

ags

Together, we can

Assist, Give and Support



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Assist, Give and Support

Thank you for taking the time to read about the new AGS initiative '**Assist, Give and Support**'.

At the time of writing in November 2023, AGS recognises the challenges that so many families face with ongoing rises in the cost of living. Similarly, as a school, we are facing our own considerable financial challenges, with school budgets falling in real terms and all costs increasing at a considerable rate. Myself, the governors, and the leadership team are undoubtedly facing some very difficult decisions and challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

Community, however, is at the heart of AGS and therefore we would like to hope that we can approach these challenges together and in partnership. This new initiative asks all in our community to consider 'what support do you need?' and 'what support can you give?'

Section One of this booklet outlines how you can **assist** AGS and other families without the need to donate money - e.g. your time or the recycling of uniform and other items can be hugely helpful.

Section Two outlines how you can **give** to AGS financially, should you be able to. Without ongoing financial support from parents, the tough decisions will only get tougher and we will be unable to maintain and improve vital resources; an example would be IT where we aspire to offer students the provision they deserve.

Finally, Section Three is designed to share ways in which AGS and the wider community may be able to help and **support**. We will keep updating this document on the school website each month.

Thank you in advance for considering how you can support each other and the AGS community.

Rachel Thorpe (Principal)



Rachel Thorpe
Principal- Alcester
Grammar School

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Assist the AGS Community Practically

Help us start an AGS Parents and Friends Association!

AGS desperately needs to start a Parents and Friends Association! (PFA)

It is important to us that parents play a key part in our school life and in addition, a PFA could allow us to:

- Raise funds for the school
- Support school concerts and shows with refreshments
- Benefit from schemes which AGS as a school alone cannot access

Please email the Principal r.thorpe@alcestergs.com if you would like to find out more!

There will be an initial meeting for all who are interested at the end of this term. This is a key priority for the school.

Offer a skill or placement

Do you have a skill or trade which you could volunteer to help around school? E.g. are you a professional decorator or photographer? Or would you be prepared to offer a work experience placement? Would you be prepared to help with mock interviews? If so, please complete this form [here](#).

Donate items

AGS keeps a list [here](#) of all items that we would like to receive as donations. The list changes regularly, so please do keep coming back to see if you can help.

Donate a Prom Dress or Suit

Each year, year 11 have an annual prom and the cost of a dress or suit can be prohibitive for some. Do you have anything you could donate? If so, please contact Mrs Turner - j.turner@alcestergs.com

Donate School Uniform

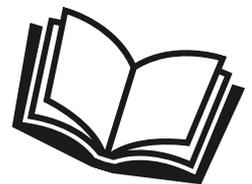


Please do consider donating any old uniform to school - donations can be sent to the front office. These items will be re-distributed to other families. We would particularly welcome NEW style PE Kit (black and red).

Revision and Text Books

As with school uniform, we welcome any used revision guides etc. for distribution to other families.

These should be donated to the school office.



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Give to the AGS Community Financially

Make a one-off donation to the school

Even small one-off donations can make a big difference to the school. Please consider giving [here](#) now, so that we can continue to offer students at AGS the education and resources that they deserve.

Make a regular donation to the school

A monthly donation can really help to secure the education of our young people. One current fundraising project focuses on raising money to improve the school's IT system and resources, which have not been updated for several years.

Please click [here](#) to set up your monthly donation today

Sponsor Us!

We would welcome sponsorship in a range of areas. The school play? A school concert? Ingredients for our Life Programme? Kit for a school team? In return we can offer exposure via the Principal's Message, on our website and via our social media platforms. Please do email r.thorpe@alcesterags.com if you would like to explore how we could work together.

Rent a building from us out of hours!

Looking to rent the sports hall or a room in the evening or as a one-off in the holidays? Please contact Frances Coyles - f.coyles@alcesterags.com

Link us up with any local charities or organisations who may be willing to offer grants to the school

If you are aware of any grants that we may be able to access, then please do share them with us via r.thorpe@alcesterags.com



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Sources of *support* for All



Free Second Hand Uniform

If you are struggling to source uniform, then we have a large number of donated items that we are able to provide you with, free of charge.

Please just pop into the school reception and ask what we have available.

AGS School Fund and 6th Form Bursary

The school has a very small amount of money to support families who may be struggling to provide food, coats, shoes etc. to their young people. This fund can also support curriculum trips where appropriate. More information can be found [here](#).

Newport's School Foundation

Any student aged 16 or over at AGS can access money to help with education from Alcester's Newport Foundation. Please click [here](#) for more details.

Free School Meal and Pupil Premium Funding

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



We are happy to help with applications - please contact Sophie Price (Assistant Principal) at s.price@alcesterags.com in confidence.

Separately, AGS can receive funding to specifically support the education of pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium:

- Pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years, including eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- Children looked after by local authorities, referred to as looked-after children
- Children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, referred to as previously looked-after children

Again, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Price if you think that you might be eligible.

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Sources of *support* for All



Warwickshire Holiday Activities and Food

The **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme** is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide young people who are in full-time education (Reception to Year 11) and eligible for benefits-related free school meals with access to enriching activities and meals, for free, during the three main school holidays: Winter, Spring and Summer.

Click [here](#) for more details.



Alcester Community Fridge

This amazing local resource is situated only minutes from school. Please do visit their [website](#) for more information.

COMMUNITY FRIDGE OPENING HOURS
Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Wednesday - 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Thursday - 11:00 am to 12:00 midday
Friday - 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Saturday - 10:30 am to 11:30 am
Sunday - 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm



Warm Spaces

WRCC Warm Hubs are warm, safe, inclusive places where residents can expect a friendly welcome and refreshments all year round – they're not just for winter!

Warm hub information can be found [here](#)



Local Food Banks

Information on a range of food banks and community pantries can be found by clicking the images below



Warwickshire Cost of Living

Warwickshire County Council list some useful sources of support [here](#)



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