



Principal's Update

Dear All,

As this edition of the Principal's Update shows, life at AGS continues apace. It is, however, important that I (as Principal) continually reflect on where AGS sits within the wider educational picture. Therefore, it has been of significant importance to me in recent weeks to attend the annual ASCL conference in Liverpool, to see AGS host (in conjunction with the Grammar School Head's Association) nearly 40 aspiring middle and senior leaders from other grammar schools across the UK and to see both students and staff continue to work in collaboration with students and colleagues from partner schools in the Three Rivers Alliance.

Key themes from the ASCL conference included funding for schools, SEND and Inclusion, Ofsted reform and societal relationships between parents and schools.

At AGS, I am fortunate that the vast majority of parents and carers work so well with us, and I am also delighted to share with you that from September 2025 we will be opening a new improved space for our pupils who access SEND support.

31st March 2025

Finances do, however, remain a significant challenge for us; despite very significant staffing cuts in the last 18 months, the budget for September is a considerable way from balancing.

We will shortly be re-launching our 'Assist Give and Support Programme' - however, in the short term, if you can make a donation to the school - please do click here to donate directly or alternatively, consider supporting the activity of our wonderful PTFA.

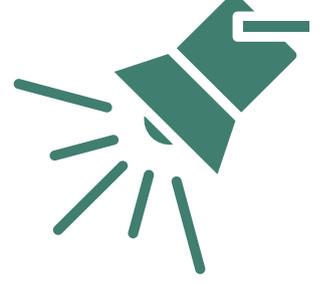
Finally, please do talk to your young person about road safety - whether they travel by foot, bus or car. In the last two weeks, we have seen far too many 'near misses' with our students involved as drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians. We, likewise, will continue to do all we can to educate our young people in these areas.

With all best wishes for the fortnight ahead,

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School





Language SPOTLIGHT

Marathi



प्राचार्यांचे अद्ययावत

नमसकार सर्वांना,

प्राचार्यांच्या अद्ययावत माहितीच्या या आवृत्तीमध्ये, AGS मधील जीवन वेगाने सुरू असल्याचे दिसून येते. तथापि, (प्राचार्य म्हणून) AGS व्यापक शैक्षणिक चित्रात कोठे बसते याचा मी सतत विचार करणे महत्त्वाचे आहे. म्हणून, अलीकडील आठवड्यांत लिव्हरपूलमध्ये वार्षिक ASCL परिषदेत सहभागी होणे, (व्याकरण शाळा मुख्याध्यापक संघटनेच्या सहकार्याने) AGS ने यूकेमधील इतर व्याकरण शाळांमधील सुमारे 40 महत्त्वाकांक्षी मध्यम आणि वरिष्ठ नेत्यांचे आयोजन करणे आणि विद्यार्थी आणि कर्मचार्यांना श्री रिक्वर्स अलायन्समधील भागीदार शाळांमधील विद्यार्थी आणि सहकार्यांसोबत एकत्रितपणे काम करताना पाहणे माझ्यासाठी खूप महत्त्वाचे होते.

ASCL परिषदेतील प्रमुख विषयांमध्ये शाळांसाठी निधी, विशेष गरजा शिक्षण (SEND) आणि समावेश, ऑफस्टेड सुधारणा आणि पालक आणि शाळांमधील सामाजिक संबंध यांचा समावेश होता.

AGS मध्ये, मी भाग्यवान आहे की बहुतेक पालक आणि काळजीवाहू आमच्यासोबत खूप चांगले काम करतात आणि मला तुमच्यासोबत हे देखील शेअर करायला आनंद होत आहे की सप्टेंबर 2025 पासून आम्ही विशेष गरजा शिक्षण (SEND) समर्थनाचा लाभ घेणाऱ्या आमच्या विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी एक नवीन सुधारित जागा सुरू करणार आहोत.

31 मार्च 2025

अर्थव्यवस्था, मात्र, आमच्यासाठी एक मोठे आव्हान आहे; गेल्या १८ महिन्यांत कर्मचार्यांमध्ये खूप मोठी कपात करूनही, सप्टेंबर महिन्याचे बजेट संतुलित होण्यापासून खूप दूर आहे.

आम्ही लवकरच आमचा 'सहाय्य द्या आणि समर्थन कार्यक्रम' पुन्हा सुरू करणार आहोत - तथापि, अल्पकाळात, जर तुम्ही शाळेला देणगी देऊ शकत असाल, तर कृपया थेट देणगी देण्यासाठी येथे क्लिक करा किंवा आमच्या अद्भुत पीटीएफएच्या उपक्रमांना समर्थन देण्याचा विचार करा.

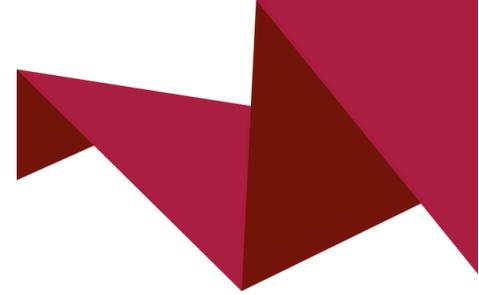
शेवटी, कृपया तुमच्या मुलांशी रस्त्याच्या सुरक्षिततेबद्दल बोला - ते पायी, बसने किंवा कारने प्रवास करत असले तरी. गेल्या दोन आठवड्यांत, आमचे विद्यार्थी चालक, प्रवासी, सायकलस्वार आणि पादचारी म्हणून सहभागी असलेल्या 'जवळपास अपघातांच्या' खूप जास्त घटना घडल्या आहेत. आम्ही देखील आमच्या तरुणांना या क्षेत्रांमध्ये शिक्षित करण्यासाठी शक्य ते सर्व प्रयत्न करत राहू.

येणाऱ्या पंधरवड्यासाठी खूप खूप शुभेच्छा.

R Thayer

श्रीमती राचेल थॉर्प
प्राचार्य, अल्सेस्टर व्याकरण शाळा





This Fortnight at AGS

South Warwickshire Volleyball Friendly Tournament

Our volleyball teams showcased fantastic skill and collaboration at the recent South Warwickshire Volleyball friendly tournament. A huge congratulations to our U14/15 team who battled hard against strong opposition and secured 3rd place! Our U16 team, featuring a talented mix of Year 10 and Year 9 students, dominated the competition, winning every single set they played! **Well done to all the players involved.**



Year 9 were incredible last week!! They have been learning about food processing and made their own secondary processed food. (Wheat into flour-flour into pasta)
They showed complex skills by using the pasta machines to make tagliatelle from scratch to make a quick pasta & sauce.

Mrs Shipway



Year 12 Futures Evening

So many choices for our sixth form students! Last week we welcomed over 40 universities, apprenticeship providers and employers who supported our year 12 Futures Evening. Students and parents attended talks on apprenticeships, student finance, life beyond sixth form and Oxbridge applications.

The exhibition area was busy and it was fantastic to see so many of our amazing past pupils showcasing their careers.

Mrs Perry





CanSat Competition - 6th March 2025

One small step for man, one giant leap for AGS.

A huge well done to our CanSat team! After months of designing, building, and programming their CanSat (a satellite the size of a soft drink can), they witnessed its successful launch today. Despite some last-minute tinkering, soldering of crucial components, and a nail-biting battery change just before launch, the CanSat was safely nestled into the rocket. The students held their breath as it soared 300 metres into the sky at over 200mph. Thankfully, the parachute deployed flawlessly, allowing the CanSat a gentle descent back to Earth. Even more impressively, the small antenna was transmitting data, which the students successfully recorded.

A true team effort and a job well done!

A big well done to: Daniel P, Zoe S, Jakub S, Jakub P & Terence T



Mr Sindroja

Maths Feast Competition - 4th March 2025

A big well done to the AGS students who competed in the Maths Feast on Tuesday, 4th March. Facing tough competition from 17 teams across Warwickshire, the two AGS teams performed valiantly.

The girls' team achieved a remarkable feat, being the only school to score full marks in a very challenging problem-solving round.

The boys' team also excelled, finishing third overall. In the final points tally, the competition was incredibly close, with only three points separating the top three teams.

A big well done to: Thea I, Poppy T, Lexie M, Bexie M, Joel L, Jamie H, Leon S & Uly C

Mr Sindroja



Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition 2025

On Saturday 22 March 2025 a team of Year 8 and 9 students took part in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial competition at Coventry Magistrates' Court, which was the culmination of several months of hard work by the team.

During lunchtime club, the team has been learning the law and preparing a case of "Possession of an Offensive weapon". They have learnt their individual roles including lawyers, Magistrates, usher, legal adviser & witnesses so that they were able to present a trial both defending and prosecuting the case. This was an extensive amount of effort, requiring team members to write, learn & present their own parts, demonstrating a full understanding of the law in the case.



As part of the Club, the team have been privileged to have a presentation from a barrister at the Criminal Cases Review Commission, a presentation from Magistrates and a visit to Coventry Magistrates' Court to learn about court procedure & layout. These are wonderful opportunities that the team has relished.

On the competition day the team performed superbly in a highly competitive environment that required fast thinking on their feet whilst presenting their case. A huge well done to our team who have shown extraordinary dedication and commitment:-

Stefan D, Emily H, Katherine C, Anokhee K, Yin-Yee J, Will K, Anna B, Seren D, Iris F, Toby H, Ethan K, Ola H, Jamie B, Josh R, Ashani K and Ben F.

Huge congratulations to Stefan who won the Best Prosecuting Lawyer Award, and Anna and Seren who jointly won the Best Magistrate Award.

Also, a big thank you to our Year 12 & 13 mentors who prepared & supported the team every step of the way; Megan R, Gurleen B, Maria C, Adam T, Sophie M, Holly K, Eleanor R, Sophie W and Melissa M.

Mrs Thomas





Touch Rugby Qualifiers

The year 9/10 touch rugby team have qualified for the national finals by winning the West of England competition held at Oxford rugby club on the 21st March.

Several players also received invites to the TRY Sports centre of excellence, a fast track to national representation.

Any other students that are interested in playing a fast, non-contact version of the game please see Mr Richens.



Regional Champions

Having qualified in first place in the South-Warwickshire competition, the year 8 boys and year 8 girls sportshall athletics teams competed at the regional finals against 7 other teams from Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

Some fantastic performances enabled both teams to come away as regional champions!

This really is a rare achievement - a huge well done to all!

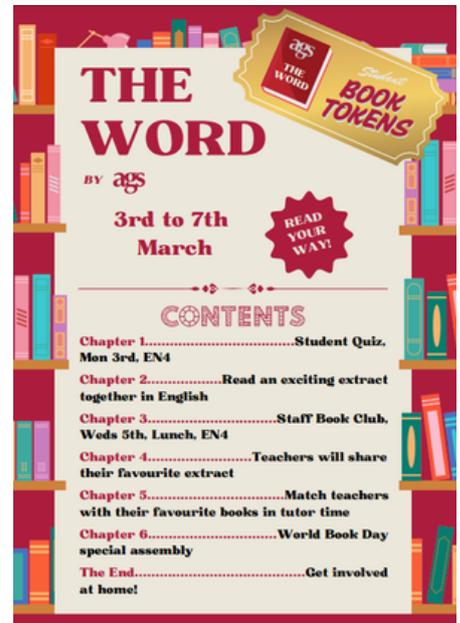


Mr Richens





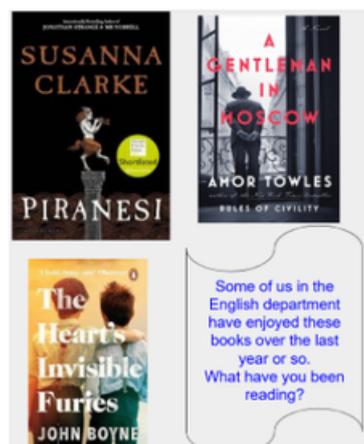
AGS English *The Word Festival 2025* Mr D'Amico



Thursday 6th March was World Book Day, and this year's theme was to 'read your own way'. Students across the school at AGS took part in a variety of activities during the week as part of our *The Word* festival in order to celebrate reading in a variety of ways.

During Tutor Time, students completed a quiz to match up teachers with their favourite books with some surprising revelations. *Willow* house won with 140 points, followed by *Alder*, *Hawthorn*, *Oak*, and *Birch*.

In English lessons across the school, students took part in a shared reading experience with an extract from *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, which led to some excellent discussion of where our names come from.



AGS Staff were able to come and take part in a book swap to share their favourite recent reads.

During lunchtimes, students could join in with quizzes in English rooms or the library about reading, with prizes to be won!

Overall, students and staff across the school enjoyed the opportunity to simply take a step back and think about what it is we read and why we do it.

Whether to learn about different times and places, develop our understanding of how other people may see the world, or simply for our own escapism, reading is a powerful thing for all of us, and *The Word* helped to show it.

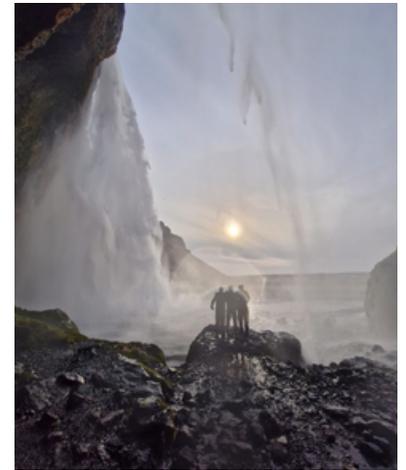


Iceland Trip



After the disruption at Heathrow airport last Friday resulted in an early morning coach trip to Beaconsfield Services and back, there was a real worry that the Geography trip to Iceland would either have to be completely rearranged or cancelled. Fortunately, the tour company managed to secure new flights and rearrange accommodation and tours enabling 30 students and 3 staff to land safely in Keflavik airport a little over 24 hours later than planned. We enjoyed a stunning 4 days across the south coast of Iceland from Reykjavik in the East to the beaches of Vik in the West.

Highlights included the spectacular black sand beach of Reynisfjara with hexagonal basalt column cliffs, Skogafoss, Seljalandsfoss and Gullfoss waterfalls, the Kerid volcanic crater and standing between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates at Thingvellir.



We strapped on crampons for a hike up the Solheimajokull glacier, visited a geothermal power station which contributes towards Iceland producing 100% renewable energy, drove through the town of Grindavik that has been evacuated since November 2024 due to the threat of volcanic eruptions, took an evening walk into Reykjavik, visited a geothermal greenhouse growing bananas and after all that activity, took advantage of the abundant hot water with a couple of visits to geothermal spas and swimming pools.

A superb group of students and a stunning country.

Many thanks to all involved.

Mr Jervis and the Geography Department

House Update



Alder



Oak



Birch



Willow



Hawthorn



It's all change!

Over the last few weeks many Year 12s have been busily preparing for House interviews, customising their election posters and wowing the voters at Year 12 hustings. **The results are in!**

Please see below for the new SALT 25-26 team:

Alder Senior Ambassadors: Emily B and Veeran G

Alder Deputy Ambassadors: Rohan D, Christian D, Lily R, Niki W

Birch Senior Ambassadors: Will H and Holly S

Birch Deputy Ambassadors: Niamh C, Seb G, Rugved S, Shresth U

Hawthorn Senior Ambassadors: Joseph M and David M

Hawthorn Deputy Ambassadors: Roisin B, Summer H, Georgia M, Elisa P

Oak Senior Ambassadors: Maria C and Oli H

Oak Deputy Ambassadors: Alexandru A, Arlo C, Eluisa D, Mia G

Willow Senior Ambassadors: Toby A and Daya K

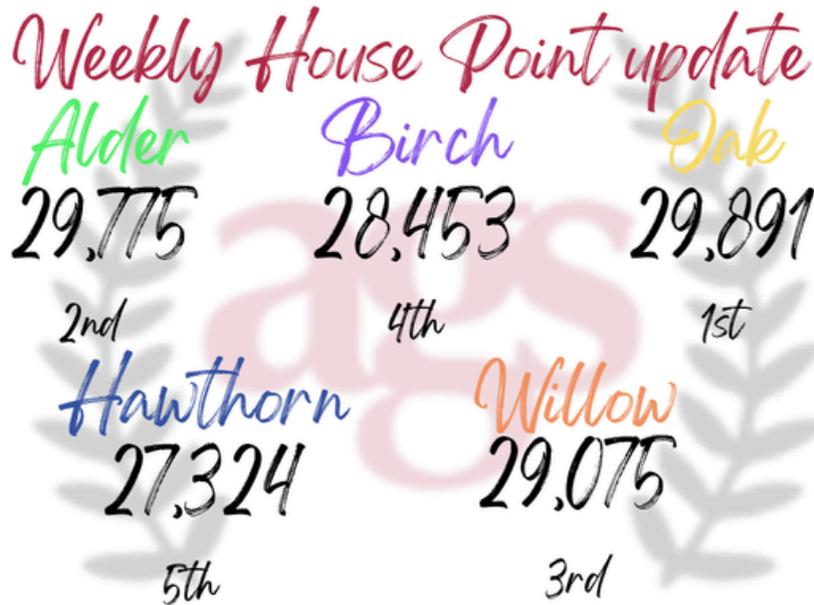
Willow Deputy Ambassadors: Emma D, Zara D, Dylan H, Emilie R

The Heads of Houses are really looking forward to working with you!





House Update



A big thank you...

A big thank you to our outgoing Year 13 SALT team- you have been a joy to work with as we have planted, watered and nurtured the seedlings of the new House system. Real trailblazers!

We will celebrate both SALT teams at House breakfasts next week - [more information and invitations to follow!](#)

The election process was formalised at the House assemblies this week where existing SALT handed over the mantle and wise words to the incoming SALT who in turn shared some (interesting) facts about themselves and their hopes and dreams for the new House year!

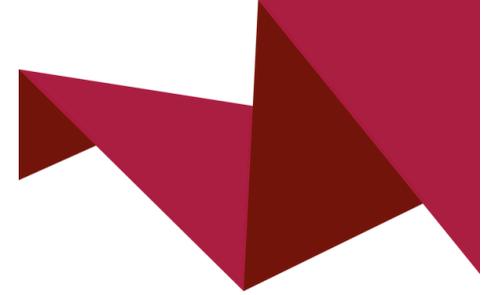


The House year runs from Easter to Easter and the House trophies will be awarded at the Celebration Assembly on the last day of term.

There is everything to play for during the last few weeks- [every House point counts!](#)

Mrs Bremner-Smith





News and Notices

Exams Update

Year 11, year 12 and year 13 summer timetables are now available on your [AGS portal](#).

Log in using your usual log in details. Once logged in select assessments and then examination timetable.

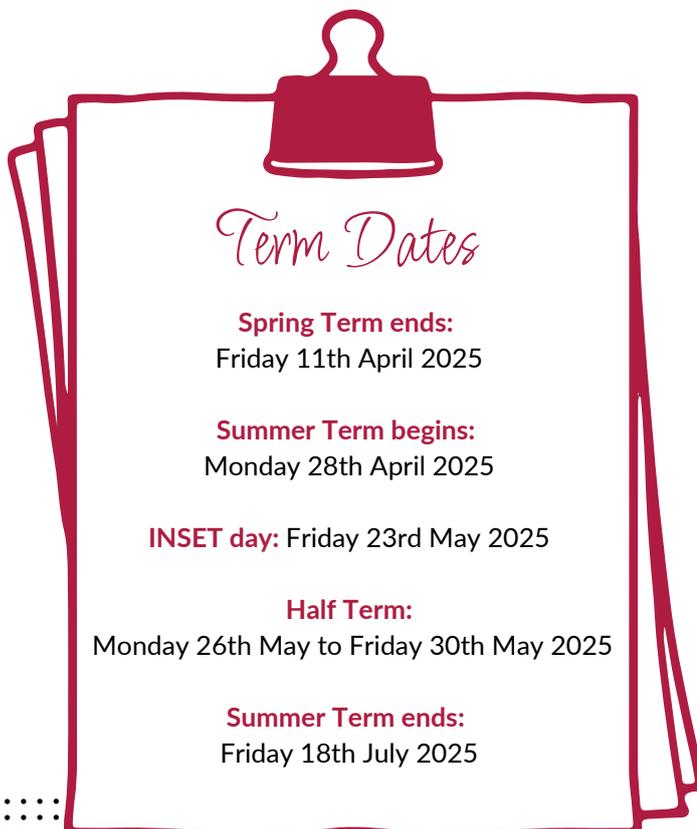
Please note that some exams do not have a room or seat number allocated yet. I will let you know when this has been completed.

Year 12 please note that English Literature and Economics is now on Thursday 15 May at 130pm. Economics is now 2 hours. English Language and Music is now on Friday 16 May at 0915am.

If anyone has a clash (two exams at the same time) please come and see me or email exams@alcesterags.com

Thank you

Mrs Silcox
Examinations Officer



Absence Reporting

In the event that a student is unable to come into school due to illness or other unforeseen circumstance, the absence must be reported by a parent/carer by 8.50AM latest, each and every morning of absence.

[7-11 on the day Absence Form](#)

[Sixth Form on the day Absence Form](#)

Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Teacher of English and Drama
- Teacher of Maths

Please [click here](#) to find out more



What's on?

JOIN US FOR THE
7 to 11 Hub Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 7th April - Lunchtime
Collect Sheet from the hub
Organised by Blythe and Eden

AGS Friends Quiz Night!

Who will win the title **AGSF Quiz Champions 2025?**

Fri 4th April
Bar, refreshments and raffle
Enjoy a family evening fundraising for AGS Friends
Teams of 4-8 people - prize for best team name!

Doors open 6.30pm Quiz starts 7.15pm
in the Theatre, Alcester Grammar School

Tickets available [here](#)
Y6 and under free
Adults and Y7 and over £5 each

SCAN ME

Somebunny's got to win!

AGS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

SPRING CONCERT

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL
18:30 START
AGS THEATRE
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA EVOLVE
REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE
AGS MUSIC ENSEMBLES & SOLISTS

Willow Spring FEST

WED 09 - THURS 10

Chocolate bar raffle £1
Roll up! Roll up! For a chance to win a beautiful hamper. There will be three hampers up for grabs. However, you are limited to one entry per day.

Guess the name of the chick 50p
If you guess correctly, the chick is all yours. One attempt per person!

Guess the amount of mini eggs 50p
Be spontaneous if you want to win the whole jar. Also for one attempt per person.

All winners announced on Friday

100% of proceeds go towards our charity

