



Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others. (Aristotle)



We began in September with Ownership – the value epitomised in the school motto *Respect and Aspire* – have moved through Motivation, Resilience, Innovation, and have reached the heart of it all: Courage.

Applying Aristotle to AGS Learner.

Your sons will have seen the following words in every classroom this term:

- It takes **COURAGE** to accept OWNERSHIP of your own success
- It takes **COURAGE** to MOTIVATE yourself to aim high
- It takes **COURAGE** to find RESILIENCE to bounce back from setbacks
- It takes **COURAGE** to try something INNOVATIVE and risk failing

Brave students try something new, make mistakes and progress because of this.

Encourage Courage from Home.

The relationship between the two words is fascinating. Both have their etymological root in the Latin word *cor* meaning *heart* so we are not looking for daredevil action so much as inner strength.

Small changes yield significant gains. So, encourage your quiet son to put up his hand and just have a go; remind your reluctant son to take a risk and try a new way of doing something; reassure your self-conscious son it is okay to admit to being confused. At school, we will aim to provide a supportive place where speaking openly and honestly about our struggles is possible – even for teenage boys protecting a fragile outer bravado.

“Courage is not a man with a gun in his hand.”

With these words, literary legend, Atticus, in *To Kill a Mockingbird* points his children towards a different kind of courage, a moral courage which asks them to acknowledge that it is starting and finishing something which counts, even if - or particularly if – you know you are going to lose in the end. Hopefully, our exam students about to embark on study leave, are confident that success, not failure, is on the horizon but progress towards this success will be made more smoothly if we can encourage them to practise the art – or rather the *heart* - of courage.

Vanessa Beckley, Lead Practitioner

AGS LEARNER ON THE WEBSITE: WHAT INFORMATION WOULD YOU LIKE?

The introduction of AGS LEARNER last September enabled us to develop the connection between the learning that students experience in school and the skills that they will need to show in a competitive workplace. We want parents to feel more involved in that process and to create a space on the website where they can find out about the ways that their sons are learning in school. Thank you to all parents who have suggested ideas.

What kinds of information or advice would **you** find useful?

Email us with any ideas you have – however brief – so that we can continue to work together to prepare your sons for their learning in school and beyond. (vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk or gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk)