

4 April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the term finishes it is time again to reflect on all that has happened in school since Christmas and project forward a little into the summer. My aim with this newsletter is always to shine a light on the fantastic students we have here and all they do. Hopefully, you will see a flavour of that.

This term we have welcomed some of the local primary schools into AGS to allow their students the opportunity to work in specialist rooms and with our subject experts. Temple Sowerby CE Primary School, Long Marton School and Appleby Primary School have all been in to experience a range of workshops from science, art to DT. I enjoyed seeing these youngsters' fascination with their learning and look forward to seeing plenty of them join our school in years to come. Next term we will be joined by Mrs Bowes, who will become our Head of Year 7 and 8. As part of her role she will also lead our work with the local primary schools, as we will be expanding our outreach work and our transition plans for the next year's intake will be finalised.



Not only has art been happening in school but our artists have been out and about with our GCSE and A-level cohorts visiting Manchester and Key Stage 3 students off-site more locally to Brough Castle. All these experiences have really bolstered the students' learning and enthusiasm for the subject.



Our Eco-Council is another vibrant aspect of the school and under the guidance of Mrs Truch they have been busy making plans. Student have led two whole school assemblies, one on 'Waste and Plastics' and another on 'Healthy Living'. Both the message and the maturity of the students delivering it was impressive. They have been out and about and have cleaned out the bird boxes, done a litter pick and set up plastic recycling points in the school. On that note would parents please support us and encourage your son or daughter to bring a re-useable metal/PBA free plastic bottle - they all had them at primary school!



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In the summer term, the Eco-Council will continue their great work with lots of growing plans, bee friendly plants, vegetables and herbs! Our school values of Kindness, Respect and Community are very much being lived by the Eco-Council so very well done indeed to all involved. Another addition to our work on the environment is to recognise students via our reward system for eco-friendly endeavours, which is all part of knitting the school together with our values.



The community and environmental themes have been very much in evidence in a busy half-term for the science department as we celebrated British Science Week. Year 11 students were able to use what they have been learning in the classroom to good use when they visited one of our local farms to study inheritance. The students had to decide on what would be desirable traits for dairy cattle and discuss how to pass on these traits to future generations. The groups also got the

opportunity to put into practice their maths skills as in the afternoon they had to calculate milk yields relating to feed given. Gemma Dobson gave the students a real insight into the everyday decisions a farmer is having to make and how science and maths helps to make those decisions.

The opportunity for our scientists to learn beyond the lab was further enhanced with a visit to the Life Centre at Newcastle on 2 April for our Year 8 students, where they learned about the carbon cycle and climate change. In May we will be taking a group of Year 7 students to the Lancashire Science Festival at the University of Central Lancashire.



As the winter sports season comes to a close two of our Boys' football teams have made it to County Cup Finals. Our U15 side lost 4-2, a close game, to The Lakes School in an entertaining match. The boys battled back to 3-2 and nearly scored the equaliser before being hit on the break. Harrison and Beau scored memorable goals, whilst Evan's tireless performance earned him the Man of the Match award. Our U13s will hope to go one better in their final against St. Bernard's Catholic High School (the match will be taking place as this newsletter lands in your inbox!).



Their 4-2 semi-final win against Sir John Henry Newman featured a MOM display from Oliver who bagged two goals with Paddy and Tyson adding the others. Hopefully, they can add to the success of my team, Newcastle United's long-awaited success!

Plenty of our students play for local clubs and we are always keen to hear how they are getting on, indeed in any outside of school endeavour whether that be sporting or otherwise. Two of our Year 8 girls are now county champions with their rugby club. Abigail and Melita represented Penrith Panthers in the County Cup final at Egremont last Sunday and took part in what was a brilliant match! Penrith emerged victorious by 4 points in a thrilling game. A huge well done to you both!



A group of students had a taste of the summer season of sport recently too with a visit to the Home of Cricket, Lord's Cricket Ground in London. It is an iconic venue and cricket's most special place, so

for our students to have the chance to walk on the outfield, meet important cricketing people and train in the indoor centre was an unforgettable experience. Mr Hook who led the visit reports as follows:

23 AGS students and 2 staff boarded the train to at Oxenholme at 6:23am and the whole day was amazing from start to finish!

Starting in the café, who should we meet but Rob Key, the ex-England international and current Managing Director of English cricket! We braved asking him for a picture, but he went to the next level, taking us on to the turf at Lord's which was an experience our students (and staff!) will never forget! The tour of Lord's was incredible, visiting the Home and Away changing rooms, sitting in the seats of current England players before visiting the historic Long Room and seeing the Ashes Trophy. The afternoon was finished with a 2-hour net session with 4 MCC coaches, who gave a wonderful session and helped our students make huge improvements. Our students were a credit to the school throughout, with the coaches all saying what a wonderful group they had been to work with. A final hour sitting in Regent's Park on a beautiful sunny afternoon rounded the day off perfectly. Thank you to all our students for being so fantastic on the day!



I am sure that the visit will have kick started the season for many of our students and I am looking forward to watching them play this summer.

There was also a celebration of what goes on in our classrooms too on Monday. In our termly Achievement Assembly, awards were given out to students in every year group in every subject for both effort and achievement. Teachers nominate students who have shown the most effort and those that have achieved the most, whether that be over a sustained period or for a standalone piece of work. All the students nominated received a certificate. Certificates were also given to three students in each form who have displayed our school values. In the assembly we also recognise our top ten net achievement points scorers and from that list one lucky student receives an Amazon voucher. Well done this time to George in Year 11! The form with the best overall attendance can look forward to a prize at the end of the week too with 8SG the winners this time. In the assembly our weekly 'Golden Ticket' winners were also announced as were the highest points scorers in each form this week. They all receive a reward too, as they do every week. I feel it is so important for us as a school to mark the students' achievements here, and believe me there is plenty to celebrate.



Reading is an area of vital importance in all schools and here at AGS is no different. Mrs Griffiths, our Curriculum Leader for English awarded students in Years 7-9 in assembly with prizes for their progress with the Accelerated Reader programme which we follow in Key Stage 3. I truly believe that improving students reading, including their fluency is a vital part of our work as a school and we as a staff are working on this. In lessons there will be a more consistent approach to how reading is taught and staff have recently engaged in training to continue to hone their skills. Choral reading, for example will become a feature of lessons moving forward.

Celebrating reading was very much to the fore on World Book Day when the school supported this event with gusto. Some of the outfits were truly remarkable from both

staff and students. You will have seen many of them on our social media feed and there are examples on this newsletter.



We have a wonderful library space here which many of you will have seen and enhancing that space and continuing to develop it is our intention. Mr Hockley has helped mastermind a book drive over the last few weeks and he comments:

'We have had some fantastic donations so far and are incredibly grateful to those who have donated. We look forward to being able to offer our students a wider range of books to choose from as we continue to find ways to support them with their reading.'

He also credits his book club for all their efforts and watch this space for more library and book related developments! Well done to all involved; another example of the community value in action!



One of our strongest community links is with Appleby Rotary Club who support the school in a number of ways and offer opportunities to our students. One of these is through the Young Writers' Competition Winner, where entrants were commended by the organisers. Special congratulations to the winner, Georgia P, second Jade H, and joint third were Caitlin C and Jane T. We look forward to more of the Rotary Club competitions in the coming months.

This week it feels like spring has arrived and that meant our Year 12 geography fieldwork took place on Tuesday in glorious weather. Mr Hayman reports how well the students engaged with the task which is a required component for the A-level focused on glaciation, with students collecting data and practising skills on the erosional and depositional features found in the Seathwaite and Rosthwaite areas.



Another of our Year 12s, Oliver W has had an exciting opportunity this week joining our local M.P. Tim Farron at the regional Youth Forum. It is an example of the careers experience we look to provide our students with and Oliver has grasped it. The same can be said of our Year 10s who undertook their work experience placements in mid-March. The feedback we had from employers was hugely positive and the students themselves reflected on

their week with maturity. It is about finding out what they are looking for in a future career and evaluating their experience and the students did that impressively. Thank you to all the employers that helped our students.

Our careers programme is under constant review, as we are always looking to support the students with their future plans. The programme is linked to the national Gatsby Benchmarks and our school website has plenty more careers information on it. Mrs Modlin, our careers lead summarises a successful event we held last month:



'We hosted a careers fair in school in late March with a variety of training providers, college, universities, and businesses. All students had access to the fair and everyone was engaged and feeling inspired. Stall holders said the students were polite, respectful, and asked thoughtful and engaging questions. Many of the stalls had

activities for the students to take part in. Hopefully it has given students food for thought. Thanks go to all stall holders for providing such an inspiring and beneficial experience.'

As the holidays are on the horizon, I want to remind our Year 11s and Year 13s of the need to make sure that the break is used productively. Time must be carefully planned now and the balance between rest and revision work well used. There are revision sessions running in school on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 April, which students should attend if at all possible. Don't leave anything to chance and remember that all the staff are here to support you in whatever you need to make the exam season a success. Give it your absolute best; that's all anyone can ask!

Finally, I would like to close by wishing all our school community a peaceful Easter. It feels a tumultuous time in the world at the moment and I hope for calmer days to come before too long. I would encourage everyone to find space to recharge their batteries ready for our new term, which begins on Tuesday 22 April. Happy Easter and thank you all for your continued support of our school.

Best wishes



Mr PJ Nicholson
Headteacher

Please see below for further updates and reminders!

SCHOOL CREST UPDATE

Thank you to all our parents for your feedback on our new crest. We now have a design which we are going to use. This will be phased in and information regarding this will come out during the summer term. Rest assured it will not cause any additional financial impact on families. It will though provide us with one school crest to use going forward, rather than the three we currently have!



APPLEBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Kindness · Respect · Community

The above variations of the crest will be used on windows/walls, blazers and letterheads, for example.

WELCOME!

Mrs Bowes, will join us after Easter as Head of Year 7 and Year 8. Mrs Bowes will also lead on our work with the local primary school. I am sure we will all make her feeling welcome here at AGS.

REMINDERS

- High attendance at school is one of most important focus areas. Any student with less than 90% attendance is nationally regarded as Persistently Absent. Further attendance information can be found on our website [Appleby Grammar School - Attendance](#)

Parents are required to report their child's absence from school on each day of their absence. Please do so using one of these methods:

Telephone: 017683 51580 / Email: attendance@appleby.cumbria.sch.uk / or message via the My Child At School App (MCAS).

Please remember we need to receive evidence of all appointments during the school day so this can be added to your child's record. Again, please send to either the attendance@appleby.cumbria.sch.uk email address or via MCAS.

- Please do not use the bus turning circle between 8.30-9.00am and from 3.15-3.45pm.
- Our school website is constantly being updated and has been expanded this academic year. Please use that as your first place for information and if there are things that you think would be helpful for you as parents, then let us know on admin@appleby.cumbria.sch.uk

Parents are also encouraged to complete the Parent View survey which you can access via our website:

[Appleby Grammar School - Parent View](#)

Calendar of Events (22 April to 23 May 2025)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 April – Year 8 English Wordsworth Visit• 29 April – Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Visit• 01 May – Year 7 and 8 Junior Maths Challenge | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 May – Year 7 Science visit to Lancaster• 21 May – Year 8 HPV Immunisations• 26-30 May – May Half-Term Break |
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