



We always knew 2020 would be a big year for Alder Grange. Whilst it's turned out to be particularly memorable due to the pandemic, there's also a positive story to come out of this year too. Our sixth form, ag6, is celebrating its 10 year anniversary.

To mark this special milestone we'd intended to host a big event, but for obvious reasons plans are on hold. Fingers crossed we'll be able to host some kind of celebration later in the academic year – physical, virtual, or maybe both.

Meanwhile, I ponder over what we've achieved in the past 10 years and what the future might look like for us and our students.

ag6 was set up to support local students and meet local employment needs. Career paths follow different routes, including university courses, vocational courses and direct entry. So, we value academic and applied courses equally, offering a wide range of each and enabling students to blend a mixture of both. By doing this, we've been able to offer something that didn't previously exist in the Rossendale Valley and, offer support to all local young people – not just our own pupils.

Enabling young people to reach their potential has always been close to our heart at ag6 – having helped nearly 1000 students move into their chosen careers over the past 10 years. We help the high-fliers get into the best universities, and offer more nurturing support and course options for those who wouldn't normally get into a sixth form but have a specific talent and great potential.

This all sounds fantastic, but unless you have a child due to progress on from high school soon, why should you care? Well, I guess the key message is the importance of recognising opportunities and potential in yourself and others – and taking action to help make things happen. We all need support to achieve our goals and it's important that we do the same to help others achieve theirs too on whatever scale.

The future for ag6 over the next 10 years will be based on the opportunities and potential of our young people and developing what we do to support them. We'd love to help even more young people achieve their careers aspirations and plan to further enhance our vocational course offering to meet local needs.

I encourage our students to dream big for the future, work hard to achieve their goals and accept help and support from others. Surely there's a positive message there for all of us. Together is how we find our future.