



Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am looking forward to meeting as many Year 7-10 parents and carers as possible at our year group information evenings next week:

Year 7: Monday 29th September at 6 pm

Year 8: Tuesday 30th September at 6 pm

Year 9: Wednesday 1st October at 6 pm

Year 10: Thursday 2nd October at 6 pm

My thanks to the PTFA who will be present to both serve drinks (cash and card) and sell uniform (Years 8-10).

The PTFA are just one valuable element of our Assist, Give and Support Initiative, with school finances tighter than ever (even after significant staffing cuts) and an increasing number of families also struggling with the cost of living. **Please can I urge every parent and carer to read more about what you can do to help (with money, time or skill), in this [information leaflet here.](#)**

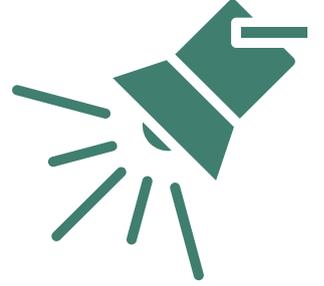
26th September 2025

As a community, you have the ability to make a considerable difference - to both the school and also to families in the community who need assistance. [I thank you in advance for your support.](#)

Support and collaboration was also the theme of my meeting this morning with the Headteachers of Alcester Academy, King Edward VI School in Stratford, Shipston High School and Stratford Girls' Grammar School - if you would like to know more about how we work with these schools collaboratively as 'The Three Rivers Alliance', please do click [here.](#)

With all best wishes for a peaceful weekend,

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School



Language SPOTLIGHT



تحديث المديرية

إلى أولياء الأمور والقيمين الأعزاء،

يسعدني جدًا التطلع إلى لقاء أكبر عدد ممكن من أولياء أمور وقيمي طلاب الصفوف 7 إلى 10 في الأمسيات المعلوماتية الخاصة بكل مجموعة صفية الأسبوع المقبل:

- الاثنين 29 سبتمبر في تمام: (Year 7) الصف السابع الساعة 6 مساءً
- الثلاثاء 30 سبتمبر في تمام الساعة: (Year 8) الصف الثامن 6 مساءً
- الأربعاء 1 أكتوبر في تمام الساعة 6: (Year 9) الصف التاسع مساءً
- الخميس 2 أكتوبر في تمام: (Year 10) الصف العاشر الساعة 6 مساءً

(PTFA) أتوجه بالشكر إلى جمعية الآباء والمعلمين والأصدقاء التي ستكون حاضرة لتقديم المشروبات (نقداً وبطاقة) وبيع الزي المدرسي (للصفوف 8-10).

تُعد جمعية الآباء والمعلمين والأصدقاء عنصرًا قيّمًا واحدًا من الخاصة بنا، خاصة في ظل تقلص الموارد المالية (Assist Give and Support Initiative) "مبادرة" ساعد، أعط، وادعم الخاصة بنا، خاصة في ظل تقلص الموارد المالية (Assist Give and Support Initiative) للمدرسة بشكل غير مسبوق (حتى بعد التخفيضات الكبيرة في عدد الموظفين) وتزايد عدد العائلات التي تعاني أيضًا من ارتفاع تكاليف المعيشة.

لذا، أرجو من كل والد وولي أمر قراءة المزيد حول ما يمكنك فعله للمساعدة (سواء بالمال، أو الوقت، أو المهارة)، وذلك في الكتيب المعلوماتي المتوفر هنا.

Arabic

26 سبتمبر 2025

باعتباركم مجتمعًا، فإن لديكم القدرة على إحداث فرق كبير، سواء للمدرسة أو للعائلات في المجتمع التي تحتاج إلى المساعدة. أشكركم مقدمًا على دعمكم.

كان الدعم والتعاون هو أيضًا محور لقائي هذا الصباح مع مديري ومديرات مدارس "ألكيستر أكاديمي" (Alcester Academy)، ومدرسة "كينغ إدوارد السادس" (King Edward VI School) في ستراتفورد، ومدرسة "شيبستون الثانوية" (Shipston High School)، ومدرسة "ستراتفورد للبنات الثانوية" (Stratford Girls' Grammar School). إذا كنتم ترغبون في معرفة المزيد حول كيفية عملنا بالتعاون مع هذه المدارس ضمن إطار "تحالف الأنهار الثلاثة" (The Three Rivers Alliance)، يرجى النقر هنا.

مع أطيب التمنيات لكم بقضاء عطلة نهاية أسبوع هادئة،

R Thorne

راشيل ثورب
مديرة مدرسة أليستر غرامر



This Fortnight at AGS

Attendance success!

1ST

This week, the Department for Education (DFE) confirmed that AGS is ranked 1st for overall attendance out of 37 schools in Warwickshire for the 2025/26 year so far.

Our collective effort has resulted in an outstanding overall attendance rate of **98.5%**! Well done to everyone for making attendance a priority.

Hockey

Our U16 Girls competed in the South Warwickshire Hockey tournament this week. Both A and B Teams won all of their games!

The PE Department have joined Bluesky!

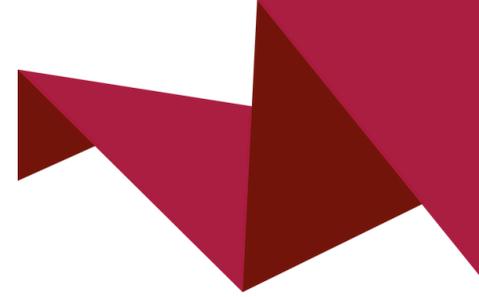


[@agssports.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/agssports.bsky.social)



Food Tech

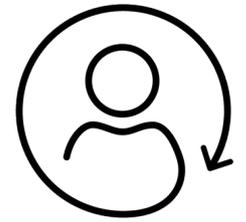
Year 10 have been understanding how dietary needs can be different dependent on our stage of life, or a number of special dietary needs. They have planned a specific dish that would be suitable for the dietary needs of a particular individual.



Ready for LIFE

Friday morning means a LIFE Session!

All designed to link with our Personal Development Curriculum goals, and ensure students leave AGS ready for life. Sessions this morning included learning how to iron, sign language, how to use AI to help with independent learning skills, car maintenance...amongst many other things!



Ready for Life

Mrs Price



Languages Update

Languages Never Tasted So Sweet!

This week we celebrated the European Day of Languages, an annual event held on 26th September since 2001 to promote and encourage language learning across Europe. To mark the occasion, we organised a variety of activities in school. One of the highlights was the Year 7 European Day of Languages Bake Off. Our youngest students truly impressed us with their creativity and enthusiasm, producing a wonderful array of delicious cakes. It was a fantastic showcase of both talent and teamwork.

Prizes will be announced soon—watch this space!



There are many other competitions for students to participate in, if they wish to do so. Please follow this link for more information:

<https://edl.ecml.at/en/> OR <https://www.globalschoolalliance.com/european-day-of-languages-competition/>

S. Valera

LangSoc News

On Thursday 25th September, we were delighted to welcome back alumna Vienna Eagles, who spoke to our students about her experiences at Oxford University.

Vienna, one of our most talented linguists, is currently studying English and Spanish at Oxford. She shared valuable insights into what it is like to study languages at university, as well as the wide range of opportunities and activities available to students beyond the classroom. Her talk was both inspiring and informative, offering our students a real glimpse into life at one of the world's leading universities.

Check the MFL corridor noticeboard for more information about activities offered by Language Society.

Years 10–13: Riana and Blair will lead activities and talks on Thursdays at lunchtime in LA4

Years 7–9: Gracie and Lily will run sessions on Wednesdays (Week 2) at lunchtime in LA5.



Come along and get involved!

Sixth Form Spotlight

What a dynamic and exciting September it has been here in the Sixth Form! We've been thrilled to see our students embrace the new academic year with enthusiasm and dedication.

We were delighted to extend a warm welcome to 270 new students from a wide range of schools, who quickly immersed themselves in AGS life during our special welcome day, focusing on team-building and getting to know one another. The energy and eagerness they bring are truly inspiring.

The month also brought a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Year 13 Leavers. Their Celebration on September 4th was a joyous occasion, filled with warmth and pride. It was fantastic to reconnect with our outgoing students and acknowledge their many successes, with fantastic musical accompaniment from the Year 13 House band. We extend our very best wishes to them all as they embark on their exciting next steps, whether that be a degree apprenticeship, university, or employment.

Our dedicated Student Ambassador Leadership team has been instrumental in helping new students settle in seamlessly. They have already played a pivotal role in the Year 7 activity day and delivered engaging house assemblies to over 250 students. Beyond this, our numerous academic societies have been buzzing with activity, successfully drumming up interest from our new Year 12 cohort and diligently arranging a compelling roster of visiting speakers and enriching activities.



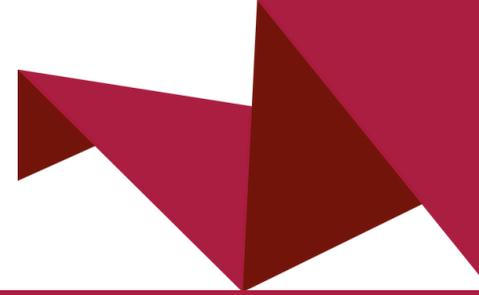
We strongly encourage our Year 12 students to become "Ready for Life" by actively engaging with and contributing to our vibrant school community. Whether it's serving as a House Representative, a Librarian, a journalist, an academic mentor, or running a club for younger students, these opportunities are invaluable. Leading such initiatives not only helps our students to stand out from the crowd but also provides them with crucial leadership, communication, and organisational skills that will serve them exceptionally well in later life.

As we now pass the halfway mark of this opening half term, the academic focus intensifies. Our Year 12 students will be undertaking classroom tests from October 6th, providing an early assessment of their progress. This will be followed by Year 13 mock examinations the following week, a crucial step in their preparation for final assessments. Furthermore, those students undertaking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will proudly present their work to parents and guests on October 9th – a highlight showcasing their independent research and presentation skills. It is also a busy UCAS season for our Year 13 students, as they research university courses / apprenticeships / employment and refine their personal statements, shaping their future academic pathways.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers who have played such a vital role in helping students settle so successfully into this new academic year. Your support is truly appreciated and makes a significant difference.

Mr Slater - Vice Principal / Head of Sixth Form





House Update

It has been an exciting fortnight for the Houses as Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Oak, and Willow House had their first House assemblies of the academic year, ably led by their SALT (Senior Ambassador Leadership Team). It was a pleasure to welcome the new Year 7 and Year 12 members to the Houses and the healthy competitive spirit in each House was palpable. In addition, the deadline for Year 7-12 House reps has expired and all applications are under close scrutiny by the SALT and Heads of Houses. We will update on our new House reps in the next Principal's Update.

This half-term, we are excited to announce that Willow House will be leading our charity efforts. They have elected to support Oxfam, a global organisation dedicated to ending the injustice of poverty. Oxfam's work spans across various humanitarian efforts, including providing clean water and sanitation, offering emergency food and shelter, and advocating for fair policies that help communities thrive. To support this important cause, Willow House will be holding a cake sale and a non-uniform day on Friday, 17th October.

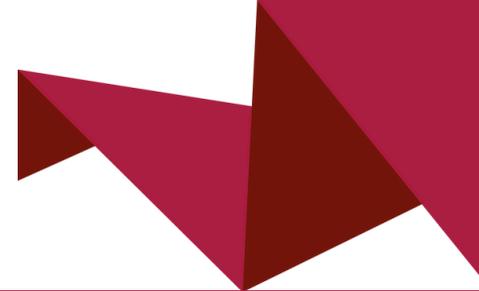


In addition to our charity focus, it is Alder House's turn to lead on community outreach. They will be organising an inter-House litter pick to help improve the green areas in the local community. Further details of this event and other upcoming events can be found on the next page.

Mrs Bremner-Smith
Head of House System

ags
House Points
WEEKLY
UPDATE
25.09.25





Upcoming House Events



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

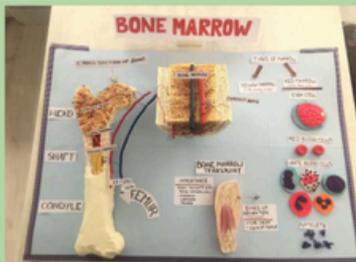
Biocraft Competition 2025!

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES = 17 OCTOBER 2025

BRING TO SC2 and hand to Mrs O'Mahony

Include your Full Name, tutor group and house

Good luck!!!



Participants create a biology-inspired 3D artwork from recycled, or other, materials. Winners will be entered to a national competition!



HOUSE COMPETITION

Name our new SEND Space

Come and put forward your suggestions in the 7-11 Hub

Our new SEN space is in AD4 can you think of a great, better suited name?

LITTER PICK HEROES!

Join us to make our community sparkle!

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH
TIME: 12:40 PM - 1:40 PM

Sign up: Google form to follow soon on satchel one

Please see Mr. Blackham for any information

Let's make a difference together!

Exams Notice

Our Autumn mocks start on Monday 13th October until Friday 17th October for Year 13. Year 11's take place Monday 3rd November until Tuesday 11th November. The DT exam will take place on Wednesday 12th November, normal lessons resume for everyone else.

Timetables can be accessed via your MyAGS. Please use this as it is specific to you. Once logged in go to assessments and then select examination timetable.

No rooms or seat numbers have been allocated yet, I will let you know when this has been done.

Any questions please come and see me or email exams@alcestergs.com

Thank you

Mrs Silcox - Exams Officer

Year 11 News

Over the last fortnight, we have been pleased to welcome external providers, Elevate Education, to facilitate two study skills workshops for our Year 11 students during their PSHE lessons. These sessions were designed to equip students with vital strategies for the upcoming mock exams and to support their long-term learning goals. The student activity packs can be found [here](#).

Following the student workshops, we held an information evening for parents. It was a pleasure to welcome so many parents to the school and to engage in supportive conversations, reaffirming the crucial three-way partnership between the school, caregivers, and students. In addition to the evening event, Elevate also offers fortnightly parent webinars. We encourage all parents of students in Years 10-13 to utilize these valuable webinars and the provided resources. *You can find the dates for these sessions on the flyer attached on the next page.*

A wealth of information regarding the upcoming Year 11 mock exams, which run from **3rd to 11th November 2025**, has also been emailed out over the last few days. For your convenience, the Year 11 Mock Exam information letter is linked [here](#). In preparation, we will also hold a 'Mock Exam Expectations' assembly for Year 11 students before half-term. We wish all our Year 11 students the very best as they begin honing their revision skills and techniques, putting into practice the great tips they have received from Elevate Education, their subject teachers, and their LIFE sessions.

Mrs Bremner-Smith - Head of Year 11



Autumn Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

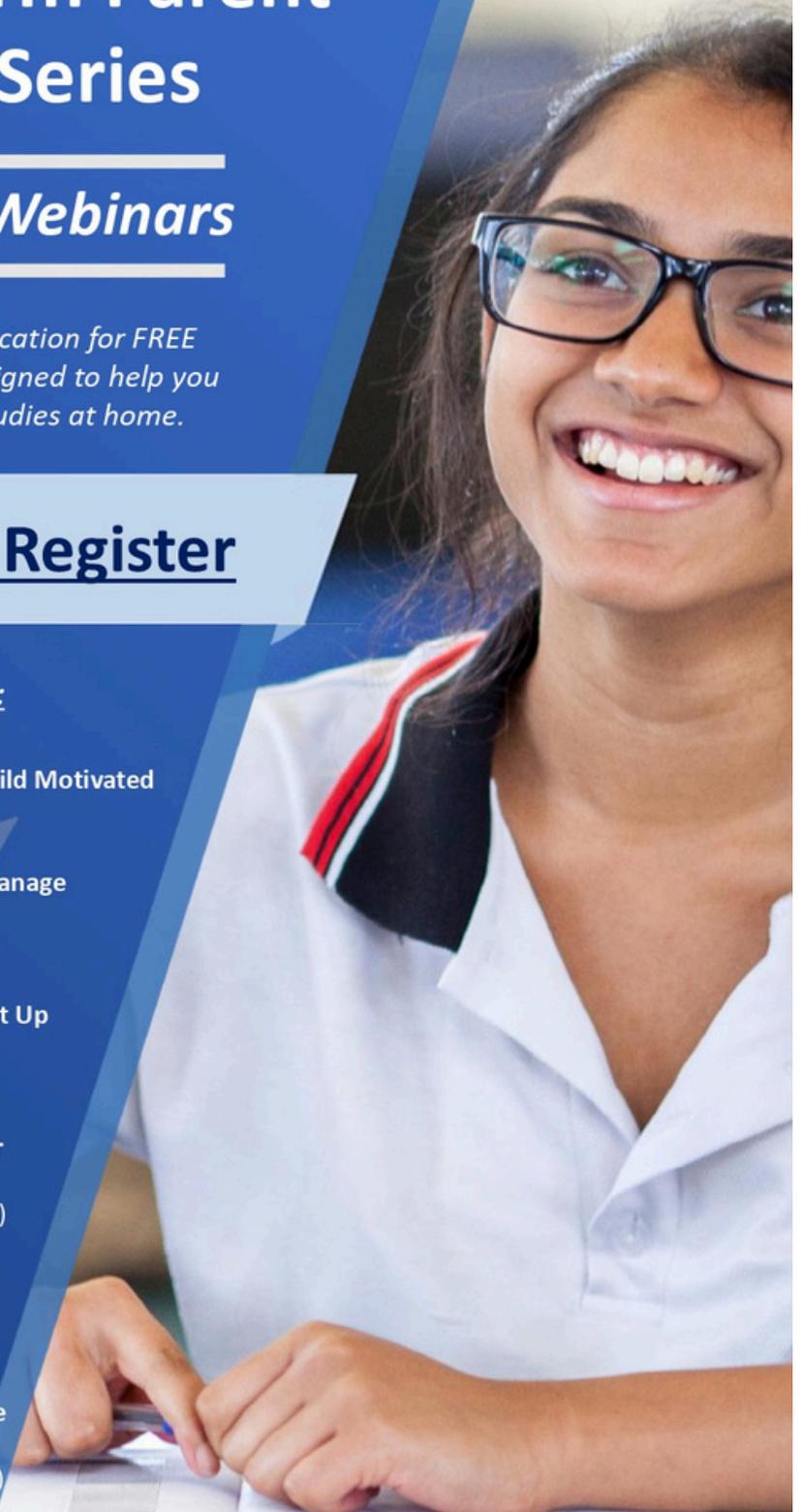
*Join us and Elevate Education for FREE
60- minute webinars designed to help you
support your child's studies at home.*

[Click here to Register](#)

In the Autumn Term, we'll cover:

1. **How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated**
- 16th September @6:00pm (BST)
2. **How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time**
- 30th September @6:00pm (BST)
3. **How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams**
- 14th October @6:00pm (BST)
4. **How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory**
- 18th November @6:00pm (GMT)
5. **How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child**
- 2nd December @6:00pm (GMT)
6. **How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress**
- 16th December @6:00pm (GMT)

elevate
education





ags Alcester
Grammar
School

ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Open Morning

7th, 8th, 9th OCTOBER 2025

Visit us to discover all that AGS has to offer

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ags ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM

OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2025
5:00-8:00PM

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

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LIMITED PLACES



What's on locally?



U13 BASKETBALL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS
For players in school year 7 and 8

U13 Leamington Development
Day: Mondays
Location: Champion School, Leamington
Time: 6 - 7.30pm

U13 Warwick Development
Day: Wednesdays
Location: Aylesford School, Warwick
Time: 6 - 7.30pm

- Beginners welcome
- Weekly training
- Competitive Games

Please contact Louise Whiteley for more information:
louise.whiteley@warwickshirehawks.co.uk

HAWKS FOUNDATION

WARWICKSHIRE HAWKS

BASKETBALL ENGLAND



RUGBY SKILLS ARTS & CRAFTS
GOODIES UP FOR GRABS

ALCESTER RFC

- Arts and crafts
- Learn Rugby skills
- Make friends
- Watch the bronze final
- And the final live

Womens world cup watch party and activity day

Saturday
27th September
1200-2000

Contact:
Craig Saunders
07525 938533
Cw.saunders@outlook.com

PLAY. CREATE. BELONG.



WARWICKSHIRE HAWKS

BASKETBALL ENGLAND

NEW Girls Basketball Development Session

FREE TASTER SESSIONS!

For girls in school years 7 – 11
Beginners very welcome!

Tuesday 23rd September & 30th September
18:00 - 19:30, Oakley School, Leamington Spa, CV33 9QE

To register, or for more information, contact:
louise.whiteley@warwickshirehawks.co.uk



2025/26 Term Dates

Autumn Term

Term begins: Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - Years 7 and 12 only
Thursday 4th September 2025 - All students return
Half Term: Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October 2025
Term ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term

Term begins: Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half Term: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
Term ends: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term

Term begins: Monday 13th April 2026
Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026
Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026

Inset Days (No school for students)

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 5th January 2026
Friday 6th February 2026
Friday 22nd May 2026
Monday 20th July 2026

