



SPRING NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME FROM MR KELLY

A very warm welcome to our Spring term newsletter of 2022. I hope you enjoy reading about a few of the things which have been happening here at AGS during the last couple of months.

Our newsletter is beginning to feel and look a bit more like normal now, with far fewer restrictions meaning that many of our excellent extracurricular opportunities have been able to get back up and running.

As we rapidly approach the Easter break, it is reassuring to see our students once again benefiting from a wide programme of activities within school and thoroughly enjoying their learning.

Mr Kelly
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

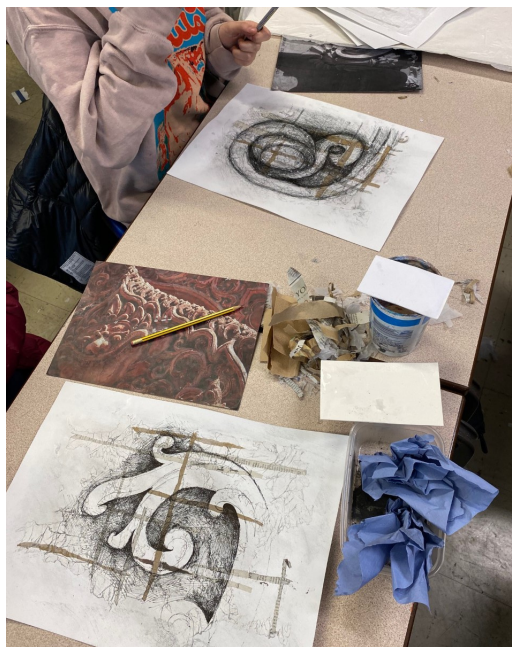
- 12th May** - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 13th May** - GCSE Exams Start
- 19th May** - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 6th June** - Year 6 Transition Morning
- 7th June** - Second Year 6 Transition Morning
- 9th June** - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 13th June** - SEND Transition Day
- 20th June** - Year 10 and 12 Mock Exams Start
- 4th July** - Year 6 Full Transition Day, Year 10 and 12 Careers & Work Experience Week
- 6th July** - Year 6 Parents' Evening
- 20th July** - First Activity Day
- 21st July** - Second Activity Day, End of Term

Ian Murphy Artist visit

Ian Murphy is a contemporary British Fine Artist who gained initial success following selection to the British Young Contemporary Artists in 1985. He is best known for his powerful, tonal drawings and atmospheric, mixed media oil paintings of architectural places.

Ian worked with our Year 11, 12 and 13 art students, helping them to produce their own monochrome pieces of work when he visited AGS in January. Ian brought along lots of his drawings and paintings for inspiration. He guided students with demonstrations and talked about his techniques. Students had a go at producing their own work in his style. They used materials such as fine line pens, graphite powder, tissue paper, PVA, graphite sticks, ink and more to achieve outstanding results. Much of the great work produced on that day will go towards their coursework. Students should be proud of their fabulous achievements!

Mrs Bailey
Art Teacher



A Level Music



Recording Studio Visit



Ever wanted to record in a professional studio? Well some of our Sixth Form Music students got that opportunity. As part of Daisy Greatorex's A level qualification, she was required to take on the role of a session musician. With the help of Lottie Whitfield and Erin Rowlatt, Daisy gave five outstanding performances at the studio, and all three of them came away with lots of great compliments, new contacts and a fantastic recording of their chosen songs which included Landslide, Hold the Line and More than Words. The studio's Managing Director and Sound Engineer, were both blown away by their competence and skill; they

even managed one of the performances in one take! It was a pleasure to take Leon Richards, Charlie Redgate and Katie Hall along too, so they could get the feel of working in a studio and the recording process. These three students asked interesting questions and enjoyed the experience of watching the process to its conclusion. I am planning another trip which will be designed for those with an interest in this industry, where the students will be given the opportunity to run and record the session themselves and master the final recordings.

Mrs Fordham
Music Teacher

Year 10



Drama Trip

On Wednesday 16th February 2022, Year 10 drama students and two lucky staff members ventured to Derby Theatre to watch 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'. I can't tell you how nice it was to be taking a bunch of lovely students to see some live theatre. It has been way too long (thanks Covid!) and there was a real buzz of excitement to be back in the theatre. The performance was excellent; lots of jump scares, special effects, good use of physical theatre and characterisation. The way they made the headless horseman come to life using simple props and a bit of smoke was very effective. Our students behaved impeccably and were even annoyed by some other students who they felt were 'too raucous'. Back at school, we will now use this production to practise writing a theatre review ready for their exam next year, but I also hope that we will see much more live theatre before then as it is always a special and rewarding experience.

Mrs Hampton
Drama Teacher



RED NOSE DAY 2022

On Friday 18th March, Anthony Gell School students and staff once again raised funds for Comic Relief...



...our amazing Year 11 GCSE Music Class performed on stage in the hall...

The Year 11 GCSE Music group entertained the school with three great performances. They performed 'Everybody Knows the Moon is Made of Cheese' written by our very own Fred Windsor for his GCSE Music Coursework, a homage to Wallace and Gromit, and followed this with 'Everybody Wants to Rule the World' and One Direction's version of 'One Way or Another' (Teenage Kicks). At the end of this performance the audience were treated to some special guest dancers (we use the term loosely!) including Mrs Pickford, Mr McIntyre and Mrs Freestone. The prize for the most enthusiasm and best dance moves would have to go to Mrs Freestone; there was no stopping her! We would also like to thank 'The Collide' (a band which includes five of the GCSE Music group) for performing their own song 'Blue Hair Dye' and for all those who donated on the day.



...and our W2 tutor group once again had wet sponges and one or two buckets of water hurled at them...



Making a splash for Comic relief!

...our IT department organised an E-Sports tournament which attracted a large crowd of gamers from all year groups...

The first ever E-Sports tournament took place earlier this term, with the heats starting on Tuesday 15th March and the finals all held on Red Nose Day - Friday 18th March. A few weeks before this, after coming up with the idea of a tournament, a crack team of helpers and I put together a shortlist of what games we would offer. This was then whittled down to just three - Mario Kart, Gang Beasts and Rocket League. The idea was to maximise the numbers involved (there are many gamers at school but they all prefer different genres of game) so that we could maximise the money going to charity. So, students started to sign up, and excitement began to build. With the help of some posters and an inspirational video advert, word got round that this event was taking place. Before we knew it, over 70 students and staff had signed up to play, and the games were officially on. We had planned the event to coincide with Red Nose Day but sadly this also coincided with mock exams for a lot of our potential audience, namely the Year 11s and 13s. Despite this, a large crowd gathered on Tuesday 15th, eager to either compete or just spectate. Mario Kart races started proceedings, and soon we had names down to go through to the semi-finals on Friday. Wednesday brought a different set of gamers to the tournament- this time we had a Gang Beasts fight (sounds much more violent and less comical than it is!) and Rocket League heats. Thursday saw the next round of Rocket League, then we had the names of the



finalists ready to do battle on Friday. The fancy dress-clad gamers arrived, seats were taken and controllers readied. The starter's pistol went, and the Mario Kart race was on. Ten minutes of hard core racing later, we had our first winner - Reef Markwell from Year 9. He bravely fought off competition from students in older year groups to come out on top - "he's a future F1 driver in the making" one disappointed competitor murmured on his way up from his seat. Next was Rocket League. After a few important minutes making sure controllers were tweaked to ultimate settings, the whistle went and play was underway. Soon it was clear that despite the best efforts of Callum Gamble and Kai Newman, the courageous Year 9s who had got to the final, the winners would be the extremely talented Year 13 duo of Luca Manning Dunmore and Will Howard. Congratulations to them all - an excellent game played in great spirits and the audience absolutely loved it. Lastly to the Gang Beasts final. A crazy few minutes ensued in which it was clear that despite being reserved in her day to day life, I would recommend steering clear of Lorna Dinsdale when she is dressed as a penguin - she takes on a whole new persona I can tell you! Lorna won in double quick time and within minutes her manager was lining up a possible unification bout with the Gypsy King himself. Anyway, a great time was had by competitors and spectators alike, it was decided that we need to do it all again and very soon, and most importantly a decent chunk of money was raised for Comic Relief. Well done all!

Mr Freestone (aka Mario) - Computer Science Teacher


...we also had bake sales and fancy dress...



...overall, the staff and students at Anthony Gell School raised over £356 for Red Nose Day 2022. Thank you everyone!

Focus on Reading at AGS

We are always keen to encourage reading for pleasure at Anthony Gell School, and our focus on reading is aimed at helping students to explore the wonderful world of books. Reading for pleasure is not only a fantastic pastime, **but did you know reading can help with:**

-  Increase empathy
-  Improve relationships with others
-  Improve wellbeing throughout life
-  Reduce the symptoms of depression
-  Improve vocabulary, spelling and maths



With all this and more, the benefits are clear, so we are continuing to organise events and strategies to give students opportunities to do just that... read more! This academic year we have instigated fortnightly library reading lessons for all students in Years 7 - 9. Every student gets an hour a fortnight to lose themselves in a book in our school library. We are also about to start our buddy reading scheme, so the library lessons will have Sixth Formers in attendance helping to guide the students in their reading as well as advising and suggesting good reads. That's not all the Sixth Formers are doing, they are going to be attending KS3 tutor sessions to do more buddy reading, and supervising the library at lunch times to help more of our students take a little time out to read.

As well as this, we have been taking students down to Scarthin book shop in Cromford for an amazing book based experience, handing out free books to all year 7s, running quizzes and setting reading trails around the school. Read on for more details!

Scarthin Book Shop Trips

As part of the literacy programme at Anthony Gell School where we are encouraging reading for pleasure, we took some small groups of students from KS3 to the brilliant Scarthin book shop in Cromford recently. The trips were a fantastic opportunity to spend some time in one of the finest book shops in the country, and to peruse many of the fascinating and exciting books on the shelves. The students had a brilliant time and discovered some great reads. On the way back I was asked on numerous occasions 'When can we go back again Miss?' Which I think gives a clear idea of how much they enjoyed it.

Ms Spencer – Literacy Mentor



Nightingale winners

Year 7 Annual Book Quiz

The Year 7 annual book quiz happened just before Christmas, and it was a hard fought competition. Teams of students from each house took on the challenge of reading the same five books each in order to answer questions about them. At stake was an array of stationary and of course some chocolate treats! A group of Sixth Form volunteers also read the books and set all the questions, as well as acting as question masters on the day.

They did an excellent job and gained some valuable experience of being on the other side of the classroom divide. The competition among Year 7s was tight throughout, but the atmosphere was fun and exciting. However, there was a serious aim, to get students excited about reading. With such an amazing event, that aim was definitely achieved. All of the teams did very well, but there was a winning team, and that was Nightingale House.

World Book Day Quiz

This year for World Book Day, the english department arranged a book themed hunt. All around school there were 20 different books represented by images and you had to work out the book, plus show your knowledge of this book by summarising the plot. There was a great variety of books - some definitely easier to get than others. Lots of people joined in and it was a great way to spend lunch. Not only was the hunt good but the prize was even better, it definitely wasn't the average school prize. The people in third place got a book mark, the students in second got books and chocolate. The amazing first prize was a book hamper full of everything a reader needs: books, a mug, chocolate and stationary. Winning this prize was such a great achievement and i'm so proud that I did; it was worth all of the effort I put into it.

Martha Forster - 1st Place Winner



Martha Forster - 1st place winner



2nd place winners

Getting to know our Staff



Caitlin Kemp

What is your role at AGS?

I am the Pastoral Manager for Nightingale House. I support student wellbeing, monitor attendance and behaviour.

What university did you go to?

I did a BSc in Psychology at the University of Birmingham. Then I went to University of York to do an MSc in Development, Disorders and Clinical Practice.

Why did you want to become a Pastoral Manager?

I wanted the challenge of working with secondary school children, as I had previously only ever worked in a SEND School. I want to support the wellbeing of our children.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to travel. I love going to different cities and towns and I like to go camping and walking.

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

Caring, Community and Success.



Clare Flower

What is your role at AGS?

I am the Pastoral Manager for Askwright House.

What university did you go to?

I went to Southampton University to do a BA in Social Work Studies.

Why did you want to become a Pastoral Manager?

To have the opportunity to work in education to see things from a different perspective, and help young people.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love doing DIY in my spare time. I also love being active, I do a lot of running and play badminton. I also like to go salsa dancing.

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

Inclusive, Diverse and Exemplary.

Maths Challenge

The Maths Department have held a number of Maths Challenge competitions this year. Students in Years 9 through to 13 have taken part in the Senior and Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenges, a national competition run by Leeds University, where the students answer a range of challenging problem-solving questions. The standard was high this year with many receiving Bronze and Silver certificates. Impressively, Asha Brabiner, Adam Lascelles and Georg Fischer, received Gold certificates and a place in the follow-on round, the 'Pink Kangaroo'. The Junior Maths Challenge for Years 7 and 8 will take place in April. We look forward to giving these students the chance to test their maths skills and try out these high level questions. Well done to everyone!

And for those who like a challenge, here is question 23 from the Intermediate paper:

Two squares are drawn inside a regular hexagon with side-length 2, as shown. What is the area of the overlap of the two squares?



(The solution is on the back page of this newsletter)

Mrs Redshaw
Maths Teacher

Next Steps For Year 13

It's almost that time of year again! Almost time to say goodbye to our brilliant Year 13s. After their exams finish in the summer, they will be taking their first steps out into the world. And, as hard as it will be to say goodbye, we are delighted to have been the school to support them through their A Levels and cannot wait to see what they achieve next.

Our 2021-22 cohort have applied to various universities throughout the UK and many different apprenticeships. University courses include: Bio Chemistry, Interior Design, Midwifery /Nursing and Law. Students have also been applying for apprenticeships ranging from Baking, to Social Care and we have a student who has applied for an accounting apprenticeship with a local firm.

We are very proud of our Year 13s and what they have achieved so far. We wish them luck in their exams and for the future.

For anymore information on our Sixth Form, please contact Mrs Moseley - Head of Sixth Form.

Year 11 and Year 13 Summer Exams



The summer exam season begins on Friday 13th of May (Year 11 Enterprise) and ends on Tuesday 28th of June. There is a national contingency day planned for the 29th of June (in case there is a need to reschedule an exam), but this will only be needed if there has been a significant disruption to the national exam season. By now, teachers will have shared with students any exam board materials which have been released to help students revise subject content - this often takes the form of a series of syllabus/course statements and will help students focus on those areas of the exam the higher tariff (marks) questions will be based on. It is also worth remembering that many courses will have some marks awarded for coursework (controlled assessment or NEAs), and these projects and extended pieces of work will need to be completed in the very near future, meaning that students will be working hard to complete these prior to each deadline. I am confident that with thorough revision by our students, supported by their teachers and families at home, we can look forward to another summer of success. Good luck everyone!

Mr Lovatt
Assistant Headteacher

Science

Extra Curricular Activities

Astronomy Club

Students have been learning about constellations and how planets move in the solar system according to Kepler's laws. More recently they have been learning about the Sun, the solar winds and how they are generated by the complex magnetic field of the Sun. The students attending range from Year 7 to Year 10 with some interested in competing in the Junior Olympiad. One Year 7 student has created a presentation on his learning which will be shared and presented during a future science lesson. This club takes place from 3:30pm to 4:30pm every Tuesday with Mr Cicchini and Mr Burslem.

CREST Award

We have a number of students who are completing the CREST Bronze award. They have created a practical-based project which they need to spend at least 10 hours working towards. Their projects range from the 'Effect of Light on Sunflower Plant Growth' to the 'Creation of a Toothpaste Which will be an Effective Stain Remover'. Students have been very busy working on research, designing a practical, improving their practical, and collecting data. We are very much looking forward to seeing their final presentations. This club takes place from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Mondays with Mrs Seymour.

There is still time to join both clubs. If you are interested in CREST, you could attend a session to see if it might be something you would enjoy. Projects can take place over two years.

Mrs Seymour

Director of Teaching and Learning - Science Faculty

Year 8 Boys

Basketball

On Wednesday 9th February 2022, our Year 8 boys played QEGS in the Basketball County Cup Semi-Finals. Our team was made up of Lewis Spencer, Jack Hudson, Jimmi Else, Kayden Marshall, Joe Edmunds and three Year 7 boys: Rory Young, Isaac Woolsey and Tyler Smart.

It was a landslide victory for our team, beating QEGS 97 - 8! This was another win for our team after we beat St Thomas More, Buxton in the quarter finals 68-8.

Our team are getting ready for the finals against West Park in the next week - we wish them good luck!

Mr Pover
PE Teacher

Primary School



Dance Festival

For the last few weeks, our Year 11 GCSE Dance group have been visiting our partner primary schools as part of this year's AGS 'Primary School Dance Festival'. Our Year 11s have been teaching the primary school pupils a dance that they will perform in a Dance Showcase on Tuesday 5th April 2022. The Dance Showcase will take place in our sports hall with approximately 200 students attending from 10 different Primary Schools. It has been a fantastic opportunity for both our Year 11s and the Primary Schools. Our Year 11s have gained valuable leadership skills for their GCSE Dance coursework.

Mrs Forrester
Dance Teacher

Year 9 Career Visits

We are so pleased that we have been able to continue our broad offer of Careers and Employability education for students this term. In February all of Year 9 went out on an 'Employer Visit', visiting one of five major employers in the local area. Our thanks go to Chesterfield Royal Hospital, GXO Logistics, East Midlands Airport, Henry Boot and Breedon Group for working so hard to give our students a real insight into the potential world of work. As students make their GCSE guided choices, it was fantastic to see them having a glimpse into what the world of employment could bring for them. This has also been complemented by a day hosted by the Higher Education Partnership Pathway in early April, where all students in Years 7-11 took part in a workshop tailored specifically to their age range looking at choices and pathways, the benefits of Higher Education, as well as issues surrounding student finance.



Mrs Lowe
Assistant Headteacher





Anthony Gell School

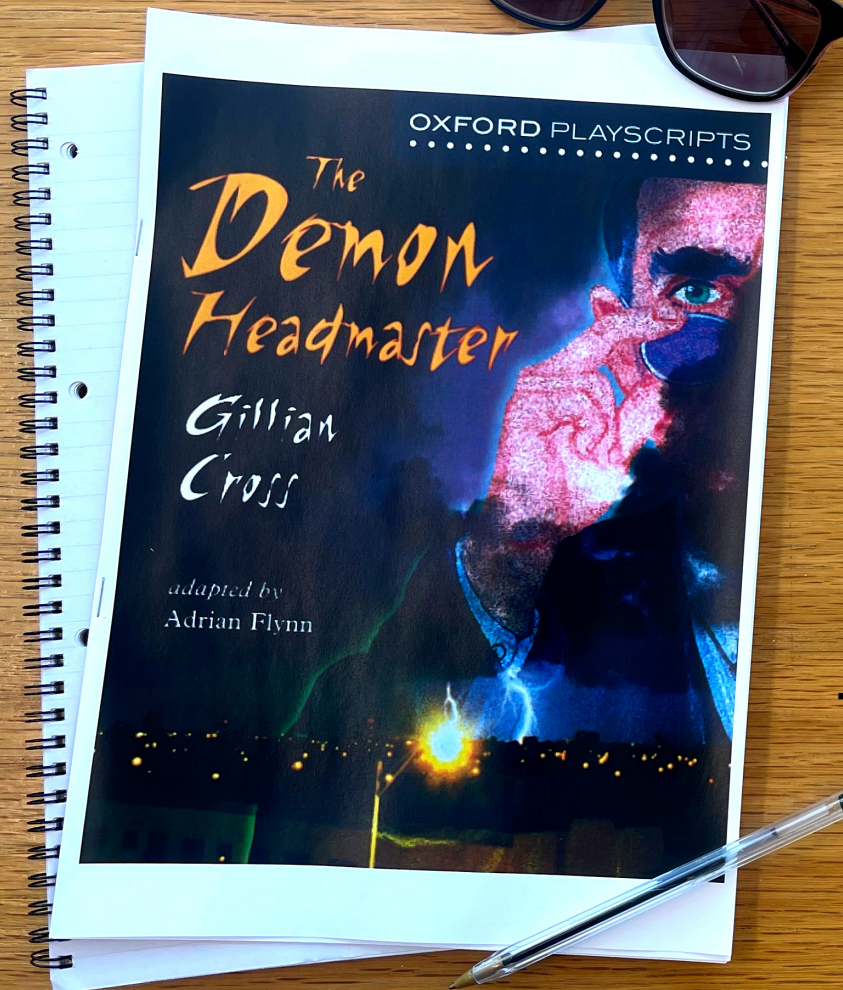
COMING SOON TO AGS!!

The Demon Headmaster

Monday 11th July 2022

Tickets available soon!

Nearly 70 students signed up for auditions and we have a current cast of 42. We are very impressed with how the students' handled auditions and the quality of their work.



Help support our school by joining...

GELL FRIENDS

At Anthony Gell School, we know life can be very busy, so we created Gell Friends to make it easier for people to support special projects and be an important part of our school community.

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

Gell Friends provide funds to the school to help us improve our students' learning experience. To join Gell Friends, we simply ask you to give a regular donation of £10 a year - or more if you would like to.

For more information about joining Gell Friends, please visit our website or contact us by phone or email:

 www.anthonygell.co.uk/parents/gell-friends

 enquiries@anthonygell.co.uk

 **01629 825577**



The solution for the Maths question on page 8:

The sum of the interior angles of a hexagon is $(6 - 2) \times 180^\circ = 720^\circ$.

Hence each interior angle of a regular hexagon is $720^\circ \div 6 = 120^\circ$.

In the figure, $\sin 60^\circ = \frac{PQ/2}{2}$. So $PQ = 4 \sin 60^\circ = 4 \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = 2\sqrt{3}$.

Therefore the height of the area of overlap is $2 + 2 - 2\sqrt{3} = 4 - 2\sqrt{3}$.

The length of the area of overlap is 2.

Hence the area of overlap of the two squares is $2(4 - 2\sqrt{3}) = 8 - 4\sqrt{3}$.

