

5th September 2024

Dear parents/carers,

On behalf of all of the staff and governors at AGS, I would like to welcome you to the start of a new academic year and thank you in advance for your support, as we work together to the best of our abilities to provide the right environment for every young person to succeed.

As with any new year, there are some changes to make you aware of. These changes will help us in our desire to improve our quality of provision.

Year 11 and Year 13 Results

Before I talk about some of the changes, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate some of the successes of our students this summer. Year 13 and Year 11 achieved some outstanding results and have started to take their next steps in education, employment or training. It was wonderful to see so many of our Sixth Formers gain places in their first choice university, job or apprenticeship and hear about the exciting plans many of them have to travel and explore. Our Year 11 students produced **a set of record breaking results** in their exams; results which were well above national averages and are likely to be some of the best in Derbyshire. We were so pleased to see that their hard work and dedication paid off.

Goodbye Talaxy, Hello Arbor

One of the changes which you will become aware of is our move away from Talaxy. We had only ever planned for Talaxy to be a one-year solution, so we have moved to a better way of enabling you to see key information linked to your child's progress, important dates and data. Our move to 'Arbor' has happened and this means that Talaxy will no longer contain up to date information. The information shown on Talaxy is likely to be unreliable. We are taking steps to remove access to Talaxy to avoid any confusion. **We will be giving you information about how to use Arbor in the weeks and months ahead**, as we move a lot of our functionality to this piece of software. Our move across to Arbor will be a phased one and we will introduce bits at a time. Please look out for the regular updates about Arbor which will come from Mr Lovatt.

Staff Changes

There have been a number of staff changes since I last wrote to you, so there will be some new staff to get to know, and some improvements in our capacity to provide the best support we can. You will be given more information about some of the important changes in other

communications you will receive over the next few days/weeks. We continue to be in the very strong position of having excellent subject specialists teaching across our curriculum and we are fully staffed in all subject areas. We continue to place a great deal of importance in our pastoral care and will be making some changes in the weeks ahead with this in mind, in order to fully staff the excellent structures we have in school with more high quality appointments.

Improvements in School

We are looking forward to getting to know some new children as they start their time with us and we are looking forward to welcoming back all of our familiar faces in Years 8-13, after what we hope has been a lovely summer break for them all. They will find that certain parts of the school look a bit different when they return. We have been fortunate enough to secure the much-needed finances to help with the upkeep of our buildings and make some adaptations which better suit our curriculum in 2024. New windows, freshly decorated classrooms, new classrooms, and some excellent new resources will help all of our students as they settle back into their learning.

Good Attendance Leads to Greater Success

AGS staff have spent this week preparing for the year ahead and honing our skills, ready to welcome back our students next week. Year 7 and Sixth Form join us on Monday. All Year groups are in from Tuesday onwards. Thank you for everything you will do to make sure each child attends school as much as possible in 2024-25. The summer results once again highlighted the importance of attendance. Those with very good attendance achieved results much better than their peers; they had learned more, made more progress, experienced more and are better placed to take their next steps. **We want this for all of our children.** All of our students will start next week on 100% attendance. We would like as many of them as possible to still have as close to 100% by the end of this year. Thank you for working with us to help make this a reality for lots of AGS students.

Here's to another very successful year!

Best wishes,



Malcolm Kelly

Headteacher