



Principal's Update

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the AGS Community,

As we step into the middle of July, the vibrant energy across the school remains as strong as ever. I want to start by acknowledging how incredibly resilient and adaptable our students have been over the past week. Facing another bout of intense summer heat is never easy, but our young people have shown remarkable maturity, managing the high temperatures with calmness and a determination to keep pushing forward right to the end of term.

Today marks the official start of our highly anticipated Enrichment Week, and the school is buzzing with a completely different kind of learning and adventure. It was absolutely wonderful to see so many Year 8 and Year 9 parents and carers bright and early this morning, waving off our students as they headed out on their respective trips. Thank you for your support in getting them organised and packed for what promises to be an unforgettable week of teamwork and discovery.



Assist
Give
Support

13th July 2026

Meanwhile, back on site and out in the wider community, our other year groups are diving into invaluable real-world experiences:

- Year 7: Careers Day is officially underway, with students exploring future pathways and developing new skills.
- Year 8 and 9 students in school are participating in a wide range of projects, from psychology lessons to plays.
- Year 10 and Year 12: Students have launched into their Work Experience week—the vast majority are out thriving on external placements, while a number are engaged in brilliant workplace projects right here in school.

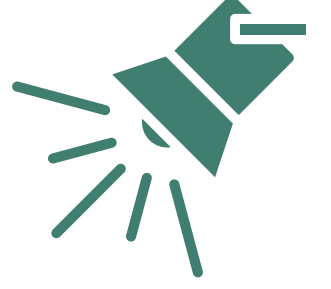
We look forward to sharing their highlights with you, so please keep an eye out for plenty of photos and updates at the end of the week.

Best wishes,

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School





Language SPOTLIGHT



அன்புள்ள பெற்றோர்களே, பராமரிப்பாளர்களே மற்றும் AGS சமூகத்தின் உறுப்பினர்களே,

ஜூலை மாதத்தின் நடுப்பகுதியில் நாம் அடியெடுத்து வைக்கும் இவ்வேளையில், பள்ளி முழுவதும் நிலவும் துடிப்பான ஆற்றல் முன்பைப் போலவே வலுவாக உள்ளது. கடந்த வாரத்தில் நமது மாணவர்கள் எவ்வளவு வியக்கத்தக்க வகையில் மீள்திறனுடனும், சூழ்நிலைக்கேற்ப தங்களை மாற்றிக்கொள்ளும் மனத்துடனும் இருந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை முதலில் நான் பாராட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். மீண்டும் ஒருமுறை கடுமையான கோடை வெப்பத்தை எதிர்கொள்வது ஒருபோதும் எளிதானதல்ல, ஆனால் நமது இளம் மாணவர்கள், இந்த அதிக வெப்பநிலையை அமைதியுடனும், பருவத்தின் இறுதி வரை தொடர்ந்து முன்னேறிச் செல்லும் உறுதியுடனும் சமாளித்து, குறிப்பிடத்தக்க முதிர்ச்சியை வெளிப்படுத்தியுள்ளனர்.

பெரிதும் எதிர்பார்க்கப்பட்ட நமது செறிவூட்டல் வாரம் இன்று அதிகாரப்பூர்வமாகத் தொடங்குகிறது. மேலும் பள்ளி முழுவதும் முற்றிலும் மாறுபட்ட கற்றல் மற்றும் சாகசங்களால் களைக்கட்டியுள்ளது. இன்று காலை விடியற்காலையிலேயே, எட்டாம் மற்றும் ஒன்பதாம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்கள் தத்தமது பயணங்களுக்குப் புறப்பட்டபோது, அவர்களின் பெற்றோர்களும் பாதுகாவலர்களும் கையசைத்து வழியனுப்பி வைத்ததைக் காண்பது மிகவும் அற்புதமாக இருந்தது. குழும்பணி மற்றும் புதிய கண்டுபிடிப்புகள் நிறைந்த, மறக்க முடியாத ஒரு வாரமாக அமையவிருக்கும் இந்தப் பயணத்திற்கு, அவர்களைத் தயார்படுத்தி, பயணத்திற்குத் தேவையான பொருட்களை எடுத்து வைப்பதில் நீங்கள் அளித்த ஆதரவுக்கு நன்றி.

Tamil

13 ஜூலை 2026

இதற்கிடையில், வளாகத்திலும் பரந்த சமூகத்திலும், எங்கள் மற்ற ஆண்டு மாணவர்கள் விலைமதிப்பற்ற நிஜ உலக அனுபவங்களில் மூழ்கி வருகின்றனர்:

ஏழாம் வகுப்புக்கான தொழில் வழிகாட்டு நாள் அதிகாரப்பூர்வமாகத் தொடங்கியுள்ளது. இதில் மாணவர்கள் தங்கள் எதிர்காலப் பாதைகளை ஆராய்ந்து, புதிய திறன்களை வளர்த்துக் கொள்கிறார்கள்.

- பள்ளியில் எட்டாம் மற்றும் ஒன்பதாம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்கள், உளவியல் பாடங்கள் முதல் நாடகங்கள் வரை பலதரப்பட்ட செயல்திட்டங்களில் பங்கேற்று வருகின்றனர்.

10 மற்றும் 12 ஆம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்கள்: அவர்கள் தங்களின் பணி அனுபவ வாரத்தைத் தொடங்கியுள்ளனர். அவர்களில் பெரும்பாலோர் வெளிப் பயிற்சிகளில் சிறந்து விளங்குகின்றனர், அதே சமயம் பலர் இங்கேயே பள்ளியில் சிறப்பான பணியிடத் திட்டங்களில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளனர்.

அவர்களின் சிறப்பம்சங்களை உங்களுடன் பகிர்ந்துகொள்ள ஆவலுடன் உள்ளோம், எனவே வார இறுதியில் வரவிருக்கும் ஏராளமான புகைப்படங்கள் மற்றும் புதிய தகவல்களுக்காகக் காத்திருங்கள்.

நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்,



ags Assist
Give
Support

R Thorne

திருமதி ரேச்சல் தோர்ப், முதல்வர்,
ஆல்செஸ்டர் கிராமர் பள்ளி



At Alcester Grammar School, we know that qualifications are important. They open doors and create opportunities for the future. However, we are equally passionate about providing an education that extends beyond examinations. We want every student to leave us not only with excellent results, but as a curious, resilient and well-rounded individual with a genuine thirst for lifelong learning.

Our **Broadening Horizons** programme encourages students to explore new ideas, develop new interests and discover the world beyond the classroom. By taking ownership of their learning, students can deepen their understanding, broaden their perspectives and develop the habits that will support success both in school and beyond.

To inspire curiosity and encourage students to embrace learning beyond the classroom, we have created a Broadening Horizons Summer Programme for all students in Years 7–10:

KS3 - Summer Challenge



Our KS3 students have been invited to take part in the **Broadening Horizons Summer Challenge**. Students can choose from a menu of engaging activities designed to develop our AGS Engaged Learner skills outside the classroom. Whether it's learning the basics of a new language, mastering a new skill, exploring the fascinating Encyclopaedia Game, visiting somewhere new, listening to a podcast or tackling a creative challenge, students are encouraged to follow their curiosity and challenge themselves throughout the summer.

KS4 - Preparing for the Future

For our KS4 students, the focus shifts towards preparing for the next stage of their academic journey. Students have been provided with subject-specific super-curricular activities that will deepen their knowledge, strengthen independent study habits and help bridge the gap between one academic year and the next. These activities are designed to keep learning active over the summer while encouraging students to engage more deeply with the subjects they are passionate about.

If you would like to get a better sense of what we have challenged students to do, please follow this video link to the tutor time explanation that KS4 students were given- [Mrs Tingle's Explanation](#)

Make your Pledge

To demonstrate their commitment, all KS3 and KS4 students have been asked to make a Broadening Horizons Pledge, choosing the activities they intend to complete over the summer. We look forward to celebrating the wide range of experiences and achievements when students return in September.

Please see examples here - [Broadening Horizons Pledge](#)

The Broadening Horizons Pledge

Name

Tutor (Sept 26)



Over the next 10 weeks, I will ...

The evidence of completion will be...

I want to do this because...

The impact of this activity for me in the future should be...



The full KS3 and KS4 Broadening Horizons activities have been shared with students via **Satchel One**, where they can access the resources and begin planning their summer of learning.

Good luck and enjoy!

Mrs Tingle and Mrs Hemus



Takes responsibility for learning
Aims high



11 primary schools = 68 students + 17 x Year 12
academic mentors = **1 AGS Primary Maths
Challenge!**

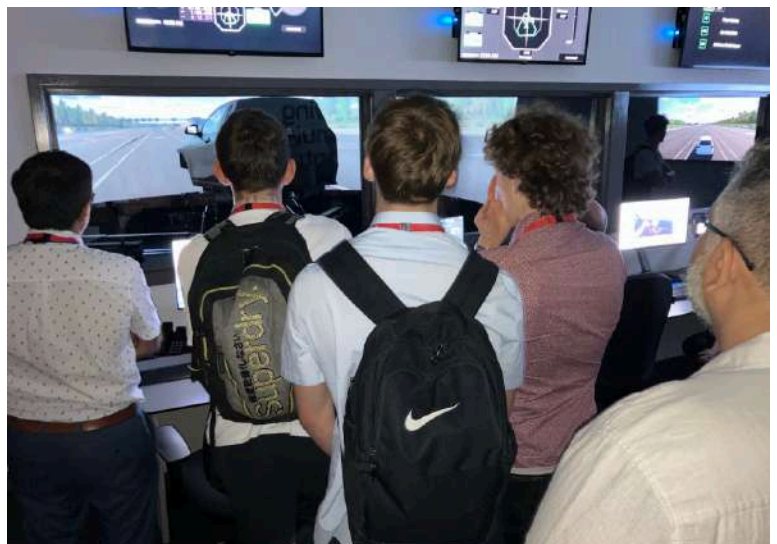


Y12 Horiba Mira Visit



Health impact leads ready to join their conference call
with other schools in the alliance and the
Warwickshire PSHE network, to report back on the
progress of their project.

Students spoke with passion and confidence.



Open Evening fun in Biology!



Pond dipping with 8SSV



Year 8 pupils were flushed with inspiration from Severn Trent!

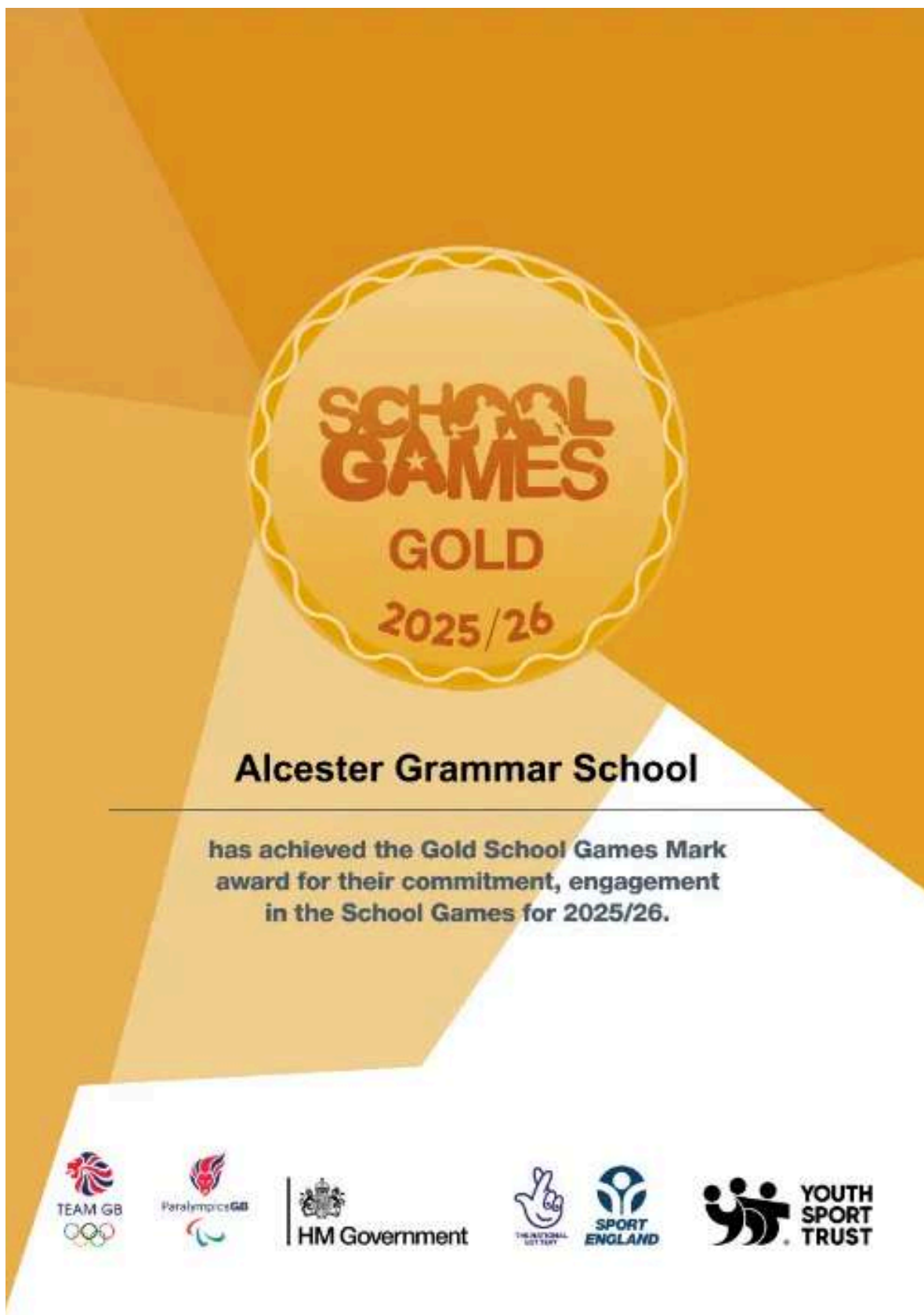
This week we welcomed Siobhan from Severn Trent into school to talk to year 8 students about our rivers, water conservation and careers at Severn Trent. We learned how our water is cleaned and what we need to do to keep our water pipes flowing.

Mrs Perry



We are thrilled to have been awarded Youth Sport Trust Gold School Games Mark for 2025/26, an eminent national recognition of the school's dedication to physical education, sport & pupil wellbeing.

The Award shows outstanding engagement, leadership, and delivery of multiple sporting opportunities.



AGS Sports Day 2026

A Spectacular Showcase of Talent and Teamwork!

What an incredible day! On Friday, 3rd July, the AGS community came together for our annual Sports Day, and it was an absolute triumph. The sun was shining, the energy was electric, and the competitive spirit was alive and well across all five houses.

From the very first whistle to the final stretch, the track was ablaze with determination. We witnessed some incredibly well-fought races, with athletes pushing themselves to the absolute limit in a display of pure grit and sportsmanship. Over on the field, the standard was just as high, with students achieving some truly impressive distances in the throwing and jumping events.

But what made the day truly special was the amazing involvement from everyone. Whether competing for vital house points, cheering from the sidelines, or stepping up to fill a gap, the sense of community and house pride was unmatched.

A Huge Thank You

An event of this scale doesn't just happen, and we owe a massive debt of gratitude to the incredible team behind the scenes. A huge thank you to:

- All AGS Staff: Who stepped up to marshal, time-keep, measure, and keep the day running smoothly.
- The Site Team & Catering Staff: For their tireless work in preparing the grounds and keeping everyone fueled and hydrated.

Congratulations to every single student who took part, gave it their all, and represented their house with pride.

Tug of War Triumphs - Congratulations to Hawthorn

The excitement didn't stop on the main field, either! A special mention goes out to our Year 10s, who wrapped up their games sessions with a fiercely contested Tug of War tournament. The sheer power, strategy, and team cohesion on display was the perfect testament to the AGS spirit.

Mrs Powell

	Y7/8	Position	Y9/10	Position	Senior	Position	Total (7-10,12)	Position
Alder	479	4	461	4	212	4	1164	4
Birch	512	3	545	1	257	1	1319	2
Hawthorn	566	1	497	2	257	1	1324	1
Oak	533	2	456	5	236	3	1235	3
Willow	408	5	469	3	163	5	1053	5







School's Analyst Competition 2026

This term our Year 12 Chemistry students had the opportunity to take part in the RSC Analytical competition. The competition enables students to demonstrate and expand on their existing chemistry knowledge, skills, and aptitude for analytical science through practical experiments.

The competition had a forensic science theme this year. Students were acting as analytical chemists assisting the police, who are investigating the cause of a mysterious illness that has befallen a person working in a local pharmacy. The three practical challenges involved using TLC to match a lipstick sample, analysing the caffeine content in coffee and identifying an unknown cream.

The students really enjoyed the day which not only developed their practical and analytical skills but also their ability to communicate and work as a team.

Particular congratulations go to our top three teams:

1st place: Connie G and Millie H

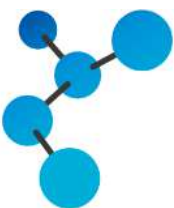
2nd place: Isabella F, Petrina K and Leah T

3rd place: Jacob C, Rhiannon D and Katy M-B

Mrs Darby



Analytical
Chemistry
TRUST FUND



ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY | ANALYTICAL
SCIENCE COMMUNITY



Young Researchers UK



Seven of our year 12 Chemistry and Biology students have spent this academic year involved in a research project in collaboration with the University of Warwick and partner schools across the UK and China.

I am delighted to announce that out of the 21 schools, our students were awarded second place for their poster presentation of their research. The students have worked faultlessly over this past year and I was so proud of their hard-work, dedication and commitment. They really did come together and work as a team.

The Salty Solutions project challenged students to investigate how saltwater irrigation affects plant growth and essential mineral content, using *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a model crop. Our students worked alongside university scientists to develop advanced lab skills, collect real data and present their research at the Metals of Life Symposium at the University of Warwick on Sunday 5th July 2026.

The project was designed to give students authentic research experience while contributing to real-world challenges such as coastal farming, saline soil management, and climate-resilient food production. Work from the project may support future developments in salt-tolerant crops and mineral bioavailability.

This is the first year that this project has ran, and we are looking forward to our year 12 students continuing this important research next year.

Miss Ledbrook



This term the students have juggled their progress exams with some in class practicals in the food technology department. I have again been astounded by the effort that the students put in and am truly amazed by the quality they produce week in week out.

We have lost a few practicals to the heat over the last few weeks but I hope all the students have enjoyed their lessons this year. I have included a few snippets from the student practicals from food styling (beans on toast) and from the year 10 Mock NEA where they have produced 3 dishes in three hours in a masterchef style exam.

Mr Hibbard

Y9 Food Styling



Y10 Mock NEA practical





A Record-Breaking Year!

Well, it's official - it's a record breaker!

What a fantastic year of fundraising for school.

We are incredibly proud to announce that, this year, we have raised...

£16,000

For only our second year in operation, we couldn't be prouder.
Exhausted, yes... but absolutely delighted.



Thank You for Every Bit of Support

A huge thank you to every single one of you for your support — whether you bought a raffle ticket, came to bingo night, competed at quiz night, joined the Year 7 pizza and film night, grabbed a coffee and biscuit at parents' evening, donated or bought pre-loved uniform, or supported our AGSF lottery. Look at the difference we can make together.

What Your Fundraising Has Made Possible

Our donation has already helped school invest in much-needed online resources to keep the curriculum fresh, accessible and up to date. And thanks to your generosity, school has also been able to purchase additional tablets, ensuring students across departments have access to these resources. This will make a very real difference to your young people's learning next year.

Summer of Fun Raffle Success

Our brand-new Summer of Fun Raffle was a smash hit, raising £2,256 all on its own — and giving you plenty of inspiration for summer activities. Another huge thank you to all our prize donors, including our cash prize sponsor, [Feldon Dunsmore Solicitors](#).

Congratulations to Year 11 & Year 13 Families

As the term draws to a close, we want to send a special well done to all our Year 11 and Year 13 families. Exam results are a family effort — we know that — and whatever the outcomes, they do not define your young person. Their time at AGS has given them so much more. Exciting adventures await those leaving AGS this year.

Big Shout-Out to Our Volunteers

And finally... a big shout-out to our brilliant team of volunteers. Some of us plan and organise, some sort uniform and design posters, some welcome you at events and keep the coffee flowing, some are sounding boards and cheerleaders. There is space for everyone, and we are fiercely anti-clique — so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to get involved next year. We'll be looking for new committee members in January as some of us reach the end of our time in school.

Our first meeting of next year will be on Weds 16th September - an evening welcome meeting followed with going out for pizza, so do think about coming along to say hello and join us.

In the meantime, thank you once again from your friendly (and very proud!) PTFA

Von and the team

House News



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

House Music was a standout highlight last week, showcasing an extraordinarily high standard of performance across the school. Students from every house brought energy, skill and real musical flair, from our confident, seasoned performers to newcomers who stepped onto the stage for the very first time. The breadth of talent on display made for a beautifully melodic afternoon!

Our guest judge was deeply impressed by the quality of musicianship, noting the precision, creativity and professionalism shown throughout by all of the competitors. It was a close competition, but Alder House emerged as the overall winners, with Hawthorn and Birch taking well-deserved second and third places.

A huge thank you goes to the Music and Drama Department, Miss Howe, Gracie, our Heads of Houses, and the SALT team for their exceptional support in bringing the event together. The SALT karaoke, in particular, was quite a thing to behold, a joyful reminder of the community spirit which makes House events so special.

Thank you to you all for every House point awarded and every House point earned this academic year as well as all the support from home too.

Have a lovely summer-
there are many competitions coming up in September!

Mrs Bremner-Smith





KS3 House Bake Off 2026

Congratulations to all entrants! Your cakes were a joy to see and taste and we had a really tough job deciding on the positions.

Cakes were judged for Appearance and Flavour and points awarded as follows:

- 1st = 10 individual points (100 for the House)
- 2nd = 8 individual points (80 for the House)
- 3rd = 6 individual points (60 for the House)

Results:

- 1st (Appearance and Flavour)- Kym 7MJI (Willow)
- 2nd (Flavour)- Ethan 7ERA (Birch)
- 2nd (Appearance)- Amy 7NHB (Alder)
- 3rd (Appearance and Flavour)- Elsie 7MJI (Willow)



Thank you again for all who entered- your cakes were amazing!

Mrs Bremner-Smith and the Heads of Houses.

ags
House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**
10.7.26

 Willow
5,228

 Alder
4,592

 Birch
4,418

 Hawthorn
4,288

 Oak
3,959

Exams Update

Well done to our students in years 11, 12 and 13 for completing their examinations. Information regarding results day will follow soon and information will be updated [here on the school website](#) about the post results services.

The exam dates for the next academic year are as follows:

Monday 12 October until Friday 16 October - Year 13 mocks

Monday 2 November until Tuesday 10 November - Year 11 mocks

Thursday 10 December until Friday 18 December - Year 12 mocks

Monday 1 February until Friday 12 February - Year 11 and Year 13 mocks

Monday 26 April until Wednesday 5 May - Year 10 mocks

Thursday 6 May until Wednesday 23 June - External exams

If anyone is interested in joining the team of invigilators please email me exams@alcesterags.com

Thank you

Mrs Silcox
Examinations Officer

