



27th March 2026

As we approach the Easter break, we want to extend our very best wishes to all students, but especially to those in Years 11 and 13 who are preparing for the important weeks ahead.

We hope the holiday offers a balance of rest, reflection and purposeful revision, allowing them to return with clarity and confidence as they move towards their examinations.

My thanks, as ever, go to the dedicated staff who are leading trips and activities over the break, ensuring our students continue to benefit from enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Wishing you all a peaceful break,

## *Principal's Update*

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the AGS Community,

This morning it was a genuine pleasure to witness Years 7-12 come together for our now-regular Celebration Assembly, with Year 13 also marking their achievements in a separate gathering in the theatre. These moments of collective recognition continue to be a highlight of our school calendar, offering us the chance to pause, reflect and appreciate the hard work, character and spirit shown by our students across the term. A particular highlight today was a wonderful performance of Mr Bojangles by the school Jazz Band, whose talent and confidence brought real energy to the hall and was warmly received by all.

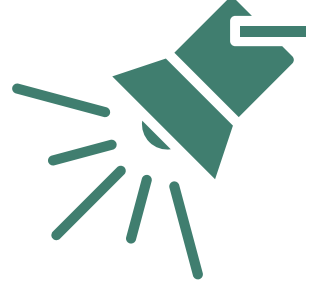


Assist  
Give  
Support

*R Thorpe*

Ms Rachel Thorpe  
Principal, Alcester Grammar School





# Language SPOTLIGHT



## Telugu

27 మార్చి 2026

ఈస్టర్ సెలవులు సమీపిస్తున్న ఈ తరుణంలో, విద్యార్థులందరికీ, ప్రత్యేకించి రాబోయే ముఖ్యమైన వారాల కోసం సిద్ధమవుతున్న 11వ మరియు 13వ తరగతి విద్యార్థులకు మా హృదయపూర్వక శుభాకాంక్షలు తెలియజేస్తున్నాము.

ఈ సెలవు వారికి విశ్రాంతి, ఆత్మపరిశీలన మరియు ప్రయోజనాత్మక పునశ్చరణల మధ్య సమతుల్యతను అందించి, పరీక్షలకు సిద్ధమయ్యే క్రమంలో స్పష్టతతో, ఆత్మవిశ్వాసంతో తిరిగి రావడానికి దోహదపడుతుందని మేము ఆశిస్తున్నాము.

సెలవుల్లో పర్యటనలు, కార్యక్రమాలను నిర్వహిస్తూ, మన విద్యార్థులు తరగతి గదికి ఆవల కూడా విలువైన అనుభవాలను పొందేలా చూస్తున్న అంకితభావం గల సిబ్బందికి ఎప్పటిలాగే నా ధన్యవాదాలు.

మీ అందరికీ ప్రశాంతమైన విరామం లభించాలని కోరుకుంటున్నాను.

ప్రియమైన తల్లిదండ్రులు, సంరక్షకులు మరియు AGS సంఘ సభ్యులకు,

ఈ ఉదయం, మా క్రమం తప్పని వేడుకల సమావేశం కోసం 7 నుండి 12వ తరగతి విద్యార్థులు ఒకచోట చేరడాన్ని చూడటం నిజంగా ఆనందాన్నిచ్చింది. అదే సమయంలో, 13వ తరగతి విద్యార్థులు కూడా థియేటర్లో జరిగిన ఒక ప్రత్యేక సమావేశంలో తమ విజయాలను గుర్తు చేసుకున్నారు. ఈ సామూహిక గుర్తింపు క్షణాలు మా పాఠశాల క్యాలెండర్లో ఒక ముఖ్యమైన ఘట్టంగా నిలుస్తున్నాయి. ఇవి, ఈ టర్మ్ అంతటా మా విద్యార్థులు చూపిన కఠోర శ్రమ, వ్యక్తిత్వం మరియు స్ఫూర్తిని ఆగి, సమీక్షించుకుని, అభినందించే అవకాశాన్ని మాకు అందిస్తున్నాయి. ఈ రోజు ఒక ప్రత్యేక ఆకర్షణ ఏమిటంటే, పాఠశాల జాజ్ బ్యాండ్ ప్రదర్శించిన 'మిస్టర్ బోజాంగిల్స్' పాట. వారి ప్రతిభ, ఆత్మవిశ్వాసం హాలుకు నిజమైన ఉత్సాహాన్ని తీసుకువచ్చాయి మరియు అందరి నుండి గొప్ప ఆదరణను పొందాయి.



ags Assist  
Give  
Support

R Thore

శ్రీమతి రాచెల్ థోర్స్, ప్రిన్సిపాల్, ఆల్సెస్టర్ గ్రామర్ స్కూల్



**Year 13 Life skills** - making a tomato pasta from scratch in 20 mins! Skills for Life ahead of independent living. Students also discuss the cost of this compared to ready made and often less nutritious convenience foods.



Ready for Life



Oak House have been raising money for Acorns Children's Hospice this half term. During their house assembly this week, students heard from Sam from Acorns, who spoke about how the funds raised will support the hospice and the vital care they provide.



Congratulations to our Year 7 netball team who followed up their South Warwickshire tournament win with a 5th place overall in the Warwickshire county tournament. Held at Kingsley school on Thursday 19th March, the girls started slowly but played better and better as the evening progressed. They beat Higham Lane in the 5th/6th play off match to secure their overall 5th position. Well done to the team and thank you to Molly N (Year 9) for coming to help support/coach/team manage.

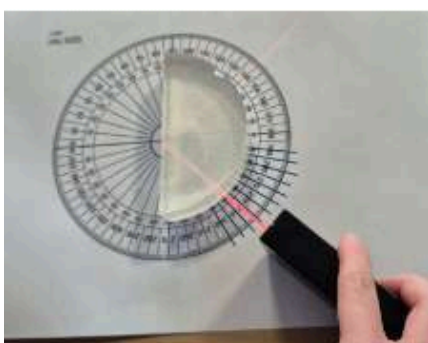
**Mrs Parsons**

## GCSE/A Level Geography trip - Croatia



To celebrate British Science Week a series of activities were run by the Science Department. These included a 'virtual' field trip looking at the human genome, a treasure hunt celebrating diversity in Science and a STEM escape room. Over 80 students participated across 3 days and between them earned over 100 house points! Special thanks to Mrs Purchase (Physics technician) who facilitated all the events.

## Miss Howe





**Year 10 Food and Nutrition Students** have been learning about the use of micro-organisms in food production and the steps involved in cheese making. This was consolidated by making a cheese based product; a layered lemon cheesecake, using gelatine to set the dish. They also had a go at making soft cheese to go in it.



### Careers- Year 12 Futures Evening

Last week, year 12 students and parents had the opportunity to meet universities and apprenticeship providers at our annual Futures Evening and Careers Fair. There were talks on Student Finance, Degree Apprenticeships and applying to competitive courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Law and those at Oxbridge. Lots of information and advice for choosing their next step after year 13!

**Mrs Perry**



## *Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition 2026*

Our Year 8/9 team recently took part in this competition held at the Queen Elizabeth Law Courts, Birmingham.

This year the team learnt the case study of R v Hanley which involved the theft of a mobile phone late at night whilst the victim was waiting at a bus stop. A cyclist rode past and grabbed the phone from the victim.

The team thoroughly learnt this case study along with the evidence of the different witnesses, as well as analysing this evidence to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the prosecution and defence cases. At the competition the team had the opportunity to present their case in the Crown Court (even though it was a Magistrates Court Competition!) They competed against other schools, across two rounds, in a packed court room full of drama! First, they defended the case and then prosecuted in the second round.

This was the culmination of several months of work. In addition to learning the case study, the team learnt about the criminal justice system, court procedure, court etiquette & court layout. The team were also privileged to have a talk from Mr Alan Welsby, Magistrate, for which we thank him. We also thank Mrs Robyn Dickinson for giving the team advice on public speaking and presenting themselves for the competition.

The team were outstanding at the competition and should be immensely proud of themselves. The judges comments included that they gave an "excellent performance, were confident & well-prepared".

The team were also ably supported by Year 12 mentors and we extend our thanks to them for their dedication and help throughout this process.

A huge well-done!

Mrs Thomas





Given that spring is well on its way, it was time for some long-overdue maintenance on our pond at AGS.

The pond has been part of AGS for many years, but lately has been starting to show its age - most recently, a leak in the waterproof lining has resulted in the water level repeatedly dropping. We decided that this needed fixing.

Before we could begin the process of re-lining the pond, we discovered that it was home to a large number of newts! Though we were overjoyed that the pond was providing such a rich source of biodiversity, this presented us with a problem - in draining the pond, we would destroy this population of newts. This wasn't acceptable to us, and so we decided to save them.



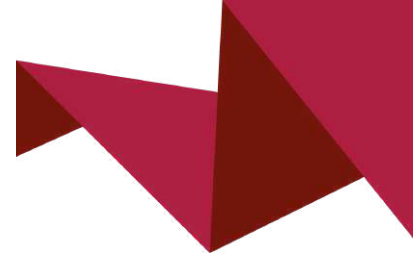
First we carefully identified the species of newt. Great Crested Newts, which are native to England, are a protected species and so the capture of them is prohibited. We were relieved to find that our population consisted of more common Smooth Newts, meaning that we could undertake the relocation ourselves. Armed with nets, we took to the pond to capture as many as possible.

It was very rewarding to see how invested the wider school community was in this process. Over the course of several lunchtimes, students came and watched as we caught the newts, asking questions about their biology and behaviour which I greatly enjoyed answering. We ended up catching about 45 newts in total, alongside two frogs.

With help from the Site Team, we emptied and re-lined the pond on Friday the 20th. The newts will soon be released back into the pond, much to the happiness of the students! A special mention needs to go to Mr Kershaw who did so much to remove old plants and help on pond draining day.



**Darcy Bigge (Y13) - EcoSoc Leader**



## Aim High in English

We in the AGS English department - where words matter! - are enormously proud of your efforts lately. Here are just some examples of fantastic engagement with the subject this term.

On Saturday the 14th of March, a group of students from Y11, Y12 and Y13 accompanied Ms McLean and Ms Humphries to Solihull School for the Shakespeare Festival. This was an excellent opportunity to enjoy lectures from high-profile Shakespeare academics, and (as always) the students justified our pride in them, asking insightful questions, discussing the issues raised, and taking away copious notes for revision! We hoped you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did.

We were also very impressed with the standard of the entries to the AGS Word writing competition. It came at a busy time for some of our exam groups, which meant that many of our entries were from younger students, which was lovely to see. A huge well done to everyone who entered, and thank you so much. We are delighted to announce the following:

### Winner:

*Nikitha B* for her beautifully metaphorical piece 'The Girl Who Borrowed the Moon'.

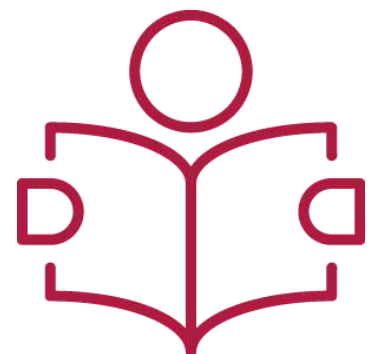
### Highly Commended:

*Micayla B, Everly B, Lola H, Isaac M & William M*

Finally, students will want to keep a look out on Satchel One for a new 'Aim High in English' document, which we are putting together to encourage students to engage in a super-curricular fashion with words in all their forms. We promise it will include absolutely no revision material, exam questions or anything that ticks any boxes; its purpose is to allow you to explore the world of words through reading, listening to and watching anything and everything which might interest you.

**After all, words matter - wherever we find them.**

Ms McLean





## Oak House Outreach

This March, Oak House supported Acorns by encouraging as many pupils as possible to walk 100 miles in March to support Acorns Children's Hospice.

A huge well done to the following students for successfully completing the 100 miles challenge:

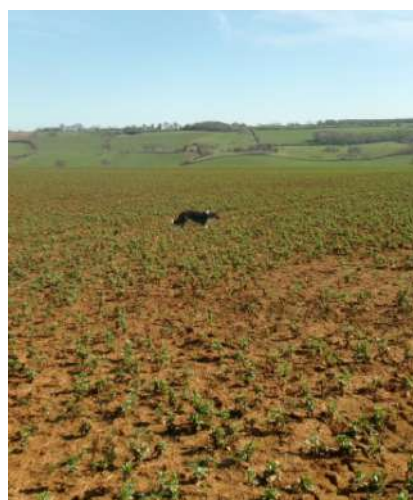
William M (Year 7)  
Flo B (Year 12)  
Oliver L (Year 9)  
Nicholas W (Year 7)  
Michael G (Year 12)  
Willow C (Year 12)  
Seb L (Year 7)  
Phoebe O (Year 8)  
Hamila A (Year 8)



Miss Lawson and Mrs Varaich also successfully took on the challenge!

Thanks to our OAK house reps who have worked hard all week selling creme eggs. Special shout out to Will C who has stepped up as chief OAK easter bunny and sold so many eggs! A big thank you also to outgoing SALT senior ambassador Maria C (Year 13) for organising the egg hunt.

*Miss Lawson*  
*Head of Oak House*



## House News



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

As we reach the end of our third year since reforming the House system, it has been a busy time filled with energy, reflection and genuine community spirit. The past few weeks, in particular, have showcased the very best of our students' leadership, creativity and generosity.

We recently held House hustings for our new Senior Ambassador Leadership Team (SALT). After a rigorous and thoughtful process — including speeches and whole-school voting — we were delighted to appoint six new SALT members for each House.

This week's House assemblies gave us the chance to welcome our new leaders and to thank our outgoing team. Their reflections, advice and the pride they took in their roles were inspiring. We are deeply grateful for the commitment, kindness and initiative they have shown throughout their time in post.

Last week saw the return of our KS4 and KS5 House Bake Off. Congratulations to Sandra in Year 12, whose beautifully crafted sponge cake — complete with intricate House-themed decorations — earned first place. A great example of skill and imagination.

Our Houses have continued to demonstrate compassion and social responsibility:

- **Oak House** raised an impressive contribution for Acorns through a sponsored 100-mile challenge, Easter-egg sales and today's non-uniform day.
- **Hawthorn House** have been actively collecting donations for the Arden Food Bank, which were gratefully received.

Today's Celebration Assembly marked the culmination of the House year. We awarded the four House Cups and presented Amazon vouchers to the top House-point achievers in each House.

A special highlight was a prize draw for five House Easter eggs, generously donated for the second year running by Waitrose, Alcester — a gesture we greatly appreciate.

A new House year begins after Easter, and we look forward to working closely with our newly appointed SALT.

Upcoming highlights including a Year 7 Spelling Bee, KS House Bake Off, House Music and House Sports Day! These events continue to strengthen our culture of achieving, thriving and belonging.

A final 'thank you' goes to every student for all the AGS Learner, DHB and oracy points you have earned this year. Every contribution, large or small, helps build the vibrant House community we are so proud of. We are so grateful for the hard work of all the Heads of Houses too for their unfailing enthusiasm, support and energy!

**We wish you all a very happy Easter break.**

*Mrs Bremner-Smith*

# House Cups

## 2025/26 Winners



Dobell Cup  
Awarded to

**Hawthorn**

House for Charity  
Fundraising



Newport Cup  
Awarded to

**Oak**

House for  
Community  
Outreach



Spencer Cup  
Awarded to

**Alder**

and

**Willow**

Houses for overall  
House Events and  
Competitions



Wells Cup  
Awarded to

**Alder**

House for  
Overall House  
Points

**ags**

House Points

**WEEKLY  
UPDATE**

26.3.26

 Alder  
29025

 Willow  
28471

 Hawthorn  
26985

 Birch  
26333

 Oak  
26268



# *Alder House - Meet your new SALT team!*

## *Senior Ambassadors:*



*Daisy*



*Stefan*

## *Deputy Ambassadors:*



*Jacob*



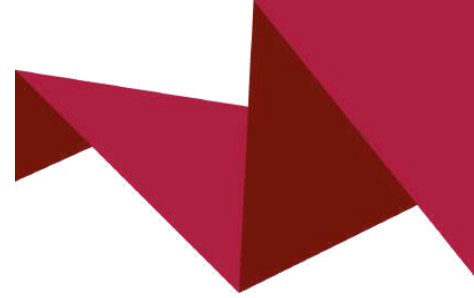
*William*



*Peter*



*Bella*



# Birch House - Meet your new SALT team!

## Senior Ambassadors:



Hannah



Ali

## Deputy Ambassadors:



Daniel



Isabella



Rameen



Zu



# Hawthorn House - Meet your new SALT team!

## Senior Ambassadors:



Caitlin



Will

## Deputy Ambassadors:



Chloe



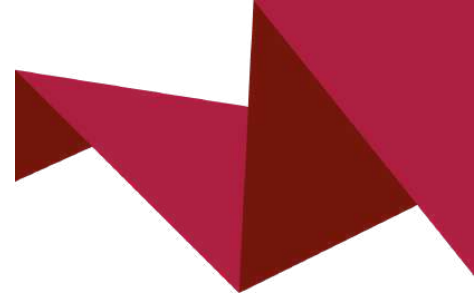
Harry



Elsie



Jon



*Oak House - Meet your new SALT team!*

*Senior Ambassadors:*



*Leena*



*Ivan*

*Deputy Ambassadors:*



*Nishel*



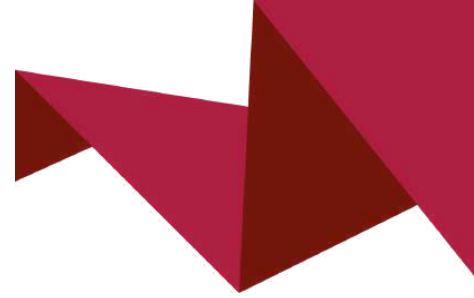
*Fred*



*Grace*



*Verity*



# Willow House - Meet your new SALT team!

## Senior Ambassadors:



Josh



Lois

## Deputy Ambassadors:



George



Matthew



Harini



Ava

# AGS Friends - Spring Update

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our **Around the World Quiz Night** – now in its third year and fast becoming a family favourite!

With a mix of general knowledge, film, and geography questions pitched at both junior and seasoned quizzers, the competition was incredibly close. We even had tiebreakers for both first place and the wooden spoon! Huge congratulations to our winning team - after a tense student-teacher showdown in the tie-break, the teachers claimed victory for the third year running. Well done to **Inside Job** (which, despite the name, genuinely wasn't!)

We've had fantastic feedback about the quiz and the atmosphere on the night. Our licensed bar and snacks went down a treat, as did the delicious samosas, spring rolls, and chai tea from Ma's Flavours, Coventry - another AGS family business.

Team Name	Total	Position	Prize Winners
Inside Job	108	=1	*Tiebreak winner
The Eh Team	108	=1	
Friday Fizzy Friends and Family	100	=3	
The Ougadougou-rus	100	=3	
We parked across your driveway	96	5	*Winning Team Name*
The Philease Brain Foggs	94	6	
Toujours Triompheurs	93	7	
Worldies	90	8	
Mount Cleverest	89	=9	* Intl Name Winner*
Team Leamington	89	=9	
Brainwaves without Borders	88	=11	
Democratic Republic of Somewhere	88	=11	
Jet Lagged	88	=11	
Mace Around the World	87	14	
80 Daves around the world	86	=15	
Earth, Win and Fire	86	=15	
I'm just popping Tuvalu!	84	17	
New York New York	83	=18	
The Smartini	83	=18	*Wooden Spoon tiebreak loser*
Total Points available (incl Joker)	130		

The evening raised over **£1,700**, and we're especially grateful to **Stansgate Planning** of Stratford for sponsoring the event and joining us with a team. Their support helped make the night such a success - thank you.. (Please do click on their link if you need planning support and advice.) These funds all contribute to our £10,000 target for this year, supporting the school in purchasing a range of online learning platforms requested by staff to broaden teaching provision and keep subject content up to date. Thanks to funds already raised, school has been able to provide ePlatform and GCSE Pod this year – more news on this soon.

## AGSF Lottery - The Easiest Way to Support Us

Alongside the quiz, the AGSF Lottery is our most effective – and simplest – fundraiser. You can still join the remaining draws for this year!

This is one fundraiser that doesn't rely on volunteers wheeling out the trolley and persuading you to buy cups of tea. You support us by paying just £2 per month, and our wonderful treasurers make the magic happen. Buy a 'Rest of Year' lottery ticket and you'll be entered into the final three draws. Our next draw is Wednesday 29th April, with an £80 top prize. Click [here](#) to buy your number and be in with a chance to win. **Thank you to all our existing lottery players!**

## Join Us - We're a Friendly, Welcoming Bunch

You don't need to know any other parents in school - we pride ourselves on being anti-clique, warm, and open to all - and given that we have to say goodbye to volunteers every year as our kids leave school, we always want to say hello to new friends.. As well as working hard, we do try to be sociable. After the success of the quiz, we treated ourselves to a relaxed pizza and brownie evening this week - a rare chance for our volunteers to sit down and chat rather than pour tea!

Please come and say hello next time you're at an event (and buy a cuppa if you're in need!) We'll be welcoming you to the Sports Award on Tues 14th April and also keeping the caffeine and sugar levels high for Y7 parents evening on Weds 15th April (double whammy that week!)

We'll be around for a chat, and can sell you a lottery ticket as well (cash and card taken) - all trying to raise funds for school and help build our school community.

Von and the AGS Friends Team



## **Tombola Donations**

As part of our upcoming Sports Awards on Tuesday 14th April, we will be holding a tombola to help raise funds for new floodlighting. This will enable us to expand opportunities for students to train and take part in activities throughout the year.

We would be very grateful for any donations of unwanted gifts, chocolates, or other suitable items. If you have anything you would be happy to contribute, please do send them into school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our PE provision. It truly makes a difference in what we are able to offer our students.

## **Mrs Hemming - Head of Physical Education**



## **Exciting Spanish Opportunity for Sixth Form Students!**

Many congratulations to Aidan G (Y12) who has been successful in his application for a grant to study Spanish in Salamanca for a week in October with a language school called DICE. Aidan is one of our most dedicated and promising linguists, and we are delighted that he has been given this fantastic opportunity to immerse himself in Spanish language and culture. We wish him an unforgettable experience!

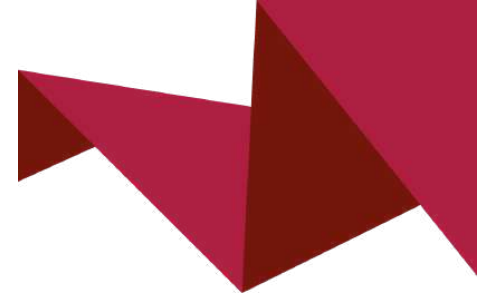
DICE (<https://www.dicesalamanca.com/en/>) has also given the opportunity for other Year 12 students to take part in this experience during the October half term (25-31 October 2026).

Students can spend a week in Salamanca (6 nights) for a special price of 530 euros, which includes:

- 20 Spanish lessons
- Full board and accommodation with a Spanish host family
- A selected number of leisure activities

Salamanca is a beautiful city famous for its university which is one of the oldest in Europe. If you would like more information about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Susana Valera - [s.valera@alcestergs.com](mailto:s.valera@alcestergs.com)**



## Summer Term - Dates for your diary

Term begins:	Monday 13th April 2026
Bank holiday:	Monday 4th May 2026 ( <i>school closed for all</i> )
INSET Day:	Friday 22nd May 2026 ( <i>school closed for students</i> )
Half Term:	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026
Term ends:	Friday 17th July 2026

## Whole School Events



**Tuesday 14th April - Sports Awards Evening**

**Thursday 25th June - Prospective Y7 Open Evening**

**Wednesday 1st July - House Music**

**Friday 3rd July - Sports Day (provisional)**

**Tuesday 7th July - Incoming Y7 Induction Evening**

**Wednesday 8th July - Transition Day**

**Thursday 9th July - Summer Concert**

# Summer Term - Dates for your diary

## Year 7

Wednesday 15th April

Y7 Parents' Evening (in person)

Monday 11th May - Friday 15th May

Y7 Exam Week

Monday 18th May

Y7 Geography fieldtrip to Hawkstone Park

Monday 13th July - Friday 17th July

Y7 Enrichment Week

Friday 17th July

Y7 Singing House Contest

## Year 8

Wednesday 22nd April

Y8 Parents' Evening (virtual)

Monday 18th May - Friday 21st May

Y8 Exam Week

Saturday 31st May - Wednesday 3rd June

Y8 Spanish Trip

Monday 8th June

Y8 Geography fieldtrip to Carding Mill Valley

Monday 13th July - Thursday 16th July

Y8 French Trip

Monday 13th July - Friday 16th July

Y8 Enrichment Week

## Year 9

Friday 17th April - Saturday 18th April

Bronze DofE Training Expedition

Thursday 7th May - Friday 8th May

Bronze DofE Assessed Expedition

Friday 15th May - Saturday 16th May

Y9/10 St George's Park PE Visit

Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June

Y9 Exam Week

Monday 8th June Y9 Author Visit

Monday 13th July - Thursday 16th July

Y9 Newquay Trip

## Year 10

Monday 27th April - Tuesday 5th May

Y10 Exams

Thursday 14th May

Y10 Business Silverstone Visit

Friday 15th May - Saturday 16th May

Y9/10 St George's Park PE Visit

Tuesday 19th May - Thursday 21st May

Silver DofE Training Expedition

Thursday 11th June - Saturday 13th June

Silver DofE Assessed Expedition

Tuesday 7th July Y10 Art Exam

Monday 13th July - Friday 17th July

Y10 Work Experience

# Summer Term - Dates for your diary

## Year 11

Wednesday 29th April- Thursday 30th April  
GCSE Art Exam

Tuesday 5th May Y11 Last day of lessons

Thursday 7th May - Friday 26th June  
GCSE Exam Period

Wednesday 24th June AGS Sixth Form  
Y12 Pre-Admission Presentation Evening

Thursday 2nd July Y11 Prom

Thursday 20th August GCSE Results Day

## Year 13

Tuesday 14th April  
Art & Photography Mock Exam

Monday 20th April

Y12/13 Bletchley Park Visit

Tuesday 5th May Y13 Last day of lessons  
Wednesday 6th May Y13 Final Day Activity

Friday 8th May- Friday 15th May  
A Level Art and Photography Exams

Monday 11th May - Tuesday 23rd June  
A Level Exam Period

Wednesday 8th July - Thursday 23rd July  
Y12/13 Peru Expedition

Thursday 13th August A Level Results Day

## Year 12

Monday 20th April Y12/13 Bletchley Park Visit

Thursday 23rd April Y12 Business Trip

Thursday 30th April Y12 Young Enterprise Event

Wednesday 6th May- Thursday 7th May Y12 Art Exam

Monday 11th May- Wednesday 20th May Y12 Exams

Wednesday 10th June Y12 Ethics Day (provisional)

Monday 22nd June - Friday 26th June  
Y12 Consolidation Week

Monday 22nd June - Wednesday 24th June  
Y12 Gold DofE Practice Expedition

Wednesday 8th July - Thursday 23rd July  
Y12/13 Peru Expedition

Monday 13th July - Friday 17th July  
Y12 Work Experience

Monday 13th July - Thursday 16th July  
Y12 Dale Fort Biology Fieldcourse