Inside AGS

A message from the Headteacher

Term: Autumn Date: October 2026



Welcome to the first edition of Inside AGS for the new academic year!

This academic year is a particularly special one for me as I begin my first year as Head of School, having previously served as Deputy Headteacher. It is a privilege to take on this role and continue working alongside our fantastic students, dedicated staff and supportive families. Having been part of the Acklam Grange family, I know how much our school has to offer, and I am excited to build on the strong foundations already in place as we continue to create opportunities for every student to succeed and belong.

It has been wonderful to see our school community come together once again, with so many exciting opportunities already underway. At Acklam Grange School, we want everystudent to feel a strong sense of belonging, to be encouraged to try new things and to feel proud to be part of our school family.

Once of the highlights has been welcoming our new Year 7 students through our AGS Families Sorting Ceremony, where they discovered which family they will represent throughout their time with us. This is an important part of helping our youngest studentsbuild friendships, develop a sense of identity and feel connected to the wider school.

It has also been fantastic to see so many student signing up for our AGS Extra clubs and activities. Whether they are exploring a new interest, developing a talent or simply spending time with friends, these opportunities play a valuable role in making school life rewardiing and memorable.

Belonging is something we are particularly passionate about at Acklam Grange, and I am incredibly proud that our leaders have contributed to writing PiXL's new book, 'How Do You Do Belonging?'. Their involvement reflects the importance we place on listening to young people and recognising the positive difference they can make in shaping an inclusive school community.

We have also enjoyed welcoming Year 5 and 6 pupils and their families to our Open Evening. It was a pleasure to showcase our school, share the opportunities available to students and give prospective families a taste of what makes Acklam Grange such a special place to learn and grow.

As we look ahead to rest of the term, I am excited to see our students continue to embrace new challenges, celebrate their achievements and make the most of everything Acklam Grange has to offer.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working in partmership with our families is essential to helping every young person thrive, and I look forward to sharing more of our successes throughout the year.

Mr Hassack | Head of School



A magical day for Year 7 as they are sorted into Families

This half term, our Year 7 students duscovered their AGS Family at our Sorting Ceremony... would they be Maple, Ash, Birch or Willow?

Being sorted in families connects our students across school, bringing different year groups together to support one another, take part, compete, celebrate success and belong. Throughout the year, students will earn PRIDE points for their family through great punctuality, positive attitudes to learning, participation in AGS Extra and special events, all contributing towards the AGS Family Championship.



AGS opens its doors to Year 5 and 6 pupils

It was fantastic to see so many Year 5 and 6 pupils and their families, join us at our AGS Open Evening last month with over 1600 people attending the event to find out more about Acklam Grange.

We want to thank our wonderful students who helped with activities, offered support and spoke to prospective students and parents about their own AGS experience and journey. We were delighted to the children getting involved in activities across our subjects, meeting the headteacher at our headteacher talks, and speaking to current students about life at AGS.







Employers give students 'New Perspectives'

Students from Year 8 and 9 were invited to a 'New Perspectives' event where we welcomed mentors and volunteers from The Talent Foundry, Thirteen Housing Group and Vision Building Services to work with our students.

During the event, students had the chance to discover a range of employment opportunities in the local area, develop valuable employability skills such as teamwork, communication, problem solving and creativity, take part in engaging activities designed to build confidence and raise aspirations, and work with their peers to design and create a 3D housing model called 'The Estate of Opportunity'.

This was such an inspiring event for our young people and we are proud to be able to work with these local companies and employers to help inspire thei futures.





Hello Yellow Young Minds

This month, students followed the yellow brick road into AGS last week where student leaders lined the walkway with positive affirmations and uplifting quotes, as part of our Hello Yellow celebrations.

We had lots of activities for students to get involved in to support Young Mind's Hello Yellow campaign and World Mental Health Day to remember the importance of looking after our mental health. Everyday we promote kindness, courage, respect, purpose and pride, all to make the world that little bit brighter!

Every student brings somethign unique to the AGS Family and together you make AGS the best place to belong!







Belonging is at the heart of our culture at AGS

At Acklam Grange, belonging is at the heart of our culture and we're incredibly proud to have been part of a project exploring what belonging looks like in education.

We've been working closely with PiXL to contribute to their first ever book, 'How do you do Belonging?'. The book brings together insights from education leaders, sharing practical ideas, reflections and approaches to help schools build cultures where everyone feels values, included and able to thrive.

As part of the book, there's a whole chapter dedicated to Acklam Grange and the work we do to create a genuine sense of belonging across our school community, from our values, events and strategies to our expectations, support and everyday culture.

We're incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to share what belonging looks like at AGS and hopefully inspire others along the way.



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
Text **'SHOUT'** to **82558**
ChildLine 0800 1111
NSPCC 0808 800 5000

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

