

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome from Mr Kelly

Our newsletter for Spring 2025 features a couple of extraordinary trips; trips which allowed students to expand their horizons in Italy and Japan. In addition to these spectacular opportunities, you'll be able to see lots of other examples of the enrichment which has taken place this term, as part of the overall experience at AGS and to compliment the learning in lessons. Despite us increasing the size of this newsletter, we have still not been able to fit everything in. I hope the articles which have been included are enough to give you a flavour of life at AGS in the Spring of 2025. Certainly, a great place to be!

DIARY DATES

22nd April - Year 7 Residential Trip
 24th April - UCAS Fair trip for Year 12
 30th April - Year 12 Lake District Trip
 1st May - Year 7 Parents' Evening
 7th May - External Exams Start
 15th May - Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening
 21st May - Year 9 Trip to Bletchly Park
 23rd Break up for May Half Term
 24th June - Year 10 & 12 Mock Exams start
 4th July - Sports Day
 9th July - Year 6 Visit Day
 10th July - Year 6 Parents' Evening
 23rd July - Activity Day
 24th July - Activity Day





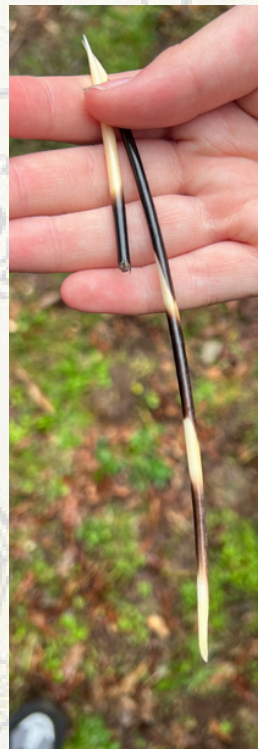
Tuscany 2025:

Our adventure began with a smooth 2-hour and 20-minute flight, landing in Pisa under glorious sunshine. It was the perfect welcome as we set out to explore the city's incredible history and architecture. From the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa to the stunning Cathedral, Botanical Gardens, and bustling local markets, our students embraced the beauty of Tuscany from the very start. Of course, all that sightseeing worked up an appetite! Faced with the ultimate Italian dilemma—pizza or gelato—our students made their choices (can you guess which one was most popular?) before we hopped on a bus to our hostel, settling in for the adventure ahead.

Tuesday took us into the heart of nature as we ventured into a breathtaking national park. Hiking up a mountain and along nature trails, we spotted violets in bloom, followed wild boar tracks, collected porcupine quills, and learned about the region's diverse plant life. Surrounded by fresh air and stunning landscapes, we couldn't have asked for a better way to connect with Tuscany's wild side. And, of course, no day in Italy is complete without indulging in delicious food — pizza and pasta were once again on the menu!



Wednesday brought a truly special experience as we met with a class of Italian students. Overcoming initial nerves, our students engaged in a cultural exchange, sharing interests and working together on an eco-task of comparing carbon footprints. Watching them collaborate, exchange ideas, and brainstorm ways to reduce their environmental impact was inspiring. One of the highlights of the day? Discovering the incredible local food! Thanks to Tuscany's abundance of local producers, everything we ate had a small carbon footprint and tasted amazing.



A Journey Through Culture, Nature, and Cuisine

Our students were particularly surprised by the Italian school day—8 AM to 5 PM with just a 10-minute morning break and a lunch break dedicated entirely to food service. It certainly made them appreciate their own timetables back home. After school, we explored the town in true Tuscan rain! With bags filled with chocolates, postcards, and souvenirs, we returned for an evening of fresh, homemade pizza, crisp salads, and the richest, creamiest local gelato.



Thursday was a day of history and adventure. We explored a Roman amphitheatre straight out of *Gladiator*, captivated by our guide's stories about Tuscany's ancient past, its marble quarries, and the land that has shaped its people.



Despite the cooler weather, we couldn't resist a trip to the beach. Splashing in the sea and enjoying the coastal views made for a perfect afternoon. Back at the hostel, we faced one final challenge—fitting everything into our bags!



Our last evening in Tuscany was filled with incredible food once again, including savoury tarts made with flaky pastry, potatoes, leeks, and vegetables. As we savoured yet another round of gelato, we watched videos of local wildlife—wolves, boars, porcupines, and deer roaming the nearby forests. On Friday, we said goodbye to the beauty, history, and flavours of Tuscany as we made our way home, bringing with us unforgettable memories, new friendships, and a newfound appreciation for Italian culture. Grazie, Tuscany—until next time!

Holly Walker-Riggott
School Business Manager



On Friday 14th February, all Year 13 students completed a 'cooking on a budget' day consisting of different activities. For the first part of the day, we took part in a taught session where we completed engaging activities to get us thinking about the ways in the future we can make the most out of our money, whilst still enjoying tasty, nutritious food.

There were food items such as baked beans, tomato ketchup and bread which we were tasked with differentiating between branded and non-branded, looking at elements such as taste, look and texture. It was harder than we expected, with many choosing incorrectly, however it was clear that Heinz ketchup was a favourite! During this session we also watched a documentary in which someone had tasked themselves with living off of a £10 food shop for a week. We were able to see the challenges that she faced and discuss what we would do differently.

For the week leading up to the cooking on a budget day, we had been completing sessions during tutor time in order for us to plan a meal which we were to create on the day. We spent time researching the cost of different items and working out whether it would be possible to create our food on a budget of £3.50.

Lily and I chose to work together to create a bolognaise, which we made during the second part of the day. I found it interesting to work together as we were able to see the different ways we would each do things, and by the end, we had a delicious meal. Other people made meals such as egg fried rice, arrabbiata, and even a vegetarian Mexican tortilla bean lasagne.

Overall the day was really enlightening and it was interesting to see everybody's different approaches to the task, and learn that buying branded isn't always best.

Martha Dilks,
Year 13



Comic Relief: A Fundraising Success!

Our school community came together in fantastic spirit to support Comic Relief, raising an impressive £228.50 through a series of exciting events!

6th Form Baking Competition & Sale

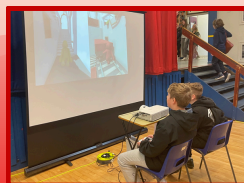
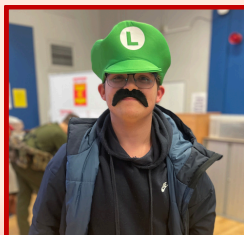
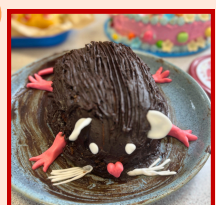
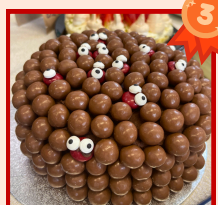
Baking talent was on full display as students competed in a friendly yet delicious competition. The Shrek Cake took 1st place made by Izzy Lamin, Maia Patterson and Alex Johnson, followed by a colourful sweet-covered cake in 2nd made by Sophie and Chloe Poplar, and Mrs. Butt's Malteser creation securing 3rd. A huge well done to all participants—every entry was truly incredible!

E-Sports Tournament

Gaming enthusiasts filled the hall for an electrifying tournament, where students went head-to-head in a thrilling showdown. The competitive energy was high, and the atmosphere was even better!

To go with our E-Sports tournament, our gaming themed treats were a big hit, and the excitement continued with a raffle, where lucky winners took home an adorable Yoshi & Pikachu plushie.

From tasty bakes to gaming battles, it was a day filled with fun, laughter, and generosity. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and donated—you made a real difference!



Adventure Awaits: Exciting Outdoor Opportunities at Our School

As part of my new role in school this year I am able to provide many exciting opportunities such as canoeing, skiing, bushcraft and sailing - some students may have been lucky enough to have come across some of these already. One new addition this year has been the Duke of Edinburgh Award which we have started with the current year 9 students. 31 lucky students have been given the opportunity to get out into the wider community and partake in physical activities, skills and volunteering throughout the course of the year. The award will include a 2-day expedition out in the Peak District, surviving only on the things the students can carry on their backs. In practice for this, they have been training with Bob, our Outdoor Education specialist, on everything they will need including; cooking on Trangias, navigation practice, kit and finally, on the 18th March they got to put it into practice by heading out in the sunny Derbyshire weather and taking on a 15km day walk.

Current year 8s keep your eyes peeled as this may well be you next year - taking part in similar activities.

Matt Lomax

Maths Teacher and Outdoor Education Coordinator



AGS Students Excel at UKMT Regional Team Challenge

Four talented AGS students recently took on the UKMT Regional Team Challenge, competing against 19 schools from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Representing AGS were: Corin Fyffe (Year 9), Reuben Reeves (Year 9), Scarlett O'Boyle (Year 8) and William Tebb (Year 8).

The team tackled four rounds of challenging maths problems, with their favourite being the crossnumber — a mathematical twist on a crossword! Their combined efforts led to an impressive 7th place finish, AGS's best result in a decade. Well done!

In other UKMT news, congratulations to Kaden Marshall (Year 11) for being the only AGS student to qualify for the prestigious Pink Kangaroo round. Best of luck, Kaden!

Oli Richards, Maths Teacher



AGS Cricket Teams Shine in Derbyshire Competitions

March has been an exciting month for AGS indoor cricket teams, with our U13, U15 Girls, and U15 Boys teams competing in the Derbyshire Indoor Competitions. The players showcased great skill, teamwork, and resilience, producing some outstanding performances along the way.

U13 Girls - 3rd in Derbyshire Indoor Competition

On Friday, 14th March, the U13 Girls team took to the pitch with determination. In the semi-final, they faced QEGS, who posted a strong total of 92 runs. Despite a solid start from our opening batters, the team found themselves needing to take risks to chase the target, which ultimately led to their downfall, finishing on 65 runs. However, the girls bounced back brilliantly in the 3rd/4th place play-off against West Park. With their initial nerves settled, they played with much more confidence, both batting and bowling with belief to secure a match-winning total of 86 against West Park's 79 runs.

A huge well done to all the players, especially those making their AGS debut and playing their first-ever cricket match!

U15 Girls - 2nd in Derbyshire Indoor Competition

The U15 Girls entered their competition on Monday, 17th March, eager to continue their success after previously being crowned regional champions. In the semi-final, they delivered a dominant performance against Friesland, putting up an impressive 110 runs while showing fantastic teamwork and aggressive running between the wickets. Their disciplined bowling ensured a comfortable victory, restricting Friesland to 73 runs. In the final, AGS once again faced Repton in what proved to be a tightly contested match. After losing early wickets to an excellent bowling attack, AGS managed to recover but finished on 44 runs. Determined to fight back, the team bowled well and claimed some crucial wickets, but Repton's middle order held firm, guiding them to victory with 46 runs. Despite the narrow defeat, the team should be incredibly proud of their efforts and their second-place finish in the competition.

U15 Boys - Derbyshire Indoor Competition Success

On Monday, 24th March, the U15 Boys stepped up for their quarter-final match against Chapel High. The game started with an unexpected moment when AGS's opening bowler shattered the middle stump with the final delivery of the warm-up, setting the tone for an intense contest. Batting first, AGS cautiously navigated a fierce bowling attack to post a respectable 62 runs. Chapel responded aggressively, but a moment of brilliance—a laser-sharp run-out—shifted the momentum in AGS's favour. The team capitalized on this, bowling Chapel out for 51 runs to secure their place in the next round.

The semi-final and final/3rd place play-off will take place on Friday, 28th March, where the team will look to continue their strong performances and aim for victory.



Monday 17th February. 3.30am. It was cold. Yet there was a palpable sense of excitement in the air as, on-by-one, students arrived at school with parents and carers. After goodbyes and hugs, students - who had had their heads counted several times despite not moving - waved from their seats and we set off for Japan.



Time is funny. Often, we bemoan our lack of time and wish we had more of it. It sometimes seems like it is moving too quickly for our liking. Flying to Japan was not one of these times. Some slept, while some watched films or television shows or the graphic of a plane very slowly following a white line to first Hong Kong and then Nagoya. Eventually, we arrived and, after a relatively short coach ride, arrived in Toyota City. Through the exhaustion, everyone sensed how surreal it was to be so far from home on a school trip; vending machines prompted several students to swarm around in awe. After dinner at the curiously-named Booby's British Pub, we made our way to the Meitetsu Hotel, our bed for the night.



JAPAN

If any lingering tiredness existed, it was soon forcibly swept away by the sheer amount of activities planned for the next day. Between a shrine, an extremely exciting shopping trip, a tour of the hugely impressive, heated-seat-filled Toyota Stadium (home of Nagoya Grampus, Gary Lineker's final club) and being introduced to the Noh Theatre, students and staff alike had little time to take a breath. All were so exciting that it acted as a wonderful introduction to Japan and its culture.

It was then time to don our red trip hoodies and visit the Mayor of Toyota City. As a teacher, there are moments when you truly remember why you trained in the first place:

moments that remind you how wonderful young people are!

This was one of those moments. Watching as they introduced themselves in Japanese and conducted themselves perfectly was quite emotional in what was a very formal setting, quite unlike anything at AGS.

The next day saw students get their first taste of life in a Japanese hostel. Over the next week, students would experience both the Sogo Yagai Centre and Asahi Kogen, accommodation built amongst forests and mountains, in a truly beautiful natural setting. Students were not deterred by the lack of luxury, organising their beds and futons as instructed and enjoying serving each other at mealtimes. Bathing every evening did not prove as scary as some worried prior to the trip, providing a relaxing social time that I suspect many will miss (I know I do!). Again the vending machines proved popular, although one was at the end of a corridor that became infamous during our stay. A bit of research online tells me that in 2021, University of Bremen physicists achieved a temperature of 38 picokelvin, the coldest temperature ever recorded. It may be that these physicists need to take a 6am walk down the cold Asahi Kogen corridor to get a hot bottle of Royal Milk tea. Records may need to be rewritten.



Exploring the surroundings of both hostels gave students and staff an array of beautiful, picturesque scenery to gaze at while also offering activities that included visiting other shrines, climbing a nearby mountain, enjoying the thrills of a zipline and making gohei-mochi, rice pounded and put onto a stick with a miso sauce and then barbequed. Despite initial scepticism ("Right guys, we're going to put rice onto a stick!" was not met with universal excitement), students found themselves wanting more, having discovered this delicious new snack.

2025



During the stay, students visited two Japanese schools: Toyotakita High School for a day and Masutomi Junior High School for three days. At both, there was a combination of lessons and activities such as games and sport. Despite the school days being early starts, students were attentive and enjoyed their days there greatly.



It was while at school that students met 'Japanese Tom Cruise,' a particularly confident teacher, were challenged in a supido card game tournament, encountered an axolotl resting in a classroom tank and tried a kimono on for size. The goodbyes at both were emotional, with some of our students even having to break away from signing autographs due to the sheer numbers of students waiting for them! Details were exchanged between many and I would love to think that some of the friendships started in Toyota City will endure.



Away from the days in school, the Toyota car museum proved to be of interest, with students enjoying sitting in a range of vehicles, and making Japanese paper - washi - from scratch at the Obara centre blew some minds, moving from what can only be described as goo and water to a beautifully delicate piece of paper in what felt like no time.



On our last day in Toyota City, students met the students who had visited Derbyshire last September at the International Association, with staff also getting to catch up with the Japanese teachers. A particularly competitive quiz came and went and the afternoon proved a fantastic way for the Derbyshire and Toyota City students to relax and spend time together.

The final evening introduced students to one last new experience: 'happy' Japanese businessmen enjoying their Friday night. Dinner at the Fujiya Grill gave students the chance to look out of the huge windows overlooking the city as they ate all of the food that came their way, with the rowdiness of the adjoining area proving at first bemusing, but then amusing, as Gell students and the Japanese businessmen took turns to give each other a cheer. Truly a meeting that I never knew I needed to see.

It was then time to return home. The flight was not any shorter, but it was this time accompanied by the trove of memories that every student and staff member had taken away from Toyota City and from Japan. Every student should feel proud of themselves and I know that each would have pleasant words to say about the trip. The twinning arrangement between Derbyshire and Toyota City continues, with Japanese students expected in September, and I suspect...

Every student on the trip will have a smile on their face, recalling their own time in Japan.

Jamie Flint, DTL - Communications Faculty





West End Stars Inspire AGS Students



Students at AGS were treated to an unforgettable experience as West End performer Bradley Judge and professional dancer Anna King visited the school to share their industry insights and lead an exciting workshop.

Bradley Judge has performed in major productions, including *Sister Act* at the Hammersmith Apollo, a UK and Ireland tour of the show, and *Hairspray* at the London Coliseum, where he understudied Corny Collins for a week. Anna King has worked in TV, as an agent, and as a dance captain on cruise ships, bringing a wealth of experience to the performing arts industry.

Bradley and Anna began their visit with an assembly for Year 10-12 students, offering insights into the wide range of career opportunities in theatre—both onstage and behind the scenes. Their talk provided a realistic and exciting look at the industry, highlighting the many different paths available beyond performing, from choreography to stage management and casting.

Following this, Year 7, 8, and 9 students took part in a 1-hour 15-minute workshop led by Anna King. The session kicked off with drama games and a warm-up, which revealed just how flexible (or not!) the students were. The highlight of the workshop was learning an authentic routine from the original West End choreography of *You Can't Stop the Beat* from *Hairspray*.

The energy in the room was electric as students threw themselves into the routine with enthusiasm, fully immersing themselves in the experience. It was a joy to watch so many young performers embracing the challenge, stepping out of their comfort zones, and bringing the magic of the West End to AGS.

This incredible visit not only gave students a taste of the professional theatre world but also inspired them to dream big and explore the many possibilities within the performing arts.



Story Telling Workshop

Recently, some lucky Year 8 and 9 students were treated to some storytelling magic and the best part about it, was it was both local and global.

We had two storytellers Pyn and Cath who told us about the folk story of Crooker and the River Derwent at Cromford. How a lucky man was spared in a storm because he'd been kind to others but how others may perish in the strong icy waters.

We developed lots of questions and answers about who Crooker may be and how s/he fit in with the river. Then we looked at climate change and how globally some people are learning to work with the changing waters or trying to bend it to our will. We developed stories about what Crooker may look like 20 years from now and there was some fantastically creative work. The students really enjoyed flexing their creative muscles and it was really lovely to see them being engaged and creative. The result will be seen at Cromford Mill on 12th and 13th April as part of the Derbyshire Makes Festival at Cromford Mills from 10.30-4pm with storytelling workshops, performances and creative opportunities to get involved, get down there if you can!

Mrs Hampton
Drama Teacher



Fleeing the Fire: A student's Memory of War

A war - the meaningless bloodshed that occurs due to the fact that the rulers of the countries could not fulfil their obligations. Do you know what war smells like? It smells like a time. February. I was twelve. This time was as carefree as childhood, but everything comes to an end.

I remember it like it was yesterday.

I woke up early in the morning, turning on the TV, I saw that a war had begun in my country. At first there was nothing serious, everyone thought it would be a fast war, this was my biggest mistake in my life.

The first couple of days it looked like ordinary work days, I went to school and played football with friends. Everything changed with the loss of electricity, all schools were closed, but no one gave this a special look, because our city often turned off electricity, but with the first whistles of bullets, people realised that something needed to be done. My family realised this when it was too late, the shops were already without groceries, only a lonely store in the corner of our house for some reason was not empty, but the products that my parents purchased were not enough and then my parents found out that there was a food warehouse not far away, and since we had a car, my parents went there.

I was scared.

I thought this fear was the strongest in my life, but I was wrong.

When my parents left, first explosions began and I began to worry very much, but then I heard the explosion very close, the projectile was advancing right next to my bedroom window, but I was lucky, because my window was protected by the nearby tree.

When my parents returned, they were scared, but when they saw me, they were as happy as never before. Parents returned with food for a week in advance, which was enough for us, because we feared about green corridor (this is when the military allows civilians to leave the city that was sieged). Having examined the site of the damage, we realised that we did not have access to gas, as it damaged the gas pipe. We began to cook at the stake, I was overwhelmed with emotions, for me it was as incomprehensible as how my grandmother tried to figure out what the internet is. I will never forget how uncomfortable and dangerous to cook at the stake, I did not understand how our ancestors could cook like this, but it was fun, but dirty. I will never forget with what effort I tried to wash the soot from my jacket.

A few days later, a couple of shells fell into our yard and one hooked our car. The car was not damaged as we thought, but as soon as my dad wanted to drive it, it would not start, we thought this was the end, but the neighbour who was an auto machanic helped us, but the car could not drive normally.

The day came when we were going to leave, twenty cars gathered and they all had an inscription: "childrens". We prayed that the car would hold up to our exit from the city.

The cars held up.

I was nervous and scared, I will never forget these ruined houses and the smell of ashes, calming down I turned to thoughts of good, but like smoke my childish and irresponsible thinking stopped, because I saw a corpse...

It was unmissable, his glassy eyes filled me with horror, my eyes darkened and I fell unconscious. Waking up, we left this hell.

Later, after going on a picnic, I had flashbacks, and I realised that smell of war was a time.

Denys Horbik,

Year 10

A Ukrainian and now an AGS Student

Learning from the Past: Hilary Hodsman's Talk on the Holocaust

Year 9 students at our school recently had the privilege of hearing from Hilary Hodsman, whose parents, Henry and Ingrid Wuga, were among the many Jewish children who escaped Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport. Hilary's talk provided a deeply personal insight into the Holocaust, highlighting the dangers of discrimination, persecution, and dehumanisation. Henry and Ingrid Wuga grew up in Germany during the 1930s, a time when Jewish families faced increasing restrictions and violence under Nazi rule. Ingrid was born in 1924 in Dortmund, where she experienced firsthand the growing hostility toward Jewish people. Henry, born in Nuremberg in 1924, also saw his world change drastically as Nazi policies took hold. By 1938, life for Jews in Germany had become unbearable, with Jewish children expelled from schools, families stripped of their businesses,

and violent attacks becoming more common. Recognising the danger, Henry and Ingrid's parents made the heart-wrenching decision to send them to safety in Britain via the Kindertransport. Henry arrived in Scotland in May 1939, just months before the outbreak of World War II. Ingrid followed, making her own journey to safety. Both had to leave their families behind, unsure if they would ever see them again. Once in Britain, they built new lives, eventually marrying in 1944 and dedicating themselves to sharing their experiences. Hilary and her sister continue their parents' legacy by educating young people about the Holocaust. Their talks emphasise how prejudice and discrimination can escalate into atrocities if left unchallenged. They remind students that the Holocaust did not begin with concentration camps but with small acts of exclusion and persecution—lessons that remain relevant today.

KS3 Careers Week

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in our really busy Careers Week during the last half term. Students took part in lessons looking at the importance of careers and pathways in a range of subjects including Science, English, Geography and the Arts. We had visitors from the Department of Work and Pensions who looked with us at the local labour market and gave students an introduction to Apprenticeships.



The Higher Education Partnership Pathway came to school to talk to students in Years 7, 8 and 9 about University study and Degree Level Apprenticeships. Our partners at Stepnell Construction and Wates Construction ran Employability Skills Workshops for us, where students planned programmes of work for a building project and built large scale structures in the school hall! The Secret World of Gases spent some time with Year 9 exploring how gases are used and could be used in the future during an exciting, interactive workshop.



Leadership, Teamwork, Competition, Compromise, Persistence and Resilience were the skills we were seeking to develop in these workshops in a fun but valuable learning environment. Year 9 also had a real window into the world of work as they all had the opportunity to visit an employer on the first day of Careers week.



We were fortunate to be able to partner with Chesterfield Royal Hospital, GXO Logistics, Longcliffe Quarries and Manchester Airport for these visits. Students got hands-on experiences, site tours and took part in practical activities as well as being able to meet a range of staff at different stages in their careers.



GXO

hepp
HIGHER
EDUCATION
PROGRESSION
PARTNERSHIP



We are hugely grateful to all our partners for helping us to organise such a busy schedule for students throughout this week. We are now organising Careers Week for Year 10, which will be happening during w/c 28th April. If you would like to support any of our Careers events it would be much appreciated - please contact me via jgrindey@anthonygell.co.uk.

Jay Grindey
Technology Teacher

Wates




Department
for Work &
Pensions



Longcliffe





My Week of Work Experience at Wirksworth Junior School

As a year twelve student, I got the amazing opportunity to spend a week out of school and gain experience in a workplace of my choice. I decided to return to my childhood primary school and help out as a classroom assistant, and I am so glad that I chose to spend it there. The friendly staff, the lovely pupils and the work I was given to do truly made this an excellent week for me, and I genuinely can't think of a better place for work experience.

What did the average day look like for me?

My working day as a classroom assistant started off with setting up the classroom, which included being sent to the printer to collect the students' work for the day and ensuring the classroom was tidy and ready for the students' to use. We always had maths first period, where I helped a year five student on a one-to-one ratio with multiplication and division. Then we had English, which I really enjoyed as if I was to become a teacher, I would want to teach English literature. In the afternoons, we did not have a strict schedule for lessons, so we had either science, PE, geography or PSE. My favourite out of these was PE, because as the teams had uneven numbers, I got to join in with a few games of tag rugby, which not only was really fun, but it also allowed me to bond with the students and get to know them all.

What did I gain from my work experience?

From my work experience, I gained an understanding of workplace culture: I learned about the dynamics and expectations in a teaching/educational environment, which will be useful for me when searching for jobs post-university. I developed specific skills during this week, such as good communication whilst boosting my confidence, which has prepared me for my future, as I can adapt these to many workplaces, university life or even my social life! I also gained a new form of enrichment to put on my CV/University applications: work experience looks great on these resumes, as it shows you are hardworking and have experience volunteering in a workplace. My work experience has also helped me explore a career in teaching, which I have grown an even stronger interest in. I think this exploration is the best part of the work experience because you can really get a feel for what career you would like to do in the future.

Has this experience changed what I would like to do in the future?

I have always had an interest in teaching, however it has never really been my main choice for a career path; however, after my week of work experience, I am definitely considering it more and it is now one of the pathways I may enter after university.

Molly Repton
Year 12

Why I chose Wirksworth Junior School...

Since there were so many options to choose from when deciding where to do my work experience, I at first felt overwhelmed and was unsure on what to do. I eventually decided to spend a week at this primary school because I have always been passionate about teaching, and it is a career that I am considering entering post-university.

I have always considered myself to be good with children, and I believe I can communicate well with them. This therefore made Wirksworth Junior School the perfect place for me to my work experience, as these skills were very useful when helping in a classroom.

My week at Wirksworth Junior School was also very nostalgic for me, as when I was younger, I attended this primary school. This made my experience there so much better as I got to help at the place where I have made many cherished childhood memories. If you are ever stuck deciding where to spend your work experience week, I couldn't recommend this primary school more!

My Week of Work Experience at Aquabox



Last month, I was granted the opportunity to spend the week at the charity organisation, Aquabox. This is an organisation that provides aid to those who do not have access to clean water as a result of natural disasters. This is done through Aid boxes, which contain items that make life easier. The week proved to be an eye-opening experience and really showed me how valuable the organisation is and the efforts they make, globally.

On my first day, I was introduced to the charity, along with its dedicated volunteers. Everyone made me feel so welcome and helped show the important work they do to support those in need. I learned about their water filters, which make it easy to obtain clean water, as well as them providing aid to over fifty countries. It was truly devastating to hear how great the need is for aid but also fulfilling knowing I will make an impact.

Throughout the week, I helped pack the aid boxes that will be shipped out to countries in need. These boxes contain essential equipment to provide aid and water filters. It was insightful to hear about what was included within the aid boxes and the preciseness needed to use the storage space efficiently. Additionally, I also got to help build their water filters as well as help cut out reusable sanitary pads, as a part of their new San pads project for women in need of support. Each task reminded me of the importance regarding teamwork and efficient communication. When completing the water filters, it was crucial to listen to the team to ensure the work is done correctly, whilst keeping pace with the rest of the team.

Looking back on my work experience, the entire time was incredibly valuable to me. It provided me with key skills that I can transfer throughout life and taught me something new each day. Despite it not being your typical work experience, of being in an office and working environment, I gained so much knowledge on the reality of the world; it was heart-warming to hear the great impact they're making as a small charity and the true passion behind each volunteer. Following my work experience, I aim to continue my help and contribute further to Aquabox, in hopes of making a difference to those who need it.

Poppy Vivian-Asgher
Year 12



...and Trashion Show: A Night to Remember

On Tuesday, 1st April, students, staff, and families gathered for a spectacular evening of music, fashion, and sustainability at this year's Spring Concert and Trashion Show. The event featured a variety of performances, from the energetic Year 10 GCSE Music Group's rendition of Love Shack to the orchestra's stunning performance of Skyfall. Choirs and soloists also took to the stage, filling the evening with incredible talent and passion.

Adding a unique twist to the night, the Trashion Show ran alongside some of the performances, showcasing some of the sustainable outfits that students had been working on over the past few months. The creativity and craftsmanship displayed were truly inspiring, proving that fashion and sustainability can go hand in hand. A big thank you to Mrs. Davis-Patterson for her work on the Trashion Show. Her support and dedication helped bring the students' sustainable fashion creations to life, making the event even more special.

In addition to the entertainment, a sustainable shop was set up, offering families the chance to purchase second-hand clothing as well as beautifully crafted Easter cards and gift bags. The funds raised from this initiative will go towards the Young Futures Programme at AGS.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs. Fordham for organising such a fantastic event, as well as to all the students who participated – your performances were nothing short of amazing! Special recognition also goes to Jonah, our charismatic compère from Year 12, who kept the audience entertained throughout the night with his humour and charm.

A special mention must also go to Ed (Year 12), the sound expert behind the concert. His expertise ensured that every performance sounded incredible, and without his hard work, the event wouldn't have run as smoothly as it did.

The Spring Concert and Trashion Show was a resounding success, bringing together music, sustainability, and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped out and to all who came to support the event. It was truly a night to remember!



Celebrating Science: We Bring Local Primary Schools Together for a Fun-Filled Day

On 31st March 2025, we hosted an incredible Science Fair for local primary schools, and it was a huge success! Students from various schools came together to showcase their scientific knowledge and creativity. Each team was tasked with designing creatures that could live in the fictional habitat, encouraging them to think critically about how organisms could adapt to unique environments.



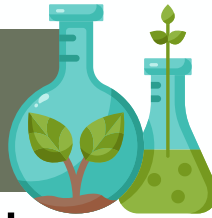
Award Winners

KS1 Winner: Middleton Community Primary School for their outstanding display.
Lower KS2 Winner: Wirksworth Junior School, who impressed with their fantastic project.

Upper KS2 Winner: Middleton Community Primary School again, for their innovative approach and exceptional presentation.

KS3 Winners: Year 7 - Gwen Robinson, Oscar Williams & Austin Boden-Wood.
Year 8 - Amelia Dolan, Sylvie Williams-Hunter & Scarlett O'Boyle.

The work from every school was amazing, and it was clear that a lot of effort went into each display. Congratulations to all the winners and participants!



Experiments and Fun in the Lab

In addition to the displays, the primary school pupils had the opportunity to spend time in our science labs, where they participated in some exciting experiments. They had fun with oobleck – a fascinating substance that behaves like a solid and liquid at the same time.

They also had a blast turning flames different colours by holding wooden splints dipped in various solutions over Bunsen burners. One of the most exciting moments was when Mr. Holroyd demonstrated the power of science by heating a can until it crushed and then managed to get an egg through the small opening of a conical flask.

We hope all the students had a fantastic time and learned a lot during the day! A big thank you to all the schools that participated and made this event so special. We look forward to welcoming them again next year!



Dubrekk Recording Studios Trip



Students in Year 12 and Year 13 had the fantastic opportunity to visit Dubrek Recording Studios across two days as part of their A-Level Music coursework. This experience provided them with a unique insight into the professional recording process, allowing them to step into the role of session musicians in a real studio environment.

Their role as session musicians required them to perform with precision and adaptability, ensuring they met the demands of a professional recording setting. The students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, demonstrating impressive technical skills and flexibility. It was wonderful to see such strong collaboration between Year 12 and Year 13, with students supporting and encouraging each other throughout the recording sessions. Their dedication and professionalism ensured that the sessions ran smoothly and productively, and their hard work is set to be rewarded—several students are on track to achieve distinctions for their coursework.

The staff at Dubrek Recording Studios were highly impressed with our students' preparation, commitment, and work ethic. They praised the way each musician approached their session with a professional mindset, showing both confidence and creativity.

This experience has not only contributed to their coursework but also provided invaluable practical skills that will benefit them in their future musical endeavors. Well done to all the students involved!

Derby University Music Workshop

Students from Year 10 GCSE Music and Year 12 A-Level Music classes had the incredible opportunity to attend a workshop day at the Music Department of Derby University. This hands-on experience gave them a glimpse into the possibilities of music production, composition, and performance using cutting-edge technology.

From the moment they arrived, students were captivated by the state-of-the-art equipment available at the University. They had the chance to experiment with an exciting range of technology, including synthesisers, launchpads, DJ turntables, and an analogue mixing desk, where they mixed their own version of a track.

A highlight of the day was working with Dolby Atmos, a groundbreaking sound technology used in modern film production. This immersive audio system allows sound to be placed anywhere in a three-dimensional space, including overhead, creating a rich and dynamic listening experience. Students were amazed by its capabilities and enjoyed creating their own soundscapes with it.

The workshop also included a live performance session, giving students the opportunity to explore performance techniques in a professional setting. Throughout the day, they engaged in discussions about career pathways in the creative industries, with many coming away inspired by the possibilities available to them.

This enriching experience provided plenty of food for thought, sparking excitement about the future and reinforcing the value of music education. It was a truly inspiring day that left students eager to explore their musical potential further.

