



## *Principal's Update*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm delighted to share another busy but brilliant fortnight with you. We've certainly felt the summer warmth, and the energy across the school has been palpable.

One of the highlights was undoubtedly Sports Day, where the entire school community gathered on the field. The atmosphere was fantastic, filled with healthy competition and excellent sportsmanship. Our new House system is now fully integrated into school life.

Music has also been central to the past two weeks. House Music last Tuesday showcased the diverse talents of our students, followed by a truly fabulous Summer Concert on Wednesday evening.

We also celebrated this week the hard work and achievements of our athletes at the Sports Awards evening - it was a pleasure to welcome so many parents and carers into school. My thanks as ever to the PTFA for providing refreshments on a number of occasions - please do see their article later in this newsletter.

**11th July 2025**

This morning, our annual termly celebration assembly recognised student achievements across all areas of school life. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the commitment and dedication of our students.

As we look ahead, with one week to go, Enrichment Week starts on Monday. Students are looking forward to various activities, including trips, work experience placements, and a range of engaging activities organised within the school. We are excited for them to explore new opportunities and develop new skills. A final 'Principal's Update' will be issued a week from today, to share all their various adventures.

Thank you for your continued support during this busy time - please do keep an eye on our Bluesky account for trip updates and much more.

Best wishes,

*R Thorpe*

*Ms Rachel Thorpe  
Principal, Alcester Grammar School*





# Language

## SPOTLIGHT



### 校長更新

各位家長及監護人：

好開心又同大家分享一個既忙碌又精彩嘅兩星期。我哋的確感受到夏日嘅熱情，成間學校都充滿住活力。

其中一個最令人難忘嘅環節，肯定係我哋嘅運動日。全校師生同學都聚集喺運動場，氣氛一流，充滿住良性競爭同優秀嘅體育精神。我哋新嘅社際制度亦都完全融入咗校園生活啦。

音樂嘅過去兩星期都係焦點所在。上星期二嘅社際音樂比賽展現咗同學們多樣化嘅才華，緊隨住星期三晚一場真正精彩嘅夏季音樂會。

呢個星期，我哋仲喺運動頒獎禮上，嘉許咗運動員們嘅努力同成就——好高興可以歡迎咁多家長同照顧者蒞臨學校。一如既往，衷心感謝家長教師聯誼會多次提供茶點款待——請大家留意本期通訊稍後佢哋嘅文章。

# Cantonese

二零二五年七月十一日

今朝，我哋舉行咗學期嘅常規表揚大會，表彰咗學生嘅學校各方面嘅成就。呢個係一個好好嘅機會，讓我哋反思學生們嘅投入同奉獻精神。

展望未來，仲有一星期，下星期一就係充實週啦！學生們都好期待各種活動，包括外出參觀、工作體驗，同埋喺校內舉行嘅一系列精彩活動。我哋好期待佢哋可以探索新機會，培養新技能。最後一份校長分享會喺一個星期後發出，屆時會同大家分享佢哋嘅各種歷險。

多謝大家喺呢段忙碌時間繼續支持我哋——請大家密切留意我哋嘅Bluesky賬戶，以獲取活動更新同更多資訊。

祝好，

R Thorpe

Rachel Thorpe 女士  
Alcester 文法中學



# *This Fortnight at AGS*

## Year 11 Prom



## Wimbledon



## *This Fortnight at AGS*

### F1 Club

An extra special F1 Club meeting, we welcomed Fergus Edwards who shared his racing experiences and what it's truly like to work at Silverstone!



### Primary School Team Maths Challenge

This week, 16 teams from local primary schools took part in our Team Maths Challenge. They battled through six gruelling rounds of difficult maths problems, working collaboratively to solve each one. All the students had a fantastic time!

The competition was incredibly close, with Temple Grafton emerging as the winners. Welford-upon-Avon and Shottery St. Andrew's secured second and third place respectively, hot on their heels.

A huge thank you to all the sixth formers who helped organise the event. It couldn't have run so smoothly without your invaluable support.

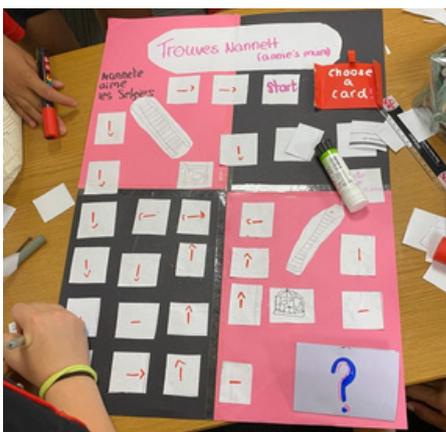
### Mr Sindroja



# Year 7 French

Year 7 spent their last two lessons of French this year in groups, collaboratively working to create a French game! We have here examples of Memory Game, Snap, Snakes and Ladders, "Dobble Lingo" and many more original creations! Each game requires a level of French knowledge to be able to play and win.

Mrs Jefferies





## *A message from AGS Friends*

### AGSF Fundraising Success - Thank you!

We're thrilled to share that our fundraising efforts this year have raised an incredible **£9,270** for school!

Since launching in January 2024, our team of dedicated volunteers has made a real impact—organising quiz nights, bingo, Christmas raffles, and starting the ever-popular AGSF Lottery (our £80 winners have certainly been smiling!)

Your support is helping fund a brand-new computing room for A Level students, freeing up space for KS3 and KS4 classes too—boosting learning across the school.

Aside from fundraising, the AGSF team helps to support school life – primarily by keeping the tea and coffee flowing at events. Serving refreshments, sorting donated uniform for sale and feeding students – all in a day's work! Huge thanks to everyone who's given their time, talents, and enthusiasm.

Want to help? Aside from volunteering (and we're always on the look-out!) joining the [AGSF Lottery](#) is a simple way to help, with half-termly prizes (more players = more winners!) And [Easy Fundraising](#) lets you donate while you shop—at no extra cost! It all adds up and really helps.

Can we break the £10k barrier next year? We hope so.. news of our fund-raising target and what we're going to support will be shared at the start of next school year!

Have a great summer and see you in September!

Yvonne Bruton - PTFA Chair





# Sports Day 2025

On the 3rd of July, we held what is widely regarded as the biggest day of the year for sport at AGS—Sports Day 2025. It was an outstanding celebration of athletic ability, house pride, and community spirit.

Students from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form took part in a full day of competition, showcasing not only their talent and determination but also their support for one another. The fields were alive with cheering, colour, and energy, creating an unforgettable atmosphere.

One of the most exciting aspects of the day was the sheer level of performance on display. Several long-standing AGS records—some over 20 years old—were broken, as students pushed themselves to new personal bests and contributed vital points for their houses.

Beyond the results, the day highlighted everything that makes AGS sport so special: teamwork, resilience, and a strong sense of community. Whether running, jumping, throwing or cheering from the sidelines, every student played a part in making the day a success.

In a hard-fought and exciting finish, **Birch House** took the overall win for the second year in a row—a brilliant achievement and a credit to their consistency and team effort throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all staff who supported the day, whether through officiating, supervising, or simply encouraging students. Their involvement helped ensure the day ran smoothly and was such a positive experience for everyone involved.

Sports Day 2025 was a true celebration of everything we value in sport at AGS—and we're already looking forward to next year.

**Mr Bayliss**





## *Celebrating a brilliant 9<sup>th</sup> year of the AGS Sports Awards*

What a night! Our 9th annual School Sports Awards on Tuesday 8th July was a truly special occasion, celebrating the incredible dedication and talent of our Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 students. It was a fantastic way to cap off another brilliant year of school sport.

The evening was filled with highlights, starting with a wonderful performance from our Jazz Band, whose energy and musicality set the perfect tone for the celebrations. A huge thank you to all the band members and Mr Chapman-Palmer for their outstanding contribution! We were also delighted to welcome back Mr. Bayliss, whose grand return after his operation was met with warm applause.

This year has been nothing short of exceptional. We've witnessed some truly fantastic commitment at our various sports clubs, with students consistently demonstrating their passion and dedication. We've also seen outstanding performances across the board, with teams and individuals achieving remarkable results and showing incredible sportsmanship.

At AGS, our ethos is Sport for All, and our ultimate goal is to help every student find a sport they can enjoy for life. We believe in the power of sport to teach valuable life lessons, promote well-being, and foster a sense of community. This year's awards ceremony truly embodied this spirit, celebrating not just the elite performers, but also the perseverance, teamwork, and enthusiasm shown by so many. A massive congratulations to all our award winners and nominees! Your hard work, positive attitudes, and commitment have made this another memorable year in school sport.

We're already looking forward to what next year will bring!

Mrs Powell



## House Music



## Summer Concert





## *Year 12 students explore the Bard's legacy in a day of literary discovery*

Last week, a group of our Year 12 English Literature students spent the day at the beautiful Hall's Croft in Stratford-upon-Avon, the former home of Susanna Shakespeare and Dr John Hall. The event brought together a select group of students from local schools, including King Edward VI School and Stratford High, for a thought-provoking Shakespeare workshop hosted by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

The morning centred around the compelling question: **"Shakespeare: Of an age or for all time?"** This sparked rich discussion among the students, with our AGS cohort contributing sophisticated and well-articulated ideas. Their impressive oracy skills and critical insight were noted and praised by the facilitators from the Trust.

In the afternoon, students worked collaboratively in mixed-school groups to interpret and present lesser-known speeches from some of Shakespeare's more obscure plays. The atmosphere was buzzing with creativity, intellectual curiosity, and thoughtful analysis as students brought these forgotten texts to life through performance and commentary.

The workshop was a brilliant opportunity to explore Shakespeare through multiple lenses and provided an exciting and enriching backdrop to our current A Level study of Othello. We are grateful to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for hosting such an inspiring day.

**Miss Thompson**



## Sports Update

### Athletics

The South Warwickshire School's Athletics Championship proved to be a very successful day for AGS, winning the year 8 boys, year 8 girls and year 9 boys divisions, as well as gaining enough points to retain the overall title!

All the students involved contributed to the scoreline, with some impressive performances including many PB's and new South Warwickshire records for Ace N in the year 8 100m and 300m, and the year 9 boys relay team.

This means we have now won the South Warwickshire title for 14 out of the last 15 years!



### Touch Rugby

Congratulations to the year 9/10 boys touch rugby team who came 2nd at the national finals!

A massive achievement, that is a result of hours of hard work and effort! They qualified for the finals in March, having won the West of England championships, and en-route to the final played teams from Middlesbrough, Liverpool and Canterbury. They narrowly lost the final, to a team with a number of representative players, but were superb in their approach and attitude to the competition. The team's first pool match and final can be seen on the recording [here](#) at 42:30 and 6:90:30.

We hope to involve more teams and players next year; see Mr Richens if you are interested!



Mr Richens





## Sustainability

This year has seen some major successes in our attempts to be more sustainable as an organisation. This time last year Mr Gill was appointed to the role of sustainability coordinator and since then a lot has happened.

We are delighted to share that AGS has been awarded EcoSchool green flag status with distinction. This is largely thanks to the excellent work of EcoSoc in gathering evidence and taking on green projects across Alcester.

This adds to the 'Farm Demonstration School' award from LEAF and the 'Gold Green-Tree Award' from the woodland trust, we received earlier this year.



As well as seed and bulb planting, a new Eco-board, training for catering staff on decarbonisation of our menus this year saw the major solar installation on the sports hall which is currently providing a substantial percentage of our energy.

As part of our work this year all students were asked to participate in a climate survey from the InterClimate Network and one result the students will be seeing next year is our new EcoCode. This has been written to celebrate and showcase what we already do, and set aims for our future climate work. Thanks to all those who helped EcoSoc develop the code.

If you are interested in getting more involved in the schools green activities please contact Mr Gill or, if you are a student, attend EcoSoc meetings in the new year.

**Mr Gill**

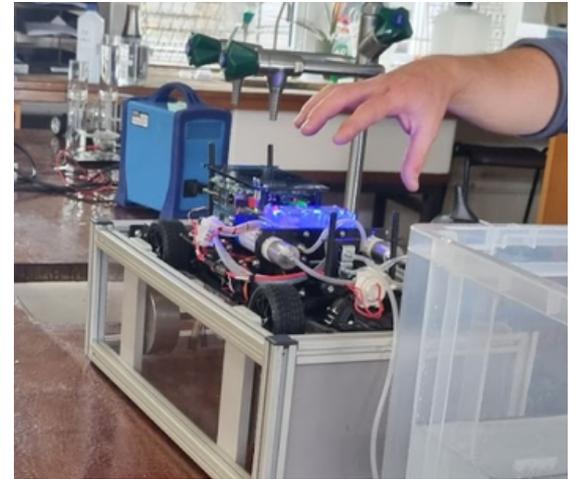




## Science

At the end of June the science department played host to some fascinating researchers, sharing their work with our year 10 and 12 students.

Prof. Oliver Curnick of Coventry University visited year 10 Chemistry students to share his work on battery technology and Hydrogen fuel cells. Not only did he support their work on rates, catalysis and equilibria but through demonstrations with a hydrogen powered car he was able to link their GCSE learning to real world applications in far reaching areas such as energy independence and sustainable development.



The same week we were also joined by Serena Turton, researcher at Leeds University who was returning after two years to update the current year 12 students on the work they helped her with when they were in year 10. The results were astonishing. Through environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, our year 12 students assisted in the discovery of dozens of fungal species that had never been found in our area, or in some cases in the UK before. Further work is needed but they may have assisted in the discovery of species new to science. The lesson they took from these sessions: There's more going on under your feet than you think!

## Mr Gill

### Farm visit for all year 12 biologists

Year 12 Biologists were treated to a fantastic farm visit at Oversley Hill farm.

Mr Gill facilitated the trip, with resident farmers Sophie and Chris Corbett taking the lead, adding real world context to A level standard topics such as, 'Nutrient cycling', 'the balance between conservation and farming', and 'biomass and productivity'.



The students were excellent and represented the school in a very positive way with lots of motivated questions and interest, particularly in the livestock.



## Mrs O'Mahony



## Library Update

Our new library's first year has been completed and what a marvellous year! We have seen many of the Year 7 & 8s in the library, regularly borrowing books and taking time during lunch break to have a quiet, calm space to read.

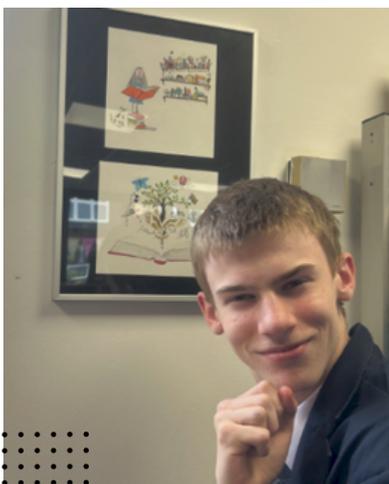
We have had various book displays & reading challenge events throughout the year. Congratulations to all the pupils that have taken part in these events.

A huge thank you to our Year 12 student librarians who have been outstanding in their commitment & help this year.

We have just taken delivery of 325 new titles from the Warwickshire School Library Service that will be sorted and on our shelves ready for our book worms in September!

Throughout the year some of the children have put in requests to our Year 12 librarians for books that they would like to see on the shelves and many of these titles are included with these new books.

Wishing you a wonderful summer break from **Mrs Thomas & the Year 12 librarian team!**



Our Year 12 Librarian Samuel W with his original framed artwork on display in the library. This artwork was commissioned to be used as a template for our library signage. We have been able to produce beautiful library signs - **thank you Samuel!**

# Summer Reading Challenge

## School Reading Challenge Awards

Congratulations to Tala B 7ERA for achieving her Silver Reading Challenge Award this term.

Well done Tala!

## Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The Summer Reading Challenge 2025 is open to all current Year 7 & 8 students. The challenge is to read a book set in a different country or world & then send a postcard "home".

For book ideas please check the Library's Google classroom that has a suggested reading list and information about the challenge. We also have books available to borrow over the summer holidays from the library for this challenge. Please pop into the library for any help with ideas & book titles.

Entries to [library@alcesterags.com](mailto:library@alcesterags.com) by Wednesday 10th September 2025



**L<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> B<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>4</sub>**

**'READ ACROSS THE WORLD'**  
Where will you go?

**For Y6, Y7 & Y8:**  
**WIN House points & prizes**  
**TRAVEL through books**  
**It's all about the journey...**

**The Challenge:**  
Read a book set in a different country or world.  
Send a postcard 'home'

Submit your entries to  
[library@alcesterags.com](mailto:library@alcesterags.com)  
**Deadline:** Wed 10th September

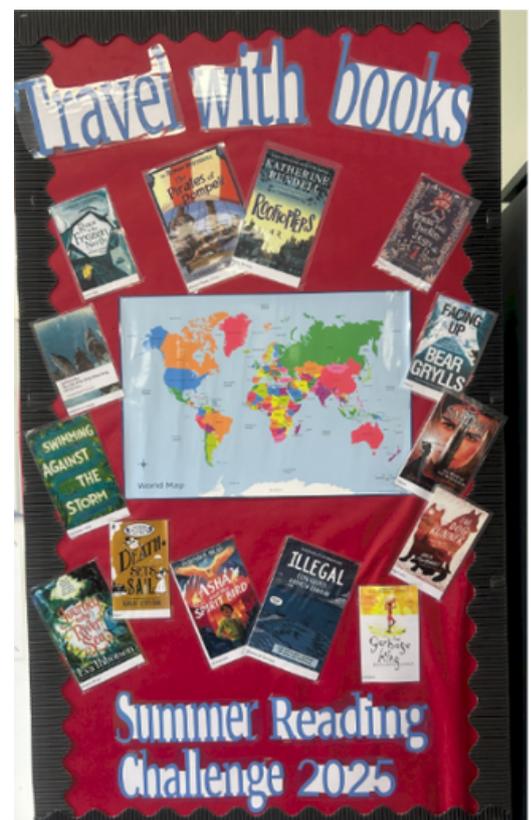
**What to do**  
Create a postcard-style image of where you have travelled through your reading.  
You could draw or paint this by hand, or you could use photographs or digital images.

**And then**  
Send a postcard message 'home' from the world of your book.

You could:

- Describe places you have 'visited'
- Describe events that have happened there
- Describe some people you have 'met'

Make sure you include the **title** and **author** of the book somewhere on your entry so that others can read it



# Exams Update

It's a wrap!

Well done to all of our students who have taken exams this summer.

Thank you to years 11 and 13 for following all of the rules and regulations. You behaved exceptionally.

In total **6404** pupils have taken GCSE and A level exams.

Pupils expecting results will receive information regarding results day. All of the information you will need on results day can be found [here](#). Please use the section on the right hand side for the relevant information.

Home > Life at AGS > Examinations

## Examinations

### Welcome to the 'Examinations' section of our website.

I am responsible for the organisation of all public examinations and the internal mocks for years 11 to 13.

Here at AGS we try to make the examinations experience as free from stress and as successful as possible. The **Examinations Handbook** includes general advice about preparation for and behaviour on examination days. It also has specific information about our own procedures and frequently asked questions.

Please also have a look through the tabs on the right which should provide you with further information that you will need to know. If there's anything you cannot find or would like to discuss further please do let me know - [exams@alcesterags.com](mailto:exams@alcesterags.com)

The Exams Office is open from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday, term time only.

**Mrs Silcox**  
Examinations Officer

### In this section

Summer 2025 Exam  
Information

GCE and GCSE Exam  
Information

Regulations & Advice

How to access your results &  
grade boundary information

Exam Retakes & additional  
exams

Mock Exams 2024-2025

Post Results Services

Results for A levels are released 8am on Thursday 14 August 2025 on your AGS portal.

GCSE results are released on Thursday 21 August at 8am in person at school. From 10am results will be available on your AGS portal.

Have a restful summer break from all of the Exams Team.

Mrs Silcox and the Exams Team





# 2025/26 Term Dates

## *Autumn Term*

**Term begins:** Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - Years 7 and 12 only  
Thursday 4th September 2025 - All students return  
**Half Term:** Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October 2025  
**Term ends:** Friday 19th December 2025

## *Spring Term*

**Term begins:** Tuesday 6th January 2026  
**Half Term:** Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026  
**Term ends:** Friday 27th March 2026

## *Summer Term*

**Term begins:** Monday 13th April 2026  
**Half Term:** Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026  
**Term ends:** Friday 17th July 2026

## *Inset Days (No school for students)*

Monday 1st September 2025  
Tuesday 2nd September 2025  
Monday 5th January 2026  
Friday 6th February 2026  
Friday 22nd May 2026  
Monday 20th July 2026

