

Principal's Update

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the AGS Community,

As we reach the start of July, the school feels very much in a moment of transition and celebration. With the last of the Year 11 and Year 13 exams now completed, both year groups can finally take a breath after many weeks of sustained focus and determination. Their resilience, maturity and commitment have been evident throughout the exam season, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have conducted themselves. The sense of relief and accomplishment across the site has been palpable, and rightly so, they have earned it.

The past week has also tested us in a very different way, with the intense heatwave placing real pressure on daily routines. I want to acknowledge how remarkable our students and staff have been in adapting to the conditions.

30th June 2026

From adjusted timetables to creative use of cooler spaces, the community has shown calmness, flexibility and a shared determination to keep learning and activities running smoothly. It has been a genuine team effort, and one that reflects the strength and spirit of AGS at its best.

With the exams behind us and temperatures easing temporarily, we can now look forward to the remainder of the term with real enthusiasm. This week brings two much-loved highlights of the school calendar: House Music, a showcase of talent and teamwork, and Sports Day, always a joyful celebration of participation, competition and school pride. Alongside these, a range of trips, events and enrichment activities will carry us through to the end of term.

It promises to be a vibrant and memorable few weeks.

Best wishes,



Assist
Give
Support

R Thorpe

Ms Rachel Thorpe
Principal, Alcester Grammar School





Language SPOTLIGHT



प्रिय अभिभावकों, देखभालकर्ताओं और एजीएस समुदाय के सदस्यों,

जुलाई की शुरुआत के साथ ही विद्यालय में बदलाव और उत्सव का माहौल छा गया है। ग्यारहवीं और तेरहवीं कक्षा की परीक्षाएं संपन्न हो चुकी हैं, और कई हफ्तों की निरंतर मेहनत और लगन के बाद अब दोनों कक्षाओं के छात्र चैन की सांस ले सकते हैं। परीक्षा के दौरान उनकी दृढ़ता, परिपक्वता और समर्पण स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दिया, और हमें उनके व्यवहार पर बेहद गर्व है। पूरे परिसर में राहत और उपलब्धि का भाव स्पष्ट रूप से महसूस किया जा सकता है, और यह स्वाभाविक भी है - उन्होंने यह सम्मान अर्जित किया है।

बीते सप्ताह ने हमें एक बिल्कुल अलग तरह से परखा, भीषण गर्मी की लहर ने हमारी दिनचर्या पर काफी दबाव डाला। मैं इन परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल ढलने में हमारे छात्रों और कर्मचारियों के सराहनीय प्रयासों की सराहना करना चाहता हूँ।

Hindi

30 जून 2026

समय सारिणी में बदलाव से लेकर ठंडी जगहों के रचनात्मक उपयोग तक, समुदाय ने सीखने और गतिविधियों को सुचारू रूप से चलाने के लिए शांति, लचीलापन और साझा दृढ़ संकल्प दिखाया है। यह वास्तव में एक सामूहिक प्रयास रहा है, और यह एजीएस की ताकत और भावना को सर्वोत्तम रूप में दर्शाता है।

परीक्षाएं समाप्त हो चुकी हैं और तापमान में अस्थायी रूप से नरमी आ गई है, अब हम पूरे उत्साह के साथ सत्र के शेष भाग की ओर देख सकते हैं। इस सप्ताह स्कूल कैलेंडर के दो बेहद लोकप्रिय कार्यक्रम हैं: हाउस म्यूजिक, जो प्रतिभा और टीम वर्क का प्रदर्शन है, और स्पोर्ट्स डे, जो हमेशा भागीदारी, प्रतिस्पर्धा और स्कूल के गौरव का आनंदमय उत्सव होता है। इनके अलावा, कई तरह की यात्राएं, कार्यक्रम और अतिरिक्त गतिविधियां सत्र के अंत तक हमारा मनोरंजन करेंगी।

यह कुछ सप्ताह जीवंत और यादगार रहने वाले हैं।

शुभकामनाएं,



Assist
Give
Support

R Thorne

श्रीमती राहेल थोर्प, एल्सेस्टर ग्रामर स्कूल की
प्रधानाध्यापिका



What is Prevent?

The Prevent duty is part of the UK's national safeguarding framework. Its purpose is to stop people from becoming involved in terrorism or supporting extremist views.

In schools, Prevent is not about surveillance or limiting free speech—it is about early support and protection, just like other safeguarding responsibilities. It focuses on helping children develop resilience, critical thinking, and a sense of belonging so they are less vulnerable to harmful influences.

All schools, including Alcester Grammar School, are required by law to consider the risk of radicalisation and respond through normal safeguarding procedures.

Why this matters now

Recent data shows a continued rise in hate-related incidents across the UK, highlighting why this work is so important:

- Over 115,000 hate crimes were recorded in England and Wales in the year ending March 2025, a 2% increase on the previous year.
- Race hate crimes rose by 6% and religious hate crimes by 3%, with a 19% increase in offences targeting Muslim communities.

More broadly, hate crime has more than tripled since 2013, reflecting wider social pressures and online influences. Alongside this, there has been a significant 27% increase in Prevent referrals in 2025, suggesting growing concern about vulnerability to extremism.

These trends reinforce the need for schools and families to work together to keep young people safe.

What does Prevent look like in school?

At Alcester Grammar School, safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

Our approach includes:

- Promoting respect, tolerance and critical thinking through the curriculum
- Supporting students to identify and challenge misinformation and extremist narratives
- Encouraging students to speak up if they feel worried or unsafe
- Working with external agencies where additional support is needed

Above all, our ethos reflects the school's core expectation, to be a **"decent human being"**, showing kindness, respect, and empathy towards others.

This value is central to Prevent: building a community where difference is respected and harmful attitudes are challenged.



What should parents/carers look out for?

Most young people will never be affected by extremism. However, vulnerabilities can arise online or through social groups. Possible signs may include:

- Sudden changes in behaviour, beliefs, or friendship groups
- Increased secrecy, particularly online
- Expressing intolerant or extreme views
- Becoming isolated or withdrawn

These signs do not automatically indicate a problem, but they may suggest a need for support.

How can parents/carers help?

Parents play a vital role in prevention by:

- Talking openly about current events and online content
- Encouraging respect for different cultures, beliefs and identities
- Monitoring and discussing online activity and influences
- Reinforcing shared values of kindness, inclusion and responsibility



Support and advice

If you have concerns about your child or another young person, support is available. Contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead via the school office or dsl@alcestergs.com

Local safeguarding services:

- Warwickshire Children's Services: 01926 414144
- Worcestershire Children's Services: 01905 822666
- Solihull Children's Services: 0121 7884300

National helplines:

- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Childline (for young people): 0800 11 11, [\[alcestergs.com\]](http://alcestergs.com)
- ACT Early (Counter-Terrorism Police): 0800 789321

If there is immediate risk, please call 999.

Prevent is about keeping children safe, not labelling or criminalising them. By working together—school and families—we can ensure all young people grow up in a safe, respectful community and live out the shared value of simply being **decent human beings**.

Mr Jones - DSL

An Author Visit Reaches Dizzying Heights



On Monday 8th June, we were delighted to welcome Matt Dickinson to AGS to work with the whole of Year 9. This was an amazing collaboration between Careers, English and the AGS Library. Matt is a mountaineer, film-maker and author. He spoke to our students with passion about his journey to the summit of Mount Everest, and about the challenges he faced, both as an individual and working as one of a larger crew. Students were able to enjoy snippets of his film work, one of the highlights of which was Bear Grylls eating some particularly large grubs! He also talked about the process of writing, and in particular about his fictional novel *The Everest Files* and many students are now the proud owners of signed copies of his text.

Every student was then invited back for a Careers-focussed workshop. They learnt about harnessing their personal skill set to the requirements of a role in an expedition crew: Photographer, Medic, Journalist etc, before writing a letter of application for the role.

This was a truly aspirational, inspirational experience.

We thank Matt for his dedication in bringing the wider world to Alcester, and thanks also to Stratford Literary festival for making the event possible.

Mrs Tingle



On Wednesday evening 4 AGS students performed at a classical music concert organised by Mrs Collins as part of the 'Harvington Festival.'

Students performed challenging works including those by Debussy, Vaughan Williams, and Schubert accompanied by Mrs Douglass. The evening was a delight with students from year 8-13 receiving standing ovations for their performances. They were a credit to the school.

It was wonderful to give students a professional performance opportunity and give back to the local community.

Mrs Collins



Congratulations to all of our Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9 Super 6 Athletics teams, who recently competed in the South Warwickshire Super 6 Tournament. The competition featured a range of events including the 100m, 200m, 800m, Shot, Javelin, Long Jump, and a team relay.

Our athletes produced some fantastic performances across all year groups. The Year 7 boys finished 6th, while the girls were crowned champions with an outstanding 1st place finish. The Year 8 boys achieved 4th place in their group, with the girls securing an impressive 2nd place. The Year 9 boys continued the success with a very creditable 3rd place finish, while the girls claimed the South Warwickshire title as this year's winners!

A huge well done to all students involved for their hard work, commitment, and teamwork producing a fantastic set of results!



Rounders vs SGGS

Last week's tennis club was very popular! So popular that we had 3.5 sets of twins in the group - might be a record for an AGS club!







Long Mynd 2026



Duke of Edinburgh – Silver Assessed Expedition



Year 8 Enjoy Memorable Spanish Adventure in Bilbao

From Sunday 31 May to Wednesday 3 June, Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting trip to Bilbao, where they had the opportunity to experience Spanish and Basque culture first-hand. The group explored the historic Casco Viejo, visited the impressive Guggenheim Museum and admired the city from the top of Mount Artxanda.

One of the highlights of the trip was taking part in a traditional Basque pelota masterclass, where students learned about this unique sport and tested their own skills. They also enjoyed visiting the historic town of Guernica, gaining a deeper understanding of the region's history and culture. In Guernica students also visited the Peace Museum, which encouraged thoughtful reflection on peace, conflict and reconciliation.

The trip concluded with a visit to San Mamés Stadium, home of Athletic Club Bilbao, before returning home with many happy memories. Throughout the visit, students represented the school brilliantly and embraced every opportunity to practise their Spanish, learn about local traditions and enjoy a fun-filled few days together. **Susana Valera**



House News



Alder



Birch



Hawthorn



Oak



Willow

House spirit remains as strong as ever at AGS with the totals for Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Oak and Willow still close as we move through the half-term. With major competitions on the horizon, including House Music and Sports Day, there is everything to play for and every point really does make a difference.

This half-term is also Willow House's Charity focus, and students are enthusiastically raising funds for their chosen charity, Warwickshire Young Carers. Their commitment to service continues to shine. Their World Cup predictor competition proved a huge success, and we now wait with bated breath to discover who will take home the coveted football. The excitement is building.

It is also Oak House's Outreach half-term, and Oak students are preparing a small choir to entertain the visitors to their chosen charity, Alcester Dementia Cafe, as they enjoy their refreshments.

As a follow-up to last half-term's Outreach, Willow House will be delivering their Grow a Sunflower kits to Fortitude School later this week. We look forward to reporting back on how both the sunflowers, and the partnership, continue to flourish in the next Principal's Update.

ags
House Points
**WEEKLY
UPDATE**
29.6.26

 *Willow*
4,853

 *Alder*
4,013

 *Birch*
3,801

 *Hawthorn*
3,639

 *Oak*
3,522

Could you offer a work experience placement?

We are looking for local employers who could offer meaningful work experience to our year 10 or 12 pupils.

from Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July 2026

Hosting a placement is great for employers because it provides an opportunity to 'give back' and support a young person, you might even find a great future employee! It will also allow existing staff to have experience managing people.

From insurance and legal perspectives, young people on placements are considered the same as normal employees, so your normal "Employer Liability" policy should cover you and we would always do the checks beforehand.

Whether you have hosted a placement before or if it is something you would like to do then we will support you all the way.

Please get in touch if you can offer a place or would just like more information.

Debbie Perry, Careers Leader

Telephone 01789 762494 ext 217 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

Email d.perry@alcesterags.com



AGS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

SUMMER Concert

THURSDAY 09 JULY 2026 **AGS THEATRE**

6PM START (DOORS OPEN 5:40PM)

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

FREE TICKETS (BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE)

- CLASSICAL FAVOURITES
- ROCK & POP
- STAGE & SCREEN
- JAZZ & BLUES
- CHORAL HITS



YMM

Our Mentors are here for you ❤️

You don't have to face challenges alone

YMM mentors are here to listen. We offer free one-to-one mentoring in Alcester schools for young people dealing with anxiety, low mood, stress, poor mental health and other emotional challenges.



Our mentors won't judge you. They'll listen, help you make sense of what's going on, and support you to find ways forward. Everything is confidential, and there is no cost to you or your school.

- Low Mood ?
- Anxiety ?
- Emotional Challenges ?

To find out more, speak to a member of your school's pastoral team.

Info@ymm.org.uk ymm.org.uk

EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES



Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust

Protect your child from flu

The School Immunisation Team need your correct contact details

Have your email address or mobile
phone number changed within the
last year? If so, please get in touch
with your team:

Coventry schools:

✉ bewise.immunise@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

☎ 02476 961422

North Warwickshire schools:

✉ NorthImms@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

☎ 02476 321550

South Warwickshire schools:

✉ SouthImms@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

☎ 01926 353899

