



Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half-term is an unusually short one, with just 18 pupil contact days. Pupils, as ever, have risen admirably to the challenge of new routines and structures - largely resulting from exams (both internal and external).

As a Senior Leadership Team, it is an exciting term, as we focus not only on the 'here and now', but also on strategic planning for the year ahead. I am particularly delighted to share with you that we have a new partnership with European Electronique to drive forward IT and Technology in the school over the next 5 years - and that our SEND department will also have a new, more extensive and appropriate 'home' at the heart of the school from next September.

Our new Head of Drama Mrs Stringer, will join us after May half term - and again, we are investing in the refurbishment of 2 additional spaces over the summer break, to support the delivery of the Drama curriculum.

19th May 2025

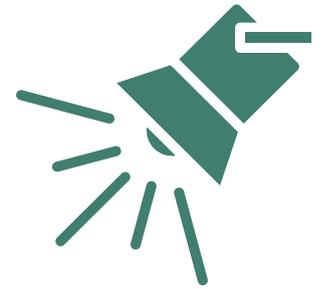
We are, however, still awaiting news from the DfE on the success of our CIF bids this year, which would fund more expensive and urgent challenges we face - failing heating systems in Dobell and Science, and ageing Science Labs. I will update you with the outcome of any bids when I receive news.

Finally this week, parental communication is important to us. Some of you will be aware that we have now closed our various Twitter/X accounts and have moved across to Bluesky. We are committed to a daily post (in term time) on the account - please do consider following us on at [@alcestergrammar.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/alcestergrammar.bsky.social) to stay up-to-date with the latest news.

Best Wishes,

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School



Language

SPOTLIGHT

Cantonese



校長更新

親愛的家長和照顧者：

這個學期只有18個學生上課日，是一個特別短的半學期。學生們一如既往，表現出色，積極適應新的日常安排和制度，這些變化主要是由於內部和外部考試的需要。

對我們的高級領導團隊來說，這是一個令人振奮的學期，我們不僅專注於當下的工作，亦積極進行來年的策略規劃。我特別高興與大家分享，我們已與 European Electronique 建立新的合作關係，在未來五年推動本校的資訊科技發展。同時，我們的特殊教育需要 (SEND) 部門，將於明年九月起遷至校園核心地帶一個更合適、更完善的新空間。

我們的新戲劇科主任 Stringer 女士，將於五月半學期後正式加入我們的團隊。同時，我們亦會在暑假期間翻新另外兩個空間，以支援戲劇課程的教學需求。

二零二五年五月十九日

然而，我們仍在等待教育部 (DfE) 公佈我們今年CIF (資本投資基金) 申請的結果。這些資金將有助應對我們目前面對的一些重大且緊急的挑戰——包括 Dobell 樓及科學樓的暖氣系統老化失效，以及實驗室設施老化等問題。一旦收到消息，我會第一時間向大家匯報申請結果。

最後，本週我想強調家校之間的溝通對我們非常重要。部分家長可能已經留意到，我們已關閉所有 Twitter/X 帳號，並已轉移至 Bluesky 平台。我們承諾在學期期間每天都會在該帳戶上更新貼文，請考慮追蹤我們：

@alcestergrammar.bsky.social

以便緊貼學校的最新消息

祝好



Rachel Thorpe 女士
Alcester 文法中學



This Fortnight at AGS

Silver Duke of Edinburgh - Practice Expedition



The Coding Challenge

Fantastic achievement in The Coding Challenge!

From March 24th to April 4th, 85 Year 7 and 8 students took part in this advanced stage following the Bebras competition completed in November.

A special shout-out to our Year 7 stars: 12 achieved full marks, 25 earned a distinction, and an outstanding 23 students were awarded a Gold Award for scoring over 40. All other students received a merit for participation.

Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Mrs Nicholas

LAMDA Exam Results

Before Easter, students across all year groups participated in their very first LAMDA exams in Public Speaking. I am thrilled to announce the results and extend huge congratulations to ALL students. Not only did they pass their exams, but they achieved **DISTINCTIONS** across the board!

If you would like to join me in developing confidence through public speaking and gaining extra qualifications to discuss at interviews and presentations, please contact me at speakingmatters121@gmail.com.

Mrs Dickinson
Speaking Matters

AGS' first set of results

LAMDA

100% Distinctions!

Your LAMDA Speaking in Public Exam

1:1 Speaking in Public lessons
Limited Spaces Available

For details:
speakingmatters121@gmail.com

The graphic is a celebratory announcement for LAMDA exam results. It features a dark background with gold confetti and streamers. At the top, it says 'AGS' first set of results' in gold. Below that, 'LAMDA' is written in large, bold, purple letters. Underneath, '100% Distinctions!' is written in large, 3D gold letters. On the left, there is a small image of a book cover titled 'Your LAMDA Speaking in Public Exam' by Mrs Dickinson. On the right, there is a white box with black text that reads '1:1 Speaking in Public lessons Limited Spaces Available' and 'For details: speakingmatters121@gmail.com'. A gold and white striped party hat is visible on the right side.

Year 7 Art

Mr. Smith's year 7 groups have painted some brilliant landscapes this term!

Well done Year 7!





The 2025 athletics season has started with a bang...

At the Warwickshire combined events championships our best multi-eventers competed against teams from across the county. Results as follows...

Year 7 boys - 2nd with Finnbar B taking individual 1st out of 36 competitors.

Year 7 girls - 8th

Year 8 girls - 1st (competing in the yr9 competition!)

Year 9 boys team A - 1st, with Kian P in 1st position and Harry G in 3rd out of 24

Year 9 boys team B - 4th, with Finn J taking individual 2nd out of 24



A highlight of the day was a comment from Rita Bridges, who has helped run Warwickshire Schools Athletics for many, many years commenting that the junior boys teams were the most polite and well mannered she has ever encountered.

These are **AMAZING** results considering the calibre (and finances!) of schools that take part and students worked relentlessly through the day to achieve them. **Well done all!**

We've had a number of students selected for the South Warwickshire team competing at the County Championships on 14th June. Congratulations to Harry G, Darryl J, Fin J, Aarav W, Morgan N, Toby T, Joel L, Ben B, Matteo M, Seb H, Joe L, Isabella M, Immy W, Holly H, Amelie H, Floren S, Amelie H, Niamh H, Abbie C, Martha P.

This is probably the most we've ever had selected; good luck!

Finally, Students from years 8, 9 and 10 took part in the county round of the **English Schools Track and Field Cup**. This event is a problem solving exercise for staff, choosing 12-14 athletes to compete in 1 track and 1 field event / relay. Students competed with a huge amount of professionalism and commitment throughout a very warm day a Rugby athletics club and achieved the following results

Year 8 Boys - 2nd out of 7 teams, scoring 330 points

Year 8 Girls - 3rd out of 8 teams, scoring 318 points

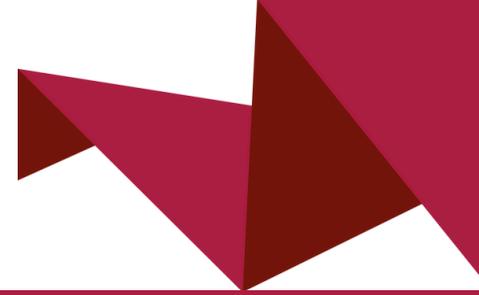
Year 9/10 Boys - 1st out of 8 teams, scoring 423 points

Detailed individual results can be found on the ESAA website [here](#)

Well done to all involved, it clearly shows the depth of talent we have. It is likely that at least 1 of these teams will qualify for the regional finals on 17th June and will then compete for a place in the national finals!

Mr Richens





House Update



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

The House System is 1 year old!

Happy New House Year!

Like any new year, there has been an element of celebrating the achievements of last year and looking forward to the new year with anticipation!

Final highlights from the 'old' House year include Willow Springfest- a three day event celebrating all that is Spring. Students partook in 'name the chick' won by Gracie D, chocolate lolly raffle which gave students the chance both to enjoy a chocolate treat and enter the raffle to win one of three chocolate hampers and guess the number of 'orange' (obviously) eggs in the jar!

This all culminated in a Spring-themed cake bake and non-uniform day on the Friday. In total **£1135.84** was raised for Spencer's Retreat - a local charity supporting families of students with SEND requirements where one of the 2024-25 Willow SALT members volunteered.

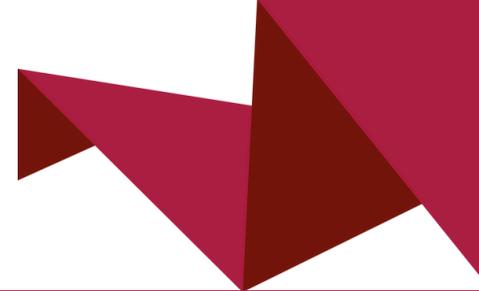
A massive thank you to Tina Kirby, Waitrose Community Champion, for gifting 5 Easter eggs. Students who had the top 5 amount of total House points in each year in each House were entered into a draw for these. Smiles all round!

Speaking of totals, over the course of the last House year, **£7455.60** has been raised in total and shared with five different charities chosen by the separate Houses. An amazing accomplishment and a massive thank you to all involved- you really have made a difference to many people's lives!

As we move into the final term of the academic year and a new House year, it is easy to sit back and rest on our laurels! A revitalising and invigorating virtual House assembly compiled by the five Houses was shared with students this week- it proved to be a great myth-buster that the final part of a race, a university course, a kayak trip or indeed the academic year is a time to sit back and relax! Do ask your student all about it!

Looking forward Year 7 will have a Spelling Bee coming up- new for 2025, House Cake Bake returns with an additional competitive chance of vouchers and of course our old favourites- House Music and House Sports Day.





What's On?



House Bake Off

Coming soon

Grab your aprons, look out those cake tins!

Be as creative, colourful and crafty as you can and make your House proud!

Also ...

ALDER BIRCH HAWTHORN OAK WILLOW

REPRESENT YOUR HOUSE AS A PERFORMER OR COMPOSER AT...

HOUSE MUSIC 2025

SIGN UP TO PERFORM A SOLO AND/OR GROUP PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR HOUSE! AND/OR COMPOSITION COMPETITION

SIGN UP VIA QR CODE - GOOGLE FORM

PERFORMANCE AUDITIONS, WB 30TH JUNE

HOUSE MUSIC, TUESDAY 8TH JULY

FOR MORE INFO USE QR CODE BELOW

ags **AGS SPORTS DAY**

SAVE THE DATE

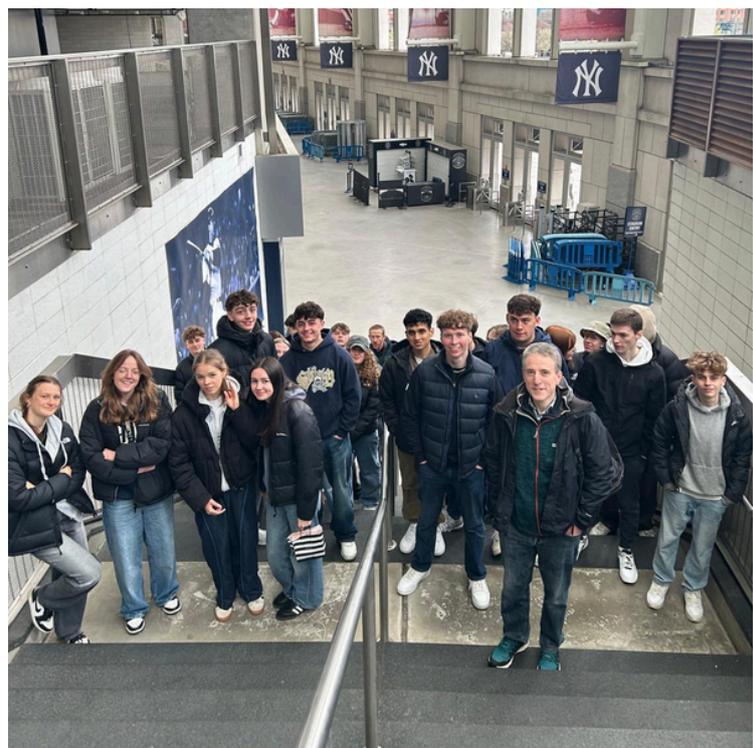
THURS 3RD JULY 2025

"YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF UNTIL YOU TAKE THAT FIRST STEP AND JUST GO FOR IT"
NATASHA HASTINGS

Alder Birch Hawthorn Oak Willow

- 1ST PLACE 100
- 2ND PLACE 80
- 3RD PLACE 60
- 4TH PLACE 40
- 5TH PLACE 20

Business Department - New York visit



Norway Adventure 2025



News and Notices

Bar Mock Trial Competition 2025

Calling all Year 12's!



We are considering entering this year's competition subject to having enough Year 12 students to make a full team, and our entry application being successful.

It is an amazing opportunity for students to develop their understanding of the criminal law, criminal justice system and how courts work. There will be two criminal cases to prepare both the prosecution & defence cases for. Taking part in this competition will help develop students' public speaking, confidence, listening and reasoning skills. It is also great to include on UCAS/ Apprenticeship/ job/ work placement applications.

You do not have to be intending to study law to participate in this opportunity.

Students opting to take part will be required to fully commit & be highly motivated. It is a requirement to attend all weekly sessions, attend the competition date, thoroughly learn both of the legal cases & write/draft their own role.

It is anticipated that sessions will run from June to the competition date in November/December 2025 (dates tbc).

Any Year 12 students interested in applying for a place on the team please contact either:

Mrs Thomas c.thomas@alcestergs.com or Mrs Price s.price@alcestergs.com

Mrs Thomas

Parking Notice

Please be considerate of both student safety and our neighbours if dropping or collecting a student by car. Please do not park on junctions or bends or come onto the school site in a car at the start or end of the day as it prevents us loading buses effectively.



News and Notices

ags
House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**

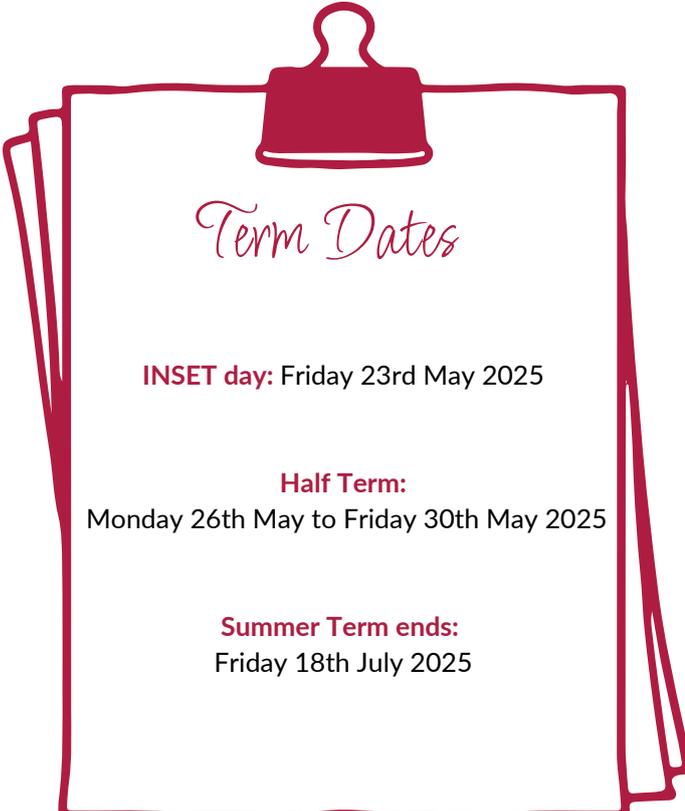
 *Alder*
755

 *Birch*
719

 *Hawthorn*
691

 *Oak*
792

 *Willow*
517



Term Dates

INSET day: Friday 23rd May 2025

Half Term:
Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

Summer Term ends:
Friday 18th July 2025

Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Head of Food and Nutrition
- Data, Timetable, Cover and UCAS Administrator
- Operations and Events Coordinator

Please [click here](#) to find out more