

Inside AGS

A message from the Headteacher



Term: Summer

Date: July 2026



As we reach the end of another successful year at Acklam Grange School, I would like to take a moment to reflect on everything we have achieved together. This year has been one of hard work, resilience and success, with our students continuing to demonstrate the ambition, kindness and determination to make AGS such a special place.

I am incredibly proud of what our students have accomplished, both inside and outside of the classroom. Their contributions to school life and commitment to learning has been a credit to themselves, their families and the community. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our exceptional staff and the continued support of parents and carers throughout, for which I am grateful.

Further to the earlier exciting announcement that Mr Hassack will be starting as Head of School at Acklam Grange, I am delighted to share some further important updates regarding your leadership team at Acklam Grange from September 2026.

Alongside Mr Hassack's appointment, we are delighted to also announce that Mrs Gowland, who has served as Deputy Headteacher for the past 10 years, playing a pivotal part in the success at the school, has been appointed as the North of England Behaviour and Attendance Hub Lead, working in partnership with the Department for Education. Mrs Gowland will continue to hold a strategic leadership role at Acklam Grange, while also supporting other schools across our Trust as Safeguarding and School Improvement Lead, this ensures that we continue to benefit from her extensive expertise and experience.

Following these two appointments, we have reviewed and strengthened our Senior Leadership Team to ensure we have the capacity needed to continue improving and responding to the needs of our school community. From September, the team will be expanded. Ms Gika has been promoted and is now the Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for inclusion and pastoral care, as well as this appointment, we have added two additional Associate Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Rayner who will oversee student conduct and Miss Lowe who will be overseeing personal development.

Please be reassured, this strengthened leadership structure will provide greater capacity to support students, staff and our community within our AGS Family in our usual inclusive way and allow us all to continue to focus on high standards and positive outcomes for all students, as you would expect.

I am confident that these developments place Acklam Grange in a strong position moving forward. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr Hassack and others on their appointments and in supporting the team in their new roles.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I encourage all students to take time to rest, recharge and reflect on their successes. You have all worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of the progress you have made. I wish you and your families a safe, enjoyable summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Mr Laidler | Headteacher



Acklam Grange



@AcklamGrange



@acklam_grange_school

Celebrating the Class of 2026

As another school year comes to an end, we are incredibly proud to celebrate the Class of 2026. This term has been filled with exciting milestones, emotional farewells and celebrations as students prepare for the next stage of educational journeys.

We celebrated the end of our Year 11 students' secondary school experience with a memorable leavers' day following their prom celebrations. The day always gives students the opportunity to reflect on their time at school, celebrate friendships, share memories and mark the end of an important chapter in their lives.



Year 11 Prom

We are so proud of their resilience, determination and growth shown by this year group throughout their time at Acklam Grange. From classroom achievements and extracurricular successes to friendships and experiences they have built along the way, the Class of 2026 has left a lasting impression on the school community.

As students now look ahead to the next stage of their futures, there is a growing sense of excitement for results day later this summer. We wish all year 11 students the very best of luck and hope they feel proud of everything they have achieved. Whatever their next steps may be, we know they have bright futures ahead.

Welcoming our new Year 7 students

This term, we held our Transition Week where we welcomed our new Year 6 pupils into school for three days to get a taste for life at Acklam Grange. Moving from primary to secondary school is an exciting milestone and transition plays a vital role in helping them to build confidence, make new friends and become familiar with their new surroundings before they join us in September.

Pupils experienced life as Year 7 students by taking part in a range of lessons and engaging activities across the school. They met their teachers, explored different subject areas and enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside their new classmates. The programme concluded with a fantastic afternoon of sporting activities, where pupils demonstrated great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination while having fun together.



Transition Week

It was wonderful to see how quickly our future Year 7 students embraced the opportunities on offer. We look forward to welcoming them in September when they join the AGS Family.

A special thank you must also go to our Year 10 student helpers, who supported transition week as part of their work experience programme. Their enthusiasm, maturity and willingness to help ensured that transition ran smoothly and that our new pupils felt welcomed, reassured and supported throughout. They were excellent student ambassadors for our school and we are incredibly proud of the positive example they set.

Recognising students' successes and achievements

Our annual celebration evening is always a memorable event, providing the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students. It is an occasion that brings together students, their families and our staff to reflect on the success demonstrated throughout the year.

Awards are presented by each faculty to students across all year groups in recognition of their outstanding progress and exceptional attainment. These awards not only celebrate academic excellence but also the commitment, resilience and determination that our student show in their learning. It is always inspiring to hear the stories behind each recipient's success and to acknowledge the hard work that has enabled them to achieve so much.

Alongside our faculty awards, we are especially proud to present our honours: the ARC Award, the Neil Campbell Award and the Headteacher Award. These recognise students who have made an exceptional contribution to the AGS Family and who embody our PRIDE values.

Congratulations to every award winner and nominee. We are immensely proud of all that you have achieved.



AGS has got talent!

This term saw the launch of an exciting new event in the AGS calendar, AGS's Got Talent. The competition provided students with a fantastic opportunity to showcase their talents, perform in front of an audience and celebrate the creativity and confidence that exists across our school community.

The competition began with auditions, where students performed in front of a panel of judges, all hoping to secure a place in the live final. We were incredibly impressed by both the number of students who took part and the range of talent on display.



The live final, held in June, saw finalists take to the stage to perform in front of a packed audience and our judging panel which included two special guest judges, Paul Thompson, who appeared in Nu-Castle, and professional dancer Callum Rayment.

Every finalist delivered an outstanding performance, making the judges' task incredibly difficult. The audience and judges voted to crown our very first champion, our very talented Year 7 winner whose rendition of I Want You Back by The Jackson 5 captivated everyone in the room. The performance was so impressive that it even earned a Golden Buzzer from one of the judges to create an unforgettable moment.

Thank you to everyone who auditioned, our judging panel, guest judges, the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and everyone who attended to support the performers. We are already looking forward to seeing even more incredible performances next year.

AGS's Got Talent winner

Celebrating diversity through culture

This month, we held our second annual AGS Culture Day which gave students the opportunity to learn more about different cultures, traditions and backgrounds, while celebrating the unique identities that make our school community so special.

Students and staff came together to take part in a wide range of exciting activities that promoted inclusion, understanding and respect for others. Student and staff came dressed in clothing that celebrated a culture, heritage or identity that is meaningful to them to create a colourful display of welcoming atmosphere across school.

Students experienced the red carpet treatment on arrival with a saxophonist and photo opportunities on the gate. They could then head to the dining hall for one of our famous Breakfast & Beats sessions with a flash mob performance by students.



Sports day brings AGS Families together

Sports day is always one of the highlights of the school year, bringing together students to celebrate participation, teamwork and healthy competition. It is a fantastic opportunity for our school community to come together, cheer one another on and create lasting memories, while encouraging students to student challenge themselves and take pride in representing their peers.

This year, we introduced an exciting new format that added an extra sense of identity to the day. Rather than competing solely in their form groups, students represented their AGS Family, proudly wearing their family colours for the event.



The day began with field events, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the various activities. In the afternoon, students competed on the track in multiple different races. Whether competing for points, encouraging teammates from the sidelines or stepping outside their comfort zone to take part, every student contributed to the success of the day.

It was inspiring to see students of all abilities taking part celebrating each other's achievements and embracing sportsmanship, respect and perseverance. The introduction of our AGS Families created an even stronger sense of community.

Maths challenge brings together schools across TLT

Our maths department hosted a Year 5 Inter-School Maths Challenge for Year 5 pupils from across our trust. The event brought together young mathematicians for an engaging and enjoyable morning designed to inspire a love of maths, develop problem-solving skills and encourage collaboration.

Throughout the morning, pupils took part in a variety of exciting challenges and activities, including code-breaking, tangrams and a group task. They encouraged pupils to think creatively, apply their mathematical knowledge in different ways and work together to solve problems. The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to experience maths beyond the classroom.

Events like these play an important part in building confidence, resilience and communication skills. By working alongside pupils from other school, participants were able to develop teamwork skills and learn from one another.

A huge thank you must go to our maths department who organised the event, as well as our student leaders who were on hand to support pupils and offer encouragement.



Year 5 Inter-School Maths Challenge

We know school holidays can sometimes be a difficult time, if your child needs any support over the summer, please use the agencies below.

The Mix themix.org.uk
ChildLine 0800 1111

Text '**SHOUT**' to **82558**
NSPCC 0808 800 5000

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

Please see our return dates below:

Tuesday 1st September | PD Day (school closed to students)

Wednesday 2nd September | Year 7 only

Thursday 3rd September | School opens to all students