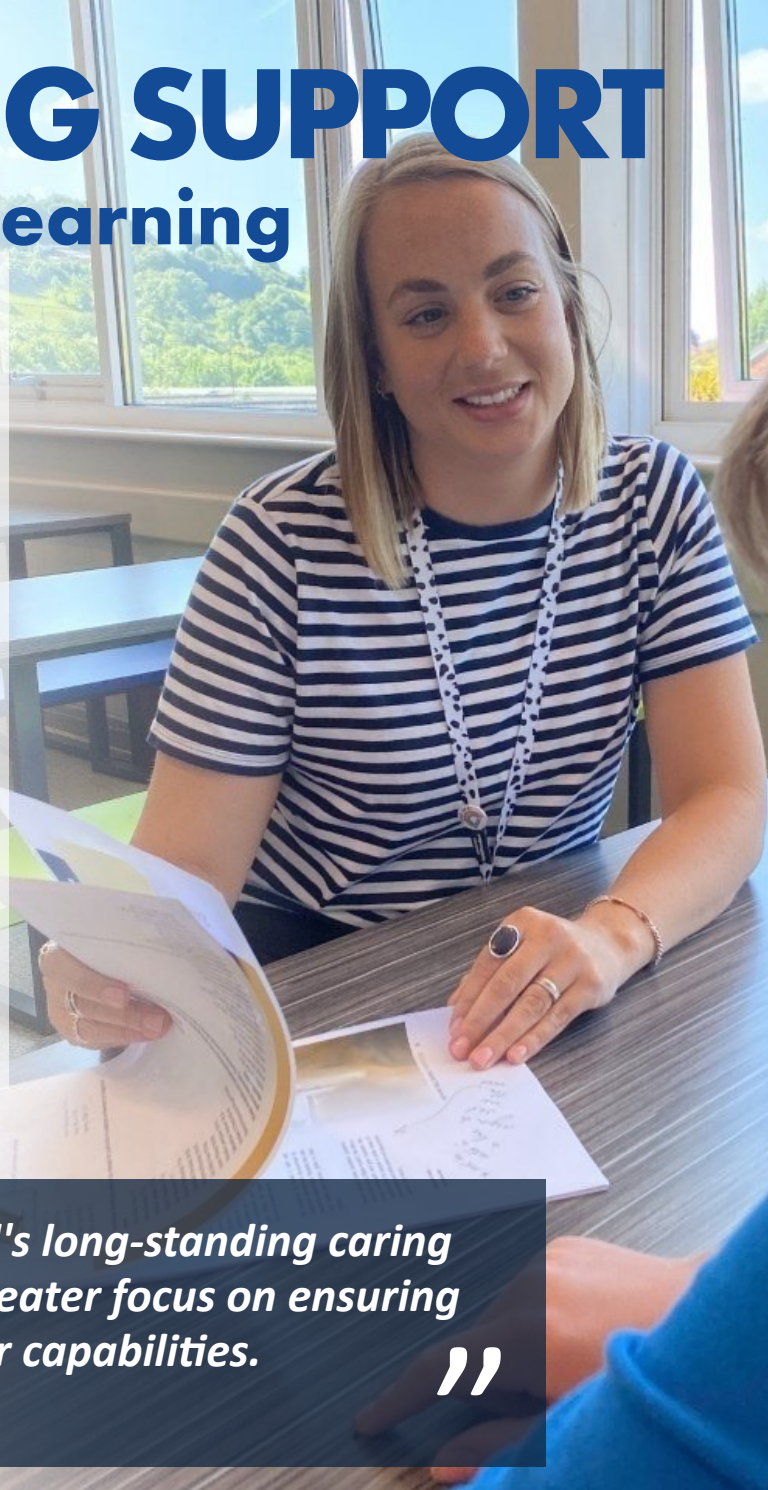
OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

The Foundation for Learning

We place great emphasis on caring for students on an individual basis. The school has an excellent reputation for our pastoral care, and we believe that our students achieve their best academically when they feel safe and happy at school.

Each child is allocated to one of five Houses, and supported by a Pastoral Manager and a team of tutors linked to their House. Once placed with a tutor, it is normal practice for that tutor and student to remain together for five years. We believe this contributes to the development of a close and caring relationship and makes it easier to create the excellent links between home and school which are important to the success of all children.

This structure means that tutor groups are made up of young people of mixed ages. We feel that this helps reinforce a sense of community and fosters a more mature atmosphere throughout the school. Additional individual support also operates on an academic level, with class teachers and mentors working on a one-to-one basis with students.



“...successfully combining the school's long-standing caring and compassionate ethos with a greater focus on ensuring that pupils achieve in line with their capabilities.

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OFSTED 2018



SPECIALIST support

We have an extensive programme to support all students regardless of their starting points. This support is a combination of work in the classroom and additional events, which sometimes take place in conjunction with our partner secondary schools from across Derbyshire.

Opportunities include access to national events, the chance to take part in national competitions and group project work in partnership with external organisations. Students are given the opportunity to help others in school to develop academic and social skills and to work with pupils from our partner primary schools.

Students with special educational needs or disabilities are supported by a team of skilled and dedicated staff. We use a combination of in-class support and withdrawal lessons depending on individual needs. We work closely with parents and a range of specialist staff from other organisations.

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Please contact us for more information, or to arrange a visit. I would also encourage you to take a look at our website where you can find a lot more information about the school.

Malcolm Kelly - Headteacher

