

ags *Newsletter*



Summer Term 2022

Welcome from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Each fortnight since joining Alcester Grammar School, I have endeavoured to share with you elements of school life via my fortnightly Principal's Updates. However, such regular communications cannot capture all that takes place, and we, therefore, hope that you will also enjoy the opportunity to look back in more detail on the Summer Term at AGS.

Students and staff alike have embraced the challenge of 'returning to normal post-Covid' - whether in the exam hall or venturing away on residential trips as part of Enrichment Week. The following pages provide abundant evidence of students engaging with their learning and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

At the end of the academic year, I would like to say a big thank you to all who continue to make Alcester Grammar School so successful. Thank you to parents, carers and students. Thank you also to both our teaching and support staff, who have genuinely yet again gone 'above and beyond'. As a new Principal, I could not wish to work alongside a more committed group of colleagues. I very much hope that all in the AGS community can have a relaxing summer break in order that we can all return in September filled with energy, enthusiasm and aspiration for the academic year ahead.

Best wishes,

Rachel Thorpe- Principal

Alcester Grammar School

Securing the best possible future for our students



We are grateful to all those parents who have already pledged a regular monthly amount to our school fund.

If you have not already done so, please [visit our website](#) or use the QR code displayed here.



Exams Update



Well done to all of our pupils who have sat the first set of external exams in two years!

The exams team invigilated 7719 exams between 15th May and 24th June when the sports hall and Newport study were transformed into exam venues. Pupils were punctual, polite and co-operative.

GCE results are released from 8am on Thursday 18th August and GCSE results are released from 8am on Thursday 25th August via the AGS portal.

The examinations section on the school website will have information regarding the post result services available.

If you are interested in joining our team of invigilators (no experience necessary) please contact me via exams@alcestergs.com

On behalf of everyone in the Exams Team we wish everyone a good summer break.

Mrs H Silcox - Examinations Officer.



Year 7 Maths Trail

At the beginning of July, our year 7 students went on a trail around Alcester. This was an excellent opportunity for students to see some maths in action in our local community. Students explored number patterns, symmetry, geometry, and estimating areas and volumes.



Year 7 and 8 Junior Maths Challenge

84 Pupils from year 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge with 9 students achieving Bronze, 38 achieving Silver and 35 students achieving Gold certificates.

All 35 students who got gold went on to take part in the Junior Kangaroo with 11 students gaining a Merit in this. These certificates are only awarded to the top 25% of those participating.

Well done to all the year 7 and 8 pupils who took part!

Below is a sample question from the Junior Kangaroo– answers are on the UKMT website.



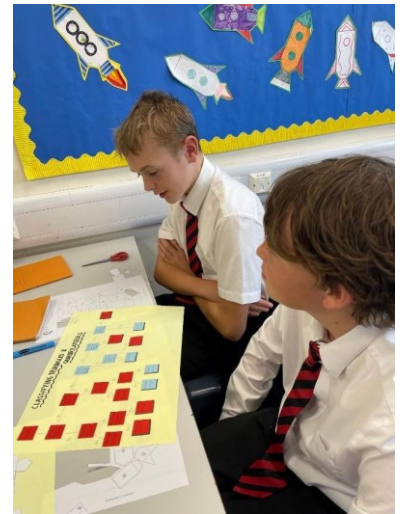
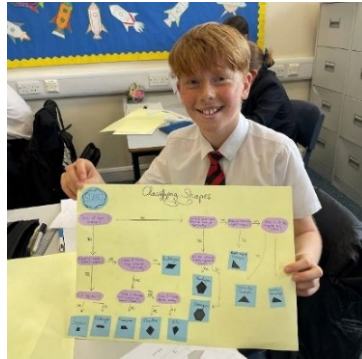
1. Claudette has eight dice, each with one of the letters P, Q, R and S written on all six faces. She builds the block shown in the diagram so that dice with faces which touch have different letters written on them. What letter is written on the faces of the one dice which is not shown on the picture?

A P B Q C R D S
E It is impossible to say



Year 7

Year 7 have been having fun in their maths lessons classifying 2D shapes and have produced some fabulous work to show their findings.



Year 7 students have also been busy matching up 3D shapes and making nets.



Year 13 Statistics Project

Our keen year 13 Statistics group have really enjoyed exploring the practical uses of statistics to support their research projects.

They have investigated a wide range of current issues from 'Does your height affect your ability to run a 100m?' to 'Comparing GDP to Life Expectancy'.





Year 7 Nature Reserve Trip

During their Biology lessons, year 7 classes had a trip to the Nature reserve. The teachers shared their knowledge of the different species that are found in the area and we managed to actually see a few for ourselves.

The most interesting facts that we learnt on the day were: what birds are singing about, why willow trees can live in water logged soils (haemoglobin in roots), the competition between plants – Celandine and the Elder trees, and that we can eat wild garlic.

A thoroughly enjoyable trip that allowed us to enjoy a bit of peace to appreciate the natural world for an hour.



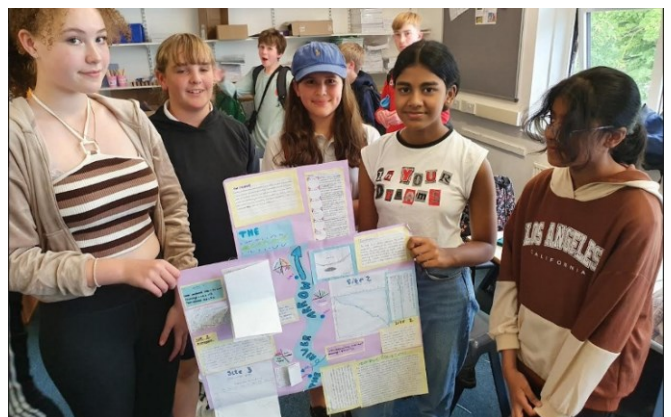
Keep up to date with all the latest Biology news at AGS by following us on Twitter @AGSbiology

Year 8 Geography fieldwork

As a part of Humanities week, year 8 students completed Geography fieldwork in the River Arrow Nature Reserve.

The day consisted of completing an enquiry on the variations of the characteristics at 3 different sites along the channel. The whole investigation process was completed in the space of a day from the introduction to data collection (in the River itself!) to data presentation before analysis, conclusions and evaluation.

The students showed a fantastic attitude, worked incredibly hard and showcased some creative pieces.



PRE Trip to GGNP Gurdwara and Coventry Cathedral

As part of our KS3 PRE-curriculum, we took year 8 AGS students on a trip to the GGNP Gurdwara and Coventry Cathedral.

During our visit to the Gurdwara, students were able to see the key Sikh principles of truthfulness and service to humanity in practise. Students witnessed Sikh worship taking place, experimented with traditional ceremonial instruments and asked big questions surrounding the themes of equality, belonging and inter-faith dialogue.

We then embarked on an exploration of Coventry Cathedral, where students were split into smaller groups for a 'peace and reconciliation' tour. Students were able to explore the history of the Cathedral and it's work for peace and reconciliation. This experience gave students the opportunity to contemplate their personal response to current global conflicts and witness some of the art work and projects that offer different perspectives on this same matter.

We are very grateful to both places of worship for their time, knowledge and generosity. We were extremely proud of our year 8 students for the engagement, respect and curiosity that they displayed throughout the trip.





Year 8 Humanities Week- Trip to the Black Country Living Museum

Year 8 students visited the Black Country Museum as part of Humanities Week. This was designed to be a preparation for their study of the Industrial Revolution in year 9.

The museum brings to life a range of periods, stemming from the Victorian era to the 1940s. We visited a range of exhibits; shops, houses and industry, all relocated from original sites around Britain. Students experienced a school session based on 19th century teaching and, depending which day they were on the trip, witnessed either Mr Manvell, Ms Collins or Mr Kendall receiving the cane for poor behaviour!

We were also able to sample the museum's legendary fish and chips, well worth a visit in their own right.



GCSE Scripted

After a tempestuous few years in the world of theatre and performance I was so pleased to be able to see students in live performance and our year 11's this year were the perfect group to stage this fantastic comeback. Performing an eclectic mix of group pieces, monologues and duologues they performed pieces from across a wide range of styles and genres. From modern tragedies such as Simon Stone's Punk Rock through to the more traditional comical texts such as Harold Pinter's The Dumb Waiter, there was truly something for everyone.

Congratulations to you all and thank you for your years of Drama hard work and dedication, you will be very much missed, unless you very wisely come back for A Level and then there will just be two more years of fun, hope to see you there. - Ms Swan



A Level Scripted

The Memory of Water by *Sheilagh Stevenson*

This beautifully crafted play is a masterpiece of family foibles with characters and dialogue that everyone can recognise and relate to. Catherine, Mary and Teresa are all gathered at their mother's house following her death to sort her possessions, which exposes the weaknesses in the siblings' relationships and leads to scathing bickering and poignant reminiscing about their childhoods. This piece needs precision and expert timing in order to be effective and this was demonstrated brilliantly by Abi Sirrell as the obsessive neurotic Teresa, Melissa Dent the cynically sparky Mary and the self-obsessed and hilarious Philippa Daniels bringing these characters to life with exceptional comic timing creating a fast paced and entertaining piece.



The Last of the Pelican Daughters by *The Wardrobe Ensemble*

This play adapted in collaboration with the iconic practitioner Complicite cleverly navigated time and political concepts using the forum of the Pelican daughters in their deceased mother Rosemary's house celebrating her Birthday after her recent death.

The daughters could not be more different but their differences are what make this play exciting, engaging and full of conflict and emotion which was demonstrated brilliantly by this all



female cast. Izzy Neil's maternal & conservative Joy was poised to perfection whilst the boisterous and comical Sage was a perfect match for Charlotte Stacey-Stonehouse's comical character. Mia Titterton gave an acting masterclass in the role of spiritual Maya with Emily Cartwright tackling the conflicted and tragic figure of Storm Pelican with stunning emotion giving the piece a cathartic and pensive mood throughout.



The Devil's Charter by *Barnabe Barnes*

This Jacobean tragedy was the brainchild of the performer Jess Clews, boldly taking on a monologue for A Level scripted performance. Lucretia is a Borgia, the Italian religious elite and in true Jacobean style has murdered her husband in revenge for her lack of freedom. However, her merriment is short lived as in this beautiful monologue she readies herself to dine with Cardinals not knowing that the Pope has poisoned the make-up she is applying in order to avenge the murder. Jess Clews captured the character in a brilliantly unique manner adding a dark comical irony to the tragic text and filling the performance with flirtatious charm. It was a beautifully prepared and presented piece.

A Level Scripted



1984 by Robert Icke & Matthew Dunster

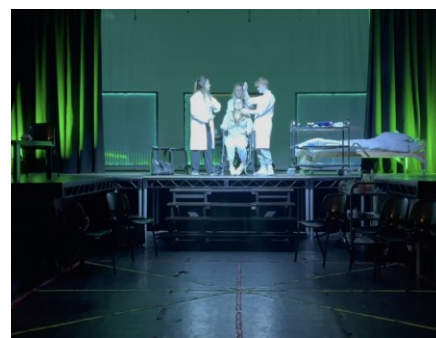
Orwell's clever dystopian text has been brilliantly adapted by Robert Icke and Matthew Dunster into a fast paced and eerily surreal play text. The small but perfectly formed cast of 3 truncated this narrative into a fast and unnerving performance inspired by the company Headlong and channelling their use of multimedia and complex sound and lighting to compliment the intriguing world and famous tale of Winston Smith and Big Brother.



Rebecca Cutler's rebellious and free-spirited Julia brilliantly built tension with Chris Cook's tormented Winston giving an acting masterclass especially in the torture scene. Winston's nemesis O'Brien was given eerie precision and exceptional stage presence by James Moore. All of these varying characters made for an engaging and emotive performance.

People Places Things by Duncan Macmillan

Macmillan's script explores the confusingly disjointed world of Sarah, a drug addict, as she tries to narrate her way through the rehabilitation process. Based in an enclosed all white box world, the set for this piece provided the perfect blank slate to demonstrate the key protagonist's reluctant attempt at detoxification.



Trinity Waldron played Sarah brilliantly, full of nervous energy and angst. The rest of the cast multi-rolling showing a range of characters well with Maisie Leake's mad ramblings as addict Paul contrasted brilliantly with the calm and calculated demeanour of Inci Aikin's Therapist figure. Theo Burt's tormented Mark provided the



perfect antagonist to the clinic atmosphere whilst Ciaran Barry's matter of fact Doctor figure was an effective foil to Sarah. Clean and creative ensemble work, inspired by the work of Headlong Theatre Company, was accompanied by the eclectic tones of David Bowie albums. Overall the impact was engaging and thought provoking.

How To Disappear Completely and Never be Found *by Fin Kennedy*



This abstract and darkly comical script is a complex play that requires proficient multi-roling and clever ensemble work. However, this was not a problem for the very talented and adaptable cast.



Finn Bos' troubled protagonist Charlie demonstrated a gripping downfall with Pat Ross as his comical foil Tube Man. Milly Cavill varied roles effectively between the business-like Sophie to the heightened caricature American Client. Joe Biddle channelled Del Boy brilliance in his interpretation of Charlie's uncle Mike who has had many personas and guides him on his journey to escaping his identity. The brilliant acting was complimented by layered technology channelling the practitioner Complicite and taking the audience on an intriguing and eclectic journey through the afterlife...or is it?

The Trail *by Steven Berkoff*

Berkoff is a practitioner that is not taken on lightly, it takes a group of dedicated and very quirky dramatists to tackle it. This year saw such a group and they did the stylised practitioner justice with their interpretation of "The Trial" (adapted from the novel by Kafka).



A simplistic monochrome set and costumes meant that the physical theatre, mastered by the group, was the main focus of the performance. Gideon Coleman's quirky and energetic K was perfectly complemented by the bold and intimidating physicality of Jake Macarthy as the Inspector antagonist. Chloe Parish and Anna Banks created excellent comedy with their double act of the Guards as well as showing range with their interpretations of 'Doll like' Lenni and the feeble and grotesque Huld respectfully. Overall the piece was fast paced, preened to perfection and did AGS proud.



Congratulations to you all and thank you for your years of Drama, hard work and dedication, you will be very much missed.

Ms Swan



¡Hola! Bonjour! Guten Tag!

We have been delighted by our students' commitment to their language learning this year. As a department, we are enormously proud of our students. Congratulations to all students from year 7, 8 and 12 who entered the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. The competition received over 3,200 submissions from more than 260 schools in 2022.

The students who took part were Maja Laskowska 7MS, Barney Green 7KS, Martha Pearson 7MJI, James Tonks 7NHB, Nick Campbell-Kelly 7KS, Alfie Morris 7NHB, Robert Sellicks 8ALR, and Storm Cox 12CEG. A team of undergraduates and professional translators judged all entries to the competition. The judges were very impressed by the standard of entries and have read some excellent translations this year.

Maja Laskowska from 7MSP was selected to receive an area commendation. Well done, Maja! This is a fantastic achievement given the number and standard of entries received this year. We hope to get even more entrants in next year's competition.

Here is Maja's translation of *Le Crapaud*, by Robert Desnos:

Le Crapaud

Sur les bords de la Marne
Un crapaud il y a
Qui pleure à chaudes larmes
Sous un acacia.
– Dis-moi pourquoi tu pleures?
Mon joli crapaud.
– C'est que j'ai le malheur
De n'être pas beau.
Sur les bords de la Seine
Un crapaud il y a
Qui chante à perdre haleine
Dans son charabia.
– Dis-moi pourquoi tu chantes?
Mon vilain crapaud.
– Je chante à voix plaisante,
Car je suis très beau,
Des bords de la Marne aux bords de la Seine
Avec les sirènes.

The Toad

On the bank of the Marne,
there is a toad,
who cries so very loudly
Underneath the acacia tree.
Tell me why you cry,
my toad of such beauty,
It's just that I have such bad luck,
for beauty I do not possess.
On the bank of the Seine,
there is a toad,
who sings 'till his breath withstands no more,
in a language nobody knows.
Tell me why you sing,
my toad of awful ugliness,
with my pleasing voice I sing to you,
because I am of such beauty,
from the bank of the Marne to the bank of the Seine,
with the mermaids...

A-Level Modern Foreign Languages at AGS - Introducing the LangSoc Team 2022-23

Next year at LangSoc we want to explore different cultures and languages (including French, German and Spanish but also beyond those three languages) through a variety of media, such as presentations, quizzes and -of course- food! As well as supporting language students with revision, grammar points and general advice about studying languages.

The three leaders of LangSoc are Esmée, Martyna and Skye:

I study languages because they give you so many opportunities in life. They enable you to meet so many different people and discover different cultures, as well as giving invaluable skills that will apply no matter what career you end up in. At A-Level studying French and German, I have enjoyed learning about relevant issues and studying languages and history through the two films 'Good Bye Lenin' and 'Un long dimanche de fiançailles'.

In the future, I plan to continue French and German at University which will hopefully enable me to live abroad for a period of time, where I can enjoy being surrounded by a different language and immersed in the culture.

-Esmée

Ever since year 7, Spanish has been my favourite subject and over the years I've loved expanding my knowledge of both the language and culture. I study Spanish A Level because I love how the course has a wide range of important topics and focuses more on Spanish culture through learning different festivals, traditional dishes and heritage sites in Spain. Also I have found that studying the film 'El Laberinto del Fauno' is very interesting since it demonstrates the history of post civil war Spain and it's very fun to recognise words and learn new ones. Overall, I find that learning Spanish has been very rewarding because when I go abroad to Spain I can communicate with others easily and it has helped me to develop new skills.

-Martyna

I didn't expect to love German when I first started studying in year 7, but it ended up being my favourite subject. Now studying A-Level I have especially enjoyed exploring German history through the film 'Good Bye Lenin' and the Berlin topic. I would love to continue my studies to help me travel through amazing places in German speaking countries as well as opening up the possibility of working abroad.

-Skye



We are also looking forward to being able to travel abroad with our students. Planning is underway for a year 8 residential in summer 2023.

In the meantime we wish you all a safe and restful summer break.

¡Adiós! Au revoir! Auf Wiedersehen!

Mrs Rose and the Modern Languages department



Year 7

We have seen a lot of wonderful KS3 artwork over the last term and in this newsletter edition we would like to shine a light on some of the fun and exciting projects that our year 7 students have completed.

Well done, everybody!

Lino cuts by year 7 with Miss Horton.



The much-loved chicken exercise for year 7 with Miss Dilks allows experimentation with blending charcoal and acrylic paint.



Year 7

Mr Smith and his year 7 students have been working on a mixture of collaging and painting for their end of year project. The next step is to work with digital techniques to enhance these pictures even further.



Cat and dog sculptures - year 7 project from Miss Horton's group.

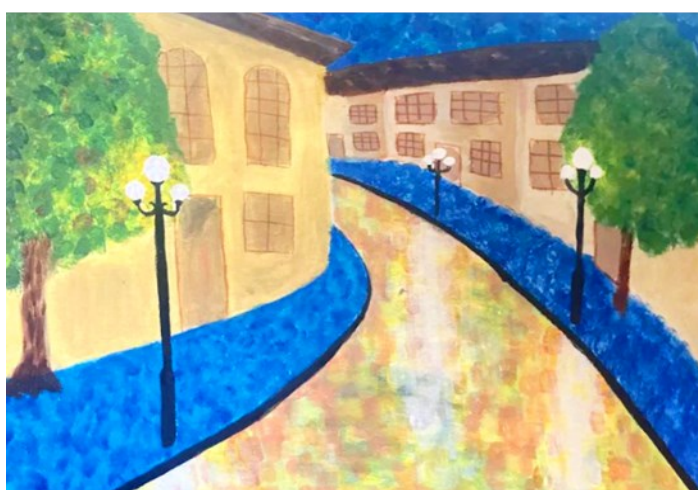
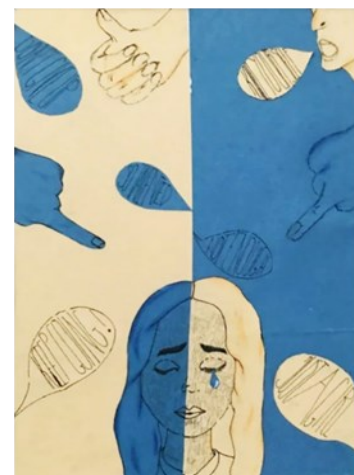
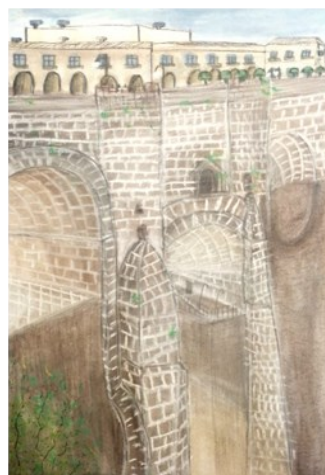
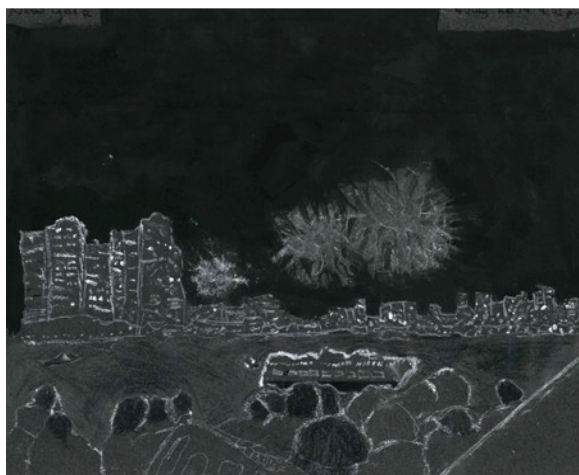
Made from wire, foil and tape these 3D sculptures are full of playful attitude. Who says no cats allowed on the table?



A selection of year 9 exam work



A selection of year 9 exam work





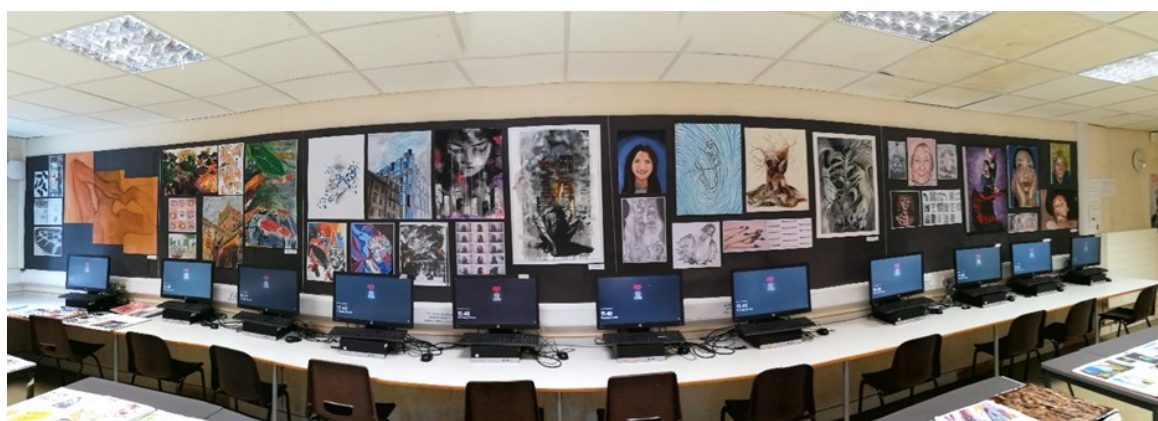
Year 10

On June 21st, the longest day of the year, our year 10 Art students were definitely making the most of the bright sunshine! Miss Horton is currently working with her groups on a project based on sequences using 'natural forms'. They had a chance to experiment with sun prints (cyanotypes) - one of the oldest photographic processes!

In a bit of cross-curricular learning, the students got a brief introduction to the two chemicals that form the light-sensitive emulsion: ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide. Once the paper is coated with the emulsion and exposed to the UV light of the sun, the students were able to get some really exciting images for their project.

Year 11

For the first time in three years, we have dusted off our display screens, hammers, nails and staple guns to put together the GCSE Art moderation show. It's a great opportunity to show the students' work in the best light to the external moderator. A few days later, with exams out of the way, the Newport Study was then transformed into a fabulous exhibition space for the A Level moderation process. This event is one of the most important dates in the department calendar.

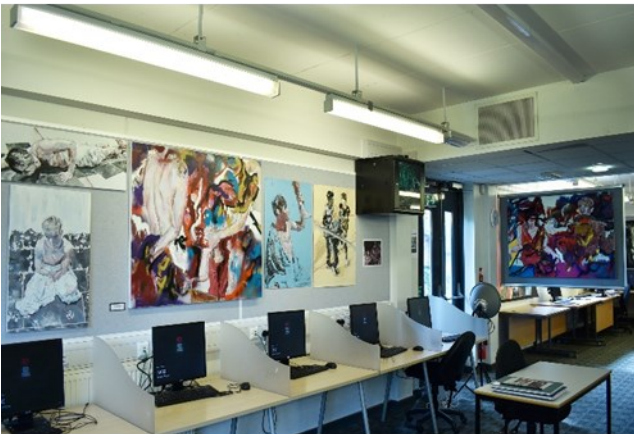


Year 11

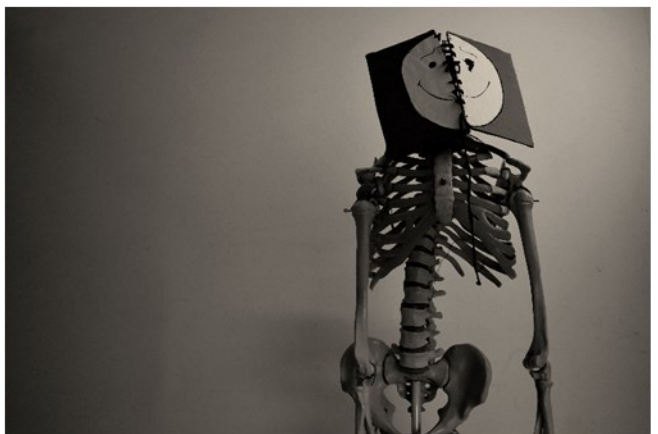
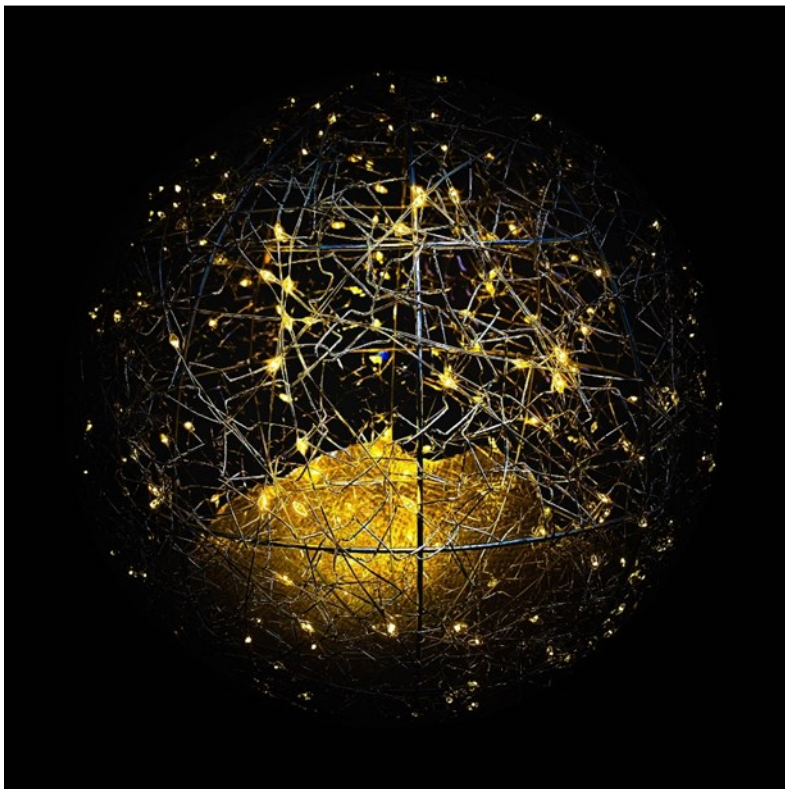
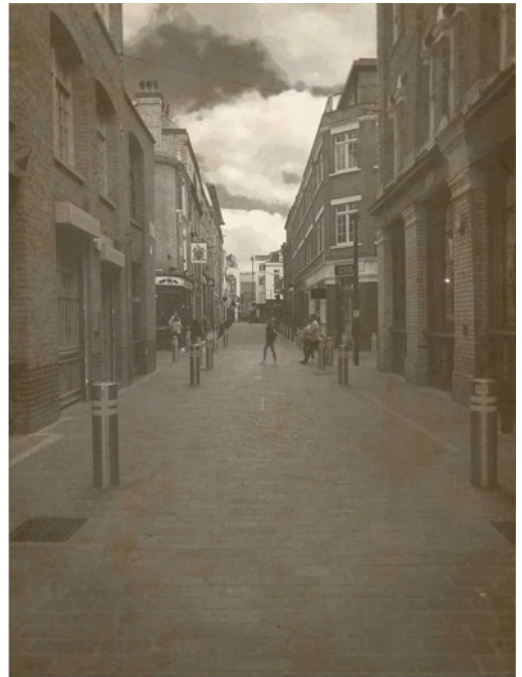


Year 13

This is just a small selection of year 13 artwork from the display for moderation.



Year 13 Photography



Rounders

It has been yet another exciting summer term of rounders. We always love the rounders season, with lighter evenings and sunny weather (most of the time), and that has shown in our South Warwickshire tournament performances.

We have had lots of closely fought matches against Aylesford, Alcester Academy, Shipston and Studley. On top of this we have also entered all five of the South Warwickshire tournaments with every year group.



The year 11's completed their tournament first, and after a close fought final, ended up finishing an impressive 2nd place.

The year 8's and 9's have also shown excellent form, also finishing 2nd place in their respective tournaments.

The year 7 tournament had an unprecedented number of teams enter, with 10 teams in total entering and 9 competing on the night.

The boys have also had their own tournaments this year, with an increase in the number of boys attending club.

Overall another successful and enjoyable summer of rounders. Well done to all involved!



Tennis

Every student had the opportunity to play tennis at AGS this year after school. Some students have taken advantage of this opportunity and have enhanced their skills. The first chance to represent the school was a year 7 local tournament against schools in South Warwickshire where the students played tremendous tennis and won the tournament. The students involved were, Jiho Baek, Josh Abrahamson, Nick Campbell-Kelly, Luke Lloyd, Barney Green and James Tonks.

During the term students were also invited to the LTA youth schools national championships, which were held at Warwick boat club. The students involved were Charlie Watson, Harvey Ravenscroft, Adam Haerle and Owen Linnett. They played extremely well and were narrowly beaten by Warwick school.



Students in year 8 and 9 also had a local fixture away to Aylesford, the students involved were Ava Clive, Flo Brown, May Wadlow, Sophia Azima, Sanvi Surapaneni, Betsy Stather and Eli long. It was a great fixture with all students playing extremely well. The year 8's were narrowly beaten and the year 9's took a well deserved win.

We hope to see tennis progress next year and look forward to seeing more students attend the club after school.

Cricket

Cricket club has been well attended over the summer term with over 50 students attending after school. It has been good to see students who have never played cricket before attending clubs with students who play for local teams.

During cricket club students have been developing different aspects of their game from defensive shots when batting to learning the basics of how to bow and everything in between.

We have had one year 7 and 8 external fixture this year against Studley, the students were fantastic and won the game by 7 wickets. We have also had inter school fixtures during cricket club which gives students the chance to apply their skills in a game situation. We look forward to developing cricket even more next year with the development of a new cricket strip. Well done to all students involved!



Athletics

The athletics season has been exceptionally fruitful with some excellent individual performance and team achievements, despite occasional low attendances at club (something we want to put right next year!)



The Warwickshire combined events championships are always an exciting start to the season, with teams of 3 students from year 7 and 8/9 combined competing in a series of events to crown both talented individuals and teams.

The year 7 girls team comprised of Izzy Husband, Thea Ibidun and Millie Bull, who acquitted themselves admirably in their first time at the event finishing 3rd as a team having competed in 80m, long jump, shot put and 600m. Izzy was the highest individual placing 7th with Thea just behind in 8th.

The boys team finished 4th as a team and comprised of James Lappin, Joel Ledgard and Aran Cooper, building on their cross-country successes earlier in the year. James finished as top individual, just outside the medals in 4th place. Some fantastic performances and a great foundation for next year!

The year 8/9 girls age group finished in 8th, with some athletes stepping in at short notice to cover the 5 events (75mH, shot put, high jump, long jump and 800m) due to the clash with a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Well done to Martha Peters (top individual in 16th), Beany Oldfield and Connie Gregory.

Due to their commitment to athletics club, the boys' team consisted exclusively of year 8 students- Will Marriot, Louie Newton and Toby Thomas. They finished 8th with Will as top finisher in 23rd.

Great practice for next year when you will still be in the same category!

The Schools Athletics Cup made a welcome return post-COVID, with a squad of 14 boys taking in part in 1 track and 1 field event each. AGS put on a skilled display to win the county round with a score of 342 points and qualify for the regional finals. The team improved by over 30 points in the regional final and acquitted themselves excellently to finish in 6th place from schools covering 5 different counties; a fantastic achievement. Well done to Will Marriot, Matteo Martinengo, George Kirby, Freddie Hawkins, Michael Campbell, Harry Unsworth, Tom Fisher, Tom Price, Aran Cooper, George Bull, Louis Newton, Toby Thomas, James Lappin and Sam Lock.



For the most talented students, district and country representation is always a fantastic achievement. This year an amazing 21 of our 31 triallists gained a place to compete for South Warwickshire in the Warwickshire Championships. These were: Ned Campbell, George Fox-Rowe, Alex Winning, Freddie Clemons, Ollie Weir, Nathan Sanders, Jack Humphrey, Josh Roberts, Zach Miah, Charlie Winter, Jake Richardson, Will Marriott, Sam Lock, Louie Newton, Caitlin Buckley, Sophie Woodhead, Scarlett Richardson, Katie Bates, Isobel Lock, Martha Peters and Nicola Wodzisz. Notable performances included some AGS county champions including: Nikki Wodzisz 1st junior girls javelin, Issy Lock 2nd inter girls LJ, Caitlin Buckley, 1st senior girls 100, Jake Richardson 3rd junior boys HJ, Louie Newton 3rd junior boys javelin, F. Hawkins 1st senior boys 100 and 110H, Ned Campbell 2nd senior boys 800, George Fox-Rowe 1st senior boys HJ, Ollie Wear 2nd senior boys HJ and 1st discus, Zac Cale 1st senior boys TJ.

Congratulations to all, especially Jake and Nikki who represented Warwickshire at the Mason Trophy Inter-counties event, and Freddie and Caitlin whose efforts gained them a place at the prestigious English Schools Finals. Good luck!

The 'Super 6' event is a long-standing fixture in South Warwickshire (much akin to the schools' cup) where 6 athletes compete in 1 track (100,200 or 800m) and 1 field event (shot put, javelin or long jump). The year 8 girls' team (Connie Gregory, Ellie Davis, Beany Oldfield, Ava Goodman, Mila Cooper, Sanvi Surapeni) finished a very creditable 2nd place to an exceptional Stratford Girls' team.

The year 9 team (Nikki Wodzisz, Martha Peters, Raluca Tataru, Holly Saunders, Emily Birchall, Evie Manning) went one better finishing 1st and qualifying for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Finals. We wish them well. The boys event unfortunately clashed with the regional school's cup final, allowing some new faces to participate in the year 8 team, finishing in 5th place. The year 9 team included some very talented individuals and finished a creditable 3rd.

Unfortunately due to scheduling issues, the South Warwickshire School Championships for year 7, 8 and 9 could not be held and we are really disappointed so many of our students could not take part. Fingers crossed a date can be agreed for next year and we can defend our overall title!

Sports Day 2022



On Monday 11th July, just as the scorching weather rolled in, Alcester Grammar School geared up for it's first 'proper' Sports Day in 3 years... the excitement was palpable amongst students and staff! We even had our own in-house drone in operation for the duration of the morning, which caught some brilliant shots, as well as Mr Smith and Miss Dilkes in their usual capacity as 'official photographers'.



Sports Day 2022



As Dobell, Newport, Spencer and Wells made their way to the fields - it was fantastic to see all of the school together again for a day of sport and enjoyment. A lovely atmosphere ensued and with music playing and every student from years 7 to 12 cheering vehemently for their House, it was a real success.

Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather conditions, Tug of War in the afternoon had to be cancelled but this did not detract from what a wonderful morning of Athletics it was!



Although encouraging all students to take part and enjoy the day is the most important aspect, there is of course the matter of points on the day.

This year they were as follows:

Dobell - 897

Newport - 981

Spencer - 932

Wells - 915

Congratulations to Newport!

We are already looking forward to what Sports Day 2023 will hold!



Sports Awards 2022

Two short days after Sports Day, the return of our annual Sports Awards evening was upon us.

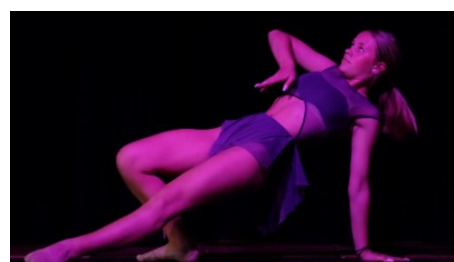
With students, and Mr Chapman-Palmer, playing buoyant and fun musical pieces throughout the drinks reception, it was a glorious evening from the start, with parents and students mingling in the sun over drinks and snacks.



Amelia in year 10 opened proceedings with a stunning contemporary dance routine which set the tone for the awards and round ups to follow. Mr Thomas then welcomed guests to the first face to face Sports Awards in 3 years and 'cut the ribbon' on celebrations.

Sporting round ups ensued, as well as recognition for specific sporting 'MVPs'. The awards then followed on, with students from years 7 to 10 being nominated in the categories - and in some cases awarded with the accolade of - Progress in Sport, Dedication to Sport, Sportsperson of the Year and Team of the Year.

Ms Thorpe then closed the night and thanked all parents, students and staff for their support of the school, and sport.



To reiterate what was said on the night - just being in the room at Sports Awards is a huge thing in itself, given that we have only 180 student spaces for over 600 students! Being nominated is quite the achievement also. Sport at AGS is open to all students so please do get involved as much as you possibly can, and then hopefully we will see you this time next year in the theatre.



Sports Awards 2022



A huge thank you to all students who helped out on the night - be that performances, musical interludes or otherwise. It was all absolutely amazing. We hope nobody is missed in this list:

Amelia Wilshaw, Bryn Patel Stephens, Joel Davies, Jan Micheli, Adam Chadzynski, Isaac Rogers, Alec Banner



Thank you!

Staff on the night:

Dave Smith, Alex Swan, Sue Armitage, Kim Owen, Sean Clifford, Mandy Newton, Richard Chapman-Palmer.

Staff who help with/support sport all year round:

Site team, ICT team, Senior Leadership Team, Peter Reeves, Gill Moss, Josh Hemming, Andy Butterworth
Andy Jervis, Felicity Drinkwater, Charles Gill, Pete Watson, Sean Clifford

Finally:

The PE Department!

Special thanks to Drew Murray-Gill for her hard work and help over the last few months, and Rachael Powell for her tireless organisation of the event.

Roll on Sports Awards 2023! - Mr Thomas

Duke of Edinburgh News



It's been another busy Duke of Edinburgh season with 5 expeditions completed since April.

The 98 Bronze DofE students had a very chilly introduction to DofE with a particularly frosty night on their training expedition at Blackwell Court.

All teams went on to successfully completing their Bronze assessed expedition in and around the Malvern Hills in May.





The Silver students got through a challenging practice expedition in the Peak District with some steep inclines and particularly friendly farm animals to navigate around on their journey from Eyam in the north to Waterhouses in the south of the White Peak.

A combination of sharper navigation skills and in some cases, significantly lighter rucksacks, meant that the groups seemed to get through the assessed expedition in the Long Mynd with relative ease.

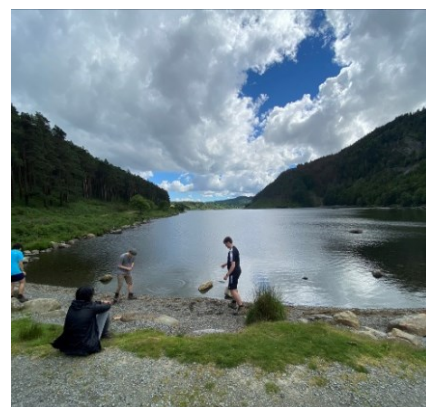
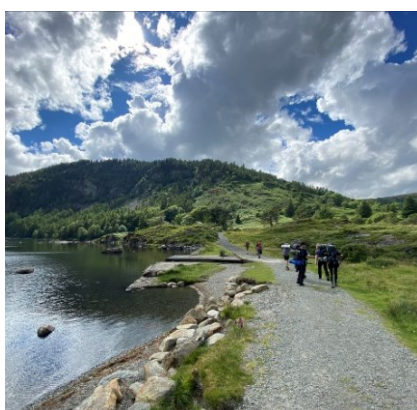




The final expedition of this term saw 52 Gold students tackle the Snowdonia hills between Dolwyddelan and Llanfairfechan.

A relatively cold, wet June meant that many of the upland areas were particularly boggy for the time of year, adding to the challenge of covering 60+ kilometres in 3 days. Fortunately, spirits weren't dampened too much by heavy rain on Friday night.

The 9 teams will now be in a much better position to tackle the challenges of the Black Mountains at the end of September which in recent years has proved to be a wet one!





Many congratulations to the following 45 students who have completed an award since the last newsletter:

Gold: Klaudia Polziec, Aleks Owusu-Finkgraf, Thomas Porton, Alice Brazier

Silver: Amy, Hull, Reuben Knight, Samuel Hattersley, Anna Banks, George Deeley-Graham, Zac Cale, Robin Harper, Felicity Birt, Eleanor Walters, Adele Cobbold, Daniel Cooke, Emily Flower, Theo James

Bronze: Kareena Hayer, Edward Pearce, Theo Hunter, Eve Hatzipanagou, Gianveer Heer, Jacob Wright, Holly Saunders, Kajsa Busby Tomkins, Oliver Haywood, Isabelle Arthur, Alexander Bendall, Millie Anderson, Nina Price, Mischa Hall, Summer Hijazi, Joseph Needham, Kate Pardoe, Matthew Ellam, Ben Mason, Jacob Pons, Reuben Redshaw, Jefrin Peter, Alex Putt, Matteo Pascoe, Nikola Wodzisiz, Eli Long, Oliver Bass, Emily Birchall

As always, there are still plenty of current and ex-students out there who still need to finish their award so please email me at a.jervis@alcesterags.com if you need any help accessing eDofE and completing your award. Remember all sections need an assessor report which contains the start and end dates, a comment, signature and assessor contact details in order to be signed off. For more information and resources please scan the QR code.



**To access AGS DofE
resources and information...**



Year 11 last day

ags



Year 11 last day

ags



Year 11 Prom

ags



Year 11 Prom

ags



Year 13 last day

ags



Year 13 last day

ags



Kenya training expedition



A 45 degree temperature swing. The difference 5 months makes.

Back in January year 13 students training for their Kenya expedition this summer climbed Pen-Y-Fan in the Brecon Beacons. The wind chill took the temperature down to minus 15 - something near to what they will experience at 5000m up Mount Kenya.

Year 12 students climbed the Long Mynd in June on the hottest day of the year in 30 degrees - appropriate training for the sultry 2023 expedition to Ghana.





Vocal concert—June 2022



Year 7 recycling project. Class 7t3 made mini models of insects or plants using reused paper and cardboard from home—June 2022

Students demonstrating practical work in the Biology department on Open Evening—June 2022

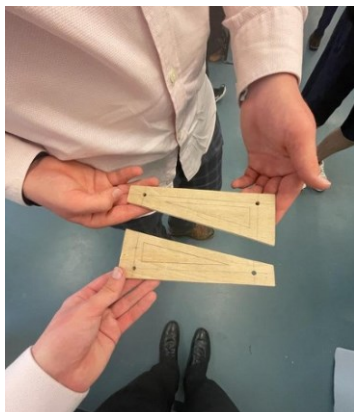


Wimbledon trip—July 2022



In July, a superb AGS sixth form design team competed in the WMG academy Design and Make challenge. A fantastic effort, with the team winning one of the four categories.

Well done to Alex Cremin, Jack Rowley, Alessia de Feo and Jack Coleman!



Congratulations to seven of our year 12 students for their winning performance at the annual Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting challenge at the University of Birmingham.

Louis McCarthy, Sam Johnson, James Chalmers, James Freeman, Charlie Walter, Arthur Trotter and Rosie Jeffs adopted Senior Leadership Team roles at a fictional town council.



Assessors asked the teams to make recommendations based on common issues and financial data faced by the public sector, including employment, environmental issues and social care, delivering a report and a presentation as well as responding quickly to the potential fallout from their decisions.

Congratulations to the whole team, with a special mention to Louis, who was awarded Key Contributor for the team.





7MSP adding thoughtful and mindful messages of positivity to our “ AGS Happiness tree”



Please do get in touch if your child has achieved or participated in anything outside of school that we should be aware of. We love to hear from you and always welcome the opportunity to celebrate our students' accomplishments within the wider community.



The poster features a green background with a white central box. At the top left, there is a logo for 'BE WISE IMMUNISE' with the tagline 'IMMUNISATION TEAM KEEPING YOU SAFE' and an illustration of diverse children. At the top right, the 'NHS' logo is displayed above the text 'Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust'. The main title 'Summer immunisation clinics' is in large blue font, followed by the question 'Did your child miss their vaccinations at school in the past two years?'. Below this, text explains that children in school years 8, 9, 10, or 11 should book a clinic. It also states that clinics are available at various centres across Coventry and Warwickshire during the summer holidays. An illustration of a doctor in a white coat and mask administering a vaccine to a child in an orange shirt and blue pants is shown. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the white box. At the bottom of the poster, a blue banner contains the booking URL and a note to contact a GP if unsure.

BE WISE IMMUNISE
IMMUNISATION TEAM
KEEPING YOU SAFE

NHS
Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust

Summer immunisation clinics

Did your child miss their vaccinations at school in the past two years?

If your child is in school years 8, 9, 10 or 11, book them in for one of our summer immunisation clinics.

Clinics are available at centres across Coventry and Warwickshire throughout the summer holidays.

To book a clinic appointment, go to
<https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/userlogin.php>
Contact your GP if you are unsure if your child missed their vaccinations.

Warwickshire County Council is running a project to improve the Annual Review Process in Warwickshire. As well as meeting statutory requirements they would like families to have a positive experience of Annual Reviews. As part of this they are seeking the view of parents and carers **whose children have an Education Health and Care Plan** which has **had, or was due to have**, an **Annual Review** between **1st June 2021** and **31st July 2022**.

To access the survey please scan the QR code. If you would prefer a paper copy of this survey please contact sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk to request this.

This survey can be made available in other languages, again please contact sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk to request this if required.

If you have any further queries, please contact sendchange@warwickshire.gov.uk





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Book online at
<http://bit.ly/DWSCSummerCourse>

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office@draycotewater.co.uk 01788 811153 / 814418

SPORTS HALL

The aim of Alcester Grammar School Sports Facility is to develop sport, particularly for young participants, by making the facility available to sports clubs who offer structured sporting opportunities, or by providing sessions run by qualified coaches.

The Sports Hall is available for booking 6-10pm Monday-Friday. Weekend availability is dependent on business needs.

THINKING OF STARTING A NEW CLASS OR A NEW VENTURE?

Booking charges per hour:

Sports Hall (whole) £30

Sports Hall (half) £20

For further details please contact the school on 01789 762494 or email Louise Bennett, lettings@alcesterags.com for more information.



Term dates 2022/23

Autumn Term	
Staff INSET in school	Monday 5th September 2022
Term begins	Tuesday 6th September 2022—Year 7 Welcome Day (No other year groups in school)
	Wednesday 7th September 2022 Year 12 Welcome Day, Year 7 normal lessons (No other year groups in school)
	Thursday 8th September 2022 onwards (All year groups in school)
Half term	Monday 24th – Friday 28th October 2022 (inclusive)
INSET DAY	Friday 11th November 2022 (subject to change)
Term ends for students	Wednesday 14th December 2022
Term ends for staff	Thursday 15th December 2022
Spring Term	
Term begins	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
INSET DAY	Friday 10th February 2023 (subject to change)
Half term	Monday 20th – Friday 24th February 2023 (inclusive)
Term ends	Friday 31st March 2023
Summer Term	
Term begins	Monday 17th April 2023
May Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May 2023
Half term	Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June 2023
Term ends	Friday 21st July 2023

Dates for your Diary

All of our school events are available to view on the school calendar.

Visit alcesterags.co.uk to access the calendar and download it.

