



**AGS
LEARNER**

START THE ADVENT-URE TODAY



Being a teacher is a profession unlike any other – especially at Christmas. Find me another workplace where you complete the daily grind to the sound of a live band belting out Christmas Classics along the corridor; or a work place where everyone around you can tell you to the nearest day, hour and *second* the moment the doors will close for the final time this year. Our workplace is filled with stars - thirty pairs of eyes flashing Christmas anticipation back at us with every day that passes - and wise men and women offering gifts, knowledge craftily wrapped in brightly coloured activities. It is certainly true we travel great distances along difficult journeys in order to meet the decrees of our government, but the rewards are astonishing.

And so for the final newsletter this year, I thought I would share with you some wise words from a key stage three assembly. The theme was advent. It turns out, the word *advent* means both the waiting (in the Christian calendar for the nativity of Jesus) and the event itself. And, if this is the case, if the count down and the event are both one and the same – then why wait at all? The assembly continued:

“So, I propose that instead of wasting time, wishing away these last days, hours, minutes and seconds, stalling, procrastinating, waiting, wishing, hoping... we should get on with it! Stop waiting and get on with the here, the now; appreciate the event that is these last few days and turn it into something worthwhile. You all had ideas, plans and hopes of what you would do and how you would succeed in your aspirations...

Where’s that shiny, sparkly flame gone now? It’s flickering, dwindling in the draught left by the open door that leads to the end of term. So what can you do about it?

Start again. Wednesday morning might be an unorthodox time to be presented with a new resolution - how many of you have said you’ll start doing something positive (exercising, making sure your bag is packed the night before, being more organised generally) *on a Monday? Or at the start of the month?* This arbitrary connection with the start of a recognised segment of time somehow qualifies our decision to put off something worthwhile until we reach that identified point. So we wait for Monday, for the beginning of the month. What if you’ve realised you need to do something to improve and it’s Tuesday? What if it’s half way through the month? What are you going to do on all those other days? Miss out on exercising activities, clubs and games with your mates? Worse, forget your books and get a detention for arriving to a lesson without your necessary equipment? All because it wasn’t a Monday?

Appreciate this time, right now, and use it. Soon it will be January. It will be cold, wet and dark. There will be no Quality Streets left, not even the coffee and orange creams, and you’ll be back here in this room listening to a talk on new beginnings before you know it. But what you come back to, what you leave at the school gates as the last bell rings at the end of term, will be your only platform to build on in the coming year. So make sure you leave it where you want to find it, so that you’re not scrabbling round at the start of the year, trying to make up for the last two and a half weeks you let slip because you were waiting. Make

sure that bar is set high for next term, make sure those foundations you built at the beginning of the school year are solid, reflective of your ability and at a level you will be proud of.”

My thanks to Mrs Hearn for her very wise words, and to all our parents who work so tirelessly to support our endeavours to develop lifelong AGS learners. I wish you all a very good break. And, if you’ve been putting off responding to these articles until a suitable Monday, please feel free to respond today to me (vbeckley@ags.bucks.sch.uk) or Gurdeep Singh, Assistant Head (gsingh@ags.bucks.sch.uk)!