

ags *Principal's* UPDATE

13th January 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful Christmas break. Term at AGS is now back in full swing with Year 12 having just completed their mocks and preparations for the school production of *Bugsy Malone* in a few weeks well underway. Year 9 students are increasingly focusing on their options choices and I look forward to meeting as many Year 9 parents as possible on January 26th at our Options Evening.

Several parents have been in touch regarding our Ofsted inspection - as a school, we are still waiting for the final report to be published. Please be assured that I will share the outcome with you as soon as I can. Alongside Ofsted as an external evaluation body, the school has an ongoing and regular internal self-evaluation cycle. This coming week all students will be asked to complete a survey on their participation in extra-curricular activities and then in the week beginning the 23rd of January, to share their thoughts on academic lessons. Student input and feedback is greatly valued; I was delighted that the newly formed Student Senate met again this week to discuss feedback from the leadership team on some of their suggestions from last term.

Finally, AGS are acutely aware of the impact of the cost of living challenges on all members of the school community. Next week I will therefore share with you in a separate communication our new community support initiative entitled 'Assist, Give & Support' - please do keep an eye out for the email message.

Wishing you all a good weekend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R Thorpe".

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures



Our KS3 DT/Art club have been making a life size 'Jumanji' elephant, with some great work on the trunk this week!



Year 7 girls have been enthusiastically contesting their Inter-House Rowing competition

New tricks being learnt at our ever-popular Trampolining Club.



Year 8 have been looking at the importance of fibre in a healthy diet, and have made some delicious high-fibre granola bars. Hopefully some made it home for you to sample!

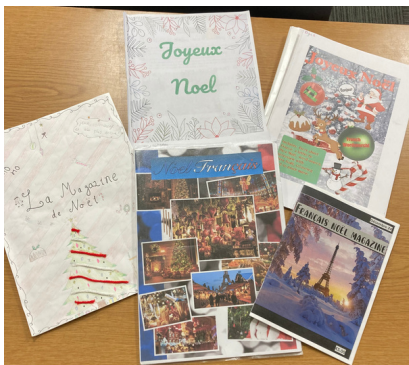
Year 10 caramelisation investigation



More Photos since our last update...

Year 7's were tasked with creating a Christmas magazine, learning about traditions in the French speaking world and new vocabulary related to Christmas.

The standard was incredibly high this year and all teachers found it a real challenge to choose the prize winners!



Bravo à tous!
Madame Blud Jones



7MFI

Aarav Wadewale, Florian May,
Jia Wang, Daisy Davies & Cassy Santos.

Grace Chumun & Violet Mingins (not pictured)



7MSP

Annabelle McGowan,
Isaac Stanford & Joseph Watt.

Zach Birch (not pictured)



7MHB

Isaac Hodgkinson, Jessica Morgan,
Isobel Cope, Ola Halota

Aidan Carreiro-O'Reilly (not pictured)

More photos since our last update...



In December the Psychology Department took 32 Year 13's to Vienna to build on what they have learnt in the classroom about obedience, prejudice and mental health.

The main focus of the trip was to visit Mauthausen, a Nazi concentration camp, so students could see the real consequences of power. In relation to this the students also visited the Jewish Museums, and Holocaust Memorial.

They also explored issues surrounding mental health, including the work of Freud, we visited the Freud museum exhibition documenting the life and work of the founder of psychoanalysis as well as his former apartment and office, the Viktor Frankl Museum, where Viktor Frankl (neurologist and psychiatrist and founder of the "Third Viennese School of Psychotherapy"), resided, as well as Narrenturm, Europe's oldest building for the accommodation of mental health patients built in 1784.

In the few spare moments of this packed trip, the students also had time to visit the beautiful Christmas markets.



News and Notices

SENDCO

After 8 years, Mrs Papantoniou has decided to step down from the role of SENDCO. She will continue to work within the SEND department specialising in exam access arrangement assessments and administration.

We would like to welcome Mrs Caroline Brown who is our new SENDCO. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in supporting students with special educational needs and / or disabilities. Mrs Brown can be contacted at c.brown@alcestergs.com



Spring Term Extra-Curricular Programme

Please click [here](#) to view the updated extra-curricular programme for the Spring Term.

Lost Property

We have a large amount of lost property in reception - please do encourage your child to come and look for any items that they are missing. Please do also ensure that all property is named, so that we can return it back to them. Many thanks for your support with this.

Thank you to our school show sponsor, STRONG FEET DANCE ACADEMY



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News and Notices

Food Tech

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of FT lessons by sending your students with ingredients for practical lessons. I am aware that during this cost of living crisis, this is not always easy for everyone. Please do feel free to contact your child's teacher to discuss any issues you may be having with purchasing ingredients. Students who are eligible for free school meals or meet the pupil premium criteria can be offered assistance with purchasing ingredients. Even if you do not meet these criteria, but have concerns, or would like to discuss this further, feel free to make contact.

We often explain to students that substitutions can be made to ingredients to suit your personal food preferences or budget, but this message may not make it as far as parents. We always discuss alternative ingredients, how to select a similar substitute, or indeed encourage students to bring in half the quantity of ingredients, and make smaller portions if that is easier. If you have any questions about swapping ingredients in a recipe that is set, or reducing quantities, please ask your child to come and speak to one of us, feel free to contact us via email.

With rising costs in mind, I would like to share with you a [recipe book](#) that has been made by one of my food teacher colleagues that is aimed primarily at people who are on a tight budget, benefits or who use food banks, but useful to all of us when thinking about the rise in food costs at the moment. The booklet contains advice on how to make food go further, information on food budgeting, and a selection of recipes that can be made with mostly store cupboard ingredients. I hope this may be useful to some of you.

Sport

Please see the PE Department if you would like to enter the WARWICKSHIRE SCHOOLS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS on Saturday 21st January 2023

Please also see [here](#) for our extracurricular offerings this half term – the more the merrier so please encourage students to attend.

