



NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME FROM MR KELLY

Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter 2022. I hope you thoroughly enjoy reading about some of the things which have helped make this term another successful one for the students and staff of AGS.

It was difficult once again in deciding what made it into the newsletter, as there was so much to choose from, but we hope that we have included a spread of events and achievements which help you to understand what life at AGS is like.

I count myself very lucky to be able to work alongside such talented students and staff and feel humbled by their achievements. AGS continues to be a community which values every individual and provides a caring environment in which young people can aspire and achieve.

Thank you to everyone who makes this possible.

DIARY DATES

Mon 9th Jan - Whole School Return After Christmas

Thursday 12th Jan - Year 9 Parents' Evening

Mon 16th Jan - Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams Start

Thurs 19th Jan - Year 9 Options Evening, Flu Vaccinations for Year 7, 8 & 9

Fri 27th Jan - Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams End

Fri 17th Feb - Inset Day

Mon 20th Feb - Friday 24th Feb - February Half Term

Thurs 2nd March - 6th Form Virtual Parents' Evening

Thurs 9th March - Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening

Monday 3rd April - Fri 14th April - Easter Holidays

Student Achievements Outside of AGS

Jamie Brough in Year 8 competed at The National Hill Climbing Championships for the second year running, finishing 1st in his age group on both occasions. Hill climbing is quintessentially British; A time trial up a steep hill, short or long. With a crowd of people cheering you on with cowbells, megaphones and anything else that makes a noise, as you gurn up the hill. A mini version of the scenes on Alpe D'huez at the Tour De France.

Last year the National Hill Climbing Championships were here in Derbyshire at Winnats Pass, this year they were on The Old Shoe, near Llangollen in Wales. The Old Shoe is approximately 1 mile long and nearly twice the length of Winnats Pass. With an average gradient of 13.3% and touching 22% in places, it is a beast of a climb, testing the mettle of most cyclists. Jamie competes in various cycling disciplines including cyclocross and on the track.



During the last 12 months Rose Punchedard, Year 7, has been competing in Dressage. She started out by doing unaffiliated dressage where she qualified for trailblazers. Rose went to the trailblazer championships in July which was a 3 day event. She also qualified for the NSEA championships.

Rose has gone from strength to strength. She qualified for the MYQUEST regionals where she came 3rd out of 32. She qualified for the Cavago championships where she came 1st in the INTRO test. And she has also qualified for the Petplan area festivals, which are run in March/April 2023.



Next year Rose will have a very busy schedule, as she is being assessed in December for the British Dressage Youth. With BD Youth, riders follow a path that leads to joining a BD Youth team and as part of this team they hopefully compete nationally and internationally. Following on from this they have the BD Youth Academy to further their careers in dressage and other events.

Maths Challenge

The maths department held two successful Maths Challenge competitions in October. Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in the national Senior Maths Challenge competition, answering a range of challenging problem-solving questions. The standard was high this year with the following AGS students receiving awards:

Gold: Noah Pigott, Georg Fischer and Asha Brabiner all gave strong performances, earning Gold awards and scoring high enough to go forward to the next round, the Senior Kangaroo challenge which they sat in November.

Silver: Henry Tassell and Vinny Wright-Wray

Bronze: Cameron Combella, Jack Else, Adam Lascelles, Oliver Round, George Allwood, Tom Bailey, Harriet Limb, Dylan Pittam-Worthy and Nathaniel Round.

In addition to the Senior Maths Challenge, the girls in years 12 and 13 sat the Maths Olympiad for Girls. The paper contains five extended challenging questions which require logic and problem solving skills as well as good presentation of their solutions. The challenge is aimed at encouraging more girls into STEM subjects and giving them the opportunity to show their mathematical talent. All of our students performed very well and Asha Brabiner scored exceptionally highly, earning a Distinction and narrowly missing entrance to the follow on round.

Well done to everyone!

And for those who like a challenge, here is question 11 from the Senior Maths Challenge paper:

Mrs Redshaw
Maths Teacher

In the number triangle shown, each disc is to be filled with a positive integer. Each disc in the top or middle row contains the number which is the product of the two numbers immediately below.

What is the value of n ?

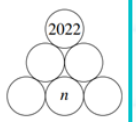
A 1

B 2

C 3

D 6

E 33



See page 6 for the answer

Year 11 and Year 13 CV & Interview Skills Workshops

Getting our older students ready for the world of work and interviews is an important focus for us and one of the ways they need to be ready is to know how to present themselves in the most positive light to future employers or educational institutions.

Four members of the school's Governing Body very kindly gave up their time to share their experience from the world of work with our Year 13 students. Students attended two workshops; one based on CV skills and the other based on interview skills. They were given the most up to date advice and guidance on how to market themselves effectively, as well as benefitting from hearing a wide range of anecdotes of dos and don'ts based on the experiences of some of our governors who work in a range of industries. The workshops were supplemented with detailed notes so students could take them away and use them as they prepare for interviews with Universities, Apprenticeship providers and/or Employers. This work then seamlessly led into a further workshop led by a representative from Nottingham Trent University, who advised students on how to write their Personal Statements for their UCAS applications.

However, it is not just Year 13 who are planning their next steps so we were very lucky to secure a visit from a colleague from the Department for Work and Pensions who came to deliver a CV workshop for a group of our Year 11 students, to ensure they have high quality CVs ready for when they apply to Colleges and Apprenticeships. Students were really pleased that by the end of the session they had a CV that was professional and ready to be used. As with many events in school we benefit from a huge amount of support from our local community and beyond and so we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to everyone who has been involved with our Careers provision and extend the invite to anyone who would like to be involved in the future to get in touch with Mrs Lowe in school.

Getting to know our Staff



Helen Dafforne

What is your role at AGS?

Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral Care, Safeguarding Lead.

What university did you go to?

Keele University. I did a BA joint honours degree in Geography and Sociology including teaching QTS. I also went to Warwick University and completed an MA in Educational Leadership.

Why did you want to become an Assistant Headteacher?

It is a role I feel passionately about. Supporting and working with students - feeling able to make a difference.

What do you do in your spare time?

Walking the dogs, spending time with family and friends, watching films, reading, shopping and mainly being 'a mum'!

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

Inclusive, child-centred, opportunity.



Nick Watts

What is your role at AGS?

Deputy Headteacher.

What university did you go to?

Durham University and then back home to Manchester University for teacher training.

Why did you want to become a Deputy Headteacher?

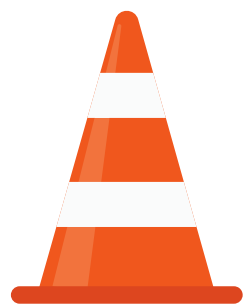
This might sound strange - but I didn't really set out with a view to becoming a Deputy Headteacher. The Headteacher at my last school persuaded me to apply but once I was in the post, I really enjoyed it. The only issue with that job was it was too far away from where I live in Derbyshire. So, I started to look for jobs closer to home and this one at AGS popped up. On visiting AGS for the first time, I knew it would be a really special place to work - and I feel really lucky to have been given the chance to serve this learning community.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have two young children and so most of my spare time is spent (enjoying) looking after them. When I can, my hobbies include mountain biking, fell running, surfing and snowboarding. I don't get to do much surfing or snowboarding in Derbyshire though.

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

Inclusive, Caring, Community.



National Road Safety Week

To mark the start of National Road Safety Week, local company Longcliffe Calcium Carbonates partnered with Anthony Gell School to educate students on how to be safe when cycling or walking near lorries.

The company took an articulated tractor unit and tanker, which can weigh up to 44 tonnes to the school to demonstrate the need for road safety and emphasise the message that 'If you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you'. Year 8 students were taken through several safety-focussed sessions including one which enabled them to sit in the lorry cab and see the blind spots from a driver's perspective.

As well as the lorry exercise, the Longcliffe team also took the students through presentations and a quiz to test and drive home messages around safety precautions they can take when walking or cycling. Students also worked with the School Sports Partnership to look at issues surrounding cycle safety. The students were also all given a "Be Seen, Be Safe" high visibility vest by Longcliffe with lots of students winning prizes for the knowledge they showed they had learned during the sessions.



Year 7 and 8 Careers Workshops

Throughout this term students in Years 7 and 8 have all joined in a Careers Workshop hosted by Emma Cook from the Department of Work and Pensions. The workshops included sessions on Employability skills as well as labour market information for our local area, so students could see the range and types of jobs available in our locality. Students also considered jobs of the future and jobs they never knew existed! Students were also encouraged to consider what their skills and qualities are that will help them as they consider their future pathways. Careers education for students at Anthony Gell takes place in every year group within CR lessons and also in the broad range of activities we organise for students with visitors in school and opportunities outside of school too.



2022 Careers Fair

Exhibitors were impressed by the mature approach from our students as they considered their future options and pathways as well as the way that students worked together with staff and their parents to make informed future decisions. Students who visited the Careers Fair reported that they felt better informed about their choices and were feeling more motivated and inspired about their future pathways.

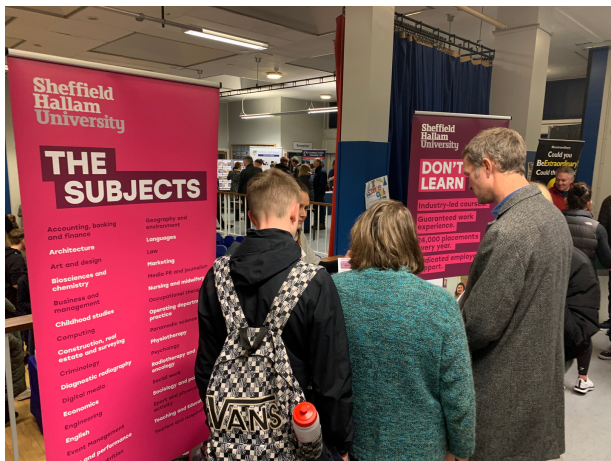


The school welcomed a wide range of exhibitors from the world of Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Further Education, and employment into school on Thursday 10th November for our Careers Fair. We hold the Careers Fair every two years and it is open to all students and their parents in Years 9 – 13. Students are able to meet with organisations and companies from the world of work and education, to think about and start to make informed choices about their future chosen pathways. Hundreds of visitors from Years 9-13 visited the stands which included amongst others; The University of Sheffield, Derby College, our very own Anthony Gell Sixth Form, as well as employers such as Wates Construction, Derby County Community Trust, the NHS, the Armed Services and JCB.





The Careers Fair is one event amongst a very strong programme of Careers provision in school which means that all students receive Careers education, 1:1 interviews with an independent careers specialist, work experience opportunities as well as the development of Employability Skills both in and out of lessons. If you feel that you could contribute to our Careers Education provision in school then please contact Mrs Lowe.



Rugby Festival

Year 7 and Year 8 felt very privileged to compete at Derby Rugby Club against schools from across Derby in a rugby tournament recently. This was a very special occasion, as Anthony Gell have never formally played rugby competitively against other local schools.

There were a few nerves on the bus as rugby is a physical game, but they were forgotten after Mr John's rousing team speech to us before our first game. Paddy, our team captain, went to talk to

the referee to decide who would kick off against West Park School, our first game. Paddy won the toss and we elected to receive the ball which landed at Issacs's feet (our scrum half) who twinkled toed up the pitch, dodging and weaving past tackles until he was brought down in West Park's half. What an amazing start and lift for our confidence!

It culminated with the end result of this fabulous opportunity being two games won and one lost. The Year 7 and 8 boys thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience of competitive Rugby and we look forward to playing more throughout the season!

Teddy Lovatt, Year 8



Interhouse Football - Arkwright can't go wrong!

This year, students from Year 10 and Year 8 have been competing in an Interhouse football league.

Matches take place at lunchtime and teams are mixed with boys and girls competing side by side.

At the time of writing, fixtures are just past the halfway stage, and Arkwright have taken the lead with 9 points and 9 goals. Gell are just behind with 7 points.

Mr Watts has been officiating and is impressed with what he has seen, "it has been great to referee these matches because the standard of play is really good. I feel a bit sorry for Nightingale who have played some of the best team football and have set up really well. However, some outstanding individual performances by Arkwright have seen them top the table".

With fixtures running until the end of January, there is still all to play for in the New Year.



More Clubs on Offer at AGS



Homework Club

Every day after school
Open to all Year Groups



Esports Club

Tuesday (Week 1) 12:45 - 13:30
in S6.
Open to all year groups.



Astronomy Club

Tuesdays 15:30 - 16:30 in S3.
Open to all year groups.



Book Club

Tuesdays 12:45 - 13:30 in G7.



Art Club

Tuesday (week 1) for
years 7, 8 & 9 in Art 1

15:30-16:30

Wednesday (week 1 &
2) years 10, 11 and sixth
form in Art 1

15:30-16:30



Clothing Restoration Club

Wednesdays 12:30 - 13:30 in G12.
Open to all year groups.



We also have lots of other clubs on offer at AGS! Just ask your tutor.

Year 7s - How was your first term at AGS?



Taylor - "It was fun, new and really enjoyable. The teachers have been really

Ollie - "It's good, it's exciting, welcoming." it's better than primary school because there are more fun subjects like food tech and dance."

Ava - "I think it's good, I especially like tech because we never got to do that at primary. There is a good variety of lessons. I like that there are 3 different places to eat so you

Marnie - "It's been really good, It's been fun as well and I've made lots of new friends."

Becky - "There is a lot of lessons that I really like, the teachers are really nice and there is a lot of space to run around and explore."

Lots has been happening in Japanese Virtual Exchange

Anthony Gell has been selected to partner with a school in Toyota City, Japan and participate in a cultural exchange programme. This has been made available through Derbyshire County Council and the local Japanese authority in Aichi. Our partner school is called Inabu J.H.S. It is slightly larger than AGS but has a diverse range of Western language opportunities including English, hence why students from Japan were connected with

AGS via this cultural exchange. There have been 2 meetings (on Thursday lunch times) for students to go to, where we have been tutored in basic Japanese by Stephine Walsh- who is a fluent Japanese speaker and involved in cultural experiences with Derbyshire County Council. We had our first virtual meeting in November. We had to arrive at school by 8.00am as Japan's time is roughly 10 hours ahead of the UK but we were really excited to meet the students from Japan and get to know them!



My group were paired up with two children called Hayato Aoki and Mayuko Matushita, two students in Year 10 studying English at the partner school in Toyota City. They presented a PowerPoint describing Japanese courtesy. Two things I learned was that you have to take your shoes off before entering school as well as at home. It is also polite to hold your bowl of food above the table as it is regarded to be rude to place your bowl on the table because you must respect the table and not spill your food on it. Hayato also wanted to tell us about his favourite drink which he really enjoys and Mayuko wanted to introduce us to Anime, which is cartoon styled action. One famous tv show is Naruto and shows Naruto Uzumaki fighting evil with his friends. To conclude, we really enjoyed the experience of a cultural exchange, and we really appreciate the amazing opportunity to virtually meet these Japanese students. We really hope that we get to meet physically in person as we enjoyed the virtual meeting so much!

Teddy Lovatt
Year 8

Author Visit

Reading Buddies

This year has seen the continuation of our reading buddy scheme. This involves Year 12 student volunteers reading with some of our readers in Year 7 to try to promote their literacy levels and self confidence. Having had training with Mr Flint and Ms Spencer, students develop strong relationships with their buddies and we have had lots of positive feedback from both the older students and younger students alike.



We welcomed Anthony Kessel to talk to Year 8s about his books and what it is like to be an author. Year 8 students were very positive about having the opportunity to hear him speak about the writing process.

Theatre Company Performance



Year 10 and 11 were treated to a performance of Inspector Calls by Footlights Theatre Company. For Year 11 this helps their revision for GCSE English Literature. For Year 10 it builds on the play they studied in the 1st Autumn Half Term.

our Communications Faculty...

Accelerated Reader



This year has seen us continue our work with Accelerated Reader with students in Year 7, 8 and 9 all receiving a designated reading lesson every fortnight in our library. During this lesson they use the Accelerated Reader Scheme designed to promote reading and also to point students towards books suitable for their reading age with the hope that this will develop in time. When students finish their book, they take a quiz via the website and if they pass this test which checks comprehension, they have the words in that book added to their word count score. Every month the students with the highest word count score that month get a prize and then at the end of the year the student with the overall highest word count score will receive an amazon tablet with big prizes for 2nd and 3rd place too.

The class in each year with the most Accelerated Reader points receive with great excitement a pizza party lesson, last year it was 7G, 8N and Mrs Peat's Year 9 class who were the winners. Thank you very much to AGS Foundation for supplying the prizes.

Mr Flint
DTL - Communications Faculty

Book Buzz

Continuing a yearly tradition, the English department is participating in 'Book Buzz', a national scheme designed to provide students with a free book. We have decided to use it to get Year 7 involved. Year 7 chose from a short list of eligible books and will receive their books with excitement in time for Christmas. We participate in 'Book Buzz' in order to promote reading for pleasure and it builds on the work we do in reading lessons, on Accelerated Reader and during tutor time.

Magic Story Competition

October saw the return of the ever popular Wirksworth Wizing Weekend – and this year the English Department linked up with the event to challenge year 7 students to write a 500 word 'Magical Story'. There was lots of fantastic writing on display, from magical friendships to modern dragons and enchanted forests. The competition was judged by local children's book author Bill Bevan, who was blown away by the fantastically creative entries. The winner of the competition was Lily Crabtree who wrote 'The Grassland's Tiger.'

Bill thought the story felt like an ancient myth and seemed to be a metaphor for good and evil. He also thought there was a real sense of threat from the winter's tiger which made him feel very chilly. Well done Lily, and well done to Thea Brough and Jess Cockrill who were both highly commended for their stories.

Look out for more writing competitions coming soon!

Mrs Spencer
Learning Mentor - English



A School production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd.

THE STUDENTS AND STAFF AT ANTHONY GELL SCHOOL PRESENT...

THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL



**MON 19TH DEC &
TUES 20TH DEC 2022
7PM**

Based on the Paramount movie written by Mike White, Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Book by Julian Fellowes, Lyrics by Glenn Slater.