



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Page 1** - Pedals and Pure Determination

**Page 2** - Pedals and Pure Determination

**Page 3** - Children in Need

**Page 4** - Children in Need

**Page 5** - Chicago

**Page 6** - Halloween market

**Page 7** - Sumo Wrestling Trip

**Page 8** - Our Japanese Visitors, Open Evening Success

**Page 9** - Embark Choir Shines, Trip to Bridgewater Hall

**Page 10** - Merch Drop, A Christmas Carol Performance

**Page 11** - AGS Adventurer Programme, Y13 Biology Trip

## DIARY DATES

**Mon 5th January** - All students return to school after the Christmas Holidays, Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams start

**Thurs 8th Jan** - Year 9 Parents' Evening

**Thurs 15th Jan** - Year 9 Virtual Options Evening

**Thurs 5th Feb** - Year 8 Parents' Evening

**Fri 13th Feb** - The Ski Trip Departs

**Fri 20th Feb** - The Ski Trip Returns

**Thurs 12th Mar** - Year 11 Parents' Evening

**Thurs 26th Mar** - Sixth Form Parents' Evening

**Fri 27th Mar** - Break up for Easter Holidays

## Welcome from Mr Kelly

From the celebrations of another set of excellent exam results to the standing ovation at last night's final performance of Chicago, along with all that has happened in between, this term has been a memorable one.

Only made possible by the dedication of staff, the talents of our amazing students and the support of our wonderful AGS families.

Welcome to the latest AGS newsletter at the end of the Autumn term in 2025.

I hope you enjoy!



# PEDALS, PUNCTURES AND PURE DETERMINATION

Please scan  
here to donate!



## What an incredible day!

On Wednesday 10th December, 65 of our amazing students took on an impressive 37.5-mile charity bike ride through the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak in support of the Young Futures Programme — and they absolutely smashed it.

From the very first mile, our riders showed real grit and determination. Even when the wind decided to make itself an uninvited guest — gleefully turning gentle inclines into “are-you-serious?” hills — our students kept pedalling with smiles, laughter, and only the occasional dramatic complaint about the headwinds.



A huge thank you to the incredible Mrs Davis-Patterson, whose organisation, leadership and dedication helped raise a phenomenal £7,570 for the Young Futures Programme so far... doubling the original target of £3,750! The Young Futures Programme is a school-led initiative that provides personalised support to nurture the social, emotional, and mental health needs of so many students.



## And then came the punctures. So many punctures...

It was practically a masterclass in tyre-based chaos. But every time disaster struck, our incredible parent volunteers swooped in like roadside superheroes. Whether it was pumping, patching or full-on tyre triage, they kept our riders rolling. We honestly couldn't have done it without them.

We'd also like to give a massive shoutout to the wonderful helpers stationed along the route who kept spirits high with hot chocolate and cake. Their treats were an absolute lifeline — and definitely helped fuel those final miles!



We're incredibly proud of  
Every single student, parent and supporter  
who made the day such a success.



What a community effort —  
and what a ride!

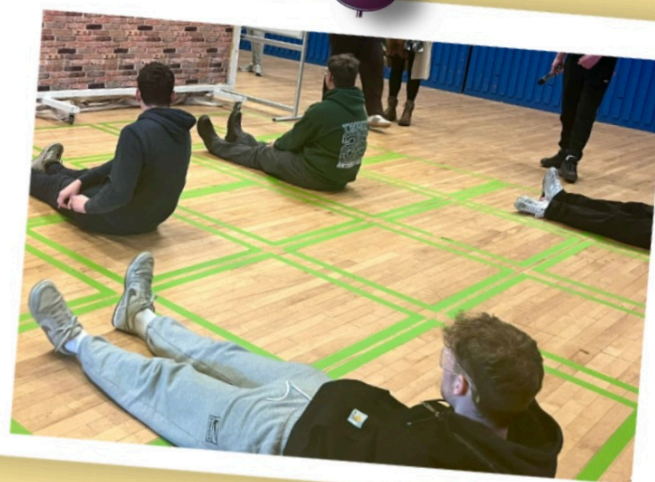


# CHILDREN IN NEED

Here's to another fundraiser at Anthony Gell School supporting Children In Need. Thanks to our wonderful sixth formers who helped to set up the many events that took place and to those who participated.



The participating students fought hard to fend off the teachers during the games of human battleships, however after a grueling battle they met their demise.



The activities spread school spirit all around and was enjoyed by not only those participating in the games, but also those watching. The games built suspense throughout the whole crowd.



Not only did Battleships help students and teachers to get involved in helping generate awareness for Children In Need, it also showed younger students what it's like to be a Sixth Former. If they choose to become a sixth form fundraiser, they too could participate in and plan events like this.



In addition to Battleships, an e-sports event also took place. During the day there was Beatsaber, Streetfighter, Super Mario, Among us, and Dance Dance Revolution, which were all loved by many. There were prizes for the winners like chocolate and cakes. All those who participated enjoyed the games immensely and helped generate funds for the charity.



The events raised £200 for Children in Need and also raised awareness of a charity that supports children and provides them with better opportunities and chances. Children in Need also provide an emergency essentials programme which gives individual children basic essentials like beds, clothing, and cooking facilities.



written by:  
Alyssa Rimington & Eve Wood  
designed by:  
Megan Giroux & Faraday Watson



# CHICAGO

Our performances of Chicago on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th December were packed with sass, sparkle, and a whole lot of razzle dazzle! From slick choreography and bold vocals to some seriously convincing jazz hands, the cast and crew threw themselves into every moment. There were feathers, fedoras, and fabulous confidence in abundance, and the audience loved every second! A huge well done to everyone involved for pulling off two unforgettable nights of musical mischief!



## HALLOWEEN MARKET FUNDRAISER

### A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS!

On 23rd October, our school hall transformed into a hive of Halloween excitement as all five Houses went head-to-head in our annual Halloween Market, all in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND). The atmosphere was electric, and the enthusiasm from students and staff made it a truly unforgettable event.

Stalls were buzzing from the moment the market opened, with students flocking to buy cakes, take on challenges, and soak up the spooky spirit. Nightingale's hanging donut challenge drew plenty of laughs, while Arkwright's dry cracker competition proved trickier than it looked! Across every corner of the hall, there was creativity, friendly rivalry, and a whole lot of Halloween fun.

The pastoral team were incredibly proud of the effort shown by every house. Whether running a stall, baking treats, or cheering on their housemates, students brought energy and teamwork in abundance.

Thanks to their efforts, we raised an amazing £652.07 for the MND Association!

Final Results:

1st – Nightingale: £174.68

2nd – Gell: £165.08

3rd – Arkwright: £152.85

4th – Fearne: £96.24

5th – Wright: £63.22

A huge well done and thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and took part. Your support has made a real difference, and made this year's Halloween Market our most spectacular yet!







# Students Experience Live Sumo Wrestling at the Royal Albert Hall

On Friday 17th October, a group of our students travelled to London for an unforgettable cultural experience — watching live sumo wrestling at the iconic Royal Albert Hall.

The excitement began before we even arrived. Thanks to our fantastic coach driver, students enjoyed a mini sightseeing tour of London, passing famous landmarks and taking in the sights of the capital. It set the tone for a day full of discovery and enthusiasm.

Once at the venue, our students joined several other schools for an engaging presentation that introduced the history, rules, and traditions of sumo wrestling. They learned about the sport's rituals, the discipline behind each match, and the significance of its long-standing customs.



The real thrill came when the live matches began. The atmosphere inside the Royal Albert Hall was electric — full of cheering, anticipation, and energy. In a brilliant moment of shared fun, students from our school and many others joined together to make a huge Mexican wave ripple across the crowd, adding to the unforgettable excitement of the event.

Throughout the day, our students were exemplary. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour made us incredibly proud and helped create a positive experience for everyone involved.

It was a fantastic trip from start to finish — rich in culture, excitement, and fun. A day we're sure our students will remember for years to come!



# A Warm Derbyshire Welcome for Our Japanese Visitors

In September, for the second successive year, eleven AGS families welcomed students from Toyota City in Japan into their homes. Arriving after a delay in Hong Kong and almost two days of travelling, the Japanese students (and staff) were met with torrential rain and temperatures a good deal lower than the 34C it had been in Japan. Fortunately, their welcome was much warmer than the climate and trips to anywhere from Matlock to Skegness were planned, with a Sunday roast or fish and chips on many a menu.

The students stayed for a total of five nights and spent three days in school. They heard all about the history of AGS and saw first hand what school life in Britain is like. They even had a cooking lesson with Miss Buxton and a lesson on the curiosities of Derbyshire and England with Mr Flint, including watching clips of Shrovetide football and trying some Marmite and a pickled onion or two.

The school is intensely grateful to the families who volunteered to be part of the homestay; it could not have happened without them. The students acting as 'buddies' to their Japanese counterparts were also a credit to the school. We hope to have Japanese students over again next Autumn and further develop our relationship with not only Toyota City, but also Masutomi Junior High School, our partner school in Japan. Kazumi Hamada, Headteacher of Masutomi, accompanied the Japanese students, having welcomed Gell students to her school in February. We look forward to seeing Kazumi-san and Japanese students again soon.



# OPEN EVENING SUCCESSES



This term, AGS was delighted to host two incredibly successful Open Evenings — our Year 5 & 6 Open Evening on 1st October and our Sixth Form Open Evening on 4th December. Both events welcomed large numbers of families into school and created a warm, vibrant atmosphere.

Our Year 5 & 6 evening saw record-breaking attendance, with visitors exploring departments, meeting staff and getting a real feel for life at AGS. A huge thank you goes to our brilliant students and staff, whose enthusiasm and hard work helped make the evening so welcoming.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was equally positive, with the hall full of conversations and visitors keen to learn about the range of subjects and opportunities available. The event highlighted the ambition, support and strong sense of community that define AGS Sixth Form.

Both events were a fantastic celebration of AGS, and we are proud of everyone who contributed to their success.



# EMBARK CHOIR SHINES

## *In A Repton Christmas Spectacular*



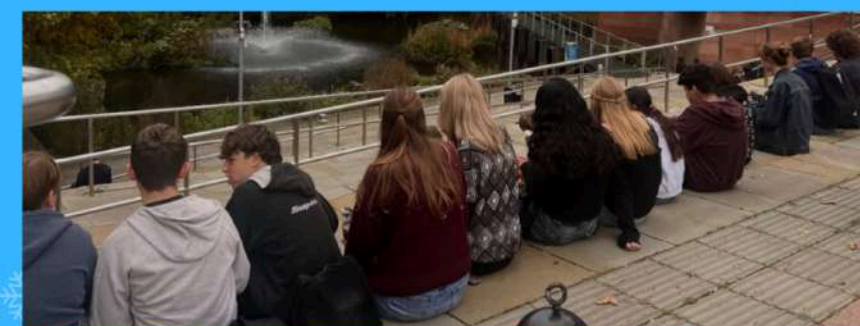
Seven of our students had an unforgettable evening performing as part of the Embark Choir at A Repton Christmas Spectacular, an event that truly brought the West End to Derbyshire. The concert featured a stunning festive programme, complete with professional special guests and a beautifully atmospheric Christmas setting.

Our students joined the choir in performing four well-loved Christmas classics: When a Child Is Born, White Christmas, O Come All Ye Faithful, and Walking in the Air. Their hard work and dedication shone through, and each piece was delivered with confidence and festive spirit.

The event itself was a wonderful experience from start to finish. The audience were treated to outstanding musical performances, and our students loved every moment of being part of such a high-quality production. The special guest performers from the West End were fantastic and added an extra touch of magic to the evening.

We are incredibly proud of our young singers for representing our school with such talent and enthusiasm. It was a brilliant way to begin the festive season!

## A Fantastic Trip to Manchester's Bridgewater Hall!



On Friday 17th December, our GCSE and A Level Music students enjoyed an inspiring visit to Manchester's iconic Bridgewater Hall, where they had the incredible opportunity to watch the world-renowned Hallé Orchestra in concert.

The performance was truly unforgettable, showcasing outstanding musicianship and giving our students a chance to experience live orchestral music at the highest level. From powerful symphonies to delicate solo moments, the concert was filled with inspiration that will stay with them throughout their musical studies. It was a brilliant day out, and our students were a credit to the school from start to finish.

# MERCH DROP!



On 13th November, our brand-new House merchandise officially went live — and it's safe to say the launch has been a huge success!

Within hours, orders began rolling in from students eager to show off their House pride. Over the past few weeks, we've seen more and more students around school proudly wearing their new hoodies and joggers, bringing a real sense of community (and colour!) to the corridors.

The merch is not only stylish but practical too, perfect for staying warm on chilly mornings or adding a pop of House spirit during and after the school day.

If you haven't grabbed yours yet, it's not too late! You can order the full range here:

👉 House Merchandise Shop:  
<https://www.anthonygell.co.uk/pastoral/pe-kit/>

**Let's keep the House spirit strong — we can't wait to see even more students rocking their colours!**

## BRINGING DICKENS TO DERBYSHIRE: A CHRISTMAS CAROL PERFORMANCE

On Friday 14th November, we welcomed actors from Quantum Theatre to perform A Christmas Carol for our Year 11 students. Armed with their own sets, costumes and lighting, the cast of three put on a fantastic show that was enjoyed by all of our students, who left the hall excitedly comparing favourite parts. One student was overheard exclaiming how 'sick' the performance was. I am reliably informed that this is a good thing. We hope that this will add to work done in English lessons to help prepare for GCSE English Literature, as well as proving a wonderful experience in its own right.

Mr Flint,  
Director of Teaching and Learning - Communicate





# TAKING AIM IN THE AGS ADVENTURER PROGRAMME!

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been getting to grips with archery this term as part of the AGS Adventurer Programme. Guided by the brilliant Bob, the sessions introduced students to the skill, focus and technique needed to master the sport.

From learning how to handle the equipment to landing their very first bullseyes, students threw themselves into each challenge with enthusiasm. Their determination, teamwork and excitement were fantastic to see, and archery has quickly become a standout highlight of the programme so far.

The AGS Adventurer Programme offers students the chance to try a wide range of outdoor activities, including climbing, sailing and more — helping them to build confidence, resilience and new skills along the way.

We look forward to sharing more adventures with you as the programme continues!



## Year 13 Biologists Explore Ecosystems at Carsington Water

Our Year 13 A Level Biology students enjoyed an inspiring and hands-on learning experience during their recent trip to Carsington Water, where they carried out important elements of their practical assessment.

Throughout the day, students investigated how an environmental variable can affect the distribution of species within an ecosystem. Working in groups, they designed their own methods, collected real field data, and strengthened their practical research skills — all while gaining a deeper understanding of ecological processes in action.

As part of the visit, students also spent time in the Carsington Wildlife Centre, where they learned about the rich habitats and species that thrive in the area. They answered a series of questions designed to help them apply their classroom knowledge to real-world examples, further enhancing their understanding of biodiversity and conservation.

The trip offered an invaluable opportunity for students to experience biology beyond the school environment, developing both their scientific thinking and appreciation for the natural world.

