



Principal's UPDATE

15th September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we conclude the second week of this new school year, I am pleased to share with you that despite some transport challenges for many families, we have had an exceptionally positive and heartwarming start to the term.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our students, both new and returning. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and commitment to our school community has not gone unnoticed. From the very first day, it was evident that they all entered the new school year with a positive attitude and a readiness to embrace the challenges and opportunities it brings - very much reflecting the core ethos of our school - to be decent human beings and engaged learners.

This update will be published fortnightly, and I hope that it will continue to provide an insight into school life - please do take the time to read through to the end. It was a pleasure to welcome all year 12 parents into school last Monday and I very much look forward to talking with more of you over the coming weeks at the various parent information evenings and school events. The school calendar can be found on our website [here](#).

With all best wishes for a peaceful weekend and with thanks again for all your support since the start of term,

Best wishes,

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

Ms Rachel Thorpe

Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures

Routes into Languages Summer Immersion Challenge

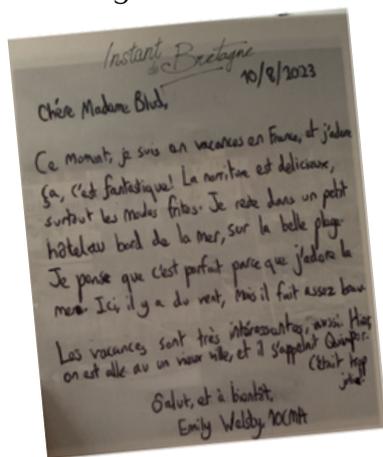
The MFL department would like to congratulate the following students for getting involved with and submitting some excellent work for the Routes into Languages Summer Immersion Challenge:

Holly Hanson & Eva Williams - year 8, bronze certificate for 4 tasks completed.

Oscar McKerron - year 8, gold certificate for 12 tasks completed.

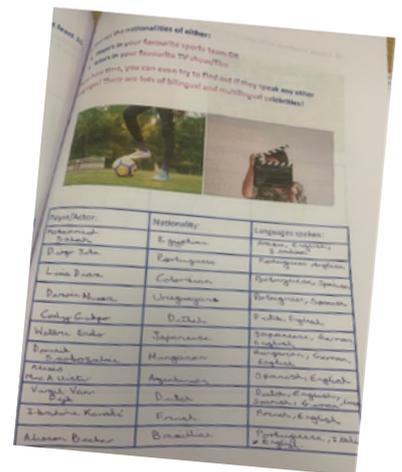
Ryan Patra - year 9, gold certificate for 12 tasks completed.

Emily Welsby - year 10, platinum certificate for completing the gold and more complex challenges.



You will receive your certificate and commendations soon!

Well done!



Y12 Summer Work

Judging by these submissions, there will be much creative experimentation going on in the Art department.

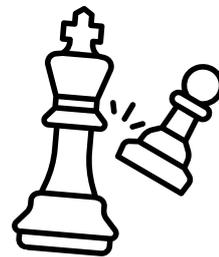


This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures



Chess Club is up and running on **Thursdays in MaO** (12:40 - 13:30).

All Year groups are welcome to come along, meet new friends and enjoy a game of chess.



Can you help?

We are requesting donations of the following second-hand items to help support both our extracurricular and personal development programmes - please do send any donations to the front office. Thank you in advance for any help that you can give.

- Lego (as much as possible - although please no Duplo or alternative brands)
- Chess sets
- Board games such as 4 in a Row
- Uno cards
- Rubik's Cubes
- One adult bike
- Bike puncture repair kits
- 3 ironing boards (in reasonably good condition)
- 3 steam irons (again in good condition)
- Dressmaking shears
- Resuscitation dolls/manikins for teaching First Aid
- Unwanted musical instruments (small - not pianos or drum kits etc.)



News and Notices



Safe Parking and Driving

A few polite requests for any parent/carer or student driving to AGS:

1) Please do not simply stop and drop off in front of the middle school gate. This not only blocks the road but stops pupils using the pavement to access the pedestrian gate and crossing - they have to walk into the road to avoid you. Please drop slightly further away to keep our pupils safe.

2) Please do not come on site whilst buses are loading and unloading at either end of the day. If you are on-site, please drive slowly and take particular care at the pupil crossing.

3) Please remember to be considerate of our neighbours when parking in (or driving down) local streets. Please in particular do not park so that drives get blocked or an emergency vehicle such as fire engine cannot easily get through.

Sixth Form Careers Interviews

Are you involved in academia? In industry? Are you a clinician? Are you in the legal profession? Do you Interview for a living? If so, the AGS Aim High and careers programmes would like to hear from you.

With hundreds of students applying for a myriad of courses, many requiring high level interviews, our well established mock interview programme aims to give students the best preparation for what lies ahead. As ever our students are setting their sights high with almost a quarter of the year applying to Oxbridge or another course requiring a high level interview. Medicine is once again especially popular.

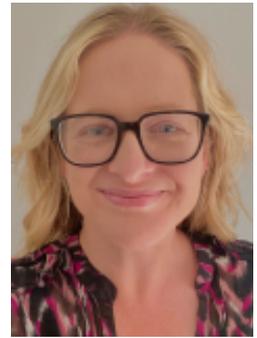
Huge thanks to the many members of the AGS community who have helped with this before, we very much welcome established interviewers as well as new volunteers. [If you think you could help by offering a mock interview to one or more of our high achievers please click here to fill out this short form.](#)

Many thanks

Mr C Gill - Head of Aim High
Mrs D Perry - Head of Careers



News and Notices



Message from Mrs Price

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, having now joined the senior leadership team at AGS. It has been a wonderful first couple of weeks, and a big thank you to all the students for making me feel so welcome.

I will be responsible for looking at personal development, including our extra-curricular offering, PSHE curriculum, outreach work, and the AGS House system, among other things. One of the first things we are introducing this year is our new Life Programme. This will run every Friday morning, in an extended form time, for all years of the school.

What is the Life Programme?

It is a programme of activities/ speakers/ opportunities for students focused on building key life skills. This will range from; understanding about the importance of nutrition and exercise, to learning how finances work, to knowing how to take care of a bike/ car, to learning how to engage in our democratic system, to learning about world events, to working on developing literacy skills and oracy, to taking opportunities to give back to the school and wider communities.

What is the rationale?

Personal development is a key part of our school development plan. The Life programme supports the AGS ethos that students will leave us with more than just good grades; they will also develop key life skills, and become 'decent human beings' who understand how to give back to society. It is designed to complement and add to our PSHE provision.

How can you support your child?

The Life programme curriculum is hugely varied. You can support your child by talking to them about what they have learned, and where possible, provide opportunities for them to build on their learning at home. For example, you could provide the opportunity for them to plan a food shop with a budget.

In addition, if you feel you have any skills you could offer to help deliver this curriculum, we would love to hear from you! For example, it may be you could come and deliver a yoga class, or come in to talk to students about how to look after your car, or give a talk about marketing a business (the list goes on).

If you have any questions or if feel you are able to help with any of this, please do get in touch with me. My email is s.price@alcestergs.com.

News and Notices

Message from Mrs Silcox - Exams

A reminder about the post result deadlines.
If you want to go ahead with a review of marking,
clerical re-check or to receive a copy of your paper to support
learning then please apply by 12pm Monday 18 September.



If you or anyone is interested in becoming an invigilator please email me
(exams@alcestergs.com). No experience is needed as training is provided. Flexible hours are
available and the rate of pay starts at £11.77 per hour.

The Autumn mock timetable will be published within the next couple of weeks.

Pupils in year 12 - if you had any arrangements for your GCSE exams please make sure you
have seen Mrs Brown our SENCO (even if you were here in year 11). Thank you to those who
have already done this.

Careers Update

It's a busy term for careers advice.... Year 13 pupils are working on their UCAS applications
and post 18 options. Year 11 pupils are starting to think about A level subjects, vocational
courses and apprenticeships.

Mrs Perry, our careers leader, is here to support with those choices. All year 11 pupils will
have a careers meeting from October and 6th form students can book now using the link
below.

Sixth Form Careers Interviews

Undecided about university or apprenticeship choices?
Unsure what careers your degree subject could lead to?
No idea what career you would like to do?

Sixth form pupils can book appointments here:



<https://brilliant-careers.reservio.com> or email d.perry@alcestergs.com

News and Notices

European Day of Languages T-Shirt Contest



Feeling creative?

Read on... and enter the European Day of Languages T-Shirt Contest. See the link at the bottom for more information.

Create your design/image/graphic and a chance to get your layout on the official 2024 EDL T-Shirt!

- 1) Please keep in mind that the design should be about languages, not countries. So please don't use flags or similar.
- 2) You can use up to 3 colours.
- 3) If you have versions using different colours, send all of them in one email, we will select the ones that we like the most.
- 4) Keep in mind that we need a simple design that is not too complex or that has small details. This will increase printing quality.
- 5) The design cannot go over the seams of the t-shirt, it must be placed on the front. Keep in mind that the maximum printing surface is 30 cm x 30 cm
- 6) The design cannot contain third party copyright logos or material.
- 7) By sending us the design you agree that we can use it free of charge on our websites, on the t-shirts and on promotional media (such as Facebook or flyers). Of course we will always add your name to it.
- 8) Submission deadline: 31 December 2023.

The winner will also receive up to 10 t-shirts to give to his/her classmates!

Look at the link below to see past entries & winners and to enter!

<https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/EDLT-ShirtContest/tabid/3147/Default.aspx>

And just one more...

European Day of Languages competition

Celebrated on 26 September every year, the European Day of Languages (EDL) is designed to promote the importance of language learning and protecting the linguistic heritage.

The European Union has 24 official languages. These are Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Irish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish.

To enter this competition you can submit videos, drawings, photos, short articles etc. to finish this sentence 'For me, learning a language is...' This is to tell us what learning a language means to you. This aims to showcase the magic and importance of language learning.

Please email or hand in your entries to your language teacher by Friday 29th September.

DofE



Bronze (Y9), Silver (Y10) and Gold (Y12) DofE will be launched at the end of September. If you are enrolling for Silver or Gold, please make sure you have completed any previous levels of the award i.e. make sure you have completed Bronze if you want to enrol for Silver.

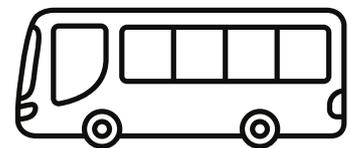
Certificates and badges for students in Y10 and 11 will be given out in awards assembly.

Staying safe - quick reminder



Please do ensure that your son or daughter is aware of the dangers of being in large WhatsApp groups - or of posting ANY photos online (however normal and day-to-day) into groups where they do not know all of the members personally. It is worth noting that **the official age for using WhatsApp is 16.**

Transport issues - quick reminder

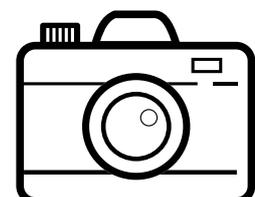


If you need to contact the Principal about the ongoing challenges following the closure of The Green Bus company please do only use the email address enquiries@alcestergs.com. This address is ONLY for travel-related concerns at this stage.

School Photographs

Students in Years 7-12 had portrait photographs taken last week. Please ask them for the yellow order sheet if you wish to view or order any photographs. There is free delivery to AGS if you order by 16th September.

If they have lost the order form then please contact the school photography company by email on info@schoolphotographs.co.uk or call 01295 250 812 and select option 1;





2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn Term

Term begins: Tuesday 5th September 2023 (Year 7 and Year 12 only)

Wednesday 6th September 2023 (All year groups in school)

Half Term: Thursday 26th October to Friday 3rd November 2023

Term ends: Friday 22nd December 2023

Spring Term

Term begins: Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Term ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term

Term begins: Monday 8th April 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Term ends: Friday 19th July 2024

Inset days (no school for students)

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 17th November 2023

Monday 8th January 2024

Friday 19th January 2024

Friday 24th May 2024