



Principal's UPDATE

24th November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the following pages show, the last couple of weeks at AGS have been as busy as ever! We were particularly delighted to welcome nearly 1500 people to our Sixth Form Open Evening event last week, from a vast array of schools across both Warwickshire and the wider West Midlands area.

This week I would particularly like to thank all parents who have responded in any way to our 'Assist, Give and Support' appeal, launched just after the half-term break. If you haven't yet had time to read the previous email in detail, information about the initiative can be found [here](#). As a result of parents coming forward, we are particularly delighted to announce a meeting for all parents, staff and friends of the school who may be interested in supporting the new proposed PTFA group. Further information about the initial meeting can be found on the back page of this publication- I do hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Finally, can I please draw your attention to the email sent out earlier this week regarding Parent Governor Elections. If you haven't yet cast your vote, then please do so. I am again so very grateful to the three parents who have put themselves forward for this; I am so very grateful for all the support that the parent body.

With all best wishes for a restful weekend,

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

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS in Pictures

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

44 students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge with strong results throughout.

Pictured: Will Foreman, Haydon Phillips, Alex Reece, Luke Fenton, Eleanor Baldwin, Helen Antrobus, who achieved a Gold Award and progressed into the next round.



Bill meets the King!



On Monday 13th November one of our students was invited to Highgrove to perform one of his original compositions as part of the celebrations for King Charles' 75th birthday.

It was a fantastic experience for Bill and his family.



Some of our year 8's have had an early introduction into using CAD/CAM to manufacture layered souvenir cards in their DT lessons this term. All pupils grasped this challenge extremely well, here is a small selection!



This Fortnight at AGS

Psychology Behind Bars

On Tuesday 7th November our year 13 Psychology students took a trip to the Birmingham and Midland Institute to attend a 'Behind Bars' conference presented by True Life Conferences. During the day, students had the opportunity to explore what an ideal prison would be and the forms of punishment and rehabilitation that are offered to offenders. They also got to hear from and question four ex offenders about the crimes they had committed and their experiences in the prison system. The day was extremely interesting and the students were able to take much of what they had learnt in the classroom and apply it to the lives of the offenders.

The Psychology Department is also very excited for an upcoming visit by a Clinical Psychologist on Thursday 23rd November. Year 13 students will have the opportunity to hear about the profession and ask questions to gain further insight into the working world of the subject.



Year 11 Holocaust AI Session

The news has been full of the potential benefits and risks of AI technology recently. In October a group of our Year 11 students were lucky enough to trial some new technology being developed by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Through the use of AI technology, students were able to interact with a Holocaust survivor, framing their own questions to explore their life story. Sadly, as the number of survivors diminishes, the need to record the testimonies of those involved in the Holocaust becomes more and more important. Students also had the chance to experience sites associated with the survivor's story through the use of Virtual Reality headsets. This was a fantastic opportunity for both staff and students and is a clear example of how cutting edge technology could transform the way students learn about the Holocaust in the future.

AGS was lucky enough to be offered a free trial of the programme which is not yet available to schools; the Holocaust Educational Trust is hoping to extend this programme across the country at some time during 2024.

Extra-Curricular Provision

We are pleased to be continuously adding to our extra-curricular provision. The timetable for this half term can be found [here](#).

It has been shared with students on SMHW, and is available on our website.

Please do encourage your young person to check it as there have been some changes from last half term.

Here are a few photos of students taking parts in some of the clubs from last half term:



AGS Chemistry Week Poetry Competition

AGS Chemistry Week Poetry Competition

Congratulations to May W (Year 10) who was awarded winner of the AGS Chemistry Week Poetry Competition 2023. Her poem, titled 'The Elements', was wonderfully creative in highlighting the diverse uses of different elements!

We would also like to congratulate Bexie M (Year 9) and Amelia C (Year 7) for having highly commended entries. The calibre of entries that we received was truly excellent and showcased the creativity of our students. We look forward to seeing even more brilliant contributions in future competitions!

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) [@agschemistry](#) to keep up-to-date on future competitions and opportunities for students.

The Elements

The elements make up the world we live in.
Tungsten for heating and balloons filled with helium.

Oxygen to fill our lungs and carbon to expel.
Silver, nickel and copper to throw in a wishing well.

Iron to support our bridges and caesium to destroy them:
another explosive element like rubidium and francium.

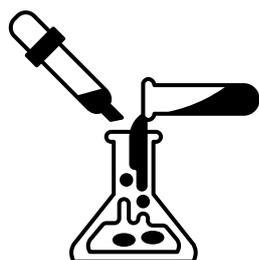
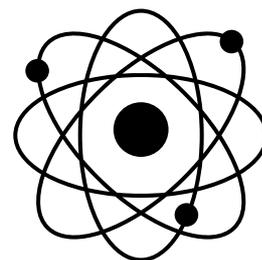
Nitrogen for light bulbs - a colourless, odourless gas.
Fluorine for nuclear material and hydrogen with the lowest atomic mass.

Tin to hold our beans and magnesium to help digest it.
Calcium to make us grow and lead for writing in it.

Humans have invented many wonderful things,
but the earth itself produces gold to make the rings,

and titanium for aircrafts and potassium to eat.
Many left undiscovered and others at our feet.

How amazing it is to live on an ever-changing earth,
as we find more about the elements and their miraculous birth.



Duke of Edinburgh Update



Following a successful Y13 Gold Assessed expedition and the Y12 Gold training walk, the majority of Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE enrolments have now been processed with accounts created on eDofE.

Students now need to...

- Download the eDofE app or access their eDofE accounts online
- Login to their eDofE accounts
- Enter / update their personal information and contact details
- Choose the timescales of their activities
- Enter the details of their volunteering, physical and skills activities - ensuring the activity meets the DofE criteria for that section. Enrolment dates were set as 13th September for Bronze and Silver so students can use that date as their start date for their activities. This date can be moved back to 1st September but students will need to email a.jervis@alcestergs.com to request this date change.
- Get on with the activities ensuring that they complete an average of 1 hour per week per activity for the full duration of the activity i.e. the first and last hour are at least 3, 6, 12 or 18 months apart. It is worth keeping an [activity log](#) to keep track of the hours.
- Bronze and Silver participants should aim to have one section fully completed with an assessor report uploaded to eDofE by Monday 19th February. This is an interim deadline to try to ensure that students are 'on track' to complete their award as soon as they have completed their assessed expedition.
- Here are a number of useful 'how to' video links
 - [How to login to eDofE](#)
 - [How to use the eDofE app](#)
 - [How to submit an assessor report](#)



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

News and Notices

Invitation to Science Christmas Lecture- A Level Students

On Tuesday 12th December, we will be hosting a viewing of the annual University of Oxford Christmas Lecture 'A Quantum Christmas Robin' for our A level science students. It will be from 15:45 (straight afterschool) until 16:45 and refreshments will be provided. Information about the lecture can be found [here](#).

This is a rare opportunity to attend a lecture from such a prestigious university and the topic will be relevant to students from all 3 science disciplines, not just physics as the name may suggest! It goes without saying that this would be an excellent addition to a personal statement to show wider participation in science, or alternatively an interesting discussion point for a university interview. We are delighted that we are able to organise this for our students, and based on discussions we expect a large uptake.

We have emailed all A level science students with a link to a google form for registration, if you wish to attend then please complete this as soon as possible so that we have an idea of numbers for room booking and refreshments. If you express interest and are no longer able to make it, please just inform Miss Kaval via email so that we have an accurate idea of how many students to expect.

Room details are TBC based on student numbers, but the lecture will be hosted in school.

GCSE Physics Masterclass

Isaac Physics is running a GCSE Physics Masterclass on Saturday 25th November, aimed at Grade 5 and upwards. It'll be a great opportunity to develop your mathematical skills in Physics. There's plenty of spaces left if you're interested.

Just scan the QR code or click [this link](#).



MFL News



Thank you to the following students who took part in the MFL competition offered by languagenut.com. Students were able to practise vocabulary, phonics and grammar activities from 6th to 13th November.

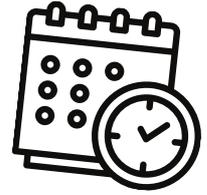
Year 7 students: Amber Johnson, Belle Hall, Shaivi Sharma, Amelia Cruickshank, Maisey Woodward, Daisy Allford.

Years 9 & 10 students: Julian Halota, Haylea Tse, David Williams.

Please look out for more competitions on SMHW coming soon.

News and Notices

Exams Update



Well done to all of our pupils who have just completed their first set of mocks!

Year 12 mocks start Friday 15 December until Friday 22 December. Individual pupil timetables are available on their AGS portal. Any questions please email exams@alcestergs.com

Thank you
Mrs Silcox
Exams Officer

SPARX Maths notice

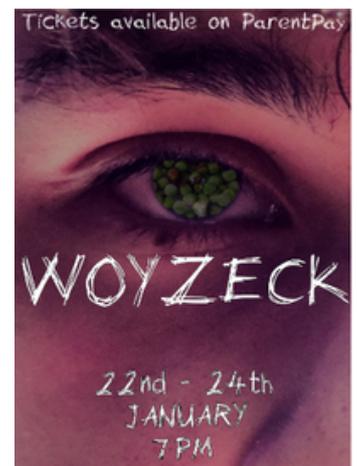


In maths, we are excited to launch a new homework package called SPARX Maths. We are looking forward to seeing the progress and learning this new software offers. You may receive emails from SPARX in the coming weeks to update you on your child's progress.

Mr Atherton

2024 School Play

This year's school play is an innovative and exciting adaptation of **Buchner's Woyzeck**. The play explores the complex mind of a soldier after he is defeated in war. Our production explores complex themes such as PTSD and class hierarchy through Buchner's everyman tragic hero and his epic downfall. We have set our interpretation in the fall-out from a nuclear war, utilising complex theatrical tech and stylised ensemble movement. This darkly comical and heart wrenching tale is being performed by a large cast of students who are dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to doing justice to this complex tale. With moments of cabaret, comedy and catastrophe, this play is one that is sure to leave you thinking.



We would therefore like to cordially invite you to come and join us for Woyzeck's journey on 22nd, 23rd and 24th January 2024. Tickets will be released and available to purchase on ParentPay from Thursday, 16 November 2023 (£5.00 for students and concessions and £7.00 for adults). Please be aware that due to some mature themes, we advise that adults accompany those under the age of 12 to our production.

Please take the time to watch our trailer if you would like a further glimpse into Woyzeck's world - [Woyzeck Official Trailer](#)

Alex Swan - Head of Drama

News and Notices



Thursday 21st December

Christmas Lunch

Roast Turkey

Roasted Vegetable Wellington

Both served with Roast Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables, Stuffing,
pigs in blankets & Pan Gravy

Chocolate Festive Cake
£5.00



SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023
14.00 TO 16.30

WINTER WARMTH IN ALCESTER

Energy bills are set to rise higher than last year for millions this winter and it seems that difficult times will continue for many.

Act on Energy and Alcester Town Council will be hosting a drop-in session on how to tackle this winter with advice on fuel poverty, cost of living and discounts on energy bills for eligible households and how local climate action can save money and improve lives in Alcester.



COME ALONG...

An event to help Alcester residents - hosted by Act on Energy and Alcester Town Council

Advice on heating and energy issues
 Finance & Debt
 Climate Change
 Food Bank
 Health Watch

Advice on Benefits and home energy efficiencies

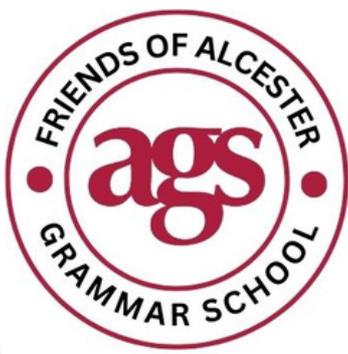
Free refreshments
 Kids' activities

ERIC PAYNE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
 Off St Faiths Road
 Alcester

B49 6AG

For further details:

info@alcester-tc.gov.uk
 susan@actonenergy.org.uk



Alcester Grammar School

WE NEED YOU!

**PTFA Meeting – Monday 4th December
7pm – AGS Sports Hall**

Join us for an initial meeting to discuss the new PTFA group. Anyone connected with the school is welcome to attend.

Committee members required, along with volunteers to help run events.

Click [here](#) to register your attendance or email:

ags-friends@alcesterags.com