

4th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

First, I would like to thank all of the students who have made a fantastic start to the new academic year. Staff and students are reporting that they feel lessons are going very well, and that our renewed focus on behaviour which enables excellent learning is having a really positive impact. Thank you for your support with this.

Beyond lessons and during social times, you will be aware that students at AGS are given more opportunities to make positive choices than their peers in other schools. Students experience a culture of mutual respect, care and support and this was a standout feature for me when I arrived at the school two years ago. The atmosphere around school, as students interact with staff and with each other, is something that visitors comment upon and something we are very proud of.

Unfortunately, since we have returned to school in September, there have been some incidents of vandalism in the toilets which have now caused significant damage. We are sorry to see a very small number of students have made poor choices and in doing so, they are causing significant inconvenience to their peers who treat our premises with complete respect and embrace our core value of Care.

In order to address the damage and reduce future costs of repair, for the next few weeks, we are having to take the unfortunate step of limiting access to some student toilets during break and lunchtimes. Please be assured that, even with the changes that will be in place, every young person will still be able to use our toilet facilities when they need to during the school day.

The changes which will be implemented at AGS will align with practice already seen in other schools, where access to toilets is more closely controlled during breaks and lunchtimes. It is regrettable that we are having to take this sort of action at AGS and we hope we will be able to re-open facilities as normal as quickly as possible.

This change will take place from Tuesday 5th November onwards, with some toilets remaining closed until the damage has been fully repaired.

Sixth Form students will retain freedom of access to toilets at all times and will be briefed on arrangements by the Sixth Form team of staff.

We will continue to review the arrangements that are in place, and will make changes as necessary to ensure that all students feel safe and have access to good quality facilities in school.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding.

Kind regards,

Nick Watts
Deputy Headteacher