



Principal's Update

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the AGS Community,

I would like to start this fortnight's update by congratulating all of Year 11 and 13 on a successful mock period. Their conduct and application to their exams has been impressive, and we wish them a restful half term.

Please do ensure that you have read the separate letter sent by Group Call today about our new mobile device policy which will come into force after half term, in light of new DfE guidance.

We are still looking for parents to join our Parent Forum - a space for constructive feedback on a range of school matters.



ags Assist
Give
Support

13th February 2026

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 25th February at 5 pm (in person at AGS) and will focus on Safeguarding and Belonging. We are keen for the group to reflect the full diversity of our community, including multilingual parents and parents of SEND and PP students.

If you would like to take part, please register your interest using [this form](#). We can accommodate up to 30 parents; if interest exceeds this, we will select a group that represents a broad range of age groups and backgrounds, with others prioritised for the summer term.

Wishing you all a restful break,

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School





Language SPOTLIGHT



Stimați părinți, îngrijitori și membri ai comunității AGS,

Aș dori să încep această actualizare de două săptămâni felicitând toți elevii din clasele a XI-a și a XIII-a pentru o perioadă simulată de examene reușită - conduita și aplicabilitatea lor la examene au fost impresionante - și le urăm acum un semestru odihnitor.

Vă rugăm să vă asigurați că ați citit scrisoarea separată trimisă astăzi de Group Call despre noua noastră politică privind dispozitivele mobile, care va intra în vigoare după semestru - având în vedere noile îndrumări ale Departamentului pentru Educație.

Încă căutăm părinți care să se alătore Forumului nostru pentru părinți - un spațiu pentru feedback constructiv cu privire la o serie de probleme școlare.



ags Assist
Give
Support

Romanian

13 februarie 2026

Prima noastră întâlnire va avea loc miercuri, 25 februarie, la ora 17:00 (în persoană la AGS) și se va concentra pe Protecția Copilului și Apartenență. Ne dorim ca grupul să reflecte întreaga diversitate a comunității noastre, inclusiv părinți multilingvi și părinți ai elevilor cu nevoi speciale de educație (SEND) și elevilor cu nevoi speciale de educație (PP).

Dacă doriți să participați, vă rugăm să vă înregistrați interesul folosind acest formular. Putem găzdui până la 30 de părinți; dacă interesul depășește această valoare, vom selecta un grup care reprezintă o gamă largă de grupe de vârstă și medii, ceilalți având prioritate pentru semestrul de vară.

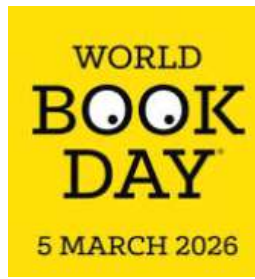
Vă doresc tuturor o pauză odihnitoare,

Cele mai bune urări,

R Thorpe

*Dna Rachel Thorpe, directoarea școlii
de gramatică din Alcester*





AGS welcomes you to the National Year of Reading 2026

A Book in a Bag

From Monday 23rd February we are launching AGS Book in a Bag.

We are asking every student from Year 7 to Year 13 to have a reading book in their bag at all times.

Parents, your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

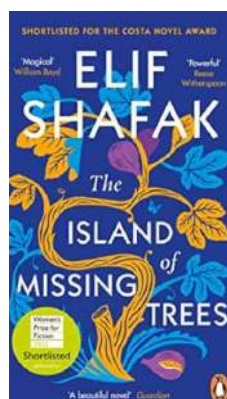
At AGS in 2026, we are committed to making time for reading amongst the busy-ness of the school week. We will embed time to read in the Personal Development programme; create space to read in the KS3 Library or Dobell Study; reward reading, for example the AGS Reading Challenge. We offer opportunities for celebrating reading such as the Warwickshire Schools' Book Award; and will extend reading beyond school with our soon-to-be-launched digital library ePlatform.

We commit to seeking ways to make books available to all.

We will write again in future updates about projects to increase access to our library and extend the availability of physical reading books for all.



The Book in MY Bag today is...



What is the Book in YOUR Bag?



A Word a Day

A reminder that all students should also have a dictionary in their bags.

This may be an English-English dictionary, or a bilingual dictionary from English into another language.

To underpin reading, we are also embedding explicit Vocabulary Development into our lessons in all subjects. Evidence tells us that this is one of the single most effective strategies to improve student reading. This is especially true for our Advanced Bilingual Learners, and for increasing the ability of all learners to decode unfamiliar words. Teachers experienced it for themselves in the AGS INSET training day last week.

Supporting reading at home

- Show that reading matters by reading yourself.
- Talk about books—even short chats help.
- Let them choose what they want to read, including audiobooks and graphic novels.
- Build small routines, like reading for ten minutes before bed.

Reading is not just a school task. It's a way for teenagers to learn about the world, understand themselves, and build the skills they need for the future.

Want to know more? Visit the [National Year of Reading website](#), and scroll down to the Families section. You will find advice on engaging teens with reading and recommended book lists.

Don't miss World Book Day on March 5th. We will be celebrating with AGS's The Word Festival, organised by our English department team.

Helena Tingle (Assistant Principal)



Studying at AGS really does last a lifetime.

A week ago the school received a phone call from an AGS alumnus offering us a donation of a book. This is not unusual, but this case was special. Mr Albert Brand left Alcester Grammar School in 1941 making him 100 years old.

Ms McLean and Mr Gill visited Mr Brand and were presented with a spectacular copy of *The Complete Concordance to Shakespeare*, now safely in the English department.

In return, Mr Gill took a copy of the 1939 school photo from the Dobell wall, hoping to learn more about the AGS of the late 1930s. Remarkably, Mr Brand could remember almost every teacher and many students present at the school over 8 decades ago.



After also identifying himself, our staff were treated to an account of life at the school full of colour and stories of the students that would not be out of place today. AGS was then, as now, an excellent centre for Mathematics, with staff, including the then headmaster, delivering “more than just arithmetic, proper Maths”. After leaving AGS in 1941 Mr Brand joined the RAF as an aircraft apprentice, serving across the middle east and far east. He went on to work on the development of diesel and petrol engines in the automotive sector while also becoming a skilled photographer. His beautiful motorsport images still surround his study today.



Mr Brand also had an important message for the current students of AGS. The importance of accurate, clear and effective communication. He is clearly someone who has remembered the ‘grammar’ aspect of his AGS education, mentioning in particular his dislike for ending sentences with prepositions. Ms McLean heartily agreed, commenting that as Head of English this was something that ‘up with, we should not put’!

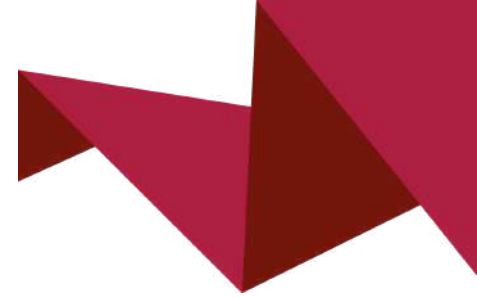


Year 12 Politics Visit

On Tuesday 10 February, the Politics department organised a visit to Parliament and the Supreme Court. Students took part in guided tours of both institutions and observed Ed Miliband answering questions in the House of Commons on energy security and net zero policy. This provided a valuable opportunity to see the UK's political and legal systems 'in action', better solidifying their knowledge of their Politics A-level. The trip also provided pupils with the opportunity to question the school's MP, Manuela Perteghella, on how to get involved in Politics and work experience.

Mrs Sims





Year 12 Geography – Dorset

Year 12's braved the wind and rain to collect sediment and beach profile data on Chesil Beach.

They completed a sanddune transect under a rainbow on Studland Bay, looked at coastal protection in the pouring rain in Swanage and were treated to some blue skies, big waves and stunning scenery at Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove.

Mr Jervis



This Fortnight in Sport at AGS



Sixth Form Netball

Years 7 and 8 Netball



Well done to our swimmers who had a busy month in January with both Bromsgrove and Warwick galas. A special mention to our U15 team who won the medley relay against some top schools in the West Midlands, well done Ellie W, Floren S, Eleanor S and Amber J.



Year 11 Basketball Team



Photography Competition

Congratulations to the following Science Photography Competition winners.

We had so many entries and they were all of such a high standard it made it very difficult to choose a winner, particularly in Year 7 where there were over 50 entries!

Year 7 Winner- Will A

Year 8 Winner – Tom R

Year 9 Winner – Yin Yee J-C

Year 10 Winner – Will K

Year 11 Winner – Aaryav C

Sixth Form Winner – Toby T

Year 7 Runners up – Iris M, Elsie M, Jenson C, Neha M

Year 8 Runner Up – Billy C

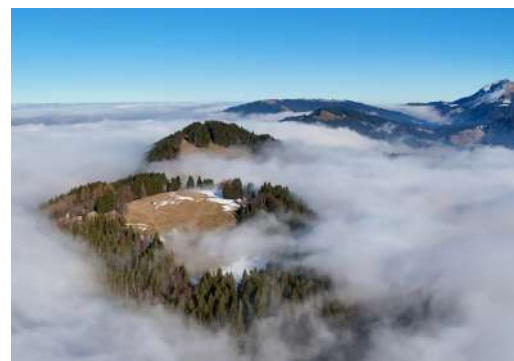
Year 9 Runner Up – Ronav P

Year 10 Runner Up- Tomisin I

Year 11 Runner Up – Emilia R

Sixth Form Runner Up – Katie G

Miss Howe





Music of Africa - Year 8



Little Shop of Horrors- Show Band



A Level Music Trip -
Keele University



Longborough Opera Festival Workshop - Macbeth



House News



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

It's been a lively and purposeful half-term across Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Oak and Willow Houses. Alder House have wowed us with kindness and creativity, delivering 'Love Hearts' to fortunate recipients as part of their fundraising for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Their efforts culminated in a much-anticipated non-uniform day today.

Meanwhile, the Economics department have sparked entrepreneurial spirit with their Fantasy Wealth Builder challenge. Budding investors have been making hypothetical moves in the stock market, and we'll discover whose strategy pays off as we approach Easter—watch this space.

As we head into the final half-term of the House year, we encourage all students to double their efforts and secure those last vital House points. The race is wide open, and every contribution counts. The excitement continues with upcoming House Hustings, where potential SALT members for 26–27 will present their visions during the Year 12 hustings. Easter's Celebration assembly will see the official handover from outgoing to incoming SALT, along with the awarding of House trophies.

A thrilling final run lies ahead for all our Houses. Exciting times!

Mrs Bremner-Smith

ags
House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**
12.2.26

 *Alder*
26865

 *Willow*
26442

 *Hawthorn*
24959

 *Birch*
24577

 *Oak*
24432

AGS Friends

Upcoming PTFA Events - join us this half term!

AGSF have moved into a busy planning phase this half-term, and we're excited to share what's coming up.

Year 7 Film Night – Thursday 26th February

We're delighted to announce our first ever Y7 Film Night. All Year 7 students are invited to join us after school for pizza, sweet treats, and a screening of Wonka. Tickets are on sale now and will close on Monday 23rd February. Everyone attending will be entered into a special chocolate-themed prize draw – don't miss your golden ticket.



Quiz Night – Friday 20th March

Planning is also underway for our next family-friendly social fundraiser: Family Quiz Night. This year we're embracing an international theme, and we hope to pair it with some global culinary delights to celebrate the wonderfully diverse AGS community. If you can help design a quiz round or contribute a dish to our international menu, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch: ags-friends@alcestergs.com



School Lottery

There's still time to join our school lottery and be in with a chance of winning next half-term's draw. [click here](#) to visit our SumUp shop and purchase a "rest-of-year" ticket.

Wishing you all a fantastic half-term – recharged and ready to spring into action when we return.



Von and the AGS Friends Team



TEA TIME CONCERT

Wednesday, 25th February 2026
 AGS Theatre, 4pm-6pm
 Free Entry for family and friends.
 Refreshments available
 Sign up via instrumental or music teacher

A relaxed music concert for all students
 An opportunity to play a developing piece, exam practice or showcase a favourite tune!

RELAXED LIVE CONCERT

AGS SPRING CONCERT

ROCK HITS MOVIE MAGIC
 MUSICAL THEATRE

AGS THEATRE WEDS 11TH MARCH
 TICKETS VIA EVOLVE 6PM-8PM
 REFRESHMENTS DOORS OPEN 5:30PM
 AVAILABLE

AGS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Now available in The Studio!

MEAL DEAL

Street Food
 +
 Cajun Wedges
 +
 small Fruit Pot

ONLY £3.25

UNLIMITED HYDRATION STATION

MEAL DEAL

Baguette or Sandwich
 +
 Packet of KP Crisps
 +
 Home Bake or Small Fruit Pot

ONLY £3.25

UNLIMITED HYDRATION STATION

COMMUNITY NOTICES



RECRUITMENT IS OPEN NOW!

INTERESTED IN POLICING?

KEEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY?
LOOKING FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

A photograph of a line of police officers in their white shirts and dark trousers, standing in a row outdoors.

KIDS HOLIDAY LUNCHES

Illustrations of a red apple, a yellow juice carton with a smiley face, and a brown paper lunch bag with 'KIDS HOLIDAY LUNCHES' written on it.

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
18TH
12:30 -
1:30PM**

Come along during half term and grab a takeaway kids lunch to enjoy in the park, including a drink, fruit and snacks

**FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVED!**

At The Depot, Eric Payne
Community Centre, Alcester
B49 6AG



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

