



Anthony Gell
— School —



PROSPECTUS

2026 - 2027

WELCOME TO ANTHONY GELL SCHOOL

Anthony Gell School is a successful, ambitious and high-performing school at the heart of our community. We are proud to provide a rich and engaging learning experience where all students are encouraged to aspire, work hard and achieve great things, whatever their interests and talents may be.

We care deeply about the development of the whole child. We believe every young person should have access to a high-quality education in an environment where they feel safe, happy and well supported. Our values of care, aspire and achieve, underpinned by a strong sense of integrity, guide everything we do.

Our staff are dedicated and work closely together, fostering a strong culture of teamwork to ensure every child is known, supported and able to succeed. High expectations are balanced with positive, respectful relationships that help students grow in confidence.

A strong sense of mutual respect is evident throughout the school. Anthony Gell is a place where

people feel part of a genuine community, often described as an extended family. Students and staff are proud to belong here and value the relationships that make our school such a welcoming place.

Excellent teaching and learning remain at the heart of our work, supported by a commitment to meeting the needs of every learner. This is reflected in strong academic outcomes at Key Stages 4 and 5. Alongside this, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that equips students with the knowledge, skills and experiences they need for the future.

We are proud to be part of the Embark Federation, working in partnership to enrich opportunities for students and staff.

We warmly invite you to visit and experience the energy and sense of belonging that make Anthony Gell so special.

Helen Smith - Headteacher





A GREAT PLACE TO
LEARN

EXCELLENT PROVISION

BUILT OVER TIME



“AGS goes beyond academics—its nurturing environment and diverse opportunities have supported every part of my child’s development, building confidence and a strong sense of self.”

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. Our 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 school, slightly smaller in size than many, with around 800 students on roll. We have approximately 50 teaching staff, and a large team of support staff to help our students achieve. Our premises are benefiting from substantial new investment and our excellent facilities help us to deliver high quality learning in the wide range of subjects offered.

The main building, science laboratories, technology block,

Sixth Form study centre and the original buildings have all recently had substantial upgrades.

We have well-equipped classrooms and learning zones, including specialist teaching spaces and 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.

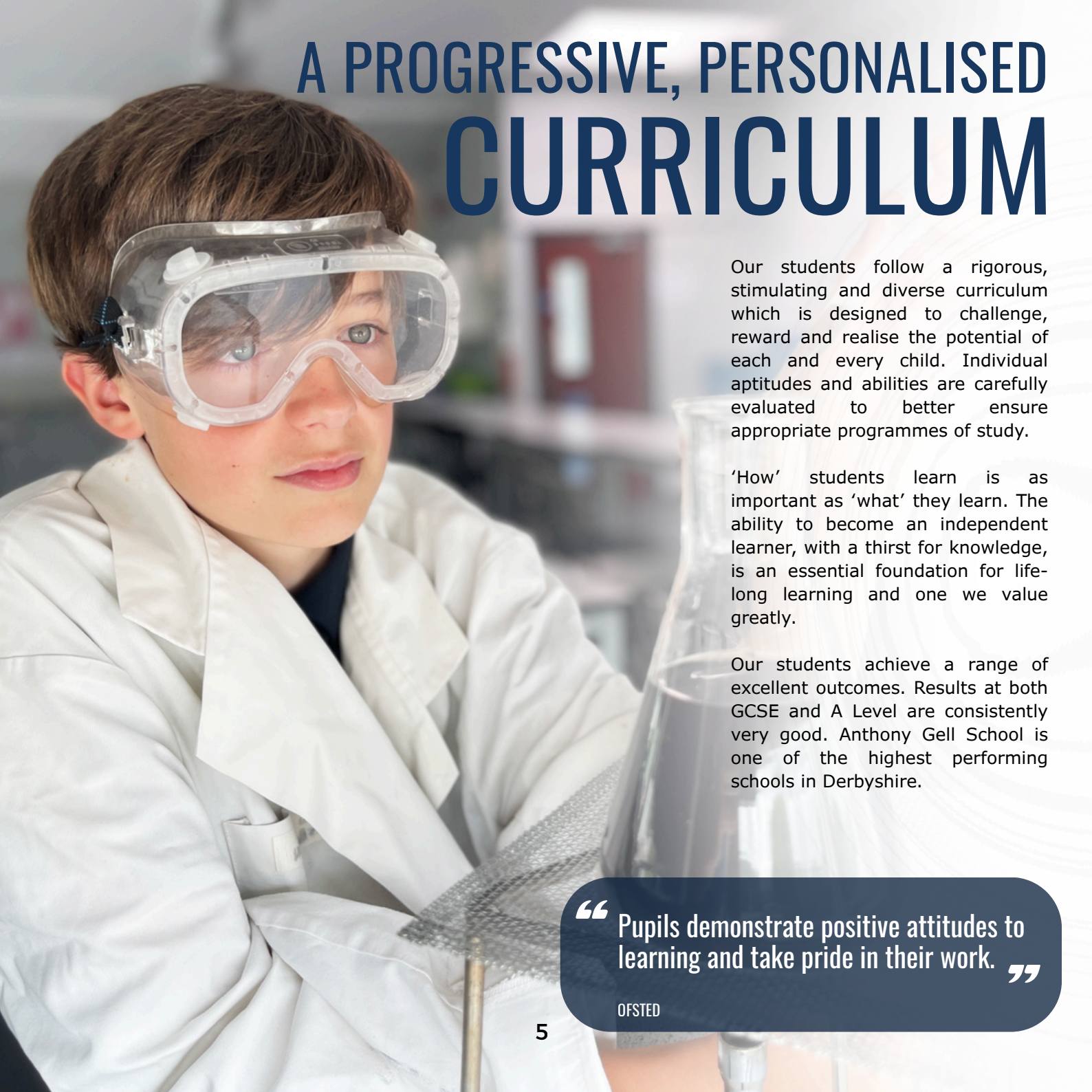
OUR INTENT

- 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.



“ There’s something really special about AGS. You feel supported and encouraged, and like you’re actually part of something. The teachers listen, people care, and it’s helped me grow and realise what I’m capable of. ”

YEAR 9 STUDENT



A PROGRESSIVE, PERSONALISED CURRICULUM

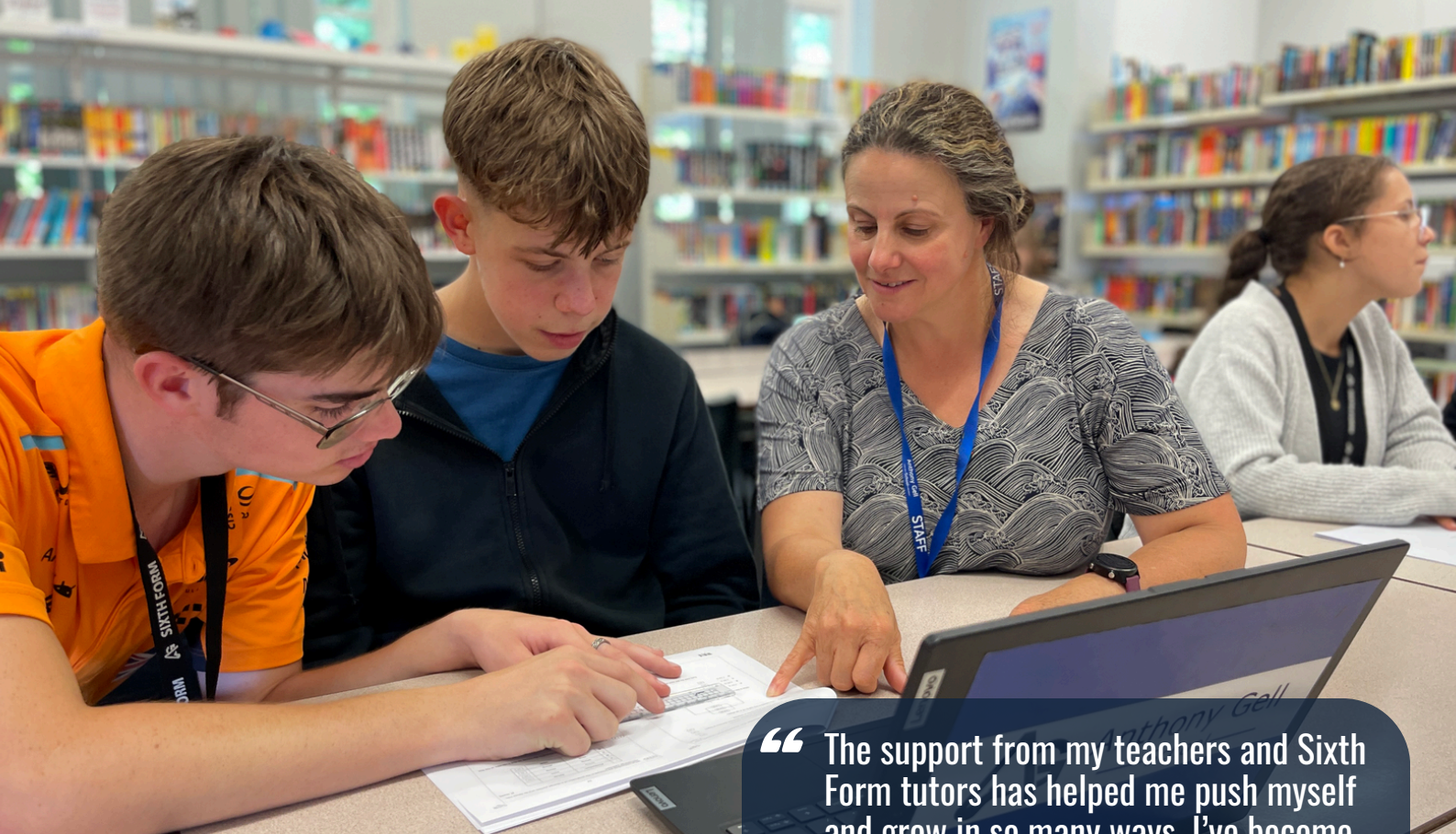
Our students follow a rigorous, stimulating and diverse curriculum which is designed to challenge, reward and realise the potential of each and every child. Individual aptitudes and abilities are carefully evaluated to better ensure appropriate programmes of study.

'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 and one we value greatly.

Our students achieve a range of excellent outcomes. Results at both GCSE and A Level are consistently very good. Anthony Gell School is 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 from my teachers and Sixth Form tutors has helped me push myself and grow in so many ways. I’ve become more confident, more focused, and gained friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. ”

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, chess, darts, computing, restoration, languages, mathematics, e-sports, film, dance and poetry. There are also opportunities for students to develop leadership skills including: Student Parliament membership, sports leadership, business and enterprise challenges, charity fund-raising, and peer mentoring.

An outdoor and adventures programme of activities, known as 'AGS Adventurers' is proving to be a very popular addition to our enrichment programme. This allows students to experience archery, climbing, bushcraft, and canoeing with our resident instructor.

Students in year 9 and 10 participate in, and go on to achieve, Duke of Edinburgh awards at Bronze and Silver level.

We have well-established links with Wetter in Germany, schools in Northern Italy 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.

“AGS values things that really matter; inclusivity, individual expression, a strong sense of community, trust and high expectations—and that's why it works.”

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.

“ Everyday at AGS is different— you’re always learning something, and it’s a really friendly place where you feel safe and cared for.

”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

AGS teams have excelled in recent years in county, regional and national tournaments. This has included mixed teams in boccia, cricket, athletics and cross-country as well as success for boys and girls’ teams in football, cricket and rugby.



... 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 talents 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: Macbeth, Aida, The Little Shop of Horrors, We Will Rock You, School of Rock and Chicago. 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-based training, interviews, visits and 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 ethos here is all about valuing 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.



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EMBARK
F E D E R A T I O N



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Anthony Gell School



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 Sixth Form.

Helen Smith - Headteacher