



Principal's UPDATE

3rd May 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

With Year 11 and Year 13 in their final days before study leave, it has been a time of both focus and celebration. Year 13, in particular, have thrown themselves into their Fancy Dress - so see page 9 for just a small selection of photos! Younger year groups have also been busy; it was a delight to join Year 9 last Saturday morning at Blackwell Adventure Centre as they set off on day 2 of their Bronze DoE Practice Expedition and I was also highly impressed with how Year 10 approached day two of their exams this morning.

A huge thank you to all parents who completed the parent survey, pleasingly the data collected compares favourably to benchmarking against other national selective schools. However, it is always the areas for improvement that are of most interest to me, and this year, a common theme from you was around your access to information - whether that be around attendance, behaviour, school reports, curriculum, learning, etc. This was already an area highlighted in our development plan for next year and therefore please do look out for a separate email in the coming weeks, which will explain how we are planning to introduce a system called Evolve to improve information and communication with families around trips, extracurricular activities and sports fixtures and also how we hope to be able to provide much more attendance, behaviour and academic information to you through the existing Satchel One portal. We are hopeful that from September we can streamline as much as possible through these two systems. Regarding the format of Parents' Evenings, 40% of parents had a strong preference for online meetings, 47% for Face-to-face and 13% had no view. In light of this, SLT will consider how we can continue to offer both formats across a pupil's time with us.

I wish you all a restful Bank Holiday weekend,

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

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School

This Fortnight at AGS

Great results from School Athletics Warwickshire Combined Events Championships.

Year 7 Ahan, Sam and Harry finished **5th**
Isabella, Maisey and Floren **County Champions**

Year 8/9 Thea, Issy and Ellie **County Champions**

Year 9 A team James, Joel and Alfie **County Champions**
B team Joe, Ben and Tom finished **5th**



SALT Celebration breakfast



This Fortnight at AGS

Year 7 History Ambassadors

Our group of budding historians have been busy this term working on AGS' inaugural History magazine. 'The Historia' is currently in its final production stages and should be released to all of Year 7 soon. Featuring staff interviews, interesting historical facts and including a celebration of student achievements, it should be a good read. Thanks to Stefan DuRose in 8RCP who has helped encourage and support our Year 7 ambassadors. Watch this space for the launch of 'The Historia'.

Some of the team are pictured below; others were too camera-shy to appear.



THE HISTORIA

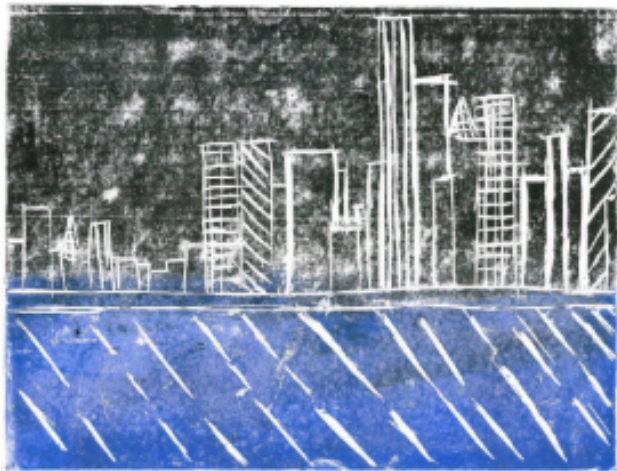
The magazine that brings the past to the present!

ags



Another brilliant netball trip to Condover Hall.

This Fortnight at AGS



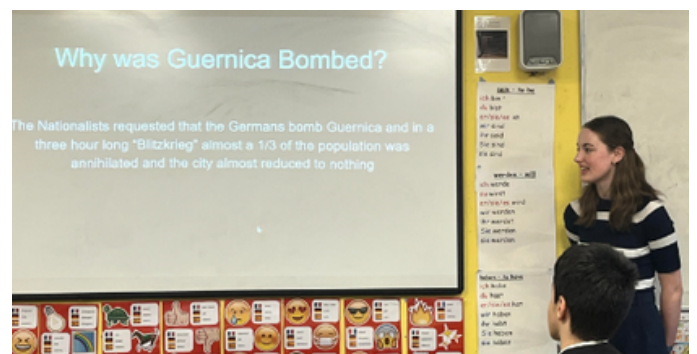
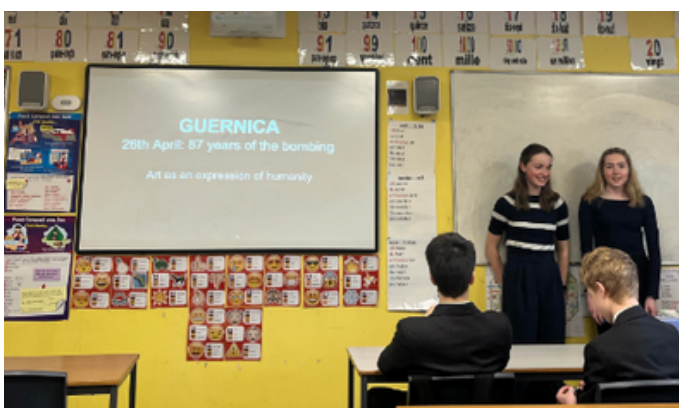
Ms Horton's year 7 class have been creating these colourful landscapes using lino printing techniques.



Junior Ambassadors

Our dedicated team of Junior Ambassadors delivered their last session for this year on Friday 26th April to our Year 8 students. Their presentation was based on the historical background of Picasso's famous painting, "Guernica". On this actual day in 1937 the town of Guernica in the Basque Country in Spain suffered severe bombing by the Nazi Luftwaffe on behalf of General Franco's Fascist side in the Spanish Civil War. This was a great opportunity for our students to gain further knowledge about European history and culture, as well exploring the symbolism in the painting.

A very well done to those involved!



Young Enterprise

On Wednesday 24th of April, our 3 Young Enterprise teams competed against seven other local schools at the Warwickshire and Coventry Young Enterprise Showcase Final which was held at Kings High, Warwick. The teams were interviewed by a panel of judges who quizzed them on their finances, social media presence and HR management. The students then had to present their business to two judges and an audience of around 60 people.

Unfortunately, we did not take the winning spot but all teams performed fantastically in what was quite a daunting experience. Well done to all groups!



Eco-Scribble, a company who curated packs of recyclable stationery and placed them into seed paper packaging made a total profit of £210.



They sold exceptionally well at the second trade fair in Leamington and are still in communication with a charity shop in the area as well as a local primary school to negotiate a deal to sell their remaining stock.

Eco-Scribble won the award for 'Best Presentation' and 'Highly Commended.'

Green Roots Jewellery hand crafted earrings from a variety of different materials including Lego, pencils and CD's. They had an impressive low unit cost of £0.38 per product which allowed them to generate a healthy profit. Even on the day of the showcase, they were approached by people wanting to buy their products.

Green Roots Jewellery won the award for 'Innovation and Technology' due to their impressive production process.



Urban Green Scapes had quite the journey - they began as a company called 'Focus Fidget' who unfortunately sold O products at trade fair 1, so the company reinvented itself.

They then focused on being a company who constructs terrariums and managed to make an impressive £228 profit due to making their products from items they already had/grew.

Urban Green Scapes won the award for 'Sustainability' and 'Highly Commended'.

News and Notices

Exams Message

Good luck to all of our pupils taking exams! Any queries regarding exams for years 10 to year 13 please email exams@alcestergs.com

For Year 11 to year 13 please remember the following:

- Know your timetable.
- Arrive 20 minutes before the start time of your exam.
- Bring your ID and all the equipment you will need.
- Check your AGS email account and SMHW.



Thank you,

Mrs Silcox

Message from Ms Blud Jones

Many congratulations to our year 13 French & German classes who did their speaking exams this week.

French class: Maria Chadzynska, Samantha Curry, Nina Rao, Ellie-Anne Lightfoot. Agatha Lovell, Anaïs Gautier, Natalie Thomas, Heidi Ravenhill, Maud Read and Robyn Jones.

German class: Wren Morley-Brown, Alice Battersby, Louisa Mynott and Natalie Thomas.

And huge congratulations to all year 11 linguists who have all done their GCSE speaking exams in the last two weeks. Well done for your hard work and dedication this year!

You should all be very proud of yourselves! Well done!



Year 8 Spanish Trip

Message for parents: Please note that the information evening for the Spanish trip will be now from 6.00-7.00 and not 6.30-7.30 as previously advertised on **Thursday 13th June**.

Thanks,

Susana Valera

News and Notices

Alcester Food Festival 2024

Alcester Food Festival is on Saturday 18th May 2024. They are running an inter-school bake off competition on the theme of Breads from around the World. Students from AGS, Alcester Academy and St Benedicts have been invited to take part.

Students that wish to participate would be 'off timetable' on the morning of Friday 17th May to make and bake their design in FT. Students and parents would then need to attend the Alcester Food Festival on the Saturday 18th May at the town hall. The competition will run from 10.30 - approx 1.30 with plenty of time to wander around the festival in between submitting your entry and judging. Parents will need to accompany their children.

If students wish to take part, they should attend a meeting on Tuesday 7th May at 12.40 in FT1.



The poster features a background of various breads and pastries. At the top left is the Alcester Food Festival logo. The main title 'ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL SCHOOL Bake OFF COMPETITION' is prominently displayed. Below this are the logos for St Benedict's, Alcester Academy, and AGS. The theme 'WORLD BREAD THEME' is written in large letters, followed by the date 'SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024'. The schedule includes arrival at 10.30AM, viewing time from 11AM-1PM, and shortlisting/judging from 1PM onwards at Alcester Town Hall. It mentions that entries will be judged by Steven Leadley, a star of the West End, on originality, appearance, flavour, and consistency. A small circular photo of Steven Leadley is included. Entry details for KS3 and KS4 are provided, along with prize information and a sign-up deadline of Friday 10th May 2024. The website <https://www.alcesterfoodfestival.org.uk/> is listed at the bottom.

ALCESTER FOOD FESTIVAL
SCHOOL Bake OFF
COMPETITION

WORLD BREAD THEME
SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024
10.30AM ARRIVAL FOR JUDGING
11AM—1PM VIEWING TIME FOR COMPETITORS AND ONE GUEST
1PM SHORTLISTING, JUDGING AND FINAL DECISION
AT ALCESTER TOWN HALL, ALCESTER

THE WORLD BREAD ENTRIES
WILL BE JUDGED BY STEVEN LEADLEY, STAR OF THE WEST END,
ON THEIR ORIGINALITY, APPEARANCE, FLAVOUR AND CONSISTENCY!



KS3 entry for years 7 and 8, and KS4 entry for years 9 and 10, from each school.
Prizes will be available for each key stage and school, with an overall best in show!
Sign up by Friday 10th May 2024. Judges decision is final.

<https://www.alcesterfoodfestival.org.uk/>

Year 13 Fancy Dress

