



# AGS News

Issue 002

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## Author visit

On Sunday 23rd, our Year 3 and 4 pupils were visited by author Lorena Veldhuijzen. Lorena was here to talk about her recently launched new book; 'Plastic Fantastic' as part of her international tour which has included holding four workshops for children at specially selected schools worldwide. Lorena also gifted a signed copy of her book to the school.

Lorena worked with the pupils to help them write and illustrate their own book across the day. The day finished with a session with all of the pupils who had taken part. The pupils and the staff all really enjoyed the day and our young people were an absolute credit to the school. This was an exciting opportunity for the pupils and will hopefully have inspired them both with their writing and the need to look after our planet in the future.

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## Deodorant spray

May I please ask for parents' support in ensuring that pupils are not bringing deodorant spray to school. It is important that pupils feel able to use a deodorant, particularly after PE and sport but please ensure that they bring a roll-on or similar. For pupils who suffer from asthma or breathing problems, the use of spray deodorants in confined spaces can be extremely problematic.



## White socks!

Just a quick reminder that white socks **should not be worn** by boys as part of uniform. Dark socks please at all times. There are still a number of pupils wearing trainers and so I would also ask that you ensure that they are all coming to school in proper shoes and NOT trainers.



**Thank you very much for your support with both of these issues.**

## Chefs visit to AGS

We are very grateful to our friends at the Holiday Inn A'Seeb for giving our pupils a fantastic display of cake decorating. Many of the pupils also got to have a go at decorating a cake of their own. All of the pupils enjoyed a small free cupcake and it was worth the small morning sugar rush to see so many of them enjoying their cake decorating experience. We are hoping to develop this relationship further by taking some pupils for a tour of the hotel kitchens and restaurants very soon. With hospitality and tourism an expanding market both in Oman and beyond, it is pleasing to give our pupils an early insight into this exciting industry.



## New faces

As promised - the first in our series where we meet some of the new AGS staff.

### Mr Murphy - Mathematics

Originally from Manchester (I am an avid Manchester United supporter) I now live in Cambridgeshire with my wife, Mrs Murphy, who is a Grade 2 teacher, also at AGS. We are not new to working in the Middle East but we are new to Oman, and we have been made very welcome by staff and parents.

Having spent twelve years as a mathematics teacher at an outstanding school in England, I was recruited to the Middle East to establish the Key Stage 3 curriculum and Key Stage 4 IGCSE program at a recently opened British school. At AGS, I am looking forward to supporting the children as they move through Grades 9 and 10 working towards their final examinations. Years 7 and 8 will be building the foundation of their knowledge and skills for their transition to the IGCSE program.

I am a keen golfer and enjoy swimming to keep fit. I also love to cycle around the beautiful Cambridgeshire countryside, and this year took part in the London-Surrey 100 Mile cycle ride for charity. Next year I hope to do it again, and achieve a faster time!



### Mrs Edwards - Grade 3

After completing a BA Honours degree in Primary Teaching at Roehampton University, London, I taught a year 1 class during my NQT year in Hammersmith and for the next 4 years, I taught at a small school back in my home county of Hertfordshire where I taught across Key Stage 2 in years 4, 5 and 6. I also led PE and Computing. I then moved schools, where I was part of the Middle Leadership team in charge of Teaching and Learning across the school. I carried out this role, supporting teachers in all year groups, alongside teaching in year three.

I quickly progressed to Assistant Headteacher supporting the Leadership team to improve the standards of teaching and learning. I am always on the look out for new ways to develop my own teaching practice and set myself new challenges. My next adventure and development in my career . . . moving to Oman to teach at AGS. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, my nearly two-year-old daughter keeps me on my toes but keeps me young as I chase around the soft play areas with her . . . not sure who enjoys them more! Chilling at the beach is a keen favourite of mine so living in Oman is great . . . the weather in England doesn't always allow for walks along the sea! In the evenings, I like to engross in a good series on Netflix and particularly like the Great British Bake Off, although it still hasn't made me a great baker!



**More new staff next time!**

## Sports news

Our Under 16 boys volleyball team recorded another victory at TAISM this week, running out winners 3 sets to nil. Thank you to our hosts and we very much look forward to playing again soon.



## Al Mouj Golf Family Day



**HORIZON KIDS**  
INTERNATIONAL NURSERY  
Almouj, Muscat



It was 'family day' at Al Mouj Golf on Saturday and our partners at HKIN Al Mouj were on hand to keep the little ones busy. With drawing, painting, giant building bricks and other activities, all ably supported by the nursery staff, there was plenty to keep the young people occupied.

We are aiming to strengthen the links between HKIN and AGS and hope to increase the opportunity for the nursery children to visit AGS to make use of the facilities more often. Last summer, the HKIN children came to AGS for their end of term graduation and hopefully they will have even more opportunities in the future.

## Art gallery visit

Our IGCSE art students enjoyed an inspiring visit to a local art gallery with Miss Armstrong at the end of last week.

The students met with artist and retired teacher Heather Ford who spoke to the pupils about her work, the gallery and the exhibition. Then pupils pastiched their favourite and least favourite images and will write about them next week.





## The week in KG2

Our KG2 children have been reading some familiar children's books and following a range of activities around these.

A number of classes have been reading Eric Carle's 'The very hungry caterpillar', a book Mr Lyon remembers sharing with his own children and enjoying many years ago. This book was first published in 1969.

### Who's who?

If you need to get in touch...

Toni Frost - Parental relations - for all your enrolment, fees and transport information.

[t.frost@agsmuscat.org](mailto:t.frost@agsmuscat.org)

Marcella Farmer - to arrange a meeting with the Headmaster

[m.farmer@agsmuscat.com](mailto:m.farmer@agsmuscat.com)

Mrs Deborah Kennedy (SENCo) has overall responsibility for those pupils who need additional support in school. [d.kennedy@agsmuscat.org](mailto:d.kennedy@agsmuscat.org)

### AGS Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Our PTA is looking for new members. The Committee will be contacting parents shortly and will be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in supporting them.

### Learning beyond the classroom

If you are able to offer our pupils opportunities beyond the classroom or are in contact with individuals or organisations who can, we would be very interested to hear from you.

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