



ags

Years 7-11

Prospectus

Alcester Grammar School

Years 7 - 11

AGS is a contemporary mixed Grammar School in which all students are encouraged to discover and develop their individual talents. We believe that hard work, effective personal organisation and a happy student atmosphere are crucial to the considerable academic success achieved here. Within a framework of support and guidance, we offer students a degree of responsibility for their own learning and personal development. This responsibility increases from Year 7 to Year 11 and provides the foundation for success for life in the Sixth Form and beyond. We devote a lot of time and resources to help those who have special educational needs, whether border-line candidates or highly gifted students.

We are proud of this school which has a special quality of relationships within it and a happy working atmosphere, where there is a sense of security, warmth and challenge. We believe that education is much more than the syllabuses of examination boards, and that high levels of academic success are compatible with the development of the whole person.

We encourage students to take opportunities to develop old and new interests and skills, through taking part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits. Girls and boys are jointly involved in all aspects of school life and we believe the mixed setting provides a fitting preparation for life.

AGS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Aims

The school strives to maintain and improve the high quality of its academic standards, and seeks to be a place where:

Doors are always open for individuals.

People have the opportunity to become confident, caring, contributing members of a changing community.

People can develop towards their full potential... intellectually, spiritually, socially and personally.

Ethos

Being happy is at the core of everything we do.

People are regarded as of equal value, regardless of gender, age, race or creed, yet each is seen as unique. All people have the right to be respected.

All members of the school should be helped to take responsibility for their own lives and learning in an environment which offers the opportunity to succeed; mistakes are seen as keys to learning.

Self-discipline is sought after as a long term goal; daily behaviour is based on a framework of courtesy and consideration, with few written rules.

All people are expected to learn that caring and supportive behaviour creates a relaxed and warm community in which the special value of individuals can be cherished.

Learning is regarded as an active, sharing process. Students are expected to question, contribute, challenge, be challenged and work hard.

Competition is seen as a valuable spur to growth, but only in a context of awareness of others and care for their needs.



“Alcester Grammar School is an outstanding school. It is a harmonious and well ordered community, steeped in high expectations and mutual respect for all.”



“The school is acutely aware of the needs of all students through its philosophy of ensuring that no child ‘becomes invisible.’”

How many students are there in the school?

In 2014/15 the school will have over 1,000 students and over 100 staff members of whom more than 80 are teachers. Since September 2013 the Year 7 intake was increased from 90 to 120 students. By September 2017 the school will have expanded by 150 students across Years 7 to 11. We are committed to keeping class sizes the same throughout the expansion. The Sixth Form has over 500 students; the vast majority of AGS Year 11 students continue through to Year 12 and 13 and are joined by a large number of students from a wide variety of schools and colleges. We believe that younger students benefit from the mentoring, leadership and role models that the Year 12 and 13 students provide.

Facilities

Over recent years we have had several building programmes which have included a new classroom block, new physics laboratories, a state of the art sports hall with separate fitness room and gymnasium/ dance studio. The 7-11 hub was established in September 2013 and accommodates the pastoral, administrative and support teams in a central location for easy access for Years 7 to 11 students. It also has designated meeting rooms for parents. By early 2014 the next phase of the development of the school site will see a new building incorporating Food Technology, Chemistry and language teaching rooms. There will be additional hard court play areas and catering facilities.

Ofsted

Inspections of the school have consistently produced exceptionally strong reports. AGS was named ‘outstanding’ in our most recent whole school inspection, mathematics subject inspection and the inspection of learning outside the classroom. Ofsted were clear that the aims and ethos of the school shone through in reality.



Curriculum

All subjects are taught by specialist teachers. The majority of subjects are taught in form groups, with smaller classes for practical subjects and for GCSE option groups. Teachers use a variety of strategies for differentiation within lessons to ensure that all students are engaged, supported and challenged.

Years 7, 8 and 9

The first three years have a curriculum designed to give all students their entitlement to a broadly based and balanced education, adapted to their abilities and needs that fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum. All students study English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art, Drama, History, Information Communications Technology, Physical Education and games, Personal, Social and Health Education (including Citizenship), Religious Education, Food Technology, Textiles and

Design Technology. Students choose to study two languages from French, German and Spanish.

During Year 9, students are prepared through the programme of careers education, with the help of staff, independent careers advisers and parents, for making appropriate subject choices for GCSE.

Years 10 and 11

Students study 11 GCSE subjects and continue with Physical Education, Personal, Social and Health Education and Religious Education.

All students take the following core subjects: English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Science (the vast majority of students take three separate sciences at GCSE), and a modern foreign language.

Options

AGS offers students the freedom to choose any combination of the subjects listed below. We do not restrict students by placing subjects in option blocks, nor confine them to the requirements of the English Baccalaureate.

Students choose four further subjects from: Art, Business Studies, Design Technology, Food Technology, Geography, History, Music, Drama, Religious Studies and a second foreign language.

Special Educational Needs

The school has formulated a policy on Special Educational Needs in line with the latest government Code of Practice and seeks to support all students with particular identified needs.

The SEN co-ordinator works closely with staff, students and parents to support learning and progress is carefully monitored within the schools assessment procedures.

Homework

The school places considerable importance on homework, which is an essential part of each student's study programme. The School Homework policy is issued to Years 7 - 11 students in September. We hope that all students will have reasonable working conditions at home and that parents will encourage students to spend sufficient time over their work and to do it conscientiously, and away from distractions such as TV, the internet or smart phones. All students in Years 7 - 11 have a planner in which they are expected to record details of the homework they are set. Parents are expected to check and sign the planner on a weekly basis as this is a key method of communication between home and school. Subject teachers and form tutors may write comments to parents regarding students' behaviour or the quality of their work.

If a student does not seem to be receiving sufficient homework or if it seems excessive, parents are encouraged to contact the Form Tutor in the first instance.

If concerns persist then the Head of Year should be contacted. Details of the amount of time students are expected to spend on their homework is provided when students join the school.



Curriculum

Religious and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

The school has no affiliation to any religious denomination. School assemblies are non-denominational. Parents with conscientious grounds for withdrawing their children from assembly should refer to the Principal.

Religious education is an essential part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme taken by all students. It is designed to develop maturity of thought and understanding in social, spiritual, personal, moral and philosophical matters. Such areas as Sex Education, Careers Education and Health Education (including drugs) are dealt with at levels appropriate to each age group within a moral and (where relevant) a religious context. The programme also examines issues such as equality of opportunity and economic awareness. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship either in whole or part. Provision would be made for any students so withdrawn.



Sex Education

The programme of Sex Education was drawn up in consultation with parents and approved by the School Governors. This now forms the school policy document and copies are available on the school website. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of this provision which fall outside of the National Curriculum.

The programme in Year 7 includes a study of reproduction in the Biology course. Social and moral attitudes (including those in relation to birth control, abortion and STIs) are discussed in later years in the PSHE programme. An emphasis is placed on developing responsible attitudes towards relationships and sex.

Careers

Careers education and guidance is given by tutors, Heads of Year, internal and external advisors. Careers forms part of the Year 8 PSHE programme and gains momentum and relevance over the following years. By Year 11 students should all have plans for post-16 education with well researched and advised alternatives. Central to the careers programme is the ethos that all students should be well-rounded and well informed with regards to their development as future employees and have a clear understanding of the possible vocations appropriate and available to them, whether that involves continued education at AGS or elsewhere.

Work Experience

All students take part in a week of work experience in Year 11 which is an integral part of their careers education programme.

Arrangements for complaints about curriculum

The Governing Body has approved a procedure for making complaints about the curriculum and a copy of this is available at the school. In the first case such concerns should be addressed directly to the Principal who will supply further details as required.

Pastoral

The pastoral system is the means by which individuals' personal, social and academic development is nurtured and monitored.

The school is divided into two halves for pastoral purposes, each led by a Vice Principal:

Years 7 - 11, led by Dr Minards.

The Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13), led by Mr Young.

To ensure that Year 7 to Year 13 is run as a 'unit' with the same philosophy, expectations and procedures, Dr Minards and Mr Young meet weekly to discuss current issues and plan future events. Both Vice Principals lead a team of Heads of Year who have responsibility for monitoring the wellbeing and progress of students in their year group

through effective communication with their team of form tutors.

Form tutors are in daily contact with students and are the first point of contact for parents. Tutors know each member of their form as an individual, and offer day to day support and guidance for students. Year 7 tutors are skilled at easing the transition to Secondary

School, helping with organisation, homework routines and building a cohesive tutor group.

Heads of Year provide tutors with a programme of activities to engage students, promote the school ethos, develop particular skills or provide support at key times of the school Year. Assemblies are used to support both the tutor and PSHE programme, addressing key issues, providing information and celebrating success. We provide a varied programme of assemblies which are delivered by teachers, outside speakers and the students themselves.

The pastoral system includes a team of other specialists who are able to provide targeted, individual support to those students with

specific needs. These include: a professionally qualified (MBACP Registered) and experienced counsellor; Lifespace who provide mentoring and education for young people; The Parenting Project who work with students and their parents; a school nurse and an Educational Psychologist.

Access to the wide variety of support available is co-ordinated by the school's SENCO. As a school we adopt a flexible approach which enables a Vice Principal, Head of Year, Form Tutor or a student themselves to make request for additional support for an individual. Need for support is considered on a case by case basis and we aim to ensure timely support is provided to anyone in need.



"The school's specialisms in performing arts and science have had a major impact in enhancing students' learning experiences and have led to higher standards."



Opportunities at AGS Years 7 - 11



“The high quality of teaching and learning ensures that all students are consistently challenged and inspired.”



Sport

The ethos of the PE department is ‘Sport for All’. We offer an extensive range of activities for students to participate in. Clubs are open to all students, regardless of ability and everybody is encouraged to attend at least one club.

Clubs include: athletics, basketball, football, hockey, netball, rugby, cricket, rounders, softball, badminton, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, circuit training, running, indoor rowing, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, dance and fencing.

In inter-school competition we have had some notable successes, becoming South Warwickshire Champions in basketball, netball, badminton, indoor rowing, swimming and athletics.

Several trips have been organised in recent years including to Wimbledon and Davis Cup tennis, Twickenham rugby, NIA international netball and Edgbaston cricket.

The school actively encourages links with a wide range of local clubs e.g. Alcester Tennis Club, Alcester Rugby Club, Alcester and Ragley Cricket Clubs, and Alcester Athletic Football Club with reciprocal use of Facilities.

Music

The Music Department offers a wide range of opportunities for musicians of all kinds, which extends beyond classroom studies and core curriculum.

The provision of extra-curricular music is an important feature of our school and participation is very good. Student involvement in various styles of music and at several levels forms this provision. Our annual programme of performances includes Christmas and Summer celebrations, a House music event, workshops featuring professional performers, ambitious school productions in collaboration with the Drama Department with the most recent being ‘Cabaret’, concerts abroad and occasional community contributions. All combine to present a busy platform to showcase the school’s musical talent and make extra-curricular music something that is very significant at AGS.

The school’s comprehensive assortment of ensembles, supported by many specialised visiting instrumental teachers, performs regularly and plays an essential role in the Music Department calendar. Instrumentalists benefit from Orchestra, Wind Band, Flute Choir, Jazz Band and Rock Club. The department also hosts a large Choir which also contributes to school performances and events.

Drama

The Drama department creates a vibrant culture of extra-curricular activities for all students of AGS to be involved in. We have two major productions a year for all Year 10-13 students that includes a bi-annual musical. Recent productions have included a 1950s version of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’, a Japanese setting of ‘Romeo and Juliet’, ‘Cabaret’ and ‘The Visit’. This year we will be performing Grease and a film noir version of Kafka’s ‘The Trial’.

Year 7 - 9 students can also participate in their own exciting play in the summer term. Previous shows have included imaginative versions of ‘Grimm Tales’, ‘Sparkleshark’ and ‘Arabian Nights’. Our last show had over 50 students involved in ‘Tales from the Earth’s Surface’ where three stories from around the world are intertwined. We also have an after school Drama Club once a week for year 7 - 9 students.

Finally, there are plenty of opportunities to work backstage on lighting, sound or set design, as well as specialise in an artistic field for your Gold Arts Award or be involved in the House Drama competition.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a very popular extra-curricular activity at AGS. We offer opportunities to complete each of the 3 levels: Bronze (Years 9 & 10), Silver (Years 11 & 12) and Gold (Year 13). At each level, the award contains various sections:

volunteering, physical, skill, expedition and at Gold, a residential. These sections give the students the opportunities to develop a wide range of invaluable life skills and gain recognition for many of the activities they participate in such as sport, drama and music.

Clubs and Societies

In addition to the activities mentioned above, many other clubs and societies flourish. Currently these include Chess Club, Computer Gaming Club, Debating Society, School History Society and Writers’ Club.

Block Week

At the end of the Summer Term Years 7 to 9 spend the final week engaging in various activities designed to extend and develop their academic and personal skills, beyond what is possible in the classroom. Previous activities include: The National Space Centre, Warwick Castle, a school based Design Challenge, fossil hunting at Lyme Regis, Kingsbury Water Park, glass fusing, The Black Country Museum, The Shakespeare Festival, bhangra dance, performance poetry, The Barber Institute, a local Community Day, film making and Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre to name a few. The main aims of the week are to give all students the opportunities to experience rich and diverse learning experiences as well as reward them for their hard work and dedication to achievement throughout the school year.

Trips

In addition to the many and varied school day trips including Drayton Manor, Warwick Castle, Black Country History Museum, Broadway and Bletchley Park, students have the opportunities to participate in French and German exchanges.

At the start of Year 7 all students will be offered the opportunity to take part in the Year 8 ski trip (18 months later) during February half term. Typically, the trip is very popular and involves skiing in France, Italy or Austria for six days. No previous experience is needed.

The entire Year 10 group go to Newquay in July each year for five days of multi-activities including surfing, bodyboarding, coastering, abseiling, walking, paintballing, cycling and more. We stay in a sea front hotel and the emphasis of the whole week is based on team building, mutual support and challenging your comfort zone.

Houses

The focus for many competitive activities is the House system. With our move to four form entry for Year 7 in September 2013, the original three houses Newport, Spencer, and Wells have been joined by a new house, Dobell. There are regular house assemblies which are designed to develop the house identity and a sense of belonging for the students. The House System is designed to allow all students to represent a competitive team in a variety of activities. The overall winner will be the House which scores the most points over all events during the academic year, and the House cup is awarded to the successful house on the last assembly in the year.

Leadership and Student Voice

Many of the activities described previously, provide students of all ages with opportunities to develop their leadership and communication skills. We see this as a central part to students' education at AGS. We respect and value student opinion. Each tutor group in years 7 - 11 elects a student to represent them at School Council. This Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the students and reports to School Leaders, giving all students the opportunity to affect change.

Feedback from a student interview panel forms a key part of all senior appointments to the school.

Many Sixth Formers mentor students in Years 7 - 11 in both pastoral and academic capacities, these are led by three appointed Sixth Form students.

Year 12 students are trained to offer social mentoring and work with small groups of Year 7 students, helping them to settle in to their new school and to make and develop new friendships. The school SENCO matches Sixth Form mentors with individuals needing support in specific lessons.

Recognition and Awards

Whilst we encourage all students to strive to achieve their best, value learning for its own sake and see that effort brings its own reward, we also have a system of awards to recognise notable achievements.

These include commendations which are recorded in the student's planner, commendation cards (worth 5 commendations) which are posted home and certificates for reaching a particular number, which are presented in Assembly. There are Awards Afternoons for Years 7 - 10 and Awards Evening for Year 11.



Communications between parents and school



“Teachers have realistically high expectations of the students and constantly challenge them to do their best.”

Parents are always welcome to contact the school. The Form Tutor is usually the first point of contact through a note in the Student Planner. For more serious concerns or ongoing issues, the Head of Year or Vice Principal should be contacted. We pride ourselves in dealing with issues promptly and sensitively. During term time Heads of Year and Vice Principals will respond to enquiries within 24 hours and meetings with parents arranged as soon as possible. For urgent matters we will always be available.

We are experienced in dealing with a range of issues and encourage parents to take the school into their confidence where problems at home make the students' lives difficult and affect them at school.

Parents' Evenings and Reports

In each of the Years 7 - 11, there are three planned communications which are timed to suit the particular needs of each year group.

Parents are invited to the school to meet the subject teachers and to discuss their child's progress and development at the Parents' Evening for their year group. We believe that these evenings are a vital link between the school and parents; students are also encouraged to attend so that they are fully involved in their education. In addition to the subject teachers, the Head of Year and the Vice Principal (Head of Years 7 - 11), Dr Minards will be available for discussions regarding pastoral issues, whole school matters and for advice and guidance.

Progress forms provide information regarding the current performance of students in each of their subjects. In Years 7 - 9 the

performance is reported in terms of National Curriculum levels and sub-levels, in Years 10 and 11 this is in terms of GCSE grades. Progress forms also provide information on the amount of effort in lessons, quality and consistency of homework and a brief comment from each subject teacher.

Reports include the level of students' current performance and a detailed comment analysing strengths and areas for development in each individual subject. Each student's report is read by their Form Tutor and Head of Year and will include a comment summarising the overall progress made and on contributions to the tutor group and wider school community.

Progress forms, reports, attendance data, timetables and other key data are available online for each student and parent and can be found at <https://my.alcestergs.com>. Secure passwords will be provided on arrival at the school.



Rules

Whilst there is a set of sanctions which includes detention, behavioural report, internal isolation and exclusion (fixed term and permanent), these are used sparingly. Instead we expect students to be responsible for their own behaviour and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the school ethos.

Accidental damage of any kind must be reported at once to the office and to the Head of Year. If the damage is the result of careless or foolish action some reparation may be sought from parents.

Students in years 7 - 11 may not leave the premises during the day without permission.

Smoking and the use of illegal substances are strictly prohibited in school or by anyone from our school when wearing school uniform. Chewing gum and possession of fireworks are also prohibited. Personal stereos, iPods, hand held computer games etc should not generally be brought into school. If students do bring these items in they do so entirely at their own risk. Mobile phones and electronic equipment may be brought in but remain the responsibility of the student. They may be used at break and lunch, and during lessons at the teacher's discretion.

Sickness and Holidays

Medical

The Local Health Authority arranges a series of vaccinations during the school year. These include booster polio and anti-tetanus immunisation.

It is essential that the school has an **EMERGENCY** contact telephone number, in the event that a student has an accident or is unwell and the normal contact is unavailable. Please update this information when necessary.

Many staff members are trained to give first aid and are willing to look after children who are injured or unwell. Parents are asked to take over responsibility as soon as possible.

We need to know of any special medical condition which may affect your child in school. Please let us know if your daughter or son has conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes or deafness, or if there is a need for special medication to be taken regularly.

The school nurse may be contacted on 01789 762459.

Absence

Parents are asked to notify the school of any absence through illness or unforeseen circumstances, by phoning the school after 9.00 a.m. on the day of absence and by sending an explanatory note or email to the Form Tutor when the student returns, if prolonged absence has occurred. Permission is needed at least three days in advance for any other absence. An application form for leave of absence is available from the School Office.

We operate a system of 'first day calling' where we will contact you if your child is absent without prior notification.

There is no automatic entitlement to absence during term time. The Principal has no power in law to authorise term time absence except in exceptional circumstances, which do not include family holidays.

School Dates

September 2014 - July 2015

Autumn Term 2014

Term begins	Tuesday 2 nd September 2014 (Y7 welcome day) Wednesday 3 rd September 2014 (Y12 welcome day and Y8 - 11 term begins) Thursday 4 th September 2014 (Y13 term begins)
Half-term	27 th October - 31 st October 2014 (inclusive)
Term ends	Tuesday 16 th December 2014

Spring Term 2015

Term begins	Monday 5 th January 2015
Please note	Thursday 29th January 2015 (no students in school during the day)
Half-term	16 th - 20 th February 2015 (inclusive)
Term ends	Friday 27 th March 2015

Summer Term 2015

Term begins	Monday 13 th April 2015
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2015
Half-term	25 th - 29 th May 2015 (inclusive)
Term ends	Friday 17 th July 2015

School Day

The school day begins at 8.50 a.m. with registration, tutor time or assembly.

Lessons begin at 9.15 a.m. with a morning break of twenty minutes.

Lunch is from 12.40 p.m. - 1.35 p.m. followed by afternoon registration and lessons until 3.45 p.m. There are five periods for each day.

School Uniform

Years 7 - 11



“Over the years the school has developed a reputation for curriculum innovation built on the school’s view that learning outside the classroom extends learning horizons.”

School Uniform

Girls

Black blazer
School badge for blazer pocket
White shirt
School tie - clip on type
Plain black trousers
AGS school skirt displaying the school logo
Plain black v-neck jumper with school crest
Black shoes (leather)
Socks (black, white or grey) or
Tights (black, grey or neutral)

Boys

Black blazer
School badge for blazer pocket
White shirt
School tie - clip on type
Plain black trousers
Plain black v-neck jumper with school crest
Black shoes (leather)
Socks (black, white or grey)

Summer Term

From September 2014 there will no longer be a summer uniform.

Games Uniform

Girls

*Black skort with school logo
*White polo shirt with red inset and school logo
*Red and black hockey shirt with school logo
*Red knee-length hockey socks with black stripe turnover
Trainers
Plain white ankle socks
Shin pads

Boys

Black cotton rugby shorts (tie front)
*White shorts with red inset
*White polo shirt with red inset and school logo
*Red and black rugby shirt (reversible) with school logo
*Red and black rugby socks
Studded boots for football and rugby (preferably moulded soles, not screw-in studs)
Trainers
Plain white ankle socks
Shin pads

Optional items below:

Black cycling shorts (optional)
*Black tracksuit trousers with red inset (optional)
*Red and black micro fleece with school logo (optional)
*Red and black rain jacket with school logo (optional)

*Football shirt: red and black with school logo (optional)
*Black tracksuit trousers with red inset (optional)
*Red and black micro fleece with school logo (optional)
*Red and black rain jacket with school logo (optional)

Please note: Blazers are an essential item of uniform. The wearing of jumpers is optional. Coats and scarves **must not be worn around school.**

Trousers should be of a standard fit, not excessively flared, long, tight or ‘jeans’ style. Shirts should be of a loose fit, worn tucked in to trousers or skirt and fully buttoned. Shoes should have sensible low heels (no stilettos) and must not be of a ‘trainer’ style.

General Points

Our aim is to keep rules and restrictions to the minimum, whilst maintaining a smart appearance, and we appreciate co-operation in this. Students should maintain these standards all day including break and lunchtime.

All clothing should be clearly named, preferably with nametapes sewn in, and names on games clothing sewn on **outside** of garments.

Jewellery

Should be **plain and inconspicuous** and limited to one necklace, one bracelet, one ring, a watch and plain studs if ears are pierced (covered with tape if worn during PE/games). **No other form of body piercing is allowed.**

Extreme hairstyles or colours are not permitted. Make-up and nail varnish are discouraged in Years 7 - 9. In Years 10 - 11 these should be kept to a minimum. Students will be asked to remove make-up or nail varnish if deemed inappropriate or excessive.

If belts are worn, these should be **plain and inconspicuous.**

School Outfitters

National Schoolwear Centre, 3/4 Bulls Head Yard, Alcester.

The School Shop, Evesham.

Uniform requirements allow parents to obtain many items from alternative suppliers. Please check uniform lists carefully before buying new items. Uniform should be worn correctly at all times.

* = *These items must be obtained from the school outfitter.*

The school reserves the right of approval of styles and colours of items not obtained from school suppliers.



Administrative Details

Property

We advise that students should not bring items of high value into school. Students are responsible for their property and clearly naming their items. When changing for games, students should hand in money, watches and valuables for safe-keeping and they are expected to take great care of textbooks on loan to them. A charge may be made for the replacement of any loss or damage to equipment or property.

Transport

The school asks all parents to consider the environment when deciding how their child will travel to school. Students entitled to free transport receive information regarding the arrangements for this direct from the Area Education Office. Most school transport is arranged by contract and students carry a bus pass. Conduct on the buses must be quiet and orderly at all times and the school reserves the right to withdraw from the bus any student who misbehaves while travelling to and from school. We ask that students travelling by car should be dropped off/picked up off school premises to avoid congestion with buses.

Cyclists: Parents are asked to see that their children's cycles are in good order and that they have an adequate lighting system. Cycles should be locked in the cycle rack provided as the school cannot accept responsibility for them.

School Meals

The canteen offers a wide selection of hot and cold food, hot drinks and snacks. Students may bring their own food if they so wish. Payment can be made by our cashless online Parentpay facility or by cash. Parents wishing to apply for free school meals should apply direct to Warwickshire County Council. Free school meals also entitles the student to the government Pupil Premium grant.

Lockers

There is an option to rent a lockable locker. Please visit www.ilsschools.co.uk for details.

Charging and Remissions

Educational Activities: as far as possible education provided by the school, within school hours, aims to be free of charge. At the same time activities in and out of school time which enhance the students' learning opportunities will only take place if the cost can be met from a range of sources. Often this will mean asking for voluntary contributions from parents.

Letters sent to parents requesting payment for activities state that they should contact the Principal in confidence if they would like their son/daughter to take part in the activity, but are prevented from doing so by financial constraints.

Public Examinations: the school will not charge fees for entry to any examination for which the student has been prepared by the school through a taught course. If

the student fails to complete examination requirements e.g. fails to hand in coursework, or is absent for the examination then the student or parents will be liable for the cost except in exceptional circumstances agreed by the Principal. Any re-sit exams must be paid for by the student or their parents.

Music Lessons: the school charges for individual tuition.

Sports Activities: the school does not charge for travel to sports activities e.g. fixtures, but reserves the right to do so in future.

A full copy of the school's Charging and Remissions Policy is available from the school on request.

The Above and Beyond Fund

The Above and Beyond Fund (to which all students are invited to contribute voluntarily) is used to subsidise a wide variety of activities, transport to matches, and amenities, which are not provided from the state funded budget. Without this extra source of funding the life of the school and the opportunities for the students would be severely restricted. The willingness of parents to enhance the richness of extra-curricular activities is greatly appreciated. You will receive more details when your child joins us.

The school also operates a Gift Aid scheme. We should be very grateful if all parents would consider using this scheme as this would raise our income a great deal, at no extra cost to parents. Details will be provided for all new parents.



“The school's international links are a significant strength.

There exists a hunger for innovation and change throughout the school, grounded in the belief that all students should have a passion for learning and should learn from a wide variety of experiences.”

Admission

When can I visit?

There is an open evening for prospective Year 7 students and parents in the Summer Term on 3rd July. This includes a talk by Mr Sentance (Principal), Dr Minards (Vice Principal, Head of Years 7 to 11) and Mr Brewer (Head of Year 7). Further information is provided by Mr Slater (Vice Principal, Curriculum) and the SENCO, Mrs Papantoniou. All departments are open with staff available and resources displayed to provide a flavour of how each subject is taught at AGS. Many of our current Year 7 students are involved in sharing their experiences of their first year at the school. Mr Young (Vice Principal, Sixth Form) will also be available to talk to. Year 10 and Sixth Form students are available to give groups of parents and students guided tours of the school.

If you wish to arrange a further visit please telephone the school to arrange an appointment. One of our elected Sixth Form students will be happy to give you a tour around the school and Mr Brewer (Head of Year 7) or Dr Minards (Vice Principal, Head of Years 7 to 11) will be able to meet with you and answer any questions.

Admissions Policy Year 7

At age 11 (Year 7) students may be admitted providing they satisfy the arrangements of the Warwickshire County Council's selection system for South Warwickshire.

Students moving into the area and those from out-of-county may take part in the selection procedures by contacting the Admissions Office in Warwick. For those people who live out-of-county, we strongly recommend that you firmly establish cost and availability of transport if you intend to use a bus service (public or otherwise), before applying. Transport is your responsibility if you live out-of-county. No other criteria. e.g. sibling connections, proximity to school, desire for a single sex or mixed school etc., will be taken into account.

Years 8 - 11

Places are only available should existing students leave the school. Those wishing to apply should contact the Admissions Office, 01926 742037 and may be required to take tests.

Priority Area

Children not resident in South Warwickshire can be considered for a place at Alcester Grammar School. However, in the first round of offers for Year 7 entry, applications will be considered only from children within the priority circle for the Southern Area. This circle has a radius of approximately 17 miles centred on the American Memorial in Market Place, Stratford-upon-Avon. A map of the priority area is published in the Warwickshire County Council Education Department's publication "Secondary Schools in South Warwickshire". The Admissions Office may be contacted to check specific addresses.

Children living outside the priority area will be considered only if vacancies occur after the first round of offers.

Home Address

The home address which applies when assessing residence within the priority circle is that where the child normally resides/sleeps when she/he attends school. Addresses associated with child minding arrangements (whether professional or with relatives or friends) are not taken into account.

If you live in Warwickshire and your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2014, it is now possible for you to apply online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions

For further information, please contact the Warwickshire School Admissions Office on **01926 742037**

Oversubscription

Where applications for admissions exceed the number of places available the following criteria will be applied:

1. For Year 7, admission will be on the basis of the order determined by the South Warwickshire system outlined above.
2. For Year 12 admission criteria please consult the Sixth Form prospectus.

The number of places offered in Year 7 for 2013 entry was 120 for which there were 242 first preference choices and 210 second preference choices.

Please address correspondence regarding free school meals or transport to:

**Children, Young People & Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL
Telephone: 01926 410410**

Full details of the school's admission arrangements are detailed on the Warwickshire County Council, Children, Young People and Families Directorate (Admissions) website.





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Alcester Grammar School

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