



SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Anthony Gell School

Message from Mr Kelly

Welcome to the second newsletter for this term and our final one of the academic year 2020-21. I hope you enjoy the various articles which have made it to print, and hope that these give you a flavour of what has been happening in and around school during the last few weeks. The 2020-21 school year has certainly proved challenging for all of us, but we can look back at what was achieved and reflect on the ways we all responded to the unusual demands placed upon us with a great deal of pride. The AGS community have, once again, shown just how good they are. Our students will be able to recall how each of them engaged with the online learning, worked in 'bubbles' and adhered to various new rules and protocols. They will be able to remember how they supported each other and how they continued to learn and develop during a period of national upheaval. I have always been proud to be associated with AGS, but this feeling has never been stronger than during the last 18 months. Adversity often results in a group of people coming closer together. Problems require solutions and complications are often lessened by teamwork. 2020-21 will be remembered for all these things. I hope you and your loved ones have a good summer break. Take care, continue to stay safe, and we will see one another (perhaps even without the need of a screen) in the new school year.

Malcolm Kelly
Headteacher

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Diary Dates:

12th July - Sixth Form
Induction (External
Applicants Only)

13th July - Sixth Form
Induction (All Applicants)

20th July - Year 13 Prom &
1st Activity Day

21st July - 2nd Activity Day



TRIPS ARE BACK!

As Coronavirus restrictions have started to lift we are pleased to be able to see some of our enrichment programme and curricular enhancing activities returning. A Year 10 Geography Fieldwork trip to Kelham Island in Sheffield was one of the highlights of the first half of our summer term. Year 10 spent their day conducting a wide range of fieldwork activities that they will follow up in the classroom as they prepare for their exams next year. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for AGS and members of the public commented on how courteous, hardworking and well behaved our students were - we'd expect nothing less!

Katy Lowe
Assistant Headteacher



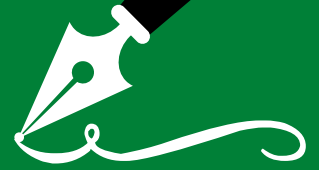
V Virtual Parents' Evenings

As a result of the national COVID strategy, we have been unable to hold our normal face to face parents' evenings during this academic year. However, we have been able to use software contained in our INSIGHT parent portal to hold 'virtual' parents' evenings for Years 13, 12, 11, 10, 8 and 7 so far, with Year 10 and 9 remaining before the end of the year! It has been a steep learning curve for both parents and staff (and not without its technical challenges) but we are pleased to have been able to offer the opportunity for parents to link to teachers in school and celebrate each child's achievements and pass on important information about learning. Thank you to all parents who have been able to work with us during this most unusual year!

Mr Lovatt
Assistant Headteacher

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less, and then two men

AGS JOURNALISM COMPETITION



the mountaintops and
half darkness came in
the sycamores



Huge congratulations to Shannon Harrison, Year 9, and Owen Young, Year 8, who won first and second prize in the journalism competition! Shannon and Owen wowed our judges with their passion, writing ability and calls to action.

Owen's piece 'Covid 19 Challenges: How 2020 Impacted my Life' was moving, thought provoking and hopeful. The judges commented that the piece really excelled in eloquence, drawing out tangible lessons that may inspire the reader to reflect in a similarly positive light on their own experience.

Shannon's article 'The Silent Crisis' blew the judges away. Her ability to capture the reader's attention whilst alerting them to a worldwide issue, men's mental health, and offering advice on what to look out for put her firmly in first place. With one judge commenting this was an insightful, practical and, by extension, a very sharable piece of work. One he would consider for his online publication.

Well done to our winners and thank you to all who entered; you are a credit to AGS!

Miss Salt - Literacy mentor

AGS INTERHOUSE BOOK QUIZ

Fearne house have been victorious in the annual AGS inter house book quiz. A team from each house in Year 7 took part in the quiz in May, and although the competition was fierce, Fearne emerged as the winners. The quiz involved all teams reading the same selection of books, which were supplied by the Book Trust, so team members spent the month before reading as much as they could.

On the day of the quiz the teams gathered with a working lunch and tackled rounds on each of the five books, followed by a general knowledge book round. All of the teams had lots of fun, and the winning team won a celebration breakfast for their whole tutor group. Well done Fearne, and well done to everyone who took part.

1st - Fearne, 2nd - Wright, 3rd - Gell, 4th - Nightingale, 5th - Arkwright.

Ms Spencer - Literacy mentor



Celebratory breakfast
for students in Year 7 Fearne!



Celebrating with Year 11

On the 28th of May we took time out to acknowledge the fabulous achievements of the AGS Year 11s of 2021.





Goodbye Year 13

**This wonderful group of young people are ready to fully embrace a range of exciting opportunities which lie ahead.
We will miss you!**



GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Jay Grindey



What is your new role at AGS?

From September I will be teaching all aspects of Design Technology and Food, alongside some Health & Social Care and Enterprise.

What university did you go to?

I went to Sheffield Hallam University to do my degree, returning 10 years later to complete my PGCE. I've also spent some time at the University of Derby.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I love to learn and through teaching I am able to continue to expand my subject knowledge and learn from the students every day.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to go for long walks with my dog, read and spend time with my children and family. I love food and like visiting independent cafes and restaurants in my local area.

If you had to summarise AGS in three words, what would they be?

Unique, welcoming, understanding.



Jess Salt

What is your new role at AGS?

I am currently a literacy mentor. In September I will be starting my teaching apprenticeship with AGS and will be training to be an English teacher, which I am very excited about!

Which university did you go to?

I studied English Literature at Sheffield Hallam University.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I didn't, initially! But during university I volunteered with a literary charity visiting schools and running creative writing workshops. Since then, I have lived all over the world working in different teaching jobs, some in the classroom and some office-based, and seeing young people begin to believe in themselves and their abilities taught me that teaching is one of the most rewarding jobs. Students can inspire teachers as much as teachers inspire them.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time I enjoy reading, badminton and watching Netflix.

If you had to summarise AGS in three words, what would they be?

Caring, compassionate, inspiring.

Update From our Food Central Team

Hello to everyone at Anthony Gell School from Derbyshire County Council's Food Central team. Thank you to those of you that completed our School Food Survey, there were some fantastic meal suggestions for the menu and you will see a lot of changes on the new menu that comes out in November.

From September you will see some changes in our break/lunch time service and each service counter at AGS will have a new look. The main servery will be the 'Food Central Café', serving your hot main meals whilst the 'Food Central Sandwich Bar' will serve all deli items such as: sandwiches, baguettes, salads and wraps. Downstairs will be a brand new 'Grab & Go' station for those of you in a hurry to get good food on the go, this will include paninis, hot rolls, wraps and salad bowls.

From the survey we can see that you are as concerned about the environment as we are. Therefore, we wanted to let you know that every takeaway container used by Food Central is compostable. Furthermore, our deli-ware products such as our sandwich/wrap containers, grab bag, panini box and baguette bag are made from plants and recycled paper. Additionally, using suppliers based in Derbyshire reduces the food miles of the meals served, lowering our environmental impact. By using seasonal produce our meals have a smaller Carbon Footprint.

We hope that you will enjoy the new service and we will send another survey out in 2022 to see if it can be improved further.

The Food Central Team

Year 6 Transition



It was fantastic to see all the pupils who will be our new Yr 7s for two mornings of activities earlier this term. Apprehensive smiles, excited smiles and eager smiles were to be seen as the students met in the sports hall ready and raring to go: Leaping Leopards, Pouncing Panthers, Terrific Tigers and Lively Lions joined together in team building games: fun was had with parachute games, target skills were enhanced with bean bags thrown at blow up Bosspeople, to see which team could get their Bossperson to the other

side of the sports hall first. There was lots of dodging going on with the Dodge Ball game, plus relay events, which encouraged everybody's competitive spirit. All students were a credit to their current schools, which sets a great foundation for our new Yr 7s at Anthony Gell. It was a real pleasure to welcome them to start their Anthony Gell journey and we look forward to starting the new academic year with them very soon.



Mrs Pickford
Head of Pastoral Care



Community Lettings

We have excellent facilities to hire at very competitive rates.

Lettings Charges as at April 2020:

Rooms (prices held for 2021)

	Room Type	Charge by hour excluding VAT
A	Hall	£25
B	Classroom	£12
C	Specialist Classroom e.g. Catering Kitchen	£15
D	Chairs set out in Hall	£10(one off charge)
E	Term time letting starting after 7pm	£25



Lettings Charges as at April 2020: Outdoor

	Type	Charge by hour excluding VAT
Grass Pitch	Booked by Freedom Leisure	
	Adults use, no changing room	£41.50
	Adult use, changing room - self clean	£48.00
	Adult use, changing room and clean	£58.00
	Under 18, no changing room	£34.00
	Under 18, changing room - self clean	£40.00
Astro Turf(s)	Under 18, changing room and clean	£50.00
	Charges set by AG Foundation, booked by Freedom Leisure	
	<u>Large Pitch</u>	
	Full	£47.50
	2/3	£34.00
	1/3	£23.50
	U18 on Sunday	£23
	<u>Medium Pitch</u>	
	Weekday full	£34.00
	Weekday 1/2	£17
	Weekend full	£25
	Weekend 1/2	£12.50
	3G Pitch	£29.50
	Tennis Court on Astro	£4.00 or £2 for under 18, before 6pm

To book the room facilities in school, please see our lettings policy and booking form available on the school website under the Information/Community lettings tab. To book the external astro turf or grass pitches, please contact Wirksworth Leisure Centre direct on 01629 824717.