



Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start my message this fortnight by congratulating all students in Years 11 and 13, who have now successfully completed their external exams. As staff, we were exceptionally proud of their focus, resilience and determination.

I would also like to publicly thank Exams, SEND and Invigilation colleagues - who as ever, ensured that the highly complex 'exams process' went so smoothly.

It has not, however, been all work and no play! As the following pages show, it has been a busy fortnight across the school and with four weeks of term remaining, the school calendar is as busy as ever. If you would like to receive daily updates - please do remember to follow us on [BlueSky](#).

How else can you support in these remaining weeks?

22nd June 2025

Here's how you can help:

- 1) Please do send your young person with a hat, suncream and a water bottle on warm days.
- 2) Please do pick up your young person promptly after a trip or event.
- 3) Talk to your young person about their learning!
- 4) Please continue to observe all our school car park rules. It's particularly important to use the designated 'in' and 'out' gates and to avoid dropping students off at 'the middle gate.' This is a critical safety issue I recently addressed with the local MP following a number of 'near misses.'

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：

本週我想先恭喜所有中學五年級和中學七年級的學生，他們已成功完成校外考試。作為教職員，我們為他們的專注、韌性和決心感到非常驕傲。

我還要公開感謝考試、特殊教育需要 (SEND) 和監考的同事們，他們一如既往地確保了高度複雜的「考試流程」順利進行。然而，這段時間並非只有學習，沒有玩樂！正如接下來的頁面所示，過去兩週學校非常忙碌，而學期還有四週，學校的日程表依然排得滿滿的。如果您想收到每日更新，請記得在 [BlueSky](#) 上關注我們。

在剩下的這幾週裡，您還可以如何提供支持呢？

2025年6月22日

您可以參考以下方法來提供協助：

1. 天氣熱嘅時候，請俾您嘅小朋友帶備帽、太陽油同水樽。
2. 旅行或者活動結束後，請準時接您嘅小朋友。
3. 同您嘅小朋友傾下佢哋嘅學習情況！
4. 請繼續遵守我哋學校停車場嘅所有規則。尤其重要嘅係要使用指定嘅「入口」同「出口」大閘，避免嘍「中間閘口」放下學生。呢個係一個嚴重嘅安全問題，我最近因為發生咗幾宗「險些發生意外」嘅事件，已經同地區議員反映咗。

此致，

R Thorpe

Rachel Thorpe 女士
Alcester 文法中學



This Fortnight at AGS

Longborough Opera Workshop



Music Enrichment Day at University of Birmingham



This Fortnight at AGS

What a great set of results for our Rounders teams against SGGs! Our Year 7s clinched a fantastic victory, and the Year 8 team played an exciting match, ending in a draw.



On Wednesday Year 12 students took part in a Sexual Health Roadshow. They engaged in 8 different workshops throughout the afternoon, featuring valuable insights from guest speakers including Warwickshire Police, Refuge, and sexual health nurses. A huge thank you to all involved!



Year 12 Biology students exploring systematic sampling this week



DHB's in action!

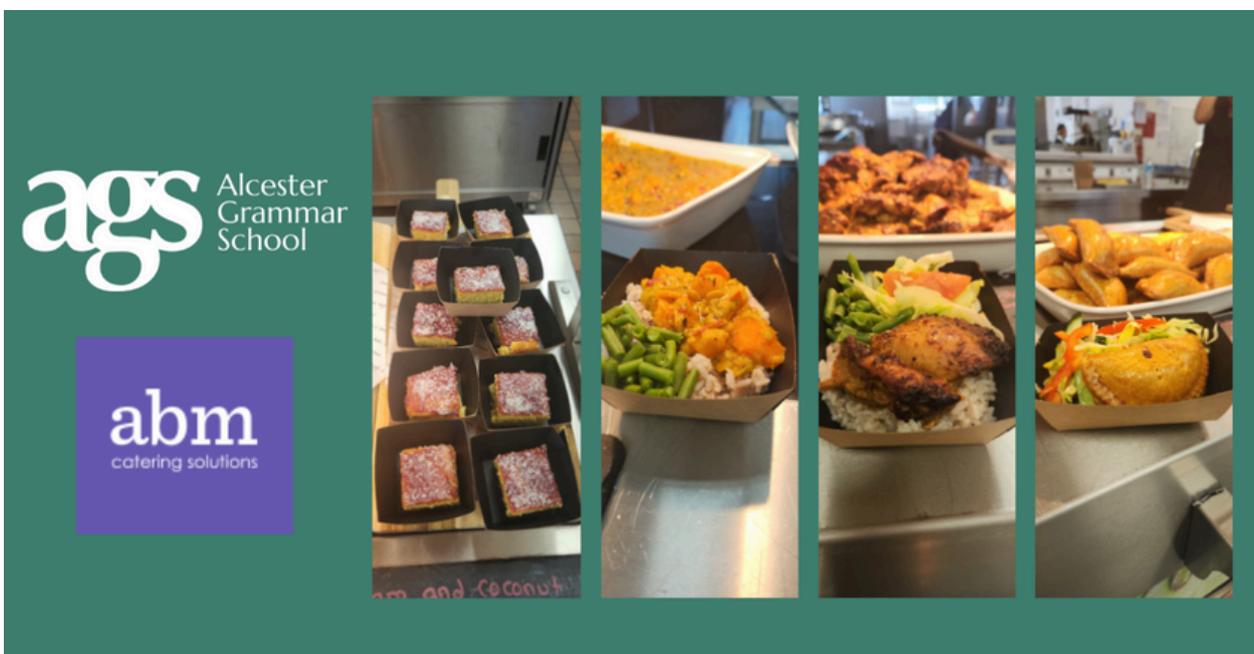
This Fortnight at AGS



A fantastic day at the Thriving Minds Alliance Seminar!



Our Caribbean theme day brought some seriously fabulous lunches on Thursday!





Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

81 Year 10 students in 13 teams successfully completed their Silver expedition section.

They had ideal conditions over their 3 day expedition in the Peak District starting from Eyam and Foolow on the northern edge of the White Peak and trekking south over the 3 days to finish in Waterhouses.

The groups then faced much more challenging conditions especially on day 1 of their assessed expedition in the Shopshire Hills with heavy rain and poor visibility on the top of the Long Mynd. The conditions improved on day 2 as the groups were treated to some stunning views of the Stiperstones. Day 2 ended and day 3 started with heavy downpours but all groups dug-in and dealt with the challenges admirably.

Congratulations to all 13 teams and thanks to the staff and volunteers who contributed to the success of these expeditions.

Mr Jervis





Year 8 - Carding Mill Valley

The Year 8s were treated to a stunning day in Carding Mill Valley this week studying the changes in the river as it flows downstream. The students had the opportunity to get in the stream and do some measurements of the water flow and sediment characteristics as well as walking up the valley to see some 'textbook' examples of upland river features. We also looked for evidence of the 'slow the flow' flood management strategy that aims to store more water in upland areas such as the Shropshire Hills by maintaining vegetation cover, building leaky dams and planting trees on floodplains - all designed to trap water and helping to reduce the flood risk further downstream.

Mr Jervis





House Update



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

Did you know...during Year 1 of the new House system there were 27 House related competitions, 5 outreach activities including cards delivered with 'meals on wheels', and **£7,500** raised for 6 different charities!

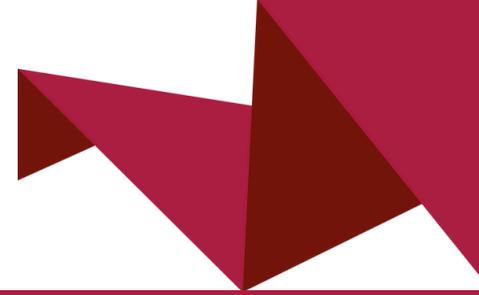
There is a real sense of busy-ness in amongst the Houses at the moment as our new SALT (Senior Ambassador Leadership Team) begin establishing themselves at school events, preparing for their first House Assembly and help support the preparatory stages of House Music and Sports Day.

Speaking of 'firsts', last week was the first heat of a new competition for the House System- Y7 Spelling Bee. 10 keen Year 7 spellers went head to head aiming to correctly spell some really tricky words. They were all amazing and we even went to a nail-biting tie breaker as two Houses went head to head!



The finals will be held at the end of this week. Check out the next Principal's update to see which House was crowned Top Bee out of Alder, Birch and Hawthorn.





House Update

As will all 'new ventures' it is always helpful to reflect on what went well and what would be even better going forward. Recently staff and students responded to a Google form aiming to evaluate the reworked House System. Feedback from student and staff surveys was overwhelmingly positive, revealing the following:

80% of students have enjoyed being in their 'new' House and are proud of its achievements

70% of students feel that the House system/House points have made them want them to get more involved with school life

91% staff surveyed felt that the House System has encouraged students to make positive contributions to school life e.g., leadership roles (SALT and House reps), charity work, peer support.

Mrs Bremner-Smith

ags
House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**
19.6.25

 *Alder*
2919

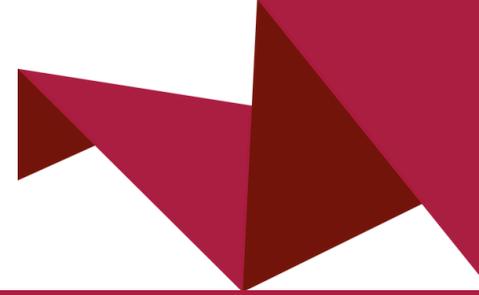
 *Birch*
2814

 *Hawthorn*
2362

 *Oak*
2614

 *Willow*
2730





House Update

The surveys also suggested several useful tweaks for the new House year, one of which was a more visible link between the House names and AGS DHB qualities.

This coincided perfectly with our new branding- [please see below!](#)

Alder trees thrive in diverse conditions.



Alder

Embrace change, seek new experiences.

Birch trees flourish in tough environments.



Birch

Persevere through setbacks, relish challenges.

Hawthorn trees are renowned for protection.



Hawthorn

Cultivate community, advocate for good.

Oak trees are well-known for strength and longevity.



Oak

Develop moral character, build integrity.

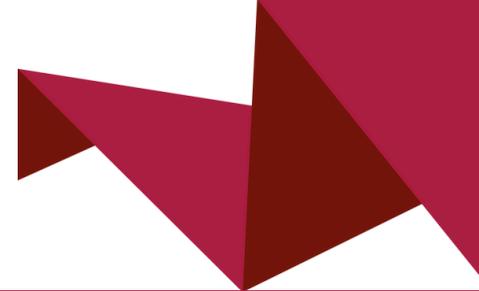
Willow trees bend gracefully with quiet strength.



Willow

Nurture empathy, communicate flexibly.





What's On?

AGS SUMMER CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY

MUSICALS ♦ MOVIE HITS ♦ ROCK FAVOURITES ♦ JAZZ & BLUES

18:00 START
AGS THEATRE
FREE TICKETS VIA EVOLVE
REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

ALDER BIRCH WILLOW HAWTHORN OAK

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

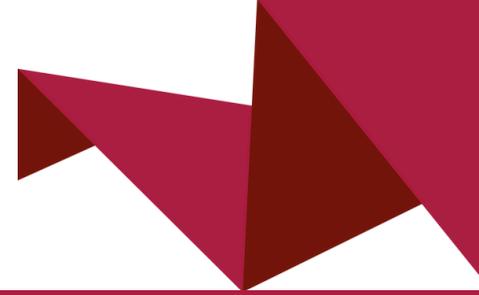
SAVE THE DATE

THURS 3RD JULY 2025

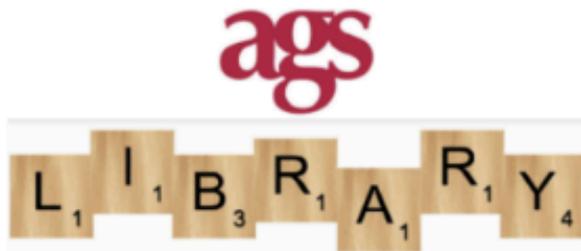
“YOU’LL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU’RE CAPABLE OF UNTIL YOU TAKE THAT FIRST STEP AND JUST GO FOR IT”
 NATASHA HASTINGS

Alder Birch Hawthorn Oak Willow

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



What's On?



'READ ACROSS THE WORLD'
Where will you go?

For **Y6, Y7 & Y8:**

WIN House points & prizes
TRAVEL through books
It's all about the journey...

The Challenge:

Read a book set in a different country or world.
Send a postcard 'home'

Submit your entries to

library@alcestergs.com

Deadline: Wed 10th September

See next slide for details.



What to do

Create a postcard-style image of where you have travelled through your reading.
You could draw or paint this by hand, or you could use photographs or digital images.

And then

Send a postcard message 'home' from the world of your book.

You could:

- Describe places you have 'visited'
- Describe events that have happened there
- Describe some people you have 'met'

Make sure you include the **title** and **author** of the book somewhere on your entry so that others can read it

News and Notices

Year 7 Maths Trail

All year 7 classes will be taking part in a Maths trail around the town of Alcester this half term.

This activity, taking place in regular lesson times, aims to connect classroom learning with real-world applications, as students will walk as a class and answer Maths questions related to local signs and buildings in the town. Y7 classes to wear comfortable shoes with their uniform, and remember their hats and suncream on:

Thursday 26th June - 7BSL

Monday 30th June - 7MJI & 7ERA

Tuesday 1st July - 7NHB & 7MSP

Miss Drinkwater

Member Vacancy

We are looking for a replacement member to help to ensure that the governing board is driving forward the school's wider aims and vision. Members hold the governing board to account for the effective governance of the school but have a minimal role in the actual running of the academy trust.

[For more information please click here](#)

Celebrating AGS!

Please use [this link](#) to a Google form to share with us the efforts or achievements of a student at AGS outside of school. We will ensure that over time, their achievement is recognised in some way - whether this is in a chat with their form tutor, an email from the leadership team or a post on Bluesky, etc.





Dear Parents and Carers,

At Alcester Grammar School, we are passionate about education, and we believe in the power of great teachers to transform the lives of children. We know that our school is an important part of this community, and we are writing today to encourage and inspire you to help us build a strong school and education system for your children, and the children of future generations.

Teaching is a wonderful profession. It is often the best job in the world, and sometimes the most important job in the world. Too often, teaching is portrayed in a negative light, and we want to help break that cycle of negativity. Every day our school, and schools across the local area, are creating opportunities and life chances for the children and community we serve.

So, could you or someone you know become a teacher? The answer is almost definitely yes! The system to support teacher training and development has never been stronger in England than it is today. Teacher pay has increased over the past couple of years, and there are powerful benefits of term-time working and Teacher Pensions for parents and families.

Sometimes, we find that people outside of education can find the prospect of getting into teaching confusing. There are a lot of different routes, and it's not always clear what those routes mean and how to access them. These days, aspiring teachers can choose from a range of routes to suit you, including:

- Part time study over a longer period of time
- School-based routes
- University based routes (including undergraduate degrees)
- Salaried routes for unqualified teachers
- Assessment only for experienced unqualified teachers
- Undergraduate apprenticeships

You can learn more about how to become a teacher at: [How to Become a Teacher](#)

If you, your spouse, children or other relatives are university graduates, or currently studying for your degree, there are steps you can take right now towards starting a career in teaching. You can get in touch with AGS and we will support with your next steps. You can also always contact our partners at Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub, who will be happy to talk you through the process and direct you to the options and providers that are suitable for you, your friends or relatives. The UK Government also runs a comprehensive service that can support you, [Get Into Teaching](#).

We encourage you to visit [Find Teacher Training Courses](#) where you can find providers who offer teacher training in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,



Ms. Rachel Thorpe
Principal





**SOCIAL
ENGINE**



tinyurl.com/smokefreepar

**PARENTS AND CARERS:
ARE VAPES, CIGARETTES
OR SNUS PART OF YOUR
CHILD'S LIFE?**

**IS NICOTINE IMPACTING
THEIR WELLBEING?**

How would you
approach discussions
like these with your
child?

Share your experiences in our confidential survey and help us develop better support for children and young people locally.

