



Anthony Gell  
— School —

# PROSPECTUS



## 2024 - 2025

CARE • ASPIRE • ACHIEVE

# Welcome to **Anthony Gell** **SCHOOL**



Anthony Gell School is a successful, ambitious, and high-performing school at the heart of the local community. We pride ourselves on providing a first-class learning experience and encourage all students to be aspirational, work hard and achieve great things, no matter where their interests or talents may lie.

We firmly believe that every child should be able to access high quality education in an environment in which they are safe, happy, and well cared for. Our staff support this ethos and work hard in order to give every child the chance to excel.

The sense of mutual respect and understanding is clearly evident throughout the school. Students and staff are proud of their school. We enjoy working and learning together.

Our students' examination results show excellent academic outcomes in Key Stages 4 and 5. We offer a broad curriculum and give students the opportunities to acquire a wide range of knowledge and skills which will equip them well for the future.

Excellent teaching and learning are central to our commitment to personal growth and a desire to meet the individual needs of students.

Students and staff share a sense of pride in our collective achievements and a sense of belonging to something really quite special.

AGS are one of four Derbyshire secondary schools to be lucky enough to benefit from being part of the Embark Federation of schools. This partnership of Derbyshire Primary and Secondary schools gives us privileged access to a wider range of learning opportunities and benefits our staff and students.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to you to visit our school and experience the 'buzz' of learning in this vibrant community.

**Malcolm Kelly**  
**Headteacher**





A Great Place to  
**LEARN**



# EXCELLENT PROVISION

built over time

*“The excellent support, community involvement and extra-curricular activities sets AGS apart from other schools. It has contributed to my child’s confidence, and fed into both his academic achievement, and his development as a person.”*

YEAR 11 PARENT

Our school dates back to the foundation of a Free Grammar School by Anthony Gell in 1576. We have been on our current site since 1907 and became a comprehensive school in 1965. We believe that the school retains traditions associated with its long history, and also reflects much of what is best in the fast-changing progressive world of education.

We are a popular and over-subscribed school with around 850 students on roll, approximately 50 teaching staff, and a large team of support staff. Our premises help to facilitate high quality learning in a wide range of subjects.

The main building, technology block, library, Sixth Form study room and the original buildings have all recently had substantial upgrades.

We have well-equipped science labs, workshops, a wide variety of classrooms and teaching spaces as well as a state of the art computer network, giving our students access to computers and advanced technology throughout the school.

The school is situated in extensive and attractive grounds, which support a wide range of activities. Improvements since the early 2000s have included the building of a large sports hall, indoor climbing walls and a fitness suite on site, as well as three flood-lit artificial pitches. These outstanding sports facilities serve the needs of both the school and the local community.



# OUR INTENT

- A curriculum which provides our students with opportunities to explore, learn more about the world in which we live, and equip them well for future learning and employment.
- Develop skills and knowledge necessary to become self motivated, independent and confident learners.
- Improve students' ability to work as part of a team, by developing a sense of empathy and understanding, along with knowing how and when to lead.
- Work as part of a larger community, to develop a careful awareness, understanding and acceptance of others' beliefs, opinions and individuality.
- Motivate students to set ambitious goals and work hard to achieve them.
- Support one another and celebrate our own successes as much as celebrating those of others.
- Be self aware and make good decisions with regards to mental and physical health.
- To expand social awareness and to make a difference; care about ourselves, others and our environment.
- Encourage students to be creative and confident to take risks when learning.
- Develop resilience in the face of difficulties.



***“ This school is one of a kind; you have many options with a caring and welcoming environment that helps us achieve and be the best we can be. ”***

**YEAR 9 STUDENT**



A young man with curly brown hair, wearing a white lab coat and clear safety goggles, is focused on a task in a laboratory setting. He is leaning over a table, and his hands are visible, one wearing a white glove. The background is slightly blurred, showing other lab equipment and a bright, airy environment.

# A Progressive, Personalised CURRICULUM

Our students follow a rigorous, stimulating and diverse curriculum which is designed to challenge, reward and realise the potential of each and every child. Individual aptitudes and abilities are carefully evaluated to better ensure appropriate programmes of study.

‘How’ students learn is as important as ‘what’ they learn. The ability to become an independent learner, with a thirst for knowledge, is an essential foundation for life-long learning.

Our students achieve a range of excellent outcomes. Results at both GCSE and A Level are consistently good. Anthony Gell School is regularly one of the highest performing schools in Derbyshire.

***“Pupils demonstrate positive attitudes to learning and take pride in their work.”***

OFSTED





# Sixth Form STUDY

*“The support I have had from my teachers and Sixth Form tutors has enabled me to advance my academic, personal, and social skills as well as provide me with memories and lifelong friends.”*

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

One of the great advantages of an 11-18 school is the smooth progression of students from GCSE into post-16 courses. A large number of students continue their education at Anthony Gell School and follow Advanced Level or BTEC courses.

Our thriving and successful Sixth Form is characterised by an excellent teacher to student ratio, alongside high levels of academic and pastoral support from a team of specialist staff. We endeavour to establish an adult environment in which to study; blending a healthy degree of independence with expert advice, guidance, care and attention.



# Learning Beyond THE CLASSROOM

A student's timetabled lessons are only a part of their learning experience.

Within school, there are numerous clubs for all ability levels in areas such as: drama, science, mathematics, computing, technical Lego, chess, technology, languages, robotics, film, dance and poetry. There are also opportunities for students to develop leadership skills including: Student Parliament membership, sports leadership, business and enterprise challenges and peer mentoring.

We have exchange links with Wetter in Germany and Toyota City in Japan. Foreign travel also extends to music, with several overseas tours in recent years. The school has been awarded the British Council's International School Award on three occasions.

We provide a number of residential experiences for students to enjoy, as well as a wide range of day visits and trips.

***“The AGS values of inclusivity, individual expression, a strong sense of community, trust and high expectations are ones I share.”***

AGS TEACHER









# Excelling in SPORTS

Anthony Gell School has an outstanding sporting reputation and takes part in many local, regional and national competitions, as well as providing a wide range of recreational clubs and activities for students to enjoy. Although our emphasis is on participation and enjoyment for all, our competitive reputation is strong. Several of our students perform at the highest levels in their chosen disciplines, with international performers in most year groups.

“

*At Anthony Gell, every minute is a learning experience in a safe, caring environment.*

”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

We also provide off-site and applied learning experiences for all students; with opportunities to try a wide variety of outdoor pursuits, including the Duke of Edinburgh awards, bush craft and canoeing in our own set of canoes.





## ...AND THE ARTS

We have a strong commitment to the Arts. Many students learn to play musical instruments and there are a wide variety of musical groups, small and large, formal and informal. Beyond school we have strong links with local orchestras and choirs. We work closely with skilled peripatetic music teachers and are pleased that such large numbers of children opt to develop their skills with these staff. We serve as a hub for instrument lessons for children from a number of our neighbouring primary schools and a thriving Music Centre takes place in school on Saturday mornings.

Our commitment to providing all students with opportunities to develop skills in the arts is also supported by an excellent extra-curricular programme. Our extra-curricular programme includes regular visits to theatres, as well as presenting several school-based drama productions each year including: *The Demon Headteacher*, *Macbeth*, *Aida*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *We Will Rock You* and *School of Rock*. We also regularly present showcases of our students' work in Art, Media, Technology and Dance, and are proud to be an important venue for the annual Wirksworth Arts Festival.

# Parental **PARTNERSHIP**

We recognise that the active interest and support of parents and carers is vital to the success of young people at school. It is because of this that we seek the closest possible cooperation between staff and parents/carers.

Interactive software enables parents/carers to be kept fully informed of their child's progress in school, their attendance, punctuality, homework, rewards and sanctions.

## **A Community of LEARNERS**

We embrace the community as a resource - it supports much of what we do. Our students visit, survey, interview and sketch in the community; and local employers provide work placements that we value very highly. Our students help with and often facilitate opportunities for members of our community to come together.

Our philosophy is simple - Anthony Gell School should not be viewed as separate from the community which it serves.





***“ The school's ethos is to value the individual. The teachers and support staff have helped our children to make their own choices, grow in confidence and develop their own identities. ”***

**YEAR 9 PARENT**

# OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

## The Foundation for Learning

We place great emphasis on caring for students on an individual basis. The school has an excellent reputation for pastoral care, and we believe that our students achieve their best academically when they feel safe and happy at school.

Each child is allocated to one of our five Houses, and supported by a Pastoral Manager and a team of tutors linked to their House. We believe this contributes to the development of a close and caring relationship and makes it easier to create the excellent links between home and school which are important to the success of all children.

Our pastoral structure means that tutor groups in years 7, 8 and 9 are made up of young people from all these year groups. We feel that this helps reinforce a sense of community and fosters a more mature atmosphere throughout the school. Additional individual support also operates on an academic level, with class teachers and mentors working on a one-to-one basis with students.



*“...successfully combining the school's long-standing caring and compassionate ethos with a greater focus on ensuring that pupils achieve in line with their capabilities.”*

OFSTED





# SPECIALIST support

We have an extensive programme to support all students regardless of their starting points. This support is a combination of work in the classroom and additional events, which sometimes take place in conjunction with our partner secondary schools from across Derbyshire.

Opportunities include access to national events, the chance to take part in national competitions and group project work in partnership with external organisations. Students are given the opportunity to help others in school to develop academic and social skills and to work with pupils from our partner primary schools.

Students with special educational needs or disabilities are supported by our team of skilled and dedicated staff. We use a combination of in-class support and withdrawal lessons depending on individual needs. We work closely with parents/carers and a range of specialist staff from other organisations.



# Anthony Gell

— School —

## ADDRESS

Wood Street, Wirksworth, Derbyshire,  
DE4 4DX

## PHONE

01629 825 577

## EMAIL

[enquiries@anthonygell.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@anthonygell.co.uk)

## WEBSITE

[www.anthonygell.co.uk](http://www.anthonygell.co.uk)

## TWITTER

[@AGS\\_Wirksworth](https://twitter.com/AGS_Wirksworth)



Please contact us for more information, or to arrange a visit. I would also encourage you to take a look at our website where you can find a lot more information about the school.

**Malcolm Kelly - Headteacher**