

ags *Principal's* UPDATE

21st July 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

The last fortnight at AGS has been a true pleasure to witness, with students (both in school and away on trips) throwing themselves with enthusiasm into a such wide range of activities. Do take a look through the articles and photos on the following pages to find out more! I would like to publicly thank all staff who have enabled such a broad and exciting 'Enrichment Week' - so often going 'above and beyond' to make the activities possible. On Monday, I had the particular delight of spending the day with Year 7 as they used AGS Learner Skills to decide how they would spend £350 to improve the school - their thoughts, ideas and creativity were impressive. Congratulations to the winning team from 7MSP who put forward a proposal to improve the school pond.

This year we sadly say 'goodbye' to a number of staff: Mrs Atkinson, Dr Butterworth, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Crabtree, Miss Creed, Mrs Farrelly, Mr Hemming, Miss Pearce, Mrs Rose - I know that you will join with me in wishing them all well.

As we look ahead to next year, if any parents or carers would like to share any thoughts on the school's provision for Relationships and Sex Education, then please do contact either myself or Mrs Hill - c.hill@alcestergs.com - as we look to review this ahead of next year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the AGS Community a peaceful and restful summer. We will be here for Year 11 and 13 in August when they receive their results (please click [here](#) for details), and I look forward to welcoming the new Year 7 and 12 students back on September 5th. Term will start for the rest of the school on September 6th!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'R Thorpe'.

Ms Rachel Thorpe

Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures

2023 Summer Concert

The AGS Music department signed off a fantastic year of music making with the final performance of the year, the Summer Concert. A packed out theatre heard a variety of music including works by Strauss Jr, Stevie Wonder, Twenty One Pilots and Pink Floyd.

Students and staff were beaming with joy and delight as we heard music from AGS ensembles and soloists for the final time this academic year.

It looks like the wearing of Hawaiian shirts has become a tradition!



7JGR - PSHE Fire Safety

In a recent PSHE lesson with Dr Clifford, 7JGR took part in a fire safety session with Sara, a fire officer from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. One of their tasks was to work collaboratively to create some rap music about specific themes connected to fire safety including arson and the environment. Sara was so impressed with the group that she asked the students to record their raps so that they could be used by WFRS to promote their educational service. Some of the songs may be used on the Warwickshire county council website. **Well done 7JGR!**



This Fortnight at AGS

Maths Trail

Year 7 Mathematicians rounded off the term with a Maths trail around Alcester. They followed clues in order to find mathematical answers about various buildings, monuments, etc around the town culminating in learning what a Perfect Number is; the sum of its divisors not including itself.

Can you think of any Perfect Numbers?



Primary School Maths Challenge

On 14th July, AGS successfully hosted the Primary School Team Maths Challenge. It was exciting event that brought together fifteen teams of Year 6 and Year 5 students from various schools across south Warwickshire. The competition lasted for a gruelling four hours, during which the teams faced six challenging rounds of exceedingly difficult mathematics. Each team displayed commendable skills and determination, making the event thoroughly enjoyable for all participants.

A special congratulations goes to the top three teams who demonstrated exceptional aptitude and problem-solving abilities. St. John's C of E Middle School Academy secured the first position, closely followed by Thomas Jolyffe Primary School in second place, and Quinton Primary School in third place. We applaud their outstanding achievements and commend them for their remarkable teamwork and perseverance throughout the competition.

A big thank you to our fantastic sixth formers for their invaluable assistance in running the event. They took excellent care of and encouraged the students.

Once again, a big well done to all the teams for their tremendous effort and the fantastic display of spirit they exhibited.

Enrichment Week

AGS Engaged Learner Challenge



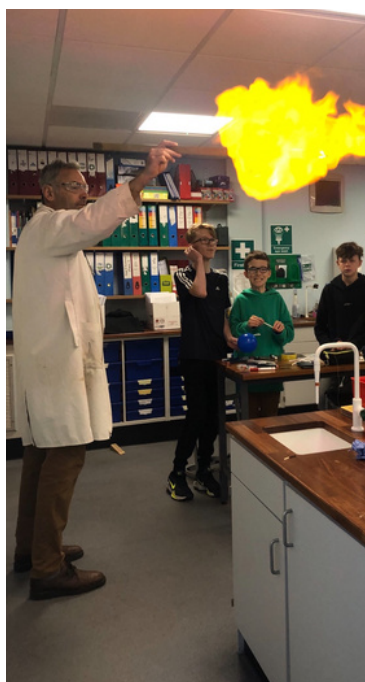
Bake Off!



Basketball Camp



STEM Investigations



Enrichment Week

Clay Frogs



Play in a Day



Ghana Expedition

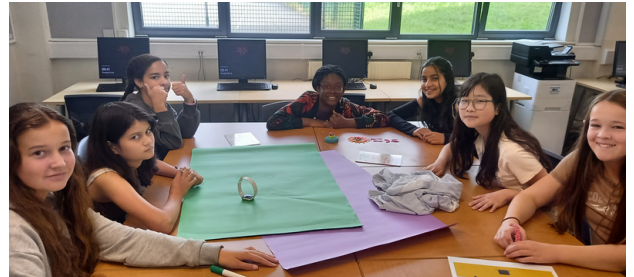
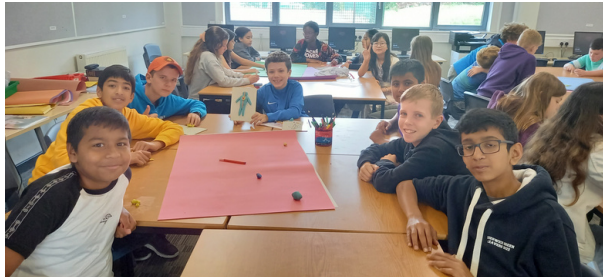


Bio Art Attack



Enrichment Week

Philosophy for Children



Cadbury World



Newquay

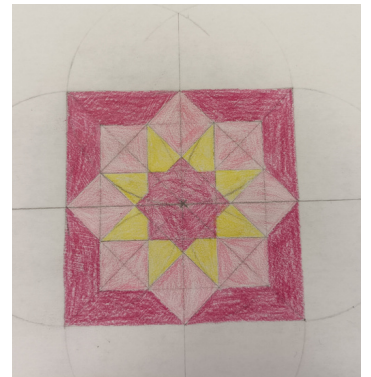
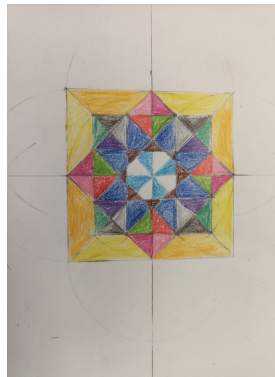
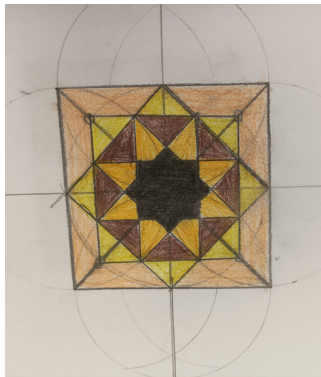
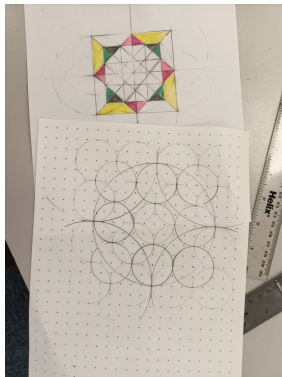


Enrichment Week

Dance



Islamic Geometric Art



Percussion Workshop



Enrichment Week

France

137 year 8 students have spent a fun filled 4 days in the Opal Coast of Northern France. We visited a chocolaterie, theme park, boulangerie, sea-life centre and the World War I Canadian memorial Vimy Ridge.

Students were true DHBs throughout and we were really impressed with many students' resilience and French language skills.

A quote from Bruno le boulanger 'never give up on learning whatever language you do as it will be useful to you one day'.

Bravo les enfants. Et merci les profs! **Team France 2023**



Warwick Castle



Enrichment Week

Dale Fort - A Level Biology Field Course
At work...



And play!



A rare find - a tiny cushion
Starfish!

DNA Technology and Ecology Trip - July 2023

This year has been unusual in that we have run two DNA tech trips, one in April (due to Covid postponement), and now a second in July. The courses were run at the Life Science Lab at Castle Head Field Studies Centre in Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria.

On both occasions, the students had a wonderful immersive experience in the molecular biology lab and learnt how to culture bacteria, extract and purify DNA, use DNA restriction enzymes and run gel electrophoresis. The contexts in which they developed their new skills were:- breast cancer screening (for BRCA-1), a forensics problem to solve, and identifying genetically transformed bacterial containing the human insulin gene. They also learnt some great bush-craft skills, small mammal population sampling methods (direct and indirect sampling), and they investigated plant communities on the sand dunes at Hawes Head near Barrow in Furness. They really flourished and learnt lots of new and exciting things that they can apply to their A Level Biology course and will also be brilliant for their UCAS applications next year. All in all, a fab trip and the students were outstanding.

Dr Clifford



2023 Sports Day Report

On Friday 7th July students in years seven to ten competed in our annual AGS sports day. In glorious sunshine everyone gathered on the field, many painted in their house colours, creating an exciting, festival atmosphere.

It was a record breaking day, with the lead changing hands several times throughout the day, with Newport ultimately coming out on top. There were 14 individual records broken along the way, one of which had stood for 13 years until now. The standard of performance was so high that two records were broken twice in the same day!

On the track, the following records were broken, including the highly competitive 1500m races where two athletes beat the previous bests in both the year seven girls and year eight open events:

- **300M Yr7 Open** Kian Plandano previous record 48.3 new record 47.9
- **300m Yr9 Girls** Connie Gregory previous record 50.5 new record 49.8
- **1500m Yr 7 Girls** Holly Hanson previous 6.17.1 new record 5.52.2 (Imogen Wynne also broke the record with 6.05.3 but did not set)
- **1500M Yr8 Open** Joel Ledgard previous record 5.05.0 new record 5.02.9 (Aran Cooper also broke the record with 5.04.0 but did not set)
- **1500m Yr9 Open** Thomas Fisher drew with current record 5.48.0
- **1500m Yr 10 Girls** Holly Saunders previous 5.39.0 new record 5.37.5

Whilst in the field, the bar was set just as high, with these new records set:

- **Long Jump Yr7 Girls** Ellie Watson previous 3.63m new record 3.69m
- **Long Jump Yr9 Open** Michael Campbell previous record 4.56m new record 5.46m
- **Discus Yr9 Open** Samuel Lock previous record 21.78m new record 22.75m
- **Javelin Yr9 Open** Louie Newton previous record 32.40m new record 34.38m
- **Shot Yr9 Girls** Ava Clive previous record 7.49m new record 7.55m
- **Shot Yr10 Girls** Nikola Woodzisz previous record 8.76m new record 9.80m

The House competition itself was hotly contested. At the half-way stage, it was announced that Dobell had the lead, but everything changed later on, as Newport went on to win, with Dobell second, and Wells third.

Looking at the final breakdown of points, Dobell actually won the girls competition, ahead of Newport and Spencer. Newport took the open competition, with Wells second and Dobell third. Spencer will hope to bounce back from their 4th place finish next year.

Many congratulations to Newport, the House Champions, to all our individual record-breakers and to everyone who competed and made the day so enjoyable. Thanks to our staff and all who worked behind the scenes to ensure everything ran so smoothly. We look forward to doing it all again next year!

Report by **Jess Ellicott**



2023 Sports Awards

We ran our 7th Sports Awards on Wednesday 12th July. With over 300 people in attendance it was an evening of celebration. Every year we are able to spend this evening reflecting on the success, determination and resilience shown by our students with the PE department.

The evening began with drinks and snacks, whilst watching our very talented school band perform. Thank you to Mr Chapman Palmer for organising this. The awards themselves opened with an outstanding performance from Beth Hall in year 12, followed by an introduction from our Head of Department, Mrs Hemming. With limited numbers allowed in the theatre, it is a reward in itself to be invited. After a summary of how each of the sports have done this year, we moved on to the MVP awards.

We then progressed on to the awards, of which many impressive students were nominated. Without the support of our fantastic students and dedicated parents, we would not have been able to experience the success this year and reach the high levels of engagement and participation that we do.

A huge thank you to all involved, and here's to another successful year of sport in 2023/2024.

Mrs Powell



2023 Sports Awards - Award Winners

Most Valuable Players'

Football: Travis Reid and Michael Campbell

Netball: Daya Kaur and Thea Ibidun

Hockey: Ava Goodman and Piers Lanoe

Rugby: Max Tarry and William Codefroy

Basketball: Isaac Hodgkinson and Charlie Johns

Athletics and Cross Country: Holly Hanson and Francisco Atrus-Thomazi

Rounders: Florian May and Betsy Stather

Cricket: Archie Morris and Ava Clive

Tennis: Holly Precelton and Jiho Baek



Dedication to Sport

Year 7: Immy Wynne and Arly Berry

Year 8: Freya Berry and Barney Green

Year 9: Beany Oldfield and Archie Nixon

Year 10: Millie Anderson and Alex Setchell

Progress made in Sport

Year 7: Tilly Grier and Toby Hughes-Webb

Year 8: Daisy Banner and Toby Preston

Year 9: Ava Goodman and Matteo Martinengo

Year 10: Daya Kaur and Youssef Farag



Sportsperson of the Year

Year 7: Holly Hansen and Francisco A-T

Year 8: Izzy Husband and Joel Ledgard

Year 9: Ava Clive and Michael Campbell

Year 10: Betsy Stather and Sam Courier



Teams of the Year:

U14 Boys Football

U16 Girls Football



Duke of Edinburgh News

This term has seen 5 successful DofE expeditions involving over 200 students from years 9 to 12. The school has also received our annual Certificate Volunteering Certificate from the DofE organisation showing that our DofE participants have logged 4420 hours of volunteer service over the past 12 months.

Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will all be launched in September for Year 9, 10 and 12. Participants who are moving on to the next level of the award should try to get all sections signed off with assessor reports over the summer break. They can use the link below to access activity logs and assessor report cards.

Congratulations to all 185 students who have completed an award this year.



**To access AGS DofE
resources and information...**



Assessor report cards

Activity logs

Assessor report cards

Remember to
download the eDofE
app...



SCAN ME

eDofE login

Residential approval form

Expedition resources

...and check your
notifications on
eDofE for messages
from your leader

News and Notices

Exams Update

Well done to all of our pupils who have completed their exams. All pupils were punctual, followed the rules and respectful. In total 7,453 AS, A level and GCSE exams were taken. We sent off 285 parcels to be marked and on average ran 14 rooms a day in May and 9 rooms a day in June. We are now looking forward to the results days!

AS and A level results are released at 8am on Thursday 17 August and GCSE results are released at 8am on Thursday 24th August. Pupils access their results via their AGS portal. Everyone expecting results has been sent information and you should familiarise yourself with the post results information [here](#) just in case you do not receive the results you were expecting.



The Exams Office will be open Thursday 17 August 8am-4pm, Friday 18 August 9am-3pm, Wednesday 23 August 9am-3pm, Thursday 24 August 8am-4pm and Friday 25 August 9am-3pm.

Finally if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming an invigilator please email exams@alcestergs.com for further information. No experience is needed as training is provided. Flexible hours are available and the rate of pay starts at £11.77 per hour.

Mrs Silcox - Exams Officer

Charity Total for 2022-23

Thank you so much for all your support for charities in 2022-23. The total raised was **£6,004.32** (£600 more than last year) plus a large amount of food which went to the Stratford Foodbank at Christmas.





2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn Term

Term begins: Tuesday 5th September 2023 (Year 7 and Year 12 only)
Wednesday 6th September 2023 (All year groups in school)

Half Term: Thursday 26th October to Friday 3rd November 2023

Term ends: Friday 22nd December 2023

Spring Term

Term begins: Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Term ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term

Term begins: Monday 8th April 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Term ends: Friday 19th July 2024

Inset days (no school for students)

Monday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 17th November 2023

Monday 8th January 2024

Friday 19th January 2024

Friday 24th May 2024



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023



COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

TESCO

Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

TRAVELODGE

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast

PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 24th July - Friday 1st Sept 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

YO! SUSHI

From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

TO BE CONFIRMED...

M&S and Farmhouse Inns