

18 July 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As we fast approach the end of another academic year, time for a quick update from me.

Prior to and following the extensive consultation undertaken by governors in the spring of last year, we have spent a great deal of time considering the best options for AGS in the changing environment of education. After a great deal of thought, and an intensive period of due diligence, governors have concluded that the best course of action, in order to better secure the future provision for young people at AGS is for us to join with the very good multi-academy trust of schools that is Embark. We will be joining a highly regarded group of schools who benefit from superb support from a team of skilled professionals, and this will bring benefits to staff and students of AGS now and in the future. Our decision is being supported by our partner schools in the local area, the Local Authority and the Anthony Gell Foundation. All of whom will remain an important part of AGS's success moving forward. Governors signed the necessary papers at a meeting held last night and a conversion date is set for 1 August.

When students and staff return to school after the summer break, they will return to a school they recognise and respect and we will continue to provide the best quality of education we can in the way we do for many years to come. Our long-established ethos and strong set of AGS values will remain.

Coincidentally, we have been looking to update our school logo for about the last 12 months and have considered lots of different options. The school logo has changed several times over time. We traced the greyhound back to the Gell family crest and realised that the greyhound was the only feature of the logo which had remained throughout all of the logo/school badge's history. The greyhound therefore had to stay! Our logo is now used in a variety of different contexts, some of which were not even invented the last time our logo changed. A local, Wirksworth-based, company were employed to design a new AGS logo and this can be seen at the top of this letter. There will therefore be a gradual changeover from the old to the new, during the next 12 months or so. Student's PE kit should remain the same as it currently is for a little while and this will include our incoming Year 7s in September, as no-one would wish to dispose of perfectly good clothing. When clothing needs to be replaced, there will be new options available in time.

It is always important to look beyond the upcoming summer break and make sure we all know when we will be due back in school. Staff will return on Monday 4 September. Students in Years 7, 12 and 13 will return on Tuesday 5 September. Students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will return for their first day of the new school year on Wednesday 6 September. School buses will run from the 5 September.

Thank you for your tremendous support during this school year. This will always be a collective effort as we rely on each other to help provide the best for our children and young people. AGS continues to be a school in the heart of a brilliant community and this community is the school.

Have a great summer and I, along with the rest of the staff, look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Kelly
Headteacher