



England to become a global leader of teaching character

When Nicky Morgan announced at the end of 2014 that England was to become a global leader of teaching character, AGS was already fully committed to the idea. We have continued to stay ahead in the development of character through the AGS Learner, and are delighted that pioneering research carried out at The Jubilee Centre, part of the School of Education at the University of Birmingham, confirms our practice (<http://jubileecentre.ac.uk/355/about>). The Centre promotes a moral concept of character in order to explore the importance of virtue for public and professional life. We attended their inaugural conference last week which gave us time to reflect on our successes and shape some of our plans for next year.

AGS Learner Highpoints 2015-2016

- All students and staff recognise the importance of the AGS Learner characteristics beyond the classroom and into university and working life.
- Levels of character literacy are high as a result of AGS Learner publicity– students and staff have a vocabulary to talk about character virtues.
- All year groups are able to give examples of where they have used AGS Learner characteristics to support their learning or wider experiences this year.
- Other schools have visited to see our model and share our practice.
- Many teachers have developed innovative and meaningful ways to develop character through the school curriculum.
- The huge range of extra-curricular activities at AGS contributes significantly to the development of character.

AGS Learner Areas for Development 2016-2017

- Closer links between the characteristics and individual subject areas, acknowledging that some values will be more vital in some subjects than others.
- Demonstrate rather than debate: provide more learning opportunities enabling students to demonstrate the values rather than label them.
- Seek support from parents and alumni to offer a workplace perspective.
- Develop an AGS Learner space on the website for staff, parents and students to access information and research.

We are committed to supporting your sons in every way we can because we share the same conviction that character is important in personal, professional and public life. If you would like to suggest other ways we can support the development of character, please contact me (vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk) or Assistant Head, Gurdeep Singh (gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk). We wish you all a splendid summer.

Vanessa Beckley
Lead Practitioner