



OWNERSHIP



The character traits of the AGS Learner have been decided, displays are up in every classroom, and school planners now carry a daily reminder of the skills which will make our students even better learners. Our focus for this half term is Ownership.

What do we mean by Ownership?

Ownership means students having the ability to manage their own learning, prioritise and set targets. It means having self-respect and respect for others who support the learning process.

What can be done at home to help students develop a sense of Ownership?

- Help your children to develop routines for working at home. Encouraging a regular start time for homework can prevent time wasting and distraction.
- Have a space at home for notices: display timetables, kit reminders, calendars, so students can organise themselves.
- Look for opportunities to take one step back: sometimes this means letting your children struggle, sometimes it means helping them put a situation in perspective rather than solving it for them.
- Sometimes just talking can help: ask them if they have packed their bag, let them know if there are family commitments on the horizon, chat to them about managing a diary, or explain how to break down a longer task into manageable steps.

What are we doing in school?

Every department has drawn up a range of strategies to promote ownership in their subject. Several departments are using online textbooks accessible on students' own devices to facilitate independent study; resources are available in class so students can look things up themselves rather than be told and time is given in class for students to reflect on feedback and set goals for future learning. Student online discussion forums are effective in the sixth form to encourage students to debate and take ownership of ideas whilst giving students a choice of tasks offers real responsibility. Students become the teachers in some classes, and in some science practicals, trial and error is encouraged rather than spoon-feeding.

We all want AGS students to feel a sense of attachment to what they do. We want them to develop a real sense of ownership and pride in what they achieve. If you would like to respond to our ideas, then please contact me (vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk) or Gurdeep Singh, Assistant Headteacher (gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk)

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