



Principal's UPDATE

22nd March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I sit writing this, there are theoretically just six school hours remaining of one of the shortest-ever school terms; however, in reality (as ever at AGS), school life is continuing apace. Food and Nutrition students are waking up in Sorrento this morning with a day of pizza and gelato making ahead of them, whilst year 13 students are arriving with suitcases to leave for La Plagne in France at 4 pm. Tomorrow, a number of year 8 and 9 students will represent the school in the Magistrates Competition at Coventry Magistrate Court - whilst peers in years 9 and 10 depart for a week in South Africa with the PE department. Amongst all this, I am very much looking forward to judging the final of the Year 7 UN Sustainability Goals Public Speaking Competition at 9 am - just one small element of this week's Life Programme, which today sees students across the school engage with Enterprise, International Women's Day, Interview Preparation and the usual Friday morning array of car maintenance, cooking, community service, sign language lessons, politics, safe driving and so much more.

This week in assembly, I spoke with students from years 7 to 11 about 'Embracing Change', including a number of changes that will come into force in the summer term. Please do remember to talk to your young person (in years 7-11) about the option to wear tailored, black knee-length shorts (details in the last Principal's Message) and also our new approach to mobile devices in school. [Our mobile devices policy can be found here](#). I also, in the assembly, reiterated to students my commitment to making the site as welcoming as possible to all; therefore, over Easter, we will complete the installation of anti-vaping and anti-social behaviour alarms in all toilets across the school - building on a successful trial this term.

Finally, we are, of course, aware that many year 11 and 13 students, in particular, have an Easter break that will include revision ahead of them. We all, I am sure, wish them well in the final run up to the summer exams.

With all best wishes for the fortnight ahead,

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS

Year 10 enjoyed a mathematical day of enrichment at the Maths & Beyond event held at the University of Warwick. They explored the mathematics of Origami, AI and gaming, estimation and global warming, and gained some real insight into university life!

The students represented the school well and actively participated in all sessions. Two of our students (Katy and Ivan) won prizes for only attempting and solving the hardest possible questions in the maths contest/relay.

A great time was had by all and many of the students left the event thinking about how mathematics will fit into their futures.



Students on the Sorrento trip throwing themselves into the local cuisine!



A great afternoon learning to suture. Well done to AGS MedSoc, excellent experience for our aspiring medics!

This Fortnight at AGS



Great netball fixture against Kingsley. Well done to all players and to Aleeya, Holly, Daisy, Issy and Emily for being awarded player of the match.

A huge well done to year 11 for their final match at AGS!

Here at AGS we have a thriving Cross Country team who have been very successful this year. The following students qualified for the English school cross country finals which were held in Pontefract, York. They were fantastic, and up against some very strong competitors across the country. The students give up a lot of time and maintain gruelling training alongside school so very well deserved results.

Year 12 - Maisey- Joy Sprigs, Niamh Hillard, Abbi Cooper

Year 10 - Tom Fisher

Year 9 - James Lappin, Joel Ledgard, Aran Cooper

Year 8 - Holly Hansen

Hugely exciting day of basketball with **Year 7**.

3 wins, 1 loss and lots of learning!



Fantastic effort from the **Year 10** volleyball team, who played a much older opposition. Well done all!

This Fortnight at AGS

Year 7 have created these brilliant chicken drawings using pastels and charcoal.



Year 13 A Level Drama Scripted Exam

This week Year 13 Drama students completed their scripted exam and excelled themselves developing work in the style of multiple complex practitioners. Including Kneehigh, Berkoff and Stanislavski. The number of additional hours that students gave to rehearse and perfect their pieces was phenomenal and the result was some of the strongest practical work we have seen in our careers and would have competed with professionals in regards to fluidity and characterisation. This marks the Year 13s final foray on the AGS stage and we as a department will be sad to see them go. They are unmatched in regards to their dedication, talent and camaraderie. Bravo and bon chance in the future, please remember us all in your Oscars speeches.



The Word

AGS students never lost for words!

A huge thank you from the English department and the AGS community to all who participated in The Word, a celebration of words in all their forms.

From author visits to quizzes, we had a fabulous week which showcased the talents and enthusiasm of AGS students at their best. Particular thanks must go to the sixth formers and other student leaders who supported the events, especially Connor Lewis-Bell, who leads the Creative Writing Club every week with the confidence of a seasoned wordsmith.

We also held the inaugural AGS Creative Writing Competition. The standard of entries was astounding: many of our students should be strongly considering entering national competitions, as their work genuinely demonstrates the creativity, skill and fine judgement we would expect from much more mature writers. The winners are named below, and there is a very short sample of their work - for more, do see the AGS Student Record (with thanks to the student newspaper editors for including it in a fantastic edition).

So well done, keep writing, and see you again next year - word on the street is we'll be back!

Winners

Anna Begg - KS3 fiction prize
Jamie Hanna - KS3 poetry prize
Bryn Patel Stephens - KS4 poetry prize
Betsy Stather - Non-fiction prize
Eve Hatzipanagou - KS5 poetry prize
Laaibah Maqbool - KS5 fiction prize

Highly Commended

Alice Battersby
Amelia Bowen
Cori Adams
Evie West



4th-8th of March 2024

English
Department
**The
WORD**

Don't take our word for it - enjoy a collection of fabulous snippets on the next page!



4th-8th of March 2024

English Department **The WORD**



A man swimming in a cave full of dead fish, their pearl-white bellies shimmering in the light...

My instinct was telling me to run back into the tent, yet my heart was longing for me to stay...

Such superstition is why our world is sick, oozing pockets of malice, decay and corruption, rotting, eating away at our foundations...

The water sticks to the concrete roads, not able to seep into the dirt underneath as it would in the countryside. Roads are a wall for water, trapping the droplets...

*The glasses right out from under their eye...
lost you a while ago, didn't I?*

A heart beating reluctantly. The body holds blind hope.

Every knot holding it together was both a symbol of strength and grief, carefully crafted on a well-loved loom by an uncle or auntie who made their living off of these carpets...

The cry of the floor giving way under its weight:
This carcass of metal crying for freedom

We hadn't yet grasped the concept of the big wide world and the sticky social and political webs which we now find ourselves tangled in.

And mine? Molecules of wild colour
clash: spooling spills of orange and red clutter
my sketches of you.



Year 12 are planning their futures...

It was great to welcome so many universities, employers and apprenticeship providers as part of our annual year 12 Futures Evening. As well as the careers fair, there were talks on moving into year 13, getting into Oxbridge, higher/degree apprenticeships and student finance. Lots of inspiration for choices after AGS - and so nice to see our ex pupils promoting degree apprenticeships!



PTFA Update

AGS Friends is up and running! As you may have seen the new Parents, Teachers and Friends Association has been established since January. We have held our AGM, elected a committee, set up a bank account and in the process of registering for charitable status. Soon we can start working to raise funds for the school and support the wider school community.

Three key updates from our last meeting

- All parents/carers/guardians and school staff are automatically members of AGSF – and can help shape what we do. **Please can you take a few minutes to fill in [this questionnaire](#) and share your thoughts?**
- We will be providing refreshments at school events during the summer term. The spring concert (24 April), summer concert (9 July) and Year 7 Induction evening (11 July) for new parents. We need volunteers to help! Can you spare some time to help with these and future events? Please email us your details to ags-friends@alcestergs.com
- Save the date! We are planning the first AGSF social event – a family quiz night on **Friday 5th July**. Are you a top quiz master? Experienced at running a charity bar? A whiz at social media and marketing? We are holding a planning meeting for this on Wednesday 17th April at 6.45pm in the school sports hall – please join us to help make our first event a success!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please drop us an email at ags-friends@alcestergs.com. After our next meeting on Wednesday 17th April, 6.45pm, school sports hall we will be meeting socially in Alcester to get to know each other a little. You will be very welcome to join us!



News and Notices

Message from Ms Blud Jones – Anthea Bell Young Translator's Competition.

Thank you so much to everyone who sent an entry or entries for this year's competition.

These have now been sent and we will announce any prizes later this year. This year's entrants are:

Shaivi Shastri, Amber Johnson, Martha Pearson, Maya Laskowska, Millie-Jane Anderson, Emily Welsby, Haika Khan, Maisie Perry, Julian Halota, Landon Widdop, David Williams, Alice Battersby, Jasper Nie and Haylea Tse.

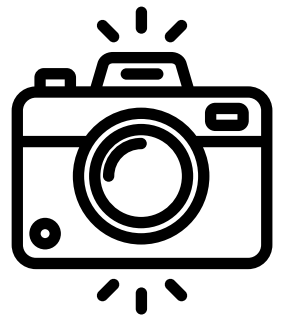
We have had entries for French, Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin.

And remember

"Translation is not a matter of words only: it is a matter of making intelligible a whole culture".

Message from Mr Slater

On Thursday 11th April at around midday, we will be having our Whole School Photograph taken, Due to covid cancellations and poor weather, this will be our first photo since 2019. Please ensure your child is wearing full smart uniform (even if they have PE lessons that day).



Exams Update

Planning is now in full swing for the summer exam series.

Year 12's should check their timetable is correct especially that they are entered for the correct internal or external exam. Anyone who no longer wishes to sit an external exam should email exams@alcestergs.com before 15 April to receive a refund.

Year 11's and year 13's you should check your summer timetable is correct.

Some exams will now show a room and seat no but the seating plans are not all completed and I will let you know when they are.

Emails have been sent to pupils who have a clash in May with the arrangements for the day.

Any questions please email me exams@alcestergs.com

Spring/Summer Menu

Meal Deal

Main Meal
With Vegetables
And Dessert



£3.25

All Of Our Main Meals,
Sandwiches & Desserts Are
Freshly Made On Site Every Day

Lunch week 1

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Crispy Chicken Wrap served with potato wedges	Beef Chili Con Carne served with Fluffy Rice & Tortilla Chips	Roast Turkey served with Roast potatoes & Pan Gravy	Chicken Tikka Masala served with Steamed Rice	Battered Fish served with Chips & Peas or Baked Beans
	ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY				
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN	Plant based Vegetable burger served with Cajon potato wedges	Vegetarian Chilli Served with fluffy rice & Tortilla Chips	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetable Biryani	Vegetable spring rolls served with Chips & Peas or Baked Beans
	ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY				
STREET FOOD	Piri Piri Chicken Wrap	Roasted Vegetable Pitta	Beefburger with Salad & Salsa	Chicken Tandoori Flatbread	Southern fired chicken & Chips
TAKEAWAY TUBS	Tomato & Chorizo Pasta	Tomato & Mascarpone Pasta	Bolognaise Pasta	Vegetable Fajita Pasta	Tomato & Basil Pasta
	Penne Arrabiata	Chicken & Vegetable Stir-fry	Penne Arrabiata with Roasted Vegetables	Piri Piri chicken Wings	Macaroni Cheese Pot
PIZZA SLICE	Margarita Pepperoni	Margarita Ham & Tomato	Margarita Chicken & Sweetcorn	Margarita Hot & Spicy	Margarita BBQ Chicken
JACKETS	TRY OUR DELICIOUS FILLINGS FOR EACH				
DESSERTS	Jam Sponge & Custard	Chocolate Brownie	Banana Cake & Custard	Apple Crumble & Custard	Orange & Oatmeal Cookie

Lunch week 2

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Beef Ragu	Chicken Curry Served with Pilau Rice	Roast Gammon served with Gravy & Thyme Roasted Potatoes	Beef Lasagna served with Garlic bread & Salad	Battered Fish served with Chips, Peas or Baked Beans
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN	Vegetable Mince Pasta Bolognaise	Spinach & Lentil Curry Served with pilau Rice	Vegetable Stir-fry with Egg Noodles	Vegetarian Lasagna served with Garlic bread & Salad	Vegetable Burger in a Bun served with Chips, Peas, or Baked Beans
	ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY				
STREET FOOD	Greek Style Chicken Flatbread	Caramelized Onion & Sausage Sub	Chicken Burger with Salad	Pulled Pork Nachos	Southern fried chicken & Chips
TAKEAWAY TUBS	Tomato & Chorizo Pasta	Tomato & Mascarpone Pasta	Bolognaise Pasta	Vegetable Fajita Pasta	Tomato & Basil Pasta
	Penne Arrabiata	Chicken & Vegetable Stir-fry	Penne Arrabiata with Roasted Vegetables	Piri Piri chicken Wings	Macaroni Cheese Pot
PIZZA SLICE	Margarita Pepperoni	Margarita Ham & Tomato	Margarita Chicken & Sweetcorn	Margarita Hot & Spicy	Margarita BBQ Chicken
JACKETS	TRY OUR DELICIOUS FILLINGS FOR EACH				
DESSERTS	Homemade Flapjack	Pear & Chocolate Sponge served with Custard	Chocolate Brownie	Apple Crumble & Custard	Lemon Shortbread

Spring/Summer Menu

Lunch week 3

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Mexican Chicken & Rice	Beef Bolognese served with Garlic Bread	Roast Pork served with Stuffing, Gravy & Roast Potatoes	Chicken & Vegetable Stir-fry	Battered Fish served with Chips, Baked Beans or Peas/ Mushy Peas
	ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY				
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN	Vegetable Flatbread served with Potato Wedges	Broccoli Pasta Bake served with Garlic Bread	Vegetable Toad in the Hole with vegetables & potatoes	Vegetable Mince Keema	Vegetable & Mixed Bean Wrap served with Chips & Salad
	ALL SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES & POTATO OR RICE DISH OF THE DAY				
STREET FOOD	Vegetable Chow Mein	Chicken Fried Rice & Curry Sauce	Cheese Burger & Relish	Chicken Wrap served with mint yogurt	Southern fried chicken & Chips
TAKEAWAY TUBS	Tomato & Chorizo Pasta Penne Arrabiata	Tomato & Mascarpone Pasta Chicken & Vegetable Stir-fry	Bolognese Pasta Penne Arrabiata with Roasted Vegetables	Vegetable Fajita Pasta Piri Piri chicken Wings	Tomato & Basil Pasta Macaroni Cheese Pot
PIZZA SLICE	Margarita Pepperoni	Margarita Ham & Tomato	Margarita Chicken & Sweetcorn	Margarita Hot & Spicy	Margarita BBQ Chicken
JACKETS	TRY OUR DELICIOUS FILLINGS FOR EACH				
DESSERTS	Iced Chocolate Sponge	Apple Flapjack	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Vanilla Sponge with Custard	Ginger Shortbread

Break

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
THE BAKERY	WAFFLES	PANCAKES & SYRUP	SAUSAGE ROLL	CROISSANT	CHEESE & BACON PUFF
PLANT BASED	VEGAN SAUSAGE ROLL	BEAN AND CHEESE MELTS	BEAN & HASH BROWN POT	TOMATO & CHEESE MELT	CHEESEY NACHOS
HOT BREADS & SLICES	CHEESE & BEAN WRAP CHEESE & TOMATO FRENCH BREAD	SAUSAGE BUN BREAKFAST WRAP	EGG BACON & BEAN WRAP HAM & CHEESE FLATBREAD	CHICKEN & BACON WRAP SPICY WEDGES	BREAKFAST POTS ROASTED TOMATO & MUSHROOM WRAP
SAVORY SLICES	CHEESE SLICE BACON BAPS	HAM & CHEESE FRENCH BREAD BACON BAPS	CHEESEY BAGEL BACON BAPS	CHEESE & ONION SLICE BACON BAPS	SAUSAGE BAPS BACON BAPS
ON THE SIDE	TOAST	TOAST	TOAST	TOAST	TOAST
FRESH FRUIT POTS	SELECTION OF FRUIT & DESSERT POTS	SELECTION OF FRUIT & DESSERT POTS	SELECTION OF FRUIT & DESSERT POTS	SELECTION OF FRUIT & DESSERT POTS	SELECTION OF FRUIT & DESSERT POTS



Fresh
Fruit



Fresh
Smoothie