

Together, we can,

**ASSIST
GIVE &
SUPPORT**



Assist, Give and Support

Thank you for taking the time to read about our AGS initiative
'Assist, Give and Support.'

At the time of writing, AGS recognises the continuing challenge that so many families face with ongoing rises in the cost of living. Similarly, as a school, we are facing our own considerable financial challenges.

Despite having cut 10 teaching staff in the last 2 years, Governors and I face some very difficult decisions and challenges in the weeks and months ahead. How do we continue to afford staffing? How do we replace ageing science labs, a 1912 roof and a heating system from the 1960s?

Community, however, is at the heart of AGS, and therefore, as always, I like to hope that we can approach these challenges together and in partnership.

The 'Assist Give and Support' initiative asks all in our community to consider 'what support do you need?' and 'what support can you give?'

Section One of this booklet outlines how you can **assist** AGS and other families without the need to donate money - e.g. your time or the recycling of uniform and other items can be hugely helpful.

Section Two outlines how you can **give** to AGS financially, should you be able to.
Without ongoing financial support from parents, the tough decisions will only get tougher and we will be unable to maintain and improve vital resources.

Finally, Section Three is designed to share ways in which AGS and the wider community may be able to help and **support**.

Thank you in advance for considering how you can support each other and the AGS community.

R Thorpe



Rachel Thorpe

Principal - Alcester Grammar School

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Assist the AGS Community Practically

Support our AGS Parents and Friends Association!

AGS Friends was established in January 2024 and is a friendly group working on two objectives; to develop effective relationships between school and home, and to raise funds to support the education of all students at AGS. We try to have a bit of fun whilst doing it!



All parents and carers of AGS students and all staff who work here, automatically become members. Our friends (e.g. alumni, local community members, relatives of staff) apply to join. We hold a meeting every half-term, either at school, or virtually, and all dates and notes from meetings are on our page on school website. For any further information, or to get in touch, please email ags-friends@alcestergs.com

Offer a skill or placement

Do you have a skill or trade which you could volunteer to help around school? E.g. are you a professional decorator or photographer? Or would you be prepared to offer a work experience placement? Would you be prepared to help with mock interviews? [If so, please complete this form](#)

Donate a Prom Dress or Suit

Each year, year 11 have an annual prom and the cost of a dress or suit can be prohibitive for some. Do you have anything you could donate? If so, please contact [Mr Kendall](#) (Head of Year 11)

Donate School Uniform

Please do consider donating any old uniform to school - donations can be sent to the front office. These items will be re-distributed to other families OR sold by the PTFA.



Revision and Text Books

As with school uniform, we welcome any used revision guides etc. for distribution to other families.

These should be donated to the school office.



Assist, Give and Support



Give to the AGS Community Financially

Financial Donations

Make a one-off donation to the school

Even small one-off donations can make a big difference to the school.

Please consider giving [here](#) now, so that we can continue to offer students at AGS the education and resources that they deserve.

Make a regular donation to the school

A monthly donation can really help to secure the education of our young people.

Please click [here](#) to set up your monthly donation today

The impact of financial donations

Monthly giving is a powerful way to support us, transforming our school while also potentially offering you personal tax advantages. See the table below to learn how Gift Aid boosts the value of your donation, and how claiming tax relief on your self-assessment return can further reduce the cost to you.

Monthly Donation	Donation amount after 12 months	With Gift Aid (25% added) the school receives	Net Cost for 20% Taxpayer	Net Cost for 40% Taxpayer	Net Cost for 45% Taxpayer
£10	£120	£150	£120	£90	£82.50
£25	£300	£375	£300	£225	£206.25
£50	£600	£750	£600	£450	£412.50
£100	£1200	£1500	£1200	£900	£825

Give to the AGS Community Financially

Sponsor Us

We would welcome sponsorship in a range of areas. The school play? A school concert? Ingredients for our Life Programme? Kit for a school team? In return we can offer exposure via the Principal's Update, on our website and via our social media platforms. Please do email r.thorpe@alcestergs.com if you would like to explore how we could work together.

Sponsor a student

Help us to ensure every student can experience the enrichment of our school trips by sponsoring a place. Please email s.price@alcestergs.com if you are able to offer any support.

Rent a building from us out of hours

Looking to rent the sports hall or a room in the evening or as a one-off in the holidays? Please [click here](#) to contact Community Lettings.

Help us to source grants

Link us up with any local charities or organisations who may be willing to offer grants to the school. If you are aware of any grants that we may be able to access, then please do share them with us via r.thorpe@alcestergs.com

Enter the AGS Friends Lottery

Join the AGS Friends lottery and you could be the next lucky winner whilst helping the school along the way! Please click [here](#) for sign up details



Sources of *support* for all

Free Second Hand Uniform

If you are struggling to source uniform, then we have a large number of donated items that we are able to provide you with, free of charge.

Please just pop into the school reception and ask what we have available.

AGS School Fund and 6th Form Bursary

The school has a very small amount of money to support families who may be struggling to provide food, coats, shoes etc. to their young people. This fund can also support curriculum trips where appropriate. More information can be found [here](#).

Newport's School Foundation

Any student aged 16 or over at AGS can access money to help with education from Alcester's Newport Foundation. Please click [here](#) for more details.



Free School Meal and Pupil Premium Funding

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

We are happy to help with applications - please contact Sophie Price (Assistant Principal) at s.price@alcesterags.com in confidence.

Separately, AGS can receive funding to specifically support the education of pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium:

- Pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years, including eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- Children looked after by local authorities, referred to as looked-after children
- Children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, referred to as previously looked-after children

Again, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Price if you think that you might be eligible.



Sources of *support* for all

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Warwickshire Holiday Activities and Food

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide young people who are in full-time education (Reception to Year 11) and eligible for benefits-related free school meals with access to enriching activities and meals, for free, during the three main school holidays: Winter, Spring and Summer.

Click [here](#) for more details.



Warwickshire Cost of Living

Warwickshire County Council list some useful sources of support [here](#).



Alcester Community Fridge

This amazing local resource is situated only minutes from school. Please do visit their [website](#) for more information.



Local Food Banks

Information on a range of food banks and community pantries can be found by clicking the images below:



Warm Spaces

WRCC Warm Hubs are warm, safe, inclusive places where residents can expect a friendly welcome and refreshments all year round – they're not just for winter!

Warm hub information can be found [here](#).



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