Alcester Grammar School



Principal's Update

5th October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of the AGS Community,

This fortnight's Principal's Update contains a wealth of information to help you support your young person at home, with topics such as online safety and Oracy.

I am delighted that Lesley Henderson has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors—please do read her introduction on page 3. I would also like to draw your attention to page 13, where we welcome Culinera as our new catering provider from November.

Page 6 onwards showcases the vast array of activities that have been happening in school over the last fortnight. It has also been a pleasure to welcome parents and carers of students in Years 7 and 8 to their respective information evenings.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers of Years 9 and 10 again this coming week.

Partnership remains important to us. I would like to congratulate Alcester Academy (a partner in the Three Rivers Alliance) on their fantastic recent Ofsted report. It was also a delight to attend Prize Giving at Sir Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester on Friday evening as their guest of honour—such collaboration helps to drive AGS forward.

As ever, please do get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

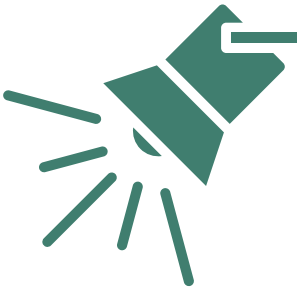
Best wishes,

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

ags Assist Give Support

Language SPOTLIGHT



Spanish

Estimados padres, tutores y miembros de la comunidad de AGS:

La actualización quincenal del director contiene mucha información para ayudarle a apoyar a su hijo/a en casa, con temas como la seguridad en línea y la expresión oral.

Me complace anunciar el nombramiento de Lesley Henderson como nuestra nueva presidenta del consejo escolar; les invito a leer su presentación en la página 3. Asimismo, quisiera llamar su atención sobre la página 13, donde damos la bienvenida a Culinera como nuestro nuevo proveedor de servicios de catering a partir del periodo posterior a las vacaciones de mitad de trimestre.

A partir de la página 6 se muestra la gran variedad de actividades que se han llevado a cabo en el colegio durante las últimas dos semanas. También ha sido un placer dar la bienvenida a los padres y tutores de los alumnos de 7.º y 8.º curso a sus respectivas reuniones informativas.

5 de octubre de 2026

Esperamos dar la bienvenida nuevamente a los padres y tutores de los alumnos de 9º y 10º curso la próxima semana.

La colaboración sigue siendo fundamental para nosotros. Me gustaría felicitar a Alcester Academy (socio de Three Rivers Alliance) por su excelente informe reciente de Ofsted. También fue un placer asistir a la entrega de premios en Sir Thomas Rich's School en Gloucester el viernes por la noche como invitado de honor; este tipo de colaboración impulsa el progreso de AGS.

Como siempre, no duden en ponerse en contacto con nosotros si tienen alguna duda o inquietud.

Los mejores deseos,

Rachel Thorpe, Directora de la Escuela Secundaria de Alcester

A message from the new Chair of Governors

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors at Alcester Grammar School.

It is a privilege to take on this role and to have the opportunity to support such an important part of our local community. I am looking forward to working closely with my fellow governors, the school's leadership and staff, and, importantly, with students and parents.

As Chair, my key priorities will be to ensure that the governing body provides strong and constructive support and challenge to the school, always keeping the education, wellbeing and opportunities of our young people at the heart of our decisions. I am particularly keen that we continue to support high standards and aspirations, while ensuring that every student feels valued, supported and able to fulfil their potential. Good communication and a strong partnership between the school, parents and the wider community will also be important to me.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and to learning more about all aspects of school life. I hope to meet many of you at school events over the coming months, and I look forward to playing my part in the school's continuing success.

Warm regards,



Lesley Henderson
Chair of Governors, Alcester Grammar School

Join the team

We are seeking committed and passionate individuals to join our governing board. This opportunity comes at an exciting time of strategic change and development for Alcester Grammar School.

As a governor, you will play a key role in shaping our strategic direction, offering support and constructive challenge to the leadership team, ensuring robust financial management, and advocating for the best outcomes for every student. It is a deeply rewarding way to contribute to our school community and make a real difference in the lives of young people. Full training and support are provided.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with your wider network: friends, family, or professional contacts. Candidates do not need to have a child currently attending the school, we welcome applications from anyone with relevant skills, insight, or a genuine desire to support our mission.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please take a look at the full adverts, visit our website, or contact me directly for an informal conversation.

We are currently recruiting for the following:

- Governor /Trustee
- Academy Trust Members
- Parent Governor

Alcester Grammar School

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Digital Safeguarding Focus

For many families, the summer holidays bring a more relaxed approach to technology. Children often spend longer on their devices, stay up later, use social media more frequently and become more active in group chats. While this can be part of enjoying the break, it can also mean that routines and boundaries have gradually slipped. As we get into the new term, it's a good opportunity to reset your family's expectations around technology so that devices support learning, sleep and wellbeing rather than becoming a distraction.

Consider revisiting expectations around:

- When phones are put away, particularly during homework, family time and before bed
- Screen time during the school week, ensuring there's a healthy balance between technology, schoolwork and other activities
- Group chats and social media, including how to manage upsetting messages and the importance of leaving chats that no longer feel positive
- Getting help, making sure your child knows they can always come to you or another trusted adult if something online makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

A few simple conversations at the start of term can make it much easier to establish healthy digital habits that will support your child throughout the school year.

Many young people enjoy taking part in online trends and challenges shared through social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube. While many are harmless and fun, some challenges can encourage risky, unsafe or inappropriate behaviour, often without young people fully understanding the potential consequences.

Social media challenges can sometimes involve dangerous activities, damage to property, harmful substances, unsafe dares, or behaviours that put a young person's physical or emotional wellbeing at risk. The pressure to gain likes, followers, or approval from peers can make it difficult for young people to step back and make safe choices.

As parents and carers, we encourage you to:

- Talk regularly with your child about the content they are viewing online and the challenges they may see on social media.
- Encourage them to think critically about online trends and to question whether a challenge is safe, kind and legal before taking part.
- Remind them that not everything shared online is real, harmless, or endorsed by trusted adults.
- Discuss the potential consequences of sharing videos or images online, including impacts on reputation, privacy and future opportunities.
- Make use of parental controls and privacy settings where appropriate.
- Encourage your child to come and speak to a trusted adult if they feel pressured to participate in an online challenge.

Please remember that online trends can spread very quickly. If you become aware of a challenge that concerns you, we encourage you to discuss it with your child and contact the school on dsl@alcestergs.com if you believe it may pose a risk to members of our community.

By working together, we can help young people enjoy the benefits of the online world while developing the skills and confidence to stay safe, make informed decisions, and recognise when something online may put them or others at risk.

Mr Jones - DSL

Oracy October: Celebrating the Power of Talk

This week marks the official launch of Oracy October across Years 7–13, a month dedicated to developing our students' confidence, clarity, and depth in spoken communication.

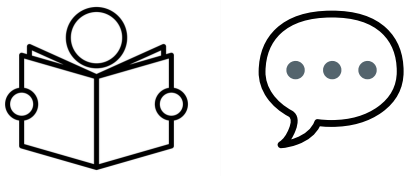
At AGS, Oracy isn't something that happens just in October; it's a vital skill we build in our classrooms every single day. However, this month gives us a welcome opportunity to refocus our listening habits, elevate student voice, and celebrate the power of talk across our school community.

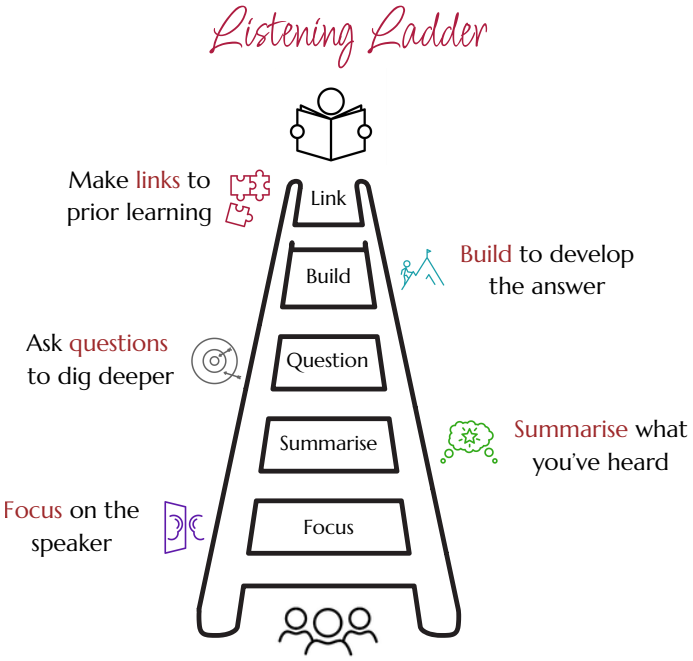
Oracy is about much more than simply speaking out loud. It is the foundation for how young people articulate complex ideas, process new information, and engage thoughtfully with the world around them - serving as the golden thread running through all of Engaged Learner Habits.

This month, we are focusing on **SUMMARISE**—the second step on our school Oracy Ladder.

True listening requires active mental processing. To show deep understanding, students are being challenged across all subjects to synthesise what they hear and express it concisely in their own words.

Throughout October, teachers will be awarding **double House Points** when students excel at summarising.





How you can support at home

Oracy flourishes when reinforced outside the classroom. You can help build these crucial habits at home with simple prompts during everyday conversations:

> *"Can you summarise the main takeaway from your history/science lesson today in two sentences?"*
>
> *"If you had to explain that news story/book chapter in your own words, how would you sum it up?"*

Thank you for your continued partnership as we help our students become articulate, confident, and reflective communicators.

Mrs Hemus
Associate Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning

THIS FORTNIGHT AT AGS



We have had a fantastic week of Open Mornings welcoming prospective Year 7 students. A big thank you to our Year 8 tour guides and presenters and our Year 11 Prefects for being such excellent ambassadors for our school!



Homework club- a quiet space for students to have access to computers and time to work on independent tasks during lunchtime.



Rehearsals for the school play are in full swing, and it has been wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 students into the drama community.



Engineering society- a hive of collaboration and creative thinking!



House spirit is in full swing as we hosted our first House assemblies of the year!



THIS FORTNIGHT IN SPORT AT AGS







What an amazing day at the National Schools Touch Rugby Championships!

Congratulations to our Senior team who came an amazing 2nd, with a special thanks to Oscar and Henry for playing up to help the team.

Congratulations to our Year 10 squad, who came from bottom of their pool to be narrowly defeated in the finals. An amazing achievement to reach 2nd two years in a row.



Year 7 rugby team's first game



Sixth Form Netball



2-0 win for the 6th form first team in the first round of the National Cup!



Year 7 & 8 boys rugby v Studley gaining 5 tries to 2 win in the evening sunshine.



Special shout out to Y10 Oscar who refereed the match!

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Huge congratulations to all 63 students across 10 Gold DofE teams who conquered a challenging 4-day expedition in the Black Mountains.













European Day of Languages

A massive well done to our Year 7 students for their fantastic enthusiasm during this year's European Day of Languages Bake off!

A big thank you to everyone who baked, sampled, and joined in to make the day such a memorable success! Every single cake brought to school was as delicious as it was creatively designed. It was a great opportunity for students to discover recipes from all around the world, and also to celebrate the diverse community from which our students come from.

A huge congratulations goes to our three brilliant competition winners: Oliver, Minnie and Sarah. Well done for the fantastic design and taste of your cakes!

Miss Litynska
Head of Spanish













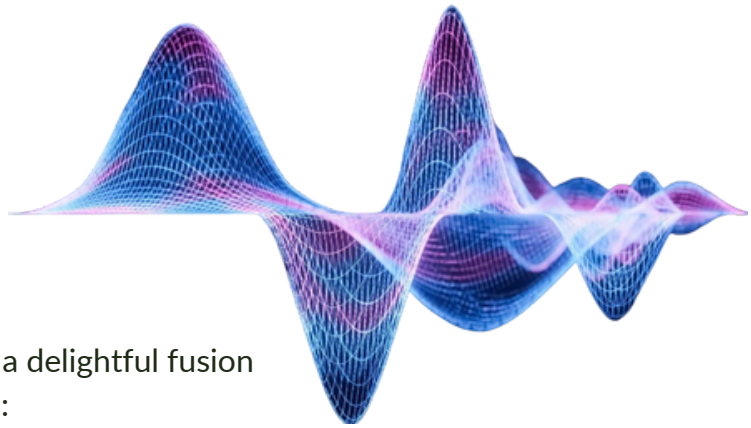












Poetic Physics

National Poetry Day was on 1st October. Here is a delightful fusion of Physics and Poetry from our A Level Physicists:

Haikus: waves and particle physics

Waves oh waves you are
Harmonics to my stave the
Frequency of waves
(Edith P)

Superposition
Two waves added together
Two peaks or two troughs
(Leon S)

Quarks, charge, mass and strange
Leptons, negative and tiny
Exchange particles
(Kian D)

Sea, mexican, sound
Both are very important
Although EM reigns
(Noah B)

And... (not a haiku)

Wave, wave, how do you behave?
Do you go through a medium?
Harmonic and premium?
Or do you move through space?
Forever with grace?
Wave, wave, how do you behave?
(Ben B)

Mrs Tingle
Assistant Principal

House News

Alder Birch Hawthorn Oak Willow

There has been plenty happening across the Houses in recent weeks. Last Thursday, our Year 7 students had a fantastic time making and sampling cakes as part of the MFL European Languages Day Bake Off. There was a wonderful array of cakes on display, and it was fantastic to hear students sharing stories about their different cultural roots and family backgrounds. The event not only celebrated our diverse community but also raised money for charity and earned valuable House points.

Oak House also organised a cake sale in support of their nominated charity, Alcester Dementia Café. They encouraged students from all Houses to get involved by baking and contributing towards this very worthy cause.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, which raised a total of: £325.92

Alcester Café
Supporting people with Dementia and their carers

It will be Oak House's non-uniform day on the last day of term, Friday 16th October. Year 13 will be allowed to sit their mock exams in non-uniform but please remember lanyards. (The real exams will be sat in usual business wear.)

Oak

This half term is Birch House's turn to lead on our Outreach programme. We look forward to sharing more details about their planned activities shortly.

Finally, Thursday sees the current SALT team enjoy their long-anticipated Welcome Breakfast. This is a well-deserved opportunity to celebrate all they have achieved so far. They have done an excellent job, setting a very high standard for future SALT teams, and the Heads of Houses are looking forward to joining them for this special occasion.

Mrs Bremner-Smith
Head of House System

House Representatives

As part of the last Principal's update, we promised to reveal the names of our newly elected House representatives. Please see below for this exciting update. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to put their names forwards. Congratulations to you all!

Alder

Year 7 - Rory M, David G-V
Year 8 - Tharun O-M, Sarveshwar G-S
Year 10 - Victor L-M, Ronav P
Year 11 - Payaswini P
Year 12 - Esme F, Ethan F, Ross L, Alex O

Birch

Year 7 - Alasdair L, Emma H
Year 8 - Isaac M, Ethan P
Year 10 - Alby R, Amelia C
Year 11 - Toby H-W
Year 12 - James T, Ipek D, Eliza C, Evie C

Hawthorn

Year 7 - Rosie W-S, Hei Y-L
Year 8 - Siddheswar G-S, Annora W
Year 10 - Lucy W, Sailee U
Year 11 - Jude B
Year 12 - Max W, Hannah P, Zena D, Jamie B

Oak

Year 7 - Stephen O, Minnie T
Year 8 - Abigail H
Year 10 - Tanay K, Dylan C
Year 11 - Will K, Florian M
Year 12 - Annabel L, Daisy H, Martha P, Keisha M

Willow

Year 7 - Edward M, Viraat B
Year 8 - Nikitha B, Kym M
Year 10 - Ashani K, Cassian A
Year 11 - Maisie P, Abdul-Rahman Q, Neil A
Year 12 - Ola E-F, Haylea T, Sarvesh K, Arturo H

THE SOCIAL KITCHEN by culinera

hello ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ags ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2026

WELCOME...

WE ARE COOKED BY CULINERA, YOUR NEW CATERERS

Dear students, staff, parents and the wider community

We wanted to write to you to hopefully give you something to look forward to in November!

After a rigorous selection process over the last couple of months, Culinera have been chosen as the new caterer to provide your catering from November.



LEARN MORE BY VISITING OUR CATERING WEBSITE - MYCULINERA.CO.UK/ALCESTERGRAMMAR



ABOUT CULINERA

Culinera is an independently owned and operated catering company, established with the aim of bringing about a new era in school food. We create school restaurants, not canteens, and offer a bespoke service to Alcester Grammar School.

Find out more by visiting your brand new dedicated catering website.



www.alcestergs.com 01789 762 494 sixthform@alcestergs.com

Birmingham Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5ED

House Points WEEKLY UPDATE

28.9.26



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