

# ags

# Principal's UPDATE

29th September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

As this newsletter demonstrates, this week we have had a push across the school on three 'L's' - 'Languages', 'Life', and 'Literacy'. This morning it was an incredible pleasure to walk around the school and witness students engaging with our new 'Life Programme' - which as page 6 shows, saw Year 13s engaging with cooking, sewing, washing, first aid, budgeting, bike maintenance and far more..... At the other end of the school, key stage 3 focused on learning skills, literacy, online safety, and news and current affairs. My sincere thanks go to all staff who have prepared the sessions and also to parents who have donated items such as bikes to allow them to happen. Please do talk to your son or daughter about what they learnt!

On page 4 you can also read more about how we celebrated European Day of Languages. Additionally, all students in the school have been asked to complete a survey to share with us the languages that they speak both at home and in the community. If your son or daughter does speak another language in addition to English, please do give them some encouragement to complete the form on Satchel One - we would very much like to celebrate the vast diversity of languages spoken in our community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who further to my message last week, now avoid pulling into the space in front of the emergency access gate when collecting or dropping off students. We have also this week added new clear signage, as we work to try and keep all our students (and others in the local community) as safe as possible. The support of you all with this would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a good weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Thorpe".

Ms Rachel Thorpe  
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

# This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures

Extra-Curricular clubs are up and running!

A huge range of clubs are running in both lunchtimes and after school for all year groups. The timetable for this half term can be found on the [website](#), and we will keep adding to this as new clubs are launched.

In my assembly to students last week I set all students the challenge to try at least one club a week between now and half term. At AGS, we believe strongly in the importance of participating in extra-curricular activities. The benefits are massive! From making new friends, to learning new skills, to building self confidence. It can also have a positive impact on academic achievement.

If students have any ideas of clubs they would like to see happening, or indeed set up themselves, please do encourage them to get in touch with me.

Here are a small selection of photos showing some of the activities that have taken place this week.

Mrs Price



# Literacy for Life

## Year 7 Parents

Please can you make sure that your child has a reading book in their bag on Friday mornings. This can be a fiction or non-fiction book, novel or biography or factual information text, but should be suitably challenging for their reading level. "Real" paper books or E-books on an e-reader (e.g. Kindle) are fine, but students will not be able to use phones or tablets for reading. *Why?*

## KS3 Do2 Library

Opens Monday & Thursday lunchtimes from 2nd October in Do2.

Find a book to read, sign it out. Return it when finished.

To follow:

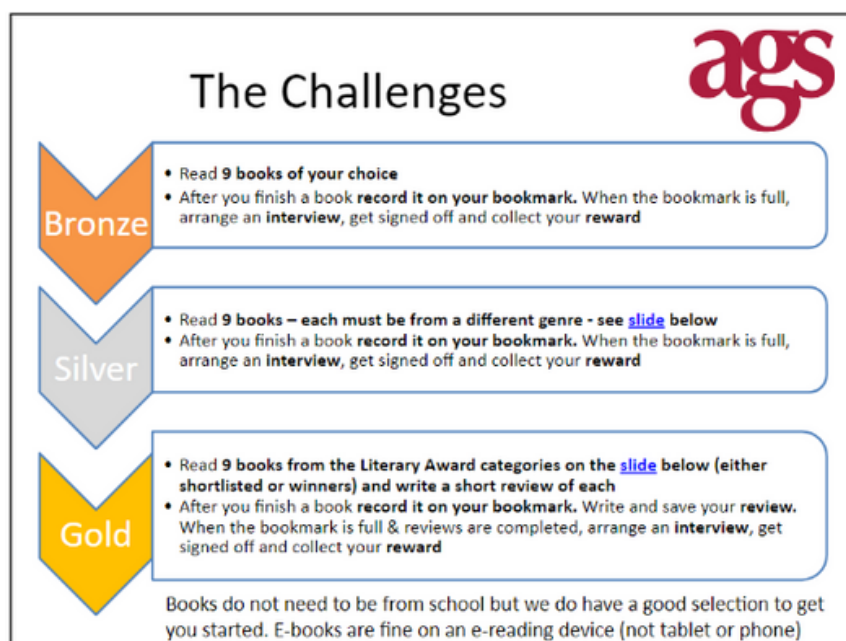
- Reading Challenge Awards
- Competitions
- Book Clubs

And more...



## AGS Reading Awards Challenge

During their Life sessions, students will embark on a reading journey. You can find out more about it on the school Intranet \ AGS Links \ KS3 Reading Awards Challenge along with high quality reading suggestions and book lists to guide you on your way.



Year 8 will also be signed up after half-term, but are welcome to start the Challenge immediately if they wish to do so!

# Languages Update

## European Day of Languages



Tuesday 26th September was EDL. Students were able to participate in a number of quizzes during tutor time to celebrate the number of languages spoken in Europe. In addition, Miss Litynska delivered an assembly where students learnt about the importance of knowing other languages in a global world.

These are some of the most interesting and surprising facts that students found out:

- There are about 7000 languages spoken in the world. 350 of these are spoken only in London
- Linguists find it easier to get jobs and can access better paid ones.
- Google translate is not always straightforward
- Research shows that learning a language can make you better at learning other subjects.
- Arsène Wenger and Natalie Portman speak 6 languages!

## Competitions

Thank you to Amber Johnson, Sayona Shastri, Ben Webster and Henrik Philippou in year 7, Lottie Jones in year 8 and Aaryav Chatterjee in year 9 for entering the European Day of Languages competition about what learning a language means to them. Your entries have been submitted with the Global School Alliance and we wish you the best of luck! This competition is now closed.

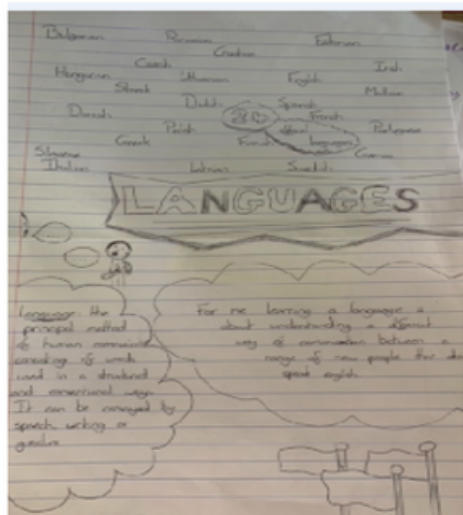
For me, learning a language is taking me a step closer towards my aspiration of becoming a polyglot. A polyglot is someone who understands multiple languages and I plan on visiting Antartica. The place I have chosen to go to when I am older is Newgrange III station. Over there they speak German. When I have finished school I want to be placed in Germany so that I can go over to Germany and study the date in which scientists in Antartica are passing to us. My favourite type of person is the European person because it is very clever and I think the most beautiful.



Learning a language

Learning a language is like a superpower. You can communicate with people and find out about different traditions, religions and cultures. It can also reveal a whole world of opportunities, such as being able to read books available in other languages and understand movies and short films as well. Speaking more than one language could create a sense of common ground/belonging if you know or found others that speak the same language and can be very useful in going to other countries to visit.

English - Hello  
Hindi - नमस्ते (Namaste)  
French - Bonjour  
German - Hallo



# Languages Update

Thanks also to Amber Johnson in year 7 for entering the European Day of languages T-shirt competition. More details on satchel one / SMHW. You can enter this competition until 31st December 2023. Please send your language teachers a copy of your entry.



## Work experience abroad

A massive well done to the following students who completed one of their work experience weeks abroad!.

Hannah Coward spent one week in Barcelona in June 2023 working in a school. She found it interesting to learn about a different school system. The experience helped to improve her Spanish as she had to speak to younger children who could not communicate in English. In addition, she really enjoyed it because after a few she started understanding Catalanian, too.

Pearl Erskine participated in a work and study abroad experience. This means she spent one week in Valencia not only working in a nursery, but also attended Spanish lessons organised by the company. She stayed with a host family and the company organised activities in the evening such as cooking Fidegua (a traditional dish in Valencia) and touring the city. Pearl thinks that this experience was really good to help her improve her confidence and it was nice to get to know other people from other countries who were also learning Spanish.

Sam Curry completed one week in Lille, France, last April. She worked in a hotel and found it was really fun working behind reception, as well as the breakfast and housekeeping teams. She would recommend it to other students as it would help them improve their language skills in a more casual way. Sam travelled and stayed in a flat with other British students of the same age. She said it was fun spending a week in a foreign country and exploring. Although the idea of carrying out work experience abroad can be nerve racking, she felt that she understood more than she thought she would.

Natalie Thomas went to Lille and worked at a Bowling Alley and lived with a host family for a week. She had an amazing week and loved that she got to speak French every day, massively grew in confidence and had to be an adult; - getting herself from A-B and working out bus and metro times etc. She highly encourages people to go for it and to stay with a host family too!

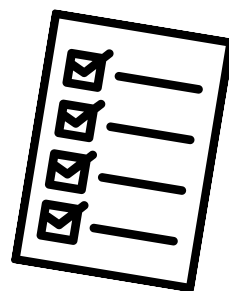
Agatha Lovell worked at a school outside Paris and organised this herself. She stayed with her aunt and gained a lot linguistically during her time in France. She was also able to visit various places while there.

If you are studying languages at A Level and would like to find out more about work experience abroad, please contact Blue Stamp Travel [www.bluestamptravel.com](http://www.bluestamptravel.com) or get a leaflet from Ms. Valera in the MFL department.

# Year 13 Focus- Life Programme



# News and Notices



## Exams update

Autumn mock timetables are now available for year 11 and year 13 to access via MYAGS. Once logged in select assessments along the task bar and then examination timetable. The timetables are also available [here](#). You must know your timetable and email me at [exams@alcestergs.com](mailto:exams@alcestergs.com) if you have any queries. Rooms and seats will be allocated soon.

Year 12 mocks will take place 15 to 22 December and the timetable will be published after half term.

Thank you,  
Mrs Silcox, Examinations Officer.



# Upcoming Dates

<b>Friday, September 29</b>
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
EPQ - Project Product Review
<b>Saturday, September 30</b>
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
<b>Sunday, October 1</b>
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
<b>Monday, October 2</b>
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
Week 2
<b>Tuesday, October 3</b>
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
<b>Thursday, October 5</b>
Y12 Subject Study Skills Day
<b>Monday, October 9</b>
Y12 classroom tests
Week 1
Y13 UCAS - Internal AGS deadline for 'priority' applicants with guaranteed pre-half term processing
<b>Tuesday, October 10</b>
Y12 classroom tests
EPQ Presentation Evening
Y13 EPQ presentation evening
<b>Wednesday, October 11</b>
Y12 classroom tests