

— Winter 2025 —

AG NEWSLETTER

A newsletter made by the students of Alder Grange

“Into the Woods was great! Shout out to a certain English teacher and Head of Year 8 who amazed the audience as ‘The Giant’s Wife’...”

Iris M



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Welcome from the editorial team

We are extremely proud to share with you the very first Winter Edition of the revamped School Newsletter.

Since September, we have been exploring the goings-on around school and taking a deep dive into the lives of Alder Grange’s students and teachers. It has been a great opportunity for us to gain an insight into the inner workings of the Alder Grange community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is pivotal to keeping the school running - and to thank you for taking the time to read our work.

Enjoy this edition and the Christmas break, from all of the Student Newsletter team: Zak, India, Lexi, Katie, Iris, Sayeeda, Myla, Amara, Catherine & Ella, as well as Mr Cardy, Miss Smith & Mr Milnes.

Being in the talent show

Written by Ella T

Being in the Talent Show was very frightening. I was up first and when I got on stage I realised that there were more people than I expected. Being first up made a massive impact because you don't know if everyone will be supportive. They could laugh at you or make fun of you - so that was nerve-racking. I didn't know if the audience would be supportive or not, but they were. They cheered *a lot* - and I mean a lot!

Everyone did so well: there were all kinds of different acts, from singing, all the way to a flower devil stick (a common circus skill). I found it difficult with the lighting because at the back of the room there was a light shining in my eyes, making it hard to see.

Overall, though, I would recommend joining the Talent Show next year as it is a great way to show off your talent to other people - and if you mess up that is ok, because the crowd is very supportive.

“I could see that the vast majority who performed were nervous - and I couldn't blame them! But everyone who performed was amazing and very brave to be able to do that in front of so many people. They went above my expectations!”

Reviewed by Lexi G



Year 9 Band interview

Written by Sayeeda M and India B

Our school's only boy band took to the stage with confidence, drawing on years of practice and passion. Having performed many times before, they entered the event feeling prepared and excited.

The group, known for their punk and progressive rock influences, played 'Feel Good Inc', aiming to keep the audience engaged and end with a surprise - even giving us an inside view into some new potential band names like 'Wasted Summer' or 'Haze'. Despite a brief setback when a guitar strap broke, they recovered quickly and kept performing like true professionals.

Each member brings valuable experience - one has been playing guitar for five years, another has been performing since the age of three. Their commitment shone throughout the performance.

Behind the scenes, our lighting student, who only began learning this year, delivered a flawless show and summed it up best: "I'm a pro, nothing can go wrong."

Ms Guy praised the event warmly, saying she was in awe of both the audience and the children: "There is no school like this, I'm very proud."

The band really enjoyed the applause and are now busy preparing a song for the Christmas assembly!

Remembrance Day at Alder Grange

Written and researched by
Myla N and Katie H

"We shouldn't just see it as a way to commemorate wars, but as a way to unite in the name of equality, justice and peace."

Mr Haydar

This term, Alder Grange came together as one to observe Remembrance Day and reflect on the value of these traditions within our community.

As usual, we held a two-minute silence and placed a wreath in our Remembrance Garden. As Respect is one of our 3 R's, this process was carried out with particular consideration of the sacrifices made by those who have fought in wars. Sadly, this was also Alder Grange's first Remembrance Day without our honorary grandad Ted, who was also a war veteran.

Remembrance is of immense importance to everyone at Alder Grange, especially one of our history teachers, Mr Haydar. Just a few of his many valuable contributions to our school include taking responsibility for the two-minute silence, running battlefields trips, and maintaining our Remembrance Garden - a place where we remember those within our community and beyond who are no longer with us.

In an interview, Mr Haydar shared his perspective on Remembrance Day, explaining that we shouldn't just see it as a way to commemorate wars, but as a way to unite in the name of equality, justice and peace. He also urges us to consider that it's "not just about one day" and that we should apply the values of remembrance to our everyday lives.



Behind the scenes of the school production

Written and researched by Myla N

A week before opening night, the cast of 'Into The Woods' arrive to rehearsal and are met with the impressive set prepared by Mr Riddell. The aim of today's rehearsal is to do a walk through of certain scenes and make sure everyone is on the same page. This also gives the lighting crew an opportunity to experiment with timings. The cast are tired after several busy rehearsals, but still in high spirits and counting down the days until their first performance. – Wednesday 26th November

Alder Grange goes 'Into the Woods'

Written and researched by Catherine R and Amara R

If someone was to watch this show with no idea of who was acting they would think they were watching a Broadway production. You know how on the back of books they put little quotes from different newspapers like: 'Thrilling' – The Times, 'Stunning' – The Telegraph. Well, we have one of our own for Alder Grange's 'Into the Woods': 'Elysian'. Elysian means blissful, delightful or heavenly, referring to a mythical paradise in Greek and Roman mythology. We think this perfectly fits with the school production – divinely perfect.

Though the costumes may have looked a bit plain, the actors were incredible and never nervous (well, they never looked it). Voices were projected and even the props were fabulous, with real trees and bread covered in hair spray! Red Riding Hood (Mia Strachan) was superb, with child-like actions. One scene in which Rapunzel (Minnie Green) and her 'mother' were arguing was so amazing it gave us goosebumps; it made us feel like we were watching a strict mother talking to her child. Will Humphries was especially brilliant, stepping into the role of Jack at the last minute.

One line in particular stood out to us: 'nice is different to good'. Either way, the play was more than good – it was fabulous, with screaming that made us jump out of our skin and a scarily realistic Evil Witch (Emily Walsh).



Transition from year 6 to year 7

Written by Amara R

Moving from year six to year seven was a massive step for me. One moment I was at the top of my primary school, knowing every classroom, every teacher, and every nook and cranny. The next second I was standing in a much bigger building, holding a timetable I didn't understand, and trying to look confident even though my stomach was full of nerves (especially as I had no idea where I was going).

The next day was much better. At break time my friends and I compared timetables to see if we were in any classes together; luckily, we were. This day was smoother and less daunting than I expected. Teachers were understanding, older students were helpful. Timetables were explained, classrooms were labelled, and staff were able to answer any question I threw at them. It quickly became clear that year 7 was nothing to worry about.

Overall, the move from year 6 to year 7 has proved to be much less challenging than I had thought. I think that year 6 students moving up to year 7 have nothing to worry about.

Day in the life of... Miss Sharp

Written by Iris M

6:00am – Wake up

7:00am – Check work email and put on makeup

7:30am – Set off in the car

8:20am – Arrive at school if the roads are clear (8:45am if there is traffic)

9:00am – Form-time with 8E

10:00am – Teaching

11:00am – Breaktime, with duty on Tuesday and Wednesday

12:00pm – Teaching

1:00pm – Eat lunch (pizza) and do some work

2:00pm – Last lesson of the day

3:00pm – PPA time for admin, marking and planning

4:00pm – Still at school, planning and marking

4:30pm – Leave school

5:30pm – Arrive home

6:00pm – Gym

7:00pm – Hobbies, including Playstation 5 and making techno music



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