

## GCSE RESULTS DELIVER A DOUBLE CENTURY!

By Mr Andrew Clay  
Headteacher

2010 results for 5 A\* - C including English and Maths increased by 100% on 2008.

2010 results see every single Year 11 student leaving with at least 5 A\* - C grades – life changing grades for 100% of Year 11.

**5 plus GCSE A\* - C  
including English  
and Maths**

**2008 33%**  
**2009 47%**  
**2010 67%**

5 plus GCSE A\* - C including English and Maths results increased by 100% on 2008. The story of dramatic improvement continues at AGS. The 14% increase from 2008 to 2009 was a huge breakthrough for the school but this has been smashed by a further 20% increase this year.

The School has delivered this through significant recent improvements in the curriculum offered and the quality of teaching and learning across the school. This has been complemented by an outstanding performance from the core subjects of English and Maths.

English C grade and above 2010 - 77%  
(2009 - 55%)

Maths C grade and above 2010 - 69%  
(2009 - 57%)

Students have also been rigorously supported and challenged, as

These four students were delighted to achieve 11 A's and 26 A\*'s between them.



individuals and as small groups, through very effective intervention work, both during and after the school day. In Year 11, learning at AGS becomes heavily personalised to enable students to achieve to their very best, regardless of barriers to learning that may exist.

In May 2010, OFSTED judged the school to be satisfactory overall, albeit good in most respects. It is the Headteacher's view that the results this summer would have secured at least a consistent good judgement and AGS could even have been judged as outstanding by OFSTED.

**5 plus GCSE's at C grade  
and above - No student  
at all failed to achieve  
this key measure**

**2008 40%**  
**2009 62%**  
**2010 100%**

The main measure of performance is also supported by a more staggering increase in the number of students achieving 5 plus GCSE's at C grade and above. Continued on page 2.

## Front page continued...

This year we achieved 100% - normally the territory of Grammar and Public schools.

No student at all failed to achieve this key measure. This is due to an intense, demanding and extremely well coordinated intervention strategy that saw school staff supporting difficult to reach students. AGS staff went way beyond the much quoted "extra mile" in supporting and developing the abilities of all students.

Individual barriers to learning were not simply met. They were smashed away in a wave of supportive but demanding activity. This included one to one support at home and even the PCSO tracking absent students down

and "persuading" them to attend in order to complete courses and prepare for examinations.

I was stunned by the results even though the school's own tracking data in July showed that 60% and 100% was very likely. I believe that the results are a fitting tribute to the hard work of all in the school, in particular the year 11 students but also all adults who work at the school, whatever their role.

I came to Ash Green School and Arts College in January 2009 with an expectation that the School had to improve. This is based on the simple fact that students only get one chance at their formal education.

I am proud of what the school has achieved in the last 18 months. It has been made possible by all in the school, staff and students, rolling up their sleeves and getting down to some serious hard work. We have identified our weaknesses and together have worked as one to bring about this improvement. There is a collective drive to ensure that AGS is seen as the first choice school for the communities that we serve. I feel deeply privileged to work with such a determined team of staff, parents and students.

The work to plan for further improvements starts now as we prepare for the new academic year. The school motto "Impossible Is Nothing" demands we have to.

## SINGING OUT

By Mr David Pugh  
Subject Team Leader Music

AGS can proudly boast that we have 2 students who represent Warwickshire County with their vocal talents.

Chloe Rowan Y8 and Billie Hoey Yr 11 have both been selected to represent Warwickshire as members of the Warwickshire County Senior Girls Choir. The group have weekly rehearsals and they have performed at prestigious venues around the country.

When she was told that her audition was a success, Billie said "I was really surprised that I had got in after hearing the vocal talent of the other girls." Chloe noted that "I was surprised and excited that the audition had gone so well and that I have now become a member of the Choir."

The choir's next performance will be at Symphony Hall in Birmingham this coming November. We're very proud of Chloe and Billie and we're sure they'll be in great form.

# New MP Visits Ash Green

By Mr Michael Rennie  
Deputy Headteacher

**Dan Byles MP, the local Member of Parliament for North Warwickshire & Bedworth, visited the school earlier this term to hear for himself how the school has achieved its remarkable turnaround. Just a few years ago, the school was badly underperforming. In 2004, the school only achieved nine GCSE grades at A and A\*. This year, students achieved a total of three hundred and four!**

On his second visit to the school since becoming the local MP, Dan Byles met with Headteacher Andrew Clay and Deputy Headteacher Michael Rennie. It is not yet known how Ash Green's results will compare in the local and national league tables, but Dan Byles expressed his confidence that the students at AGS will be able to hold their heads up proudly and will be among the best in the county.

Speaking to the Coventry Telegraph Dan said: "The results at Ash Green School are fantastic and I am sure they will place the school at or very near the top



Local MP Dan Byles.

of the local and even national league tables when they are published shortly.

**But what is most remarkable is not just the results themselves, but the turnaround from just a few years ago".**

# AGS GOES CONTINENTAL

By Mrs F Benford

Subject Team Leader – Modern Foreign Languages

From 27th September to 1st October, there was a distinctly Continental atmosphere at school as AGS celebrated the European Day of Languages.

Teachers welcomed their students in to lessons in languages from Arabic or Bengali to Yoruba or Zulu. The Cafeteria did a terrific job of producing a special Continental menu entirely in French, including dishes such as Les Spaghettis avec boulettes et fromage parmigiano, du Poulet ou des légumes piccants, Fajitas, Tarte aux Pommes avec crème Anglais, and Ciabatta and Panini avec thon et mais or Poulet Tikka.

Morning Assembly started with a greeting in Welsh from Mai Berry (from our AGS kitchen), in Greek from Dr Koutsou, in Portuguese from Sofia Clara (Y8 student) and in Arabic from Noor Mohammed (Y11 student). A group of Year 7 students sang Frère Jacques and the Year 8 Language students, Thomas Robinson and Chevelle Mo, recited the poems they had written in French.



Together with Year 11 students, Soraya Harti explained in French that it's important to study and understand other languages so that you can get the most out of foreign holidays and understand other cultures better; being able to speak another language can significantly improve your job prospects.

Students saw a short film of the brilliant Paris and Barcelona visit which 34 students and 4 members of staff made in March and Rosie Johal of Year 11 explained in Punjabi that languages help

us to communicate across the world via the Internet. There were even some great tips on how to learn a new language. How about tuning in to a foreign radio station, listening to music in the language you want to learn, or reading a newspaper or magazine in another language?

Finally, everyone reflected while the School Prayer was recited in French. Altogether, this excellent assembly has given our students a new awareness of different languages and different cultures.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

By S Tandy

Attendance Coordinator

*As attendance is becoming more of a priority in the workplace, we are proud to introduce our new attendance folder to all Year 7 students.*

The folder has been designed to keep all their records of achievement for good attendance for the whole of their five years at Ash Green School & Arts College. In the past, students often misplaced their certificates or they ended up looking a bit chewed around the edges. Hopefully, their new folder will be a useful tool in the future when faced with potential job or college interviews, clearly displaying how attendance has been a priority to them.

The folders are limited to year 7 at present. Unfortunately, we will not be able to replace them if students lose them, so please keep them safe.

The 100% attendance cards are new to Year 7 and there are 45 characters to collect. Students can see the whole collection displayed in school outside the Community Theatre. We are also introducing our new target certificate for all students who meet the 94.5%+ school target, each half and full term.

We appreciate that attendance can be affected by medical appointments, especially orthodontist appointments during KS4. After-school appointments are

like gold dust so here are a few helpful tips that will ensure your child can keep their 100% goals; Mid morning appointments will ensure your child can get both their AM and PM mark by leaving after registration and returning before PM registration. Booking a medical appointment in the afternoon would also ensure your child keeps their attendance at their best if they leave after PM registration has been taken (1.30pm). Of course, avoid taking any holidays during term time. 13 weeks a year school holidays should be enough to find the right weather.

I hope that Year 7 will enjoy collecting their cards and if they have any good ideas of their own, I would love to hear them.

# AMAZING EXAM RESULTS FROM YEAR 9

By Miss Tori Collymore  
2nd in charge, Mathematics

## 28 year 10 students already have a GCSE grade C under their belts.

Last year's 9XY1 not only worked hard to achieve excellent end of Key Stage 3 Levels but, along side this, studied for their GCSE in statistics. Their hard work was rewarded this summer as, along with the Year 11, they arrived on results day to collect their results. All but one of the class achieved the highest possible grade on the paper and gained one of their crucial 5 grade A\*-C GCSE qualifications. The class have paved the way for the future, as the Maths department plan to deliver GCSE Statistics to the majority of students at KS4 from now on. We are exceptionally proud of their achievements, but the pupils' comments really say it all...

"I was nervous when I found out we had to do a GCSE in Statistics, but Miss Collymore really encouraged us to do well and all the hard work paid off!"  
Callie Fitzgerald

"The Statistics GCSE was a very interesting insight into the pressure of an exam. We did coursework and an exam and I now have a GCSE in Statistics (before even starting my options!)"  
Chloe Crutchlow

"The Maths department have really helped me develop my skills in Maths as I achieved a level 8 and already have a GCSE in Statistics, where I achieved a C. It was hard work, but I am pleased."  
Paige Gavin

"Miss Collymore really helped us because she pushed us."  
Toni O'Brien & Callie Fitzgerald

"Wow! It's awesome! I've got a GCSE before I even start them...64 out of 80! Not bad, even if I do say so myself!"  
Toni Lovell

## AGS at Wimbledon

By Mr Michael Clancy  
Teacher of Physical Education

On July 2nd a group of students from Years 7, 8 and 9 visited Wimbledon, accompanied by myself, Mr K Brown, Mrs S Ley and Miss K Dagnall. Having tickets for Court 1, we were fortunate to watch all the semi-final action. Whilst walking around Wimbledon, students were lucky to see Andy Murray warming up and some even saw the Winner of the Women's Finals, Serena Williams.



The trip included an overnight stay and a sightseeing trip around London, as well as a visit to Covent Garden for students to sample the fantastic atmosphere. Thanks to all the staff who went and to the students for their excellent behaviour. We will be running the trip again, so keep an eye out for details.

"I have achieved a GCSE already! I feel like I have really achieved something!"

Charlie Mann