

7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to write to you as the new Headteacher of Anthony Gell School.

It is a privilege to join the AGS community and to have the opportunity to lead such a special school. Since arriving, what has stood out to me most is the strong sense of pride and belonging that exists throughout the school community. I have received a warm welcome from students, staff, parents and governors, and it has quickly become clear that AGS is a school with a great deal to celebrate.

I am passionate about the transformational power of education and feel fortunate to have spent more than 20 years working in schools in Sheffield. Throughout my career, I have seen how high-quality education, combined with strong pastoral care and positive relationships, can broaden horizons, raise aspirations and change lives. It is this belief that has guided me throughout my career and continues to inspire me every day.

Most recently, I have been Executive Deputy Headteacher across two large secondary schools in Sheffield, Forge Valley School and Bradfield School. Prior to that, I was Assistant Headteacher for Learning Development at Tapton School. I began my career as a French teacher and have been fortunate to work in a variety of roles including Head of Department, Head of Year, Sixth Form Leader and Transition Leader. These experiences have reinforced my belief that every young person deserves to be known, valued and supported to achieve their potential, whatever their starting point.

Having spent time getting to know Anthony Gell School, I can already see why it is held in such high regard by the community it serves. AGS has a strong tradition of academic success, a deep commitment to pastoral care and an unwavering belief in the potential of every young person. These qualities, alongside the school's values of Care, Aspire and Achieve, resonate strongly with my own values and educational philosophy.

As Headteacher, I am committed to building on the many strengths of the school while ensuring that every student benefits from a calm, safe, purposeful and ambitious environment in which they can thrive. Working alongside our talented staff team, I want every young person to feel known, valued and supported, whilst also being challenged to achieve their very best, both academically and personally.

I firmly believe that successful schools are built on strong partnerships with families. Parents and carers play a vital role in every child's education, and I look forward to working closely with you in the years ahead. By working together, we can ensure that all our young people develop the knowledge, skills, confidence and character they need to succeed in school and beyond.

I am excited about the future of Anthony Gell School. We will continue to cherish and build upon the many things that make AGS special whilst remaining ambitious for what we can achieve together for the young people we serve.

There is so much that makes AGS a special place, and a website could only ever tell just part of this story. If you would like to know more about AGS and see for yourself just why so many families are proud to call Anthony Gell 'their school', please feel free to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Smith', with a stylized, cursive script.

Headteacher
Anthony Gell School