

8 September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to see students returning this week after their summer break, and I have enjoyed talking with many of them about their time away from school and watching them settle quickly back into their learning. They have had the opportunity to spend time with their friends, meet with their tutors, work with their mentors and teachers, experience their new timetables and begin their lessons.

I felt it important to provide you with a couple of updates at the start of this new academic year.

I am very pleased to be able to report that, after a lengthy period of due diligence, AGS has joined the Embark Federation of schools. On 1 August we became the fourth Derbyshire secondary school to join this group. Our move to become an academy and join Embark has not altered our day to day provision. We continue to focus on providing the quality of education you associate with AGS and our core values and ethos remain the same. Governors' decision to join this particular Trust was heavily influenced by the high level of autonomy which will continue post-conversion. We are proud of the part we play in our community and we will continue to try our best every day in order to provide the best we can for every young person.

My second update for you today relates to an item which is featuring heavily in the national news at the moment. We have carried out an initial review of our school buildings and we have another more detailed review scheduled. We do not think AGS is one of the schools where RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) is present, hence us opening as normal to all students this week. I will of course provide you with further updates regarding this if any changes are necessary.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who were so successful in their exams this summer. Seeing the joy on so many faces on results days and hearing about their next steps was a highlight of my summer. At this stage, the early feedback suggests that as a year group our Year 11 students achieved results that were over and above those expected. Whilst our Year 13 were highly successful in gaining places in Universities, apprenticeships and employment. Congratulations to them all and we wish them well. They have so much to be proud about.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Kelly
Headteacher