



Anthony Gell School

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



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DIARY DATES

21st December - End of term for Students at 1pm.

10th January 2022 - Students return after Christmas

13th January - Year 9 Parents' Evening

20th January - Year 9 Options Evening

27th January - Year 10 Parents' Evening

2nd February - Dance Show

10th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

17th February - Year 7 Parents' Evening

Update from Mr Kelly

Our Autumn newsletter is once again packed with information and stories which help to highlight just some of the things that have been happening this term.

It has been an absolute joy to see staff and students back onsite for a long period of uninterrupted learning, with students once again able to use all of the resources available to them. We are also very pleased to see our comprehensive programme of enrichment activities starting to be reintroduced, as students enjoy learning in and outside of lessons.

We have welcomed parents and carers into school for parents' evenings for Years 11, 12 and 13 for the first time in almost two years, and hosted two very successful Open Evening events.

Things are definitely beginning to feel a bit more normal again after the challenges all schools have faced in the last two years. We are looking forward to a memorable end to a great term!

QA & New Staff



Danielle Brookes

What is your role at AGS?

I am a PE Teacher here at Anthony Gell

What university did you go to?

I went to Sheffield Hallam University to complete my undergraduate degree which was Sport and Exercise Science. I completed my PGCE at Loughborough University to become a qualified teacher.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to teach because every child should be helped and supported to realise their potential. PE was a very positive part of my school life and with encouragement it can be too for all students. PE is a subject which develops the student in ways no other subject can.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love to travel and experience different countries, cities, and culture. I belong to a surf school and go surfing every summer. I enjoy camping with my family and being outdoors.

I like photography and editing photos. I love playing different sports, being active and going for walks. I am a crazy cat Mum to two ginger kittens, Nala and Nellie.

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

Unique, caring, welcoming



Jamie Flint

What is your role at AGS?

I am the Director of Teaching and Learning for Communications, meaning I have overall leadership of English, Languages, Criminology and Media Studies.

What university did you go to?

I started off doing Journalism at Edge Hill near Liverpool, before moving course and university to the University of Derby. My teacher training was done at Keele.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I didn't initially: my chosen career at 18 was journalism and being a newspaper reporter. When it became clear that it wasn't for me, I looked to find a career that would allow me to use my love of creative writing and the idea of developing such skills in young people led me to teaching. I haven't regretted it. I love developing my knowledge of the different texts that we teach and trying to ensure that I give my students the best experiences that I can. It is very fulfilling.

What do you do in your spare time?

I relax by playing on my consoles: I have about 20 at home, including a recently purchased PS5, and an arcade machine in the spare room. I enjoy reading, going to the cinema and watching television, as well as doing things with my daughter, who is ten, and my little boy, who is two.

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

Unique, friendly, aspirational

A Level Geography Trip

to the Lake District



At the end of September, the year 13 geographers spent a fantastic 4 days collecting data and developing their understanding for their coursework assessments (NEAs) in the beautiful Lake District. The focus of the trip was to investigate elements of both human and physical geography plus develop skills in NEA planning and primary data collection. Over the course of the trip we visited Maryport to assess the extent to which regeneration of ex-fishing towns has been successful, Keswick to investigate strategies used in rural rebranding and took a guided walk (courtesy of Mr Lovatt) to Easedale Tarn to measure corrie orientation. True to form in the Lake District the weather was drizzly, however this didn't stop our wonderful A-level geographers from giving their all, with smiles on their faces.

Mrs Harrison, Global Faculty



“The trip to Grasmere in the Lake District was a great way to widen our knowledge on how to collect data for our fieldwork projects and also gave us lots of revision for our ‘glaciated landscapes’ topic in Geography. It was really refreshing to do a school trip, especially with such a tight-knit group of Year 13 students that went for the 4 day trip after the pandemic and the scenery was gorgeous.”

Isabella Gerrelli



A Level Business Studies Trip

Mr Cacace and I took the Year 13 and Year 12 Applied Business Studies students to the White Peak Distillery to meet Max and Claire Vaughn and their team. The White Peak Distillery opened in 2016 with the aim of bringing the first commercially distilled Whiskey in Derbyshire. They are based in the Old Wire works in Ambergate and they currently distil a variety of gins and rums whilst they wait for their whiskey to mature. The business students are going to be basing their marketing coursework on this local business. The visit proved invaluable by providing students with the insight into the nature of the problems faced by a new business start up. Students were able to have a tour of



the distillery process and we were able to discover many interesting facts such as the distillery sources, the yeast used in the brewing process from the local Thornbridge brewery, and that the whiskey gets most of its colour and flavour from the barrels it is matured in. Max, Claire and their team were incredibly welcoming to our youngsters and they took time to explain the difficulties they've encountered alongside the skills and experiences that have helped to make their enterprise a success. This was a thoroughly engaging visit, and we are grateful for the time given by the White Peak Distillery to our school. The White Peak do offer tours to the general public, and I would highly recommend a visit to hear their story and sample their products.

Alistair Weightman

Director of Teaching and Learning - Creative



PROMS

Thursday 22nd September saw a long awaited and eagerly anticipated set of celebrations for our Year 11 classes of 2020 and 2021. Students from both year groups turned out in style at Shottle Hall with many proud parents and carers looking on to share this rite of passage with their children. We were joined by a range of ex-students who have now gone on to their future pathways but wanted to take the time out to re-visit Gell and come together to celebrate their successes. As always there was an exciting array of vehicles that students arrived in from tractors to sports cars to a motorcycle troop. Great food, beautiful photos and lots of dancing was the magical mix for a wonderful evening - best wishes to all our students for their future ahead.

Mrs Lowe
Assistant Headteacher



PROMS



After two postponements and a nail-biting wait to see if restrictions would allow, we finally welcomed our Year 13s to their prom. It was wonderful to catch up with students and wish them well for their futures. Makeney Hall, as always made the event a memorable evening for both students and staff to enjoy, and with an excellent mix of good food and dancing.

Good luck to all with your future plans.

Miss Butt
Sixth Form Learning Mentor



Children in Need 2021

On Friday 19th November, Anthony Gell School students and staff once again raised funds for BBC Children in Need. Students paid £1 to come to school dressed up, there were two bake sales, a busking performance by two students in the Gell quad, which raised a whopping £106 and attracted quite a crowd, parents raised £140 through parentpay and our W2 tutor group endured having wet sponges thrown in their faces all in the name of charity.

On Monday 22nd November, our brave Mr Cicchini sacrificed his pony tail after doing a poll to see if he should shave it off for charity. He collected £22.48 in favour of keeping it and a massive £289.20 to cut it off...



Our current total raised for this year's BBC Children in Need stands at **£1,059.88**

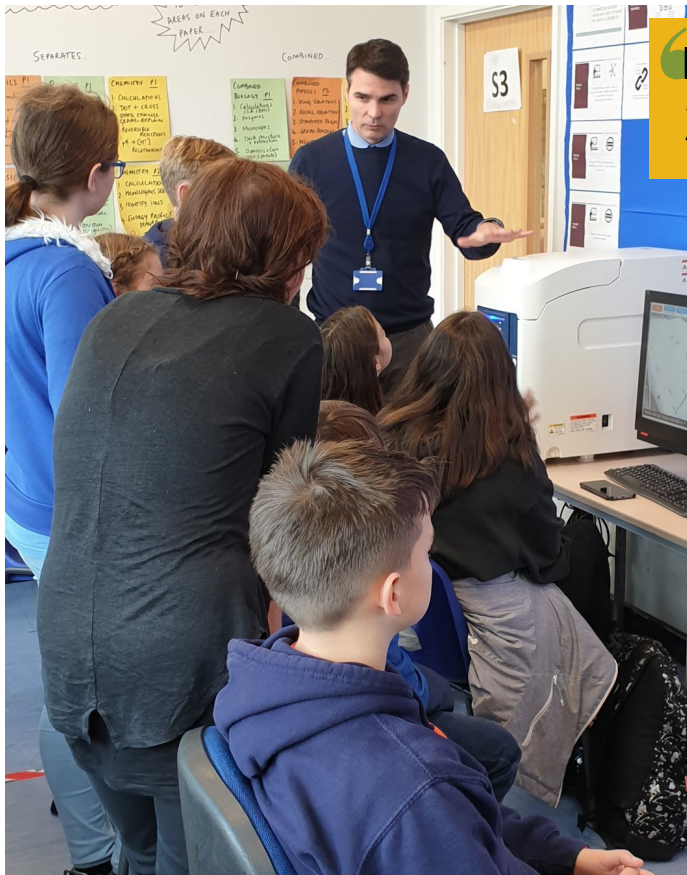
2021 Results

For a second year, students sitting their exams in the summer of 2021 were awarded grades on the basis of evidence collected by their teachers. The Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), submitted to the exam boards by our teachers this year, delivered well-deserved, excellent outcomes for our students sitting exams in Year 11 and Year 13. The TAG process involved the setting of a range of assessments and subsequent standardisation and moderation to ensure the grades were reliable and fully reflective of the talents and abilities of our students. We are pleased that the grades our students have now received reflect their hard work and determination, following the significant hurdles they have had to overcome as a result of the national response to COVID-19. As a result, many of our Year 13 students have gone on to the universities and colleges of their choice and are now continuing their studies, whilst others have found apprenticeships and employment across a range of sectors. A large number of our Year 11 students have now returned to the AGS Sixth Form and are undertaking a range of A Levels and vocational courses. Congratulations to all of our students on a brilliant response to the challenges we have faced together!

Mr Lovatt
Assistant Headteacher

Scanning Electron Microscope

on loan from the **Natural History Museum**



"It was mind blowing to see things you can't see with the naked eye!"

Year 8 students using the SEM
"It was amazing!"

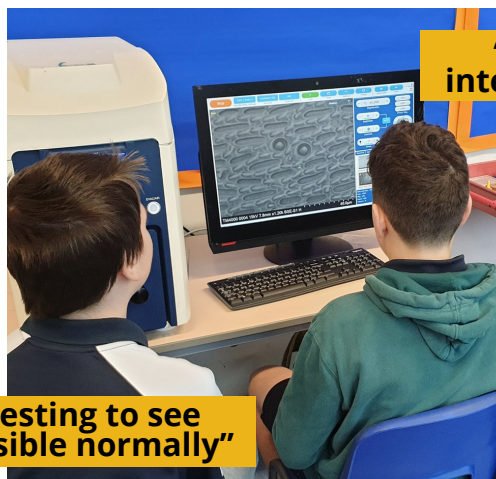
We have been incredibly lucky during our first half term of 2021-22 in Science. Through collaboratively working with the Earthbound project (www.earthboundproject.co.uk) in Wirksworth, the National History Museum in London and Longcliffe Quarry, we hosted a scanning electron microscope (SEM) for nearly three weeks. We made the most of this opportunity in Science and linked with the Art department to bring the Earthbound Project to Anthony Gell. Alex Hyde and Kate Bellis, both local artists, ran sessions in Science to bring the story of the hidden layers beneath our feet, including the organisms and rocks that support us all. Several groups from Years 7-13 took part in the Earthbound sessions during Science lessons. Sally Matthews visited the Art department to focus on sculpture, and encapsulated the Earthbound project in the work that students produced. Every science class from Year 7 to 11, had a teacher-led

session in which all students were given the opportunity to use the electron microscope. Drop-in sessions at lunches and breaks were used by students, to use the SEM and bring in their own materials to view. We have seen magnified dust mites, teeth, the head of a wasp, crystals, ticks, feathers and much more during the time we have had access to the SEM. One Year 13 A-Level Chemistry student, who had recently synthesised aspirin, used this as a chance to look at the crystals he had produced. We cannot express the gratitude we feel for having had this opportunity and the enjoyment that so many students experienced. However, several students summed up our feelings nicely in these quotes.

Mrs Seymour
Director of Teaching and Learning - Sciences



"Very interesting to see things not visible normally"



"I found it a really interesting experience"



How have our Year 7s settled in?

“Even though it seemed huge at first, it seems to have gotten smaller. All the teachers are so supportive and kind. It is an amazing school and I'm really happy to be here.”



"This school has made me the best I can be"

"I have really enjoyed learning new subjects that I haven't done before".

"I really enjoy it here"



"I like being with the older students in tutor time, and I really enjoy the tutor quizzes".



"I've enjoyed having non-uniform and tasty dinners."

"I have really enjoyed cooking and the practicals in science".



ART AT AGS

We unfortunately were not able to have the public showcase of artwork that we usually have. However, this did not stop our students from producing excellent artwork that they should be extremely proud of. The GCSE and A Level students produced a wide variety of outstanding pieces ranging from large scale, abstract, to figurative works that highlight the skills and techniques they have learnt throughout their artistic journeys at Anthony Gell. Every student has once again wowed us with their creativity and skills in our internal exhibition.

Anthony Gell School would like to congratulate the following students on their awards and prizes:

Maisie Gregory (Rotary Club award winner) for receiving a small bursary to enable her to do more artwork in the future. Maisie produced beautiful portraits in pen that enabled her to explore the theme of identity further.

Eliza O'Boyle (Art) – Rotary Club award winner

Elliot Poplar (Technology) – Rotary Club award winner

Adam Gill (Media) – prize and certificate at an evening at the Wirksworth Bowls Club.

Charlie Edge (Art) - Highly commended award from the Rotary Club.

Tom Abbott (Technology) - Highly commended award from the Rotary Club.

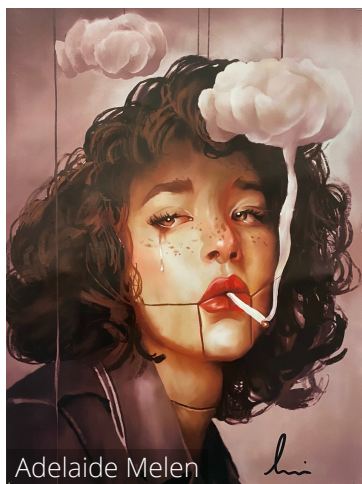
Nathaniel Round (Media) – Highly commended award from the Rotary Club.

Well done to everyone involved!

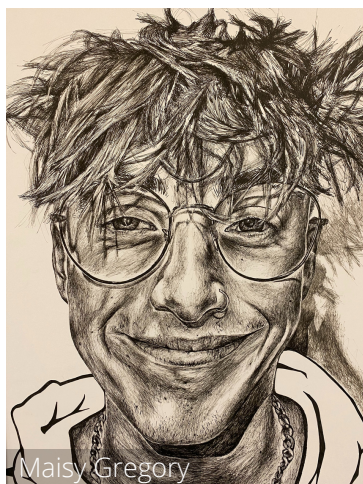
Miss Hendley
Art Teacher



Olivia Dawes-Hamp



Adelaide Melen



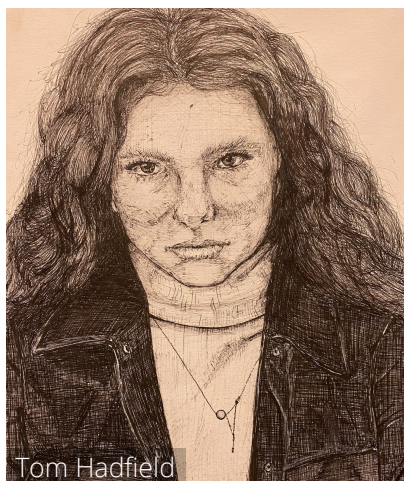
Maisie Gregory



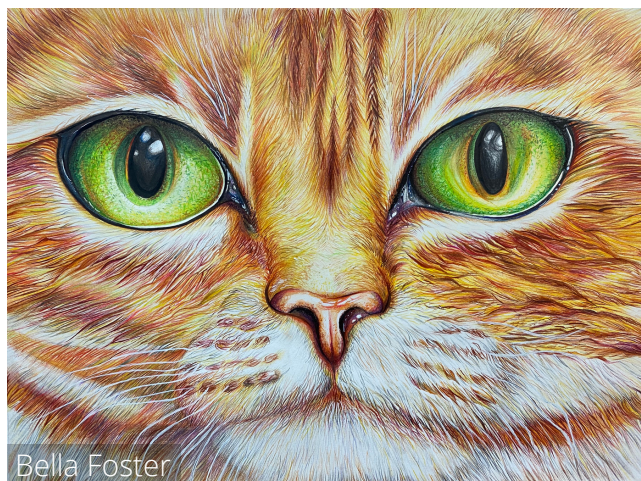
Clara Bradley



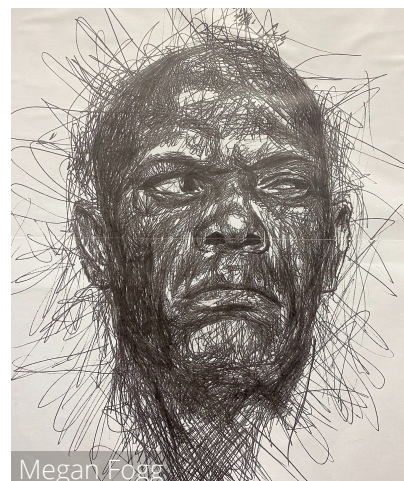
Elliot Yorke



Tom Hadfield



Bella Foster



Megan Fogg

2021 Open Evening

Feedback from parents who visited our 2021 Open Evening

"It's welcome,
it's happy, it's
accepting".

"Amazing art work!"
"Impressive range of taught subjects"

"The open evening was
well organised and it was
great to see the children
able to interact".

What impressed me most
was "the positive attitude of
the staff and the students.
They take pride in their
school".

Anthony Gell
School's biggest
strength "is the
ability to help
students grow,
regardless of
their interests".

"The care of the children is at the centre of all you do."



Gell Friends

Most schools have a parents and friends association that helps raise funds for the school. At Anthony Gell School, we know life can be very busy, so we created Gell Friends to make it simple for people to support special projects and be an important part of the school community.

Recent Gell Friends projects include:

- The installation of outdoor table tennis tables for students to use at break and lunch times
- Contributions towards student Christmas tutor parties
- Contributing to the new sports hall floor
- New drinking fountain
- Additional outdoor seating
- Refurbishment of important areas including the Sixth Form study centre and student toilet facilities

To join Gell Friends, we simply ask you to give a regular donation of £10 a year - or more if you would like to!

Receiving regular donations from supporters by standing order gives school the assurance of guaranteed funds. Leaders are able to confidently give the green light to schemes that will improve the quality of the students' learning experience, and even to plan major building projects.

Gell Friends is open to anyone who wants to be part of our school: past and present parents, students and staff, local businesses, people from the wider Wirksworth community and further afield.

Please contact school reception on 01629 825577 if you would like more information on how to join Gell Friends.

Sixth Form UCAS Trip

The UCAS trip was a great, informative and helpful experience that showed me all the different and various subjects universities have on offer. You get the chance to find out more about the subject courses you are interested in and hopefully have a better understanding of what you would like to achieve in the future. I personally found that talking to them about subjects that interest me and what courses they offer really does help, as it gave me an idea of the sort of things I could be doing throughout the course and how it can develop skills to gain experience in a real job environment. For instance, I looked into psychology at Reading University and during the course, you spend a year with psychologists in a real job environment and discover what it's like in the real world. This sounded appealing to me as it gives a taste of what it's like and hopefully guides to what potential job is out there. As well as the friendly advice of the volunteers, we were given university guides, some merchandise items (pens, bags, bottles), and an insight into lots of the courses that universities offer. There were loads of universities at this UCAS trip including Warwick, Durham, Loughborough and many more. It gives you a huge option of which university fits your interests and I highly recommend this trip for anyone who is thinking about or not yet sure about furthering their education at university.

Jacob O'Neil
Sixth Form Student

Clubs on Offer at AGS



Drama Club

Monday (Year 8 & 9) and Tuesday (Year 7 & 8) Break 11:05 - 11:30 in T5.



Rock School



Monday, 15:30 - 16:30 in the music room. (For vocalists, drummers, bassists, keyboard players & guitarists). Open to all year groups.



Astronomy Club

Tuesday 15:30 - 16:30 in S5. Open to all year groups.



Warhammer Club

Friday Week 1, 15:30 - 16:30 in Art 1. Open to all year groups.



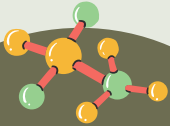
Musical Theatre

Wednesday, 15:30 - 16:30 in the music room. Open to all year groups.



Restoration Club

Friday Week 1, 12:30 - 13:30 in T4. Open to all year groups.



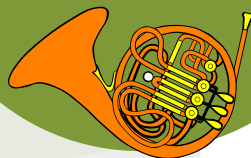
CREST Award

(Student led STEM projects) Monday, 15:30 - 16:30 in S4. Open to all year groups.



Orchestra

Wednesday, 12:40 - 13:20 in the music room. (For woodwind, brass & string players). £1.50 per week. Open to all year groups.



Homework Club

Wednesday Lunch & Thursday 15:30 - 16:30 in G3. Open to all year groups.



Art Club

Week 1 - Monday & Friday 15:30 - 16:30
Week 2 - Tuesday & Thursday 15:30 - 16:30 in Art 1. Open to all year groups.



Various PE Clubs

PE clubs are on every day at break, lunch and after school. We have dance, badminton, table-tennis, trampolining etc. Visit the student intranet for the full PE clubs timetable.



Urban Choir

Thursday, 15:30 - 16:30 in the music room. (Modern, RnB & chart hits). £1.50 per week. Open to all year groups.



Please keep your eye on the student intranet for new clubs that will be added!