



Principal's UPDATE

29th September 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

As this newsletter demonstrates, this week we have had a push across the school on three 'L's' - 'Languages', 'Life', and 'Literacy'. This morning it was an incredible pleasure to walk around the school and witness students engaging with our new 'Life Programme' - which as page 6 shows, saw Year 13s engaging with cooking, sewing, washing, first aid, budgeting, bike maintenance and far more..... At the other end of the school, key stage 3 focused on learning skills, literacy, online safety, and news and current affairs. My sincere thanks go to all staff who have prepared the sessions and also to parents who have donated items such as bikes to allow them to happen. Please do talk to your son or daughter about what they learnt!

On page 4 you can also read more about how we celebrated European Day of Languages. Additionally, all students in the school have been asked to complete a survey to share with us the languages that they speak both at home and in the community. If your son or daughter does speak another language in addition to English, please do give them some encouragement to complete the form on Satchel One - we would very much like to celebrate the vast diversity of languages spoken in our community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who further to my message last week, now avoid pulling into the space in front of the emergency access gate when collecting or dropping off students. We have also this week added new clear signage, as we work to try and keep all our students (and others in the local community) as safe as possible. The support of you all with this would be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a good weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Thorpe".

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures

Extra-Curricular clubs are up and running!

A huge range of clubs are running in both lunchtimes and after school for all year groups. The timetable for this half term can be found on the [website](#), and we will keep adding to this as new clubs are launched.

In my assembly to students last week I set all students the challenge to try at least one club a week between now and half term. At AGS, we believe strongly in the importance of participating in extra-curricular activities. The benefits are massive! From making new friends, to learning new skills, to building self confidence. It can also have a positive impact on academic achievement.

If students have any ideas of clubs they would like to see happening, or indeed set up themselves, please do encourage them to get in touch with me.

Here are a small selection of photos showing some of the activities that have taken place this week.

Mrs Price



Literacy for Life

Year 7 Parents

Please can you make sure that your child has [a reading book in their bag on Friday mornings](#). This can be a fiction or non-fiction book, novel or biography or factual information text, but should be suitably challenging for their reading level. "Real" paper books or E-books on an e-reader (e.g. Kindle) are fine, but students will not be able to use phones or tablets for reading. *Why?*

KS3 Do2 Library

Opens Monday & Thursday lunchtimes from 2nd October in Do2.

Find a book to read, sign it out. Return it when finished.

To follow:

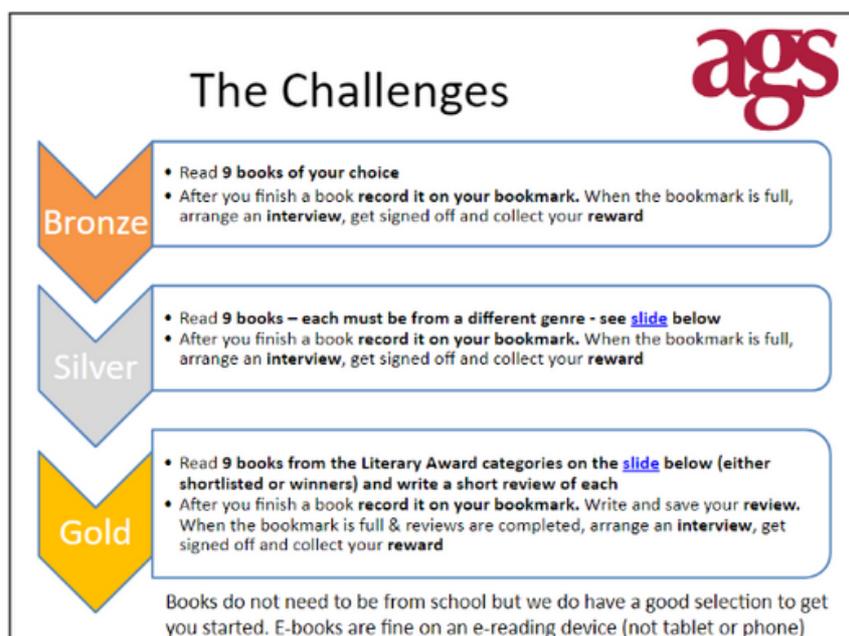
- Reading Challenge Awards
- Competitions
- Book Clubs

And more...



AGS Reading Awards Challenge

During their Life sessions, students will embark on a reading journey. You can find out more about it on the school Intranet \ AGS Links \ KS3 Reading Awards Challenge along with high quality reading suggestions and book lists to guide you on your way.



Year 8 will also be signed up after half-term, but are welcome to start the Challenge immediately if they wish to do so!

Year 13 Focus- Life Programme



News and Notices



Exams update

Autumn mock timetables are now available for year 11 and year 13 to access via MYAGS. Once logged in select assessments along the task bar and then examination timetable. The timetables are also available [here](#). You must know your timetable and email me at exams@alcestersgs.com if you have any queries. Rooms and seats will be allocated soon.

Year 12 mocks will take place 15 to 22 December and the timetable will be published after half term.

Thank you,
Mrs Silcox, Examinations Officer.



Upcoming Dates

Friday, September 29
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
EPQ - Project Product Review
Saturday, September 30
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
Sunday, October 1
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
Monday, October 2
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
Week 2
Tuesday, October 3
Y13 Gold DofE assessed expedition
Thursday, October 5
Y12 Subject Study Skills Day
Monday, October 9
Y12 classroom tests
Week 1
Y13 UCAS - Internal AGS deadline for 'priority' applicants with guaranteed pre-half term processing
Tuesday, October 10
Y12 classroom tests
EPQ Presentation Evening
Y13 EPQ presentation evening
Wednesday, October 11
Y12 classroom tests