

Inside AGS

A message from the Headteacher



Term: Summer

Date: May 2026



As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, parents, carers and staff for their continued support, commitment and positivity. It has been another incredibly productive period for our school community and it is wonderful to see so many students thriving both inside and outside of the classroom. With only one half term remaining before the end of the academic year, there is still so much to look forward to and celebrate together.

I would also like to recognise the efforts of our Year 11 students during their GCSE exams. They have approached this important period with maturity, resilience and determination. We are extremely proud of the way they have conducted themselves throughout the exam season so far. There is still more to come next half term, so I encourage them to keep focused, continue revising and give their very best right through to the finish line.

This half term has also brought excellent sporting success for our students, particularly in football and basketball. Our teams have represented the school with pride, teamwork and sportsmanship, achieving some fantastic results along the way. These achievements are a reflection not only of talent, but also of dedication from both students and staff.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting final half term planned with so much to celebrate. We are looking forward to our upcoming awards evenings, showcasing and recognising the many accomplishments of our students across the year. We are also incredibly excited for the launch of our brand new "AGS Has Got Talent" show, which promises to be a fantastic event highlighting the creativity and confidence of our students. Finally, we will also be preparing to say farewell to our Year 11 students as they complete their journey with us and move on to the next stage of their education and future ambitions.

I hope all of our families have a restful and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a fantastic final half term.

Mr Laidler | Headteacher



Acklam Grange



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AGS' Sporting success

This half term has been another fantastic one for sport at AGS, with students and staff continuing to show their commitment, teamwork and determination across a range of competitions and fixtures. We are incredibly proud of the success achieved by our football and basketball teams who have represented the school with great pride and sportsmanship.

Our Year 7 girls football team recently won a thrilling final at Rockcliffe Park to become Middlesbrough Town Champions after a tremendous season where they only lost one game. They put on an incredible performance during the final showing their fantastic teamwork and ended the season in style by winning on penalties.



Our Under 14 Basketball team also continued their amazing run by reaching the final of the Dynamik National Schools Basketball competition this half term. This is the first time in 15 years that an AGS sports team has reached a national final which is a huge achievement for the team, and despite losing in a heated match against Ormiston Park Academy from London, the players and staff were proud to represent AGS and Teesside on the national stage.

Mr Theakston, Sports Academy Lead and PE teacher at the Legacy Learning Trust school, said: "What a journey the team has been on over the past few years! This season, they played against the best basketball schools in the country, facing opposition from across the North East, Manchester, Merseyside, Oxford, and London. "They are a talented group of young players, and they've been an absolute pleasure to work with. Their success in reaching the finals is a true reflection of their hard work, commitment, togetherness and ability."



Jack Cunningham, a Year 9 player who scored 34 points in the final, said: "It's been really special this year thanks to the level of talent that we have. We have so many players that are capable of playing at the highest level, and we play really well together as a team."

We are so proud this amazing team and their success over the past few years and we hope to see this again in the future!

Not only have we had student success, our staff have also been an inspiration to our students with their recent sporting achievements. Mrs Knowles, captain of Thornaby Women, led her team to a phenomenal 9-0 victory over York in the cup final at the Riverside Stadium.

Behind the scenes, Mrs Knowles was also instrumental in fighting for the decision to have the final played at the Riverside, alongside the men's cup final in the same competition which was a huge step forward for women's football, giving it the recognition it deserves.

She is a role model to our students, showing passion, determination and leadership, setting the standards for so many of our young people. It was fantastic to see the support she received during the game with lots of our AGS staff and students in attendance to cheer her on.



You've got to be in it to win it...

Last half term, we launched our new PRIDE token initiative where students receive a token each Friday for showing our PRIDE values in all they do. Students then decide, Choice or Chance?, and can cash their token in for a small prize or be in with the chance of winning a larger prize. This term, we were delighted to be able to hand out our first ever prize, a bike donated by KeyStage Recruitment. Well done to our winner, Year 10 student, Jack!



This could be you! All you need to do is be here, be on time and be the best. Follow our PRIDE values in all you do whether in school or within the community and could you be the winner of our next PRIDE token prize. You've got to be in it to win it!

Looking ahead to next half term...

As we come to end of the academic year, we have lots to celebrate. We will be hosting our annual **Celebration Evening** and **Sport Awards** to celebrate all students who have made outstanding progress and demonstrated hard work throughout the year. We will also be hosting some new exciting award ceremonies to celebrate our **N-Compass Award** and our **Creative and Performing Arts Academy**. Parents and carers of students nominated for any awards will receive communications in the coming days to invite you to celebrate your child's success with us.

Year 11 students have been working hard towards their exams this half term and their hard work will continue after the holidays as they reach the final stretch. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate their dedication by giving them letters of encouragement to motivate their studying and commitment, as well as handing out their leavers hoodies which created a sense of community and excitement as they near the end of their exams.

Next half term will be an opportunity to celebrate their journey at Acklam Grange as it comes to an end. Once all exams are complete, we will be inviting Year 11 students into school for our annual leavers event where the whole school will come together to celebrate their 5 years as part of the AGS family.



AGS has got talent!

We have launched our brand new 'AGS has got talent' this half term, where students have been invited to come along and audition in front of our judges to make it to the grand final in June. It has been fantastic to see the range of talents that our students have and we are so excited to see what they all bring to the final.

Details for the final will be coming after half term with tickets on offer to all who wish to witness this stand out event. We might even have some surprise performances and guest judges!



Let us continue to embody our AGS Pride values in everything we do. Through perseverance, respect, initiative, direction and expression, our students and staff continue to make us proud every day, both within school and beyond.

The final weeks of the year bring exciting opportunities, important milestones and many moments to celebrate together. Whether it is in the classroom, on the sports field or on stage, we encourage every student to finish the year with positivity, ambition and pride in all they achieve.

Enjoy a well earned break, take time to recharge and return ready to learn and finish the year strongly by supporting one another and continuing to show what it truly means to be part of the AGS community.

We hope all of our families have a well deserved, restful half term break!