



Principal's Update

16th October 2026

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

As we reach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to you all for your ongoing support, partnership, and commitment to our school community.

It has been an extraordinarily busy seven weeks, but also an immensely productive and fulfilling start to the academic year.

So much has been achieved right across the school- in our classrooms, through our extra-curricular activities, on trips, and across our broader personal development programme. Our students have shown remarkable resilience, and it has been wonderful to see so many thriving and making the most of every opportunity.

There is so much to celebrate from these first seven weeks:

- **Outstanding Attendance & Inclusion:** Whole school attendance currently stands at a brilliant 97.1%. We are particularly proud that students receiving free school meals are attending at an incredible 98%—we hope a testament to the welcoming, supportive, and inclusive environment we strive to create every single day.
- **A Thriving Positive Culture:** Our focus on celebrating positive behaviour continues to have a transformative impact. Over the last seven weeks, our staff have logged 19,384 positive recognition points compared to just 1,549 negative points. That gives us a positive-to-negative ratio of over 12 to 1, perfectly reflecting the kind, respectful, and ambitious culture our students are building together.
- **Enhancing Our School Spaces:** The opening of our new Key Stage 4 library has been a huge success, quickly becoming a thriving hub for quiet study and reading. We have also had the pleasure of welcoming several wonderful new colleagues to our teaching and support teams.
- **National Recognition:** We were delighted to see our school named in The Telegraph's top 100 schools in the country (ranking 90th). Furthermore, preliminary (as yet unvalidated) government data indicates that our summer 2026 GCSE results will hopefully place us among the top 55 grammar schools nationally for student attainment—and around 11th among co-educational grammars. This is a tremendous achievement for our students and staff alike.

Thank you once again for your support, partnership, and trust. I hope you and your families have a restful, enjoyable half-term break—our students have certainly earned it.

Warmest regards,



Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School



ags Assist
Give
Support

Language SPOTLIGHT

Hindi



16 अक्टूबर 2026

प्रिय अभिभावकों, देखभालकर्ताओं और एजीएस समुदाय के सदस्यों,

जैसे ही हम अपने पहले सत्र के अंत की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं, मैं आप सभी को हमारे विद्यालय समुदाय के प्रति आपके निरंतर समर्थन, साझेदारी और प्रतिबद्धता के लिए हार्दिक धन्यवाद व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ।

ये सात सप्ताह असाधारण रूप से व्यस्त रहे हैं, लेकिन साथ ही शैक्षणिक वर्ष की बेहद उत्पादक और संतोषजनक शुरुआत भी रही है।

विद्यालय भर में - हमारी कक्षाओं में, पाठ्येतर गतिविधियों के माध्यम से, भ्रमणों में और हमारे व्यापक व्यक्तिगत विकास कार्यक्रम में - बहुत कुछ हासिल किया गया है। हमारे छात्रों ने उल्लेखनीय दृढ़ता दिखाई है, और इतने सारे छात्रों को आगे बढ़ते और हर अवसर का भरपूर लाभ उठाते देखना अद्भुत रहा है।

इन पहले सात हफ्तों में जश्न मनाने के लिए बहुत कुछ है:

- उत्कृष्ट उपस्थिति और समावेशन: वर्तमान में पूरे विद्यालय की उपस्थिति शानदार 97.1% है। हमें विशेष रूप से गर्व है कि निःशुल्क विद्यालय भोजन प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थियों की उपस्थिति अविश्वसनीय रूप से 98% है - हमें उम्मीद है कि यह उस स्वागतयोग्य, सहायक और समावेशी वातावरण का प्रमाण है जिसे हम हर दिन बनाने का प्रयास करते हैं।
- सकारात्मक संस्कृति का विकास: सकारात्मक व्यवहार को प्रोत्साहित करने पर हमारा ध्यान निरंतर परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव डाल रहा है। पिछले सात हफ्तों में, हमारे कर्मचारियों ने 19,384 सकारात्मक प्रशंसा अंक प्राप्त किए हैं, जबकि नकारात्मक अंक केवल 1,549 हैं। इससे हमारा सकारात्मक-नकारात्मक अनुपात 12 से 1 से अधिक हो जाता है, जो हमारे छात्रों द्वारा मिलकर निर्मित की जा रही दयालु, सम्मानजनक और महत्वाकांक्षी संस्कृति को पूर्णतः दर्शाता है।
- हमारे विद्यालय के परिसरों को बेहतर बनाना: हमारी नई चौथी कक्षा की लाइब्रेरी का उद्घाटन एक बड़ी सफलता रही है, जो शीघ्र ही शांत अध्ययन और पठन का एक जीवंत केंद्र बन गई है। हमें अपने शिक्षण और सहायता दल में कई अद्भुत नए सहयोगियों का स्वागत करने का भी सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ है।
- राष्ट्रीय मान्यता: हमें यह देखकर बेहद खुशी हुई कि हमारे स्कूल को द टेलीग्राफ की देश के शीर्ष 100 स्कूलों की सूची में शामिल किया गया है (90वां स्थान)। इसके अलावा, सरकार के प्रारंभिक (अभी तक अप्रमाणित) आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि 2026 की गर्मियों में आने वाले हमारे GCSE परिणामों के आधार पर हम छात्रों की उपलब्धि के मामले में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर शीर्ष 55 ग्रामर स्कूलों में शामिल होंगे और सह-शिक्षा ग्रामर स्कूलों में लगभग 11वें स्थान पर होंगे। यह हमारे छात्रों और कर्मचारियों दोनों के लिए एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

आपके सहयोग, साझेदारी और विश्वास के लिए एक बार फिर धन्यवाद। आशा है कि आप और आपके परिवार अवकाश का आनंद उठाएं—हमारे छात्रों ने निश्चित रूप से यह अवकाश अर्जित किया है।

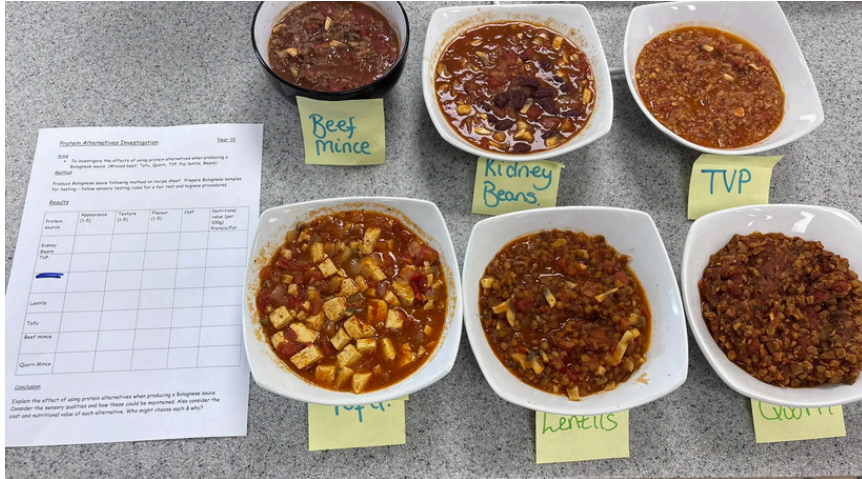
भवदीय,



सुश्री राहेल थोर्प, प्रधानाचार्य, एल्सेस्टर ग्रामर स्कूल



ags Assist
Give
Support



Year 10 Food & Nutrition students conducted an investigation into alternative proteins, making a range of Bolognese sauces and comparing sensory properties, cost & nutritional value, while considering who might choose which alternative.

Lunchtime Table Tennis



Our library is open as a quiet space every lunchtime, staffed by our wonderful student librarians.



Year 11 studying at lunchtime for their mock exams. Making the most of Dobell Study!



The SALT team enjoyed a well-deserved Welcome Breakfast alongside the Heads of Houses. A wonderful opportunity to recognise their hard work and dedication so far.



Student senate hustings have taken place this week in a series of assemblies. Students were reminded about the links to our British Values and learned about the origin of the word 'hustings' before hearing from each of the candidates.



Year 8 Netball



Year 9 Netball

Year 9 & 10 Football



Year 10 Netball

Year 7 Rugby



Have you ever wondered what it feels like to stand in the shell of a building that was bombed during World War II? Last week, I, along with the rest of Year 7, found out firsthand when we visited Coventry Cathedral as part of our PRE topic on "Peace and Reconciliation".

A review by Leo C - 7NHB

As we stepped off the bus, we were warmly greeted by the friendly staff at the Cathedral. We then quickly split into small groups and the tour truly began.

Our first stop was the Blitz Museum. The entry into the museum felt as if we were entering a real bomb shelter, as it was located down a tunnel in the ruins of the old cathedral bombed during World War II.

The museum was packed with fascinating artifacts from the time which brought the history of wartime Britain to life. We learnt about the lives of citizens living through the war, what happened in the aftermath of the deadly attack and how the bishop of the cathedral still had the kindness to ask the residents of Britain to forgive the Germans when the war eventually finished.

Next, we ventured through the ruins of the old cathedral that was destroyed on one fateful night in 1940. Wandering around with the roofless walls surrounding me, I got an idea of how truly massive it must have been!

After this, we explored the Chapel of Unity which is an amazing symbol of peace and unity. On the floor, there was a spectacular mosaic depicting the five continents and Matthew, Luke, Mark and John. While there, we all dropped golf balls from the edges of the room and they all rolled into the sloping centre of the chapel.

To finish off the morning, we gathered in the cathedral for reconciliation. We were all handed a leaflet and were invited to join in with the prayers alongside the parishioners.

After lunch, we began our workshop on origami paper cranes which was definitely harder than it looks, believe me! The reason we were doing this was in remembrance of a ten-year old Japanese girl, Sadako Sasaki, who lived in Hiroshima and died of radiation sickness following the dropping of the atom bomb in 1945. Before her death, she was told that if she folded 1000 paper cranes, she would have her wish granted. Sadly, she didn't have the time to complete the task. So now, every year, in her memory, thousands of paper cranes are sent by schoolchildren from all over the world to Hiroshima in her memory including from Coventry itself.

To finish our day, we learnt about the incredible architecture of the new cathedral which was designed by a man named Basil Spence. Separating the ruins of the old cathedral and the new building is a breathtaking wall of decorated glass, built so you can always see from the new cathedral and remember the history of what once stood just a couple of feet away.



Swimming Success



ENGLISH SCHOOLS'
SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to the 4 teams who recently participated at the ESSA (English schools' swimming association) qualifying gala at Warwick pool.

The standard of competition is always excellent and this year was no exception. Some of the best age-group swimmers in the country were at the gala to represent their schools, and inevitably the independent sector dominated the top positions.

Our junior mixed teams had a last minute change due to a serious injury to one of our top Y8 swimmers, (wishing you a speedy recovery Tabby!), and still managed to achieve 1st and 2nd position at the gala. Our inter girls team have consistently performed well and have the biggest strength in depth of any age-group. 6 swimmers rotated around the 4 spots for both the freestyle and medley relay with solid swims from all involved. It was great to take a senior boys squad for the first time in many years and they swam an exceptional freestyle relay to finish off the event.

We are already looking forward to the next gala in November!

Junior mixed team: Arlo J, James C, Bella D, Hattie T, Isobelle H, Max H, Rowan K-G, Evelyn C.

Inter girls team: Eleanor S, Floren S, Amber J, Elsie A, Ellie D, Beth P

Senior boys team: Arturo H, Will H, Miles T, Noah V.

Special thanks to Mrs Johnson for all her help with transport and officiating.

Mrs Parsons



A Little Piece of AGS History

It's lovely to discover these little pieces of history that connect past and present at Alcester Grammar School.

Sam's great-grandfather, Peter (Wellesley) Warner, was a pupil at the school in 1933 and is believed to have returned to teach here after the second world war. This treasured Sports Day medal is a small but special reminder of his time at AGS, and one of the few keepsakes his family held on to.

Little could his family have imagined that, many years later, his great-grandson would follow in his footsteps and attend the very same school! Having grown up in Yorkshire, the family connection makes this story all the more special. A wonderful example of how AGS's history lives on through generations, linking old memories with new ones.



Mr Pickering





**ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM**

**OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2026
5:00-8:00PM**

A large, friendly sixth form community built upon decency, ambition and a thirst for learning. Come and see for yourself!



SCAN HERE TO BOOK



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sixthform@alcestergs.com



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Got your period?
We've got you.



Free Pads, Tampons, Menstrual Cups
at the 7 to 11 Hub

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT.

 Support at the 7-11 Hub 

We want to ensure that every student feels comfortable and supported while at school. If you ever need sanitary products, please remember that our 7to11 Hub is always stocked and ready for you. Simply visit the Hub and speak confidentially with either Mrs. Varaich or Miss Lawson. We are here to provide discreet support and ensure you have what you need. Your well-being and comfort are important to us!

HELP US PUT AN END TO PERIOD POVERTY:

SAVE THE DATE
PROM 2027



JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30th 2027

AT THE LIMES COUNTRY LODGE

**TICKET INFO
COMING SOON**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Literacy is at the heart of academic success, and we are working to expand our Year 11 reading options in the coming months.

We've received a small government grant for new books, but with your help, we can offer an even wider variety.

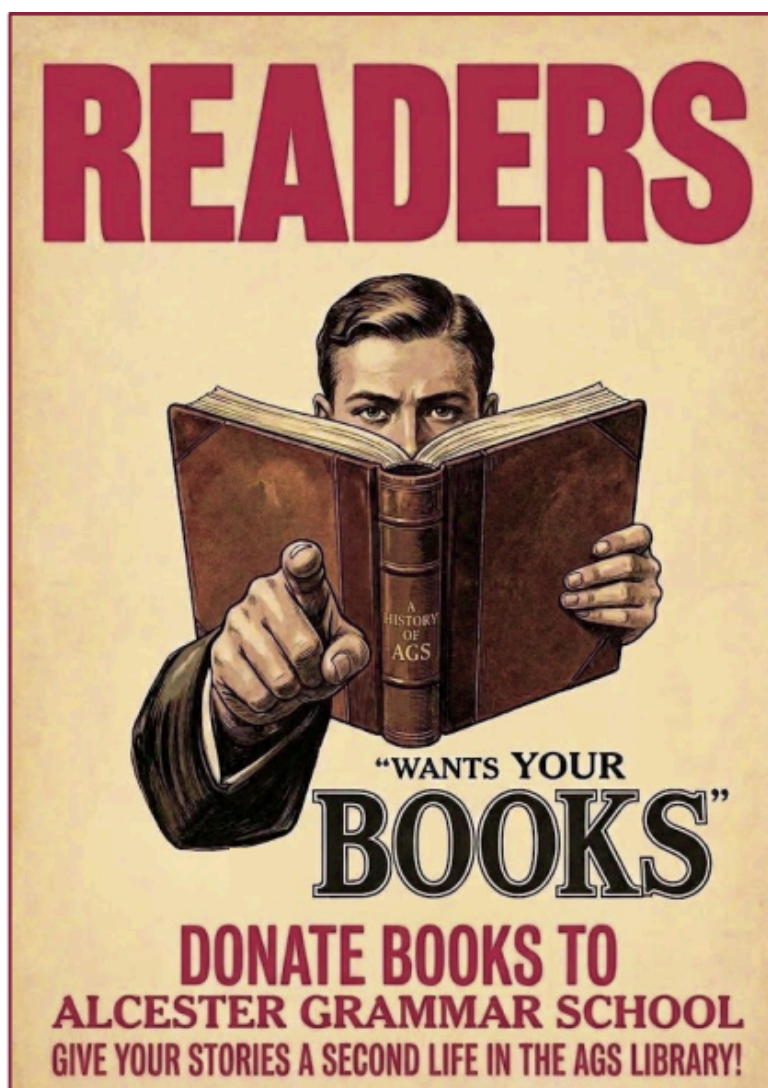
If you have any young adult books (suitable for Years 10-13) that you are willing to donate, we would love to add them to our KS4 Reading Library.

We want any fiction, sports biographies, graphic-novels, murder mysteries, fantasy or thrillers!

Please drop any donations off at Reception, or have your child bring them to the 7-11 Hub.

Thank you for your support -

literacy lights the way to success!



ags
House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**
13.10.26

 Willow
8,534

 Oak
7,877

 Alder
7,772

 Birch
7,693

 Hawthorn
7,377

A few polite requests for any parent/carer 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.



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

