

Principal's Update

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the AGS Community,

After a busy summer on site, it has been a true pleasure to welcome the full community back for the start of the 2026/2027 academic year. As the following pages show, it has been a highly successful start to term. Years 7 and 12 have both settled in exceptionally well, the school has buzzed with activity and following on from a stunning summer of academic success, August saw us celebrate our best-ever GCSE results in the school's history by some distance- remarkably for the third consecutive year.

Again year, we are actively encouraging ALL parents to read this fortnightly bulletin - alongside asking parents to check Satchel One and Evolve regularly.

18th September 2026

We also look forward to welcoming parents and carers to school for a series of Parent Information Evenings (please see page 3.) Further information about these events will be shared with parents of relevant year groups shortly; I do hope that as many of you as possible will join us.

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact either the 7-11 Hub or Sixth Form Office should you have any questions or queries.

Best wishes,



Assist
Give
Support

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School



Language SPOTLIGHT



Drodzy Rodzice, Opiekunowie i Członkowie Społeczności AGS,

Po pracowitym lecie spędzonym na uczelni, z prawdziwą przyjemnością powitaliśmy całą społeczność na początku roku akademickiego 2026/2027. Jak pokazują kolejne strony, był to niezwykle udany początek semestru. Uczniowie klas 7 i 12 zadomowili się wyjątkowo dobrze, w szkole panował ruch, a po wspianiałym lecie pełnym sukcesów akademickich, w sierpniu świętowaliśmy nasze najlepsze w historii szkoły wyniki egzaminów GCSE – co jest niezwykle, już trzeci rok z rzędu.

Po raz kolejny zachęcamy WSZYSTKICH rodziców do lektury tego dwutygodniowego biuletynu, a także prosimy rodziców o regularne sprawdzanie Satchel One i Evolve.



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Give
Support



Polish

18 września 2026 r.

Z przyjemnością powitamy również rodziców i opiekunów w szkole na cyklu wieczorów informacyjnych dla rodziców (zobacz stronę 3). Wkrótce przekazemy rodzicom uczniów odpowiednich roczników dalsze informacje na temat tych wydarzeń; mam nadzieję, że jak najwięcej z Państwa weźmie w nich udział.

Jak zawsze, jeśli masz jakiegokolwiek pytania lub wątpliwości, nie wahaj się skontaktować z 7-11 Hub lub biurem Sixth Form.

Najlepsze życzenia,



Pani Rachel Thorpe
Dyrektor Szkoły Podstawowej Alcester



Parent Information Evenings:

- Monday 14th September - Year 11
(including Elevate session)
- Thursday 17th September - Year 13
- Wednesday 30th September - Year 8
- Thursday 1st October - Year 7
- Tuesday 6th October - Year 9
- Wednesday 7th October - Year 10

A few polite requests for any parent/carers or student driving to AGS



1) Please do not stop and drop off in front of the middle school gate.

Stopping here can block the road and prevent pupils from safely using the pavement to access the pedestrian gate and crossing. Please drop pupils off a little further away from the gate to help keep everyone safe.

2) Please do not come on site whilst buses are loading and unloading at either end of the day.

If you are on-site, please drive slowly and take particular care when approaching and using the pupil crossing.

3) Please remember to be considerate of our neighbours when parking in (or driving down) local streets.

In particular, please ensure that driveways are not blocked and that there is always sufficient space for emergency vehicles, such as fire engines, to pass safely and without obstruction.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our pupils, families and local community safe.



This fortnight's quick round-up from AGSF

We've had a great start to the new school year, with a really lovely welcome meeting this week (followed by pizza) and a few new faces joining the team. It's never too late to offer your time or skills - we always aim to work smart, not too hard, and fuelled by coffee!



1. Fundraising target & this year's project

After smashing last year's £10,000 target (and actually reaching £16,000), we've set ourselves a new goal of **£15,000**.

This year we're fundraising for a new school lunch shelter - extra outdoor, weather-resistant seating area that students have been asking for, but which school simply doesn't have the budget for. It's a practical, long-lasting improvement that will benefit the whole school community for years to come. More details to follow.

2. Pre-loved uniform request

We're starting the year with a call-out for pre-loved uniform your youngsters have grown out of. Our stocks were heavily depleted at the Year 7 induction evening, so we'd especially welcome:

- Blazers
- PE kit
- Jumpers and other AGS branded items

We currently have plenty of black trousers and grey skirts, so do let us know if you need any.

Our stock of blazers is available on our [SumUp](#) store and we hope to add jumpers soon. PE kit disappears almost instantly, but if we ever get enough, we'll list it there too.

3. Lottery update

We've drawn the final round of the 25/26 AGS Friends Lottery, with winners announced shortly. We will soon be gearing up to launch the new year's scheme. It remains the simplest, easiest way to support us – £2 per month, automatic entry into every draw, an £80 prize every half-term, plus £300 in cash prizes each round. Keep an eye out for the launch announcement.

As ever, we'd love to hear your ideas, suggestions or offers of help ags-friends@alcesterags.com

Von and the AGSF Team





A fantastic turn out at Year 9-11 Netball Club!



Exciting afternoon on the Cross Country course for 43 AGS athletes from Y7 right up to 6th Form.



Hockey Club



Year 8 Rugby



A hive of activity at lunchtime with 67 students enjoying Table Tennis, Cheerleading and Volleyball



Spanish News

Year 7 - European Day of Languages

Bake off 2026

To mark European Day of Languages, the MFL Department is hosting our annual Great European Bake Off on Thursday, 24th September.

We invite all Year 7 students to show off their cooking skills and creativity by baking a European-themed cake (or biscuits) –whether inspired by iconic landmarks, national flags, or traditional recipes from across the continent.

To enter, please bring your baked goods to FT1 before form time on Thursday 24th September. Avoid using nuts in your bakes because of allergies. The first three winners will win an Amazon voucher, and all entries will be awarded House Points.

We look forward to seeing your bakes!

Year 10 - Letter Exchange Project

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 10 Spanish students are embarking on an exciting letter exchange project with partner students at a secondary school in Spain this year.

This initiative offers our students an authentic opportunity to put their Spanish language skills into practice and gain firsthand insight into Spanish life and culture. Through regular letter exchanges, students will share details about their hobbies, school life, and local traditions—writing in Spanish while helping their partners practice their English.

We prompt parents and carers to encourage Year 10 students to take part in this project as it will greatly benefit them. However, it is important for students to be aware that they will have to commit to writing letters during certain times of the year and it is very important they stick to deadlines so that the project can run smoothly.

Consent letters will be posted on Satchel One and students will need to bring them signed to Miss Litynska to be able to take part.

Year 13 Leavers

A huge congratulations to our Year 13 Spanish leavers from last academic year on their fantastic exam results! Their dedication, resilience, and passion for language learning truly shone through in their final achievements, and the Spanish department could not be prouder of everything they have accomplished.

A special mention goes to four of our leavers who have chosen to continue studying languages at university with the following degrees:

Business with Spanish

French and Spanish

Modern Languages

History and Modern Languages

We wish them, and all of our Y13 leavers, the very best of luck as they step into their next chapter.

¡Muchísimas gracias y buena suerte!

Miss Litynska
Head of Spanish



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

House News

The new academic year has begun with a real sense of healthy competition as we welcomed Year 7 and Year 12 into their Houses. Both groups enjoyed dedicated welcome days, supported brilliantly by our SALT team, who also played a key role in the Year 7 Activities Day on Tuesday 8th September, guiding students, leading sessions and modelling AGS values.

For parents and students who are new to the school, please continue reading for a brief potted history of the relaunched House system:

The AGS House System was relaunched on 3rd June 2024, introducing five Houses inspired by the trees of the Arrow Nature Reserve: Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Oak and Willow.

Each House is led by a Head of House and supported by SALT, our Sixth Form leadership team made up of Senior Ambassadors, Communication & Outreach Ambassadors, Events Ambassadors and Finance & Charity Ambassadors. The House year runs Easter to Easter, with a new SALT team elected after Y12 hustings in March 2027.

Students across all year groups can also apply for House roles, with applications for Y7-12 positions closing on **Friday 17th September**. Successful candidates will be announced in the next newsletter!

Staff award House points for AGS Learner qualities, DHB behaviour, Oracy and participation in a wide range of competitions.

Each House also completes at least one community event and one charity fundraiser per half-term. Recently students voted for the House charities for the 2026-27 House year. The results are as follows:



Alder — Cancer Research
Birch — Leukaemia UK
Hawthorn — Molly Olly's Wishes
Oak — Alcester Dementia Café
Willow — Young Carers



This half-term is **Oak's** charity half-term and **Birch's** Outreach half-term.

Watch this space to hear more of how these houses have worked together as a team to inspire, contribute and enrich the lives of those both within the school and the wider local community

Mrs Bremner-Smith
Head of House System

House News

Annual House Cups are awarded at the Easter Celebration Assembly.



Dobell Cup
for charity fundraising



Newport Cup
for community outreach



Spencer Cup
*for overall house events
and competitions*



Wells Cup
for overall house points

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House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**
17.9.26

 *Willow*
6,439

 *Alder*
5,798

 *Birch*
5,645

 *Hawthorn*
5,461

 *Oak*
5,217

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*Y7 House
Challenge
2026*

 *Willow*
7MJI

 *Alder*
7NHB

 *Oak*
7LD

 *Birch*
7ERA

 *Hawthorn*
7MSP

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

AGS/SGGS Mock Interviews

Dear AGS community,

Are you involved in academia? In industry? Are you a clinician? Are you in the legal profession? Do you Interview for a living? If so, the AGS Aim High and careers programmes would like to hear from you.

With hundreds of students applying for a myriad of courses, many requiring high level interviews, our well established mock interview programme aims to give students the best preparation for what lies ahead. As ever our students are setting their sights high with almost a quarter of the year applying to Oxbridge or another course requiring a high level interview. Clinical courses are once again very popular.

This year we have applicants for:

Computer Science Dental Medicine Economics
English Literature Engineering History Languages Law
Mathematics Medicine Politics Physics
Philosophy Veterinary Medicine

And many more. There will also be more opportunities than ever before for professionals and those in industry to participate after some successful trials last year. By popular demand Oxbridge mock interviews will occur earlier and more flexibly than before. We hope to pair candidates with interviewers by half term and for interviews to occur any time between then and the start of December.

Our virtual mock MMI evening, for clinical applicants, will occur on the 4th of November. Once again, we are working closely with Stratford Girls Grammar School and King Edwards Stratford for our clinical mock interview programme.

Huge thanks to the many members of the AGS community who have helped with this before, we very much welcome established interviewers as well as new volunteers. [If you think you could help by offering a mock interview to one or more of our high achievers please fill out this short form.](#)

Many thanks

Mr C Gill - Head of Biology & Aim High
Mrs D Perry - Head of Careers

Autumn 1 26/27

September to October Half Term

	Lunch time (12:40-1:10pm)			After School*		
	Club	Venue	Teacher	Club	Venue	Teacher
Monday	Badminton Y10/11	Sports Hall	Mrs Kemp/ Mr Richens	Rugby (Mixed) Y7-9	Fields	Mr Blackham, Mrs Kemp & Mr Dickinson
	Rowing Y7-13	Fitness Suite	Mrs Nabney	Netball Club/Fixtures Y9-11	Sports hall	Mrs Powell & Mrs Nabney
Tuesday	Netball (Game Play) Y7	Sports Hall	Mrs Powell and Mrs Parsons	Hockey	Courts	Mrs Powell & Mrs Nabney
Wednesday	Volleyball Y9	Sports Hall	Mr Nicholls	Netball Y7-8	Sports Hall/Courts	Mrs Parsons, Mrs Kemp, Mrs Powell
	Table-Tennis Y7-13	Sports Hall	Mrs Nabney			
	Cheerleading 7-13	Dance Studio	External Coach			
Thursday	Indoor Football League Y10/11	Sports Hall	Mr Bayliss and Mr Nicholls	Basketball Y7-9	Sports Hall	Mr Richens
				Fencing Y7-13	Dance Studio	External Coach
Friday	AM 7.45-8.20 Performance Basketball - Invite Only Y10-11	Sports Hall	Mr Richens	Staff Sports	Sports Hall	Dr Proud
	Badminton Y7-9	Sports Hall	Mrs Kemp			
	A Level Dance	Dance Studio	A Level Dance			

Unless stated otherwise all after school clubs run from 3:50- 4.50pm and therefore pick up is from the Sports Hall at 4.50pm. All clubs are mixed unless specified.



2026/27 MUSIC EXTRA - CURRICULAR TIMETABLE



<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
LUNCHTIME 1PM-1:30PM	LUNCHTIME 1PM-1:30PM	LUNCHTIME 1PM-1:30PM	LUNCHTIME 1PM-1:30PM	LUNCHTIME 1PM-1:30PM
STRING GROUP	CONCERT BAND (All abilities)	JAZZ BAND	SCHOOL CHOIR	ROCK BAND
'STRUM' (GUITAR GROUP)			COURSEWORK SUPPORT	COURSEWORK SUPPORT



UKMT Senior Maths Challenge



Our Year 12 and 13 Maths students will have the opportunity to take part in the 2026 UKMT Senior Maths Challenge on Wednesday 7th October during the school day.

The 90-minute challenge consists of 25 engaging and thought-provoking mathematical problems, designed to stretch students' problem-solving skills and encourage creative mathematical thinking.

Students who perform particularly well may be invited to take part in the follow-on rounds, including the Senior Kangaroo and Maths Olympiad, providing an exciting opportunity to further develop and showcase their mathematical talents.

Entry details will be emailed to A-level Maths Students and Parents in the near future.

Mr Atherton

Did you know confidence isn't something you're simply born with? It's a skill that can be learnt, practised and developed.

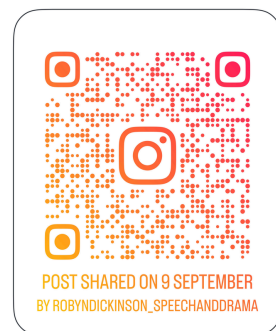
Starting Year 7 brings lots of new challenges, speaking up in class, meeting new people, sharing ideas and communicating with others. LAMDA lessons at AGS help students build confidence while working towards recognised graded qualifications. Students can take exams in Acting, Verse and Prose, Shakespeare or Speaking in Public, developing clear speech, performance skills and confident communication.

The exams give students something exciting to work towards, but these life-long skills go far beyond the classroom. I have been teaching LAMDA since 2012 and am also a LAMDA Examiner, which means I know exactly what is required to make effective and impactful speakers.

If you are interested in knowing more about lessons:

Email: speakingmatters121@gmail.com

Mrs Dickinson
LAMDA Teacher





CALLING BAKERS FROM ALL HOUSES

Cake SALE

Oak

DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS GREATFULLY RECIEVED.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO:

Alcester Café
Supporting people with Dementia and their carers

CASH AND CARD PAYMENTS

CALLING ALL BAKERS- IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART PLEASE BRING THE CAKES TO THE 7 TO 11 HUB ON THE MONDAY MORNING

28 SEPTEMBER

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER
EARLY AND LATE BREAK
UNDER THE CANOPY OUTSIDE PITSTOP



NHS
Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust

Protect your child from flu

The School Immunisation Team need your correct contact details

Have your email address or mobile phone number changed within the last year? If so, please get in touch with your team:

Coventry schools:

- ✉ bewise.immunise@covwarkpt.nhs.uk
- ☎ 02476 961422

North Warwickshire schools:

- ✉ NorthImms@covwarkpt.nhs.uk
- ☎ 02476 321550

South Warwickshire schools:

- ✉ SouthImms@covwarkpt.nhs.uk
- ☎ 01926 353899



ags Alcester
Grammar
School

Year 6 Open Morning

29th & 30th September 2026

Visit us to discover all that AGS has to offer

- Excellent Pastoral Care
- A Rich, Ambitious Curriculum
- Broad, All Round Education
- Over 60 Extra-Curricular Clubs

BOOK HERE



www.alcesterags.co.uk



Birmingham Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5ED

2026-27 Term Dates

Autumn Term

Term begins: Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Years 7 and 12 only
Thursday 3rd September 2026 - All students return
Half Term: Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October 2026
Term ends: Friday 18th December 2026

Spring Term

Term begins: Tuesday 5th January 2027
Half Term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027
Term ends: Thursday 25th March 2027

Summer Term

Term begins: Monday 12th April 2027
Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
Term ends: Wednesday 21st July 2027

INSET Days (no school for students)

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 13th November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Friday 5th February 2027
Friday 28th May 2027

