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# Pattern perfection

By Katherine Sorrell

Bamburgh grand sofa in Natural, £1,799, DFS. [dfs.co.uk](https://dfs.co.uk)



Our guide to adding different designs to your interior will give you the confidence to get it right.

Whether it's a textural geometric, a country-style floral or a bold, retro/modern design, introducing pattern always adds character. It could be a few simple pieces that feature understated designs for subtle interest, an eye-catching, oversized pattern as a focal point or a complex combination of patterns for real impact.

## Find your inspiration

Look at books, magazines and websites for ideas, and then look for inspiration in the pattern books created by fabric and wallpaper designers, where everything is already coordinated, for example, stripes with damasks, spots with florals.

## Create a mood board

This allows you to assess how colours, patterns and surface textures work together. There are websites that will help, or you can pull together swatches of fabric, wallpaper and so on. Swap samples in and out, and, if you have large samples, hang them and live with them for a few days.

## Consider scale

In general, bigger patterns are better suited to bigger rooms and smaller patterns to cosier rooms – though there's something to be said for the occasional use of a huge pattern in a small space. A downstairs cloakroom is the obvious place to

try out a large-scale wallpaper. Beware: very bold patterns used extensively may date or you could get sick of them.

## Layer patterns for dynamic effect

Think of starting with the most dominant pattern and adding in secondary and tertiary patterns (and maybe more). Remember that stripes and very small patterns can be brilliant at coordinating with more intricate patterns. And don't forget textures – the slub of raw silk, the herringbone of woven linen, chunky knitted wool.

## Choose coordinating tones

A cautious approach would be to match colours exactly. But it may become dull. You can achieve excellent coordination and sophistication by working with tones. Colours with similar tonal values will work together, making it easier to combine patterns. Density, too, is a factor, as loose, open patterns give a visual 'breather', while intricate patterns with closely placed designs have more drama.

## Mix and match styles

You could choose everything from the same 'genre', for instance, florals or geometrics, but a mix-and-match approach can be extremely successful, provided there is some cohesion in terms of colour, tone, scale or style.

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# Make gardening kids' play

By Caroline Knight

As the new school year begins, September is a good month in which to turn your attention to the garden. This late summer period is the last hurrah before the daylight hours shrink and the air cools. Take some time off work or make time within your busy schedule, if necessary, to enjoy your outdoor space during a month of calm.

The month is generally a productive one for those who have been growing for the kitchen. You should be able to harvest figs, apples, pears, blackberries, grapes and tomatoes. There will be fresh vegetables to enjoy, including leafy greens, runner beans, squash, potatoes, onions and carrots. It's also the perfect time to plant spring-flowering bulbs.

It's a particularly beautiful time outdoors, with golden light that is less harsh than during mid-summer. Certain plants save their best for this time of year, including ornamental grasses, perennials including Aster, Japanese anemone and Rudbeckia, and shrubs such as Hydrangea. Did you know there are now up to 600 named cultivars of Hydrangea?

## Inspire the younger generation

It's wonderful to encourage any kids in your life to develop a lifelong interest in plants. Donate a small patch of garden and help them design the content. Have you heard of a zoo garden, for example? The names of the plants can represent animals, and each can be labelled, perhaps using a model of the animal too.



## Easy-to-grow plants for a zoo garden

- The name lamb's ear refers to *Stachys byzantina*, a drought-tolerant evergreen perennial that will form a carpet of soft, fluffy 'ears'. Leaves and stems are covered in white, woolly hairs.
- *Bergenia cordifolia*, or elephant's ears, is an easy-to-grow evergreen with big, tough leaves that look just slightly like the ears of Jumbo.
- Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), is a member of the mint family, and cats love to roll around in the aromatic foliage and flowers thanks to the chemical compound *Nepetalactone*, which is also an insect repellent.
- Dogwoods (*Cornus sanguinea* or *alba*) are shrubs that are brilliant in winter. Cut them down to the ground in very early spring and the new growth will give you vertical stems of colour next year. They're easy to grow at the back of your children's zoo garden.
- Fleabane, *Erigeron karvinskianus*, was so named because it was believed the dried leaves and flowers repelled fleas. This delightful little daisy-like perennial self-seeds into cracks and dry places.

Try building a miniature garden in an unusual container such as a dish, bottle, box or shoe. Take a tiny world and become absorbed by the endless possibilities that micro-gardening presents. It's not only the kids who will become enthralled.



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# Thai salmon and quinoa salad

There's no better time to enjoy watercress than when it's fresh from British farms, available from most major supermarkets until early November. Eat yourself healthy with this zesty Thai salad, on the table in under 30 minutes.

---

**Makes** 1 portion

**Preparation time** 5 minutes

**Cooking time** 20 minutes

---

## Ingredients

- 1 Thai salmon fillet, store bought
  - 125g quinoa
  - 85g watercress, roughly chopped
  - 1 spring onion, trimmed and chopped
  - Handful of sesame seeds
  - Handful of toasted peanuts, roughly chopped or crushed
  - 1 Yuzu or lemon, cut into wedges
- 

## Method

1. Cook the salmon and quinoa as per the instructions on the packet.
  2. Once the quinoa is cooked, toss it together with the watercress and spring onion.
  3. Serve in a bowl with the salad mixture on the bottom, salmon fillet on top and sprinkle with sesame seeds and toasted peanuts. Serve with citrus wedges for squeezing over.
- 

For more recipe inspiration, visit [www.watercress.co.uk](http://www.watercress.co.uk) and for more information on the health benefits of watercress, visit [www.thewatercresscompany.com](http://www.thewatercresscompany.com).

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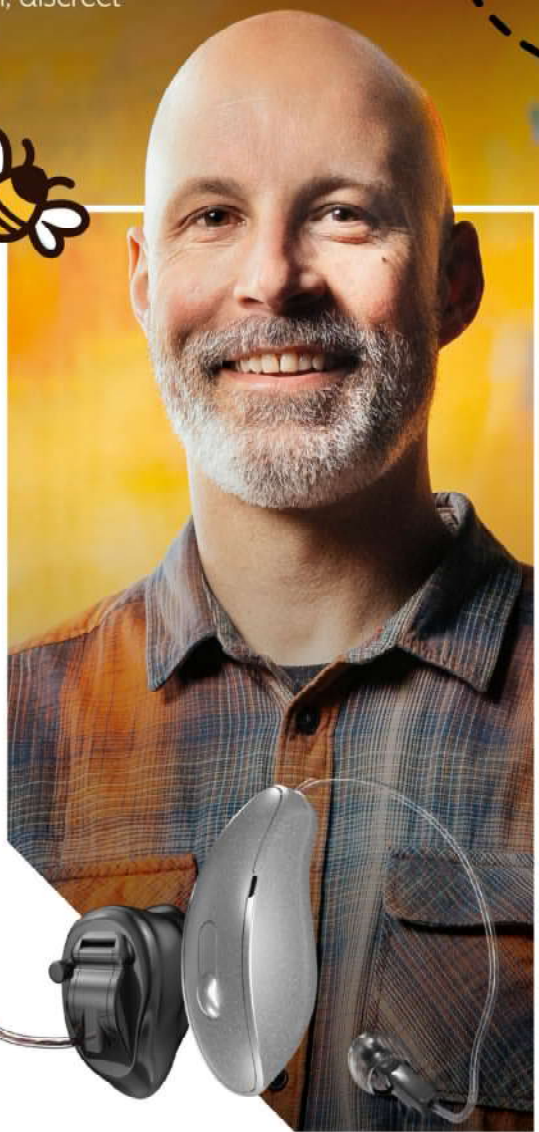
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# Spend smart, study hard

Clever ways to manage your money when you're a student.

## Set a budget

This is basic but crucial. Students need to add up everything they're receiving from loans, bursaries, savings, parents and work, and calculate how much they have available to spend every week. The key items of expenditure are likely to be accommodation (plus bills for anyone living out of halls) and food. What's left after essential outgoings is all yours. Try hard not to bust that budget. Free apps like Money Lover can help.

## Make the most of your bank account

Student bank accounts often offer incentives that can save you money, such as discounts on dining and entertainment, or cashback. For those who travel frequently by rail, Santander's Edge account gives you a free four-year 16-25 Railcard along with a generous interest-free overdraft of up to £1,500. In fact, most student accounts offer a 0% overdraft, although you should try to keep this for emergencies.

## Shop smart

The area where you can make a huge difference is your food shop. Go to cheaper supermarkets like Aldi and Lidl, and sign up to loyalty schemes like Tesco Clubcard, Sainsbury's Nectar Card and Lidl Plus to net you money off future purchases. Plan your meals ahead to avoid wasting money on unnecessary items, and opt for own-brand products. Frozen veg is cheaper than fresh and just as nutritious.

Knock even more money off by shopping in the evening when prices are often slashed and by

making the most of discount vouchers. A good place to find these is on the MoneySavingExpert website ([www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/discount-voucher-codes](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/discount-voucher-codes)). Many students also swear by the Too Good to Go app, which lists leftover food at up to half price.

## Pay less to live

Gas, electricity, water, wifi – these and many other household bills can be painfully expensive. But you can try to cut the cost. Study in libraries and other uni or public places like cafés to save on heating, lighting and the cost of powering and charging your laptop.

Cook up bulk batches of food and freeze it – that will help you save on bills. It's also much cheaper to cook with an air fryer, which, according to The Eco Experts, costs £250 a year less to use than an electric cooker.

## Dig around for discounts

Student discount schemes can be a real money-saver. Unidays and Student Beans are popular. You sign up for free and get exclusive student discounts online and in some stores. A Totum card also gives good reductions but costs £14.99 a year.

MoneySaving Expert has a dedicated student discounts and deals page ([www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/student-discounts](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/student-discounts)).

Finally, consider some of the cashback sites, such as TopCashback and Quidco. If you have to spend your money, you might as well see if you can get a few percent back.



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# Plum, pink pepper and watercress loaves

Making the most of in-season juicy plums, these deliciously sweet treats are perfect with morning coffee or an afternoon cuppa.



## Ingredients

- Butter and flour, for lining the tins
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 90g whole milk
- 150g plums, stones discarded, flesh chopped into small pieces
- 120g light muscovado sugar, plus 2 tbsp
- 250g plain flour
- 13g baking powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp pink peppercorns, crushed
- 1 tbsp watercress, finely chopped
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 150g rapeseed oil
- 2 large eggs

## To serve

- Icing sugar, for dusting
- Plum slices, to decorate
- Whipped cream (optional)

**Serves 12**

## Preparation

10 minutes

## Cooking time

20 minutes

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C, fan 160°C, gas mark 4.  
Grease and lightly flour 12 mini loaf tins.
2. Mix the lemon juice into the milk and set aside to room temperature.
3. Mix the chopped plums with the 2 tbsp muscovado sugar and set aside.
4. In a separate, large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, peppercorns, remaining sugar and watercress.
5. In a jug, mix the vanilla, reserved milk mixture, oil and eggs.
6. Pour the wet mixture into the dry and whisk in a clockwise direction from the edges inwards. Do not overmix; a few lumps are fine.
7. Carefully stir through the plums and the residual syrup and divide the mixture equally between the loaf tins.
8. Bake in the preheated oven for 18-20 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean. Cool in the tins for 10 minutes before turning out to cool completely.
9. Once cold, dust with icing sugar and decorate with plum slices. This is fantastic with pillows of whipped cream, if liked.

For more recipe inspiration, visit [www.watercress.co.uk](http://www.watercress.co.uk) and for more information on the health benefits of watercress, visit [www.thewatercresscompany.com](http://www.thewatercresscompany.com).



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## Chris Shemilt's Money Corner

### Trust Matters

Many of us have personal experience of, or know someone who has had difficulties with a family member or friend who loses their ability to make decisions for themselves. Of course, the likelihood of this potential scenario statistically grows as we get older.

As a separate (but connected) issue, we accumulate and grow our assets over years. There comes a time however, when you might ask the question "how do I pass my assets to loved ones in the most tax-efficient and timely manner"?

These are separate but connected issues, with children from former relationships adding to the complexity. So how do you plan ahead to ensure that your assets are distributed in the way which suits you?

Fortunately, there are relatively simple steps you can take during your lifetime to pre-empt future difficulties. Although simple, the solutions can be challenging from a technical point of view, which is why it's wise to take professional advice. It is essential to get this type of planning absolutely correct as it's quite easy to make the situation worse!

#### **Setting up a Trust**

You can create a Trust (an independent legal entity) that takes legal ownership of whatever assets are appropriate to place within the Trust. You nominate Trustees (which might include yourself and your spouse/partner) to take care of the assets. You also nominate beneficiaries of the Trust. Trustees can also be beneficiaries.

#### **What's in it for you?**

There are very many potential advantages to creating a Trust now, including:

**Avoiding probate** - the legal process of administering and distributing an estate can be very long and laborious.

**Sideways disinheritance** – many and varied complications due to divorce or remarriage can be avoided.

**Ill health or mental incapacity** – The Trustees can manage the assets without the need for a court-appointed guardian

**Privacy** - Trusts are not subject to public record.

**Control** - You can not only set specific conditions on how and when beneficiaries access funds, but also dictate what is to happen if care fees are needed in the future

**Maximise the inheritance you leave to your loved ones** – No explanation needed here!

#### **You already have a Will?**

A Will takes effect only after you die; a lifetime Trust can operate during your life and after death

In next months' Money Corner, we will look at using life cover as an added defence against Inheritance Tax (IHT).

This article is produced in association with Estate Planning Solutions, a full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Planners (STEP) and the Institute of Professional Willwriters (IPW).



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As we have accounts with and supply hearing aids from all manufacturers we try to match customers to the most suited hearing aids. We will take many factors into account such as the customers ability to grasp technology, the customers dexterity at physically handling small hearing aids and of course all of this must be matched to the individuals hearing loss.

An older person with poor dexterity and eyesight will need a very simple low maintenance hearing aid whilst a younger person who may still be working would want a more advanced aid to pair with their mobile phone etc. We also have many customers somewhere in the middle!

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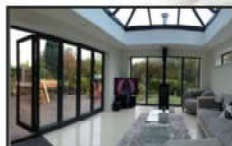
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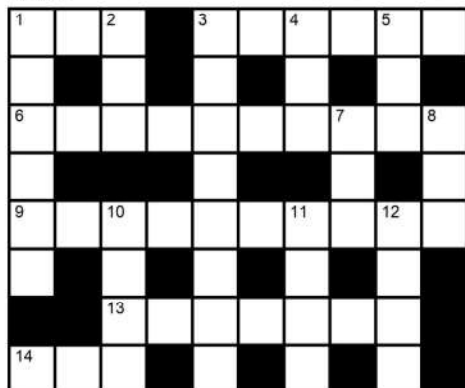
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7			1	9			5
		6				7	
		4		7		9	
			9	4			
		8	2		5		
		1				8	
4			2	8			7
6				9			3

## Mini Cross

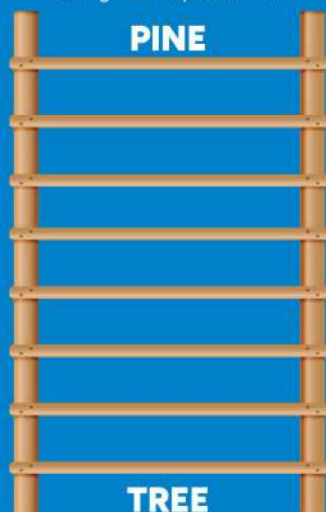
Solve the anagrams, then put the words into the grid.

AMR IKS INOT ADEEIMRT  
ASW IST NSTU AEEHRTT  
BMO NRU ACDEIV ABIINORSTV  
EOR DEEN DEEERST CEEINNNOTV



## Wordladder

Change one letter at a time (but not the position of any letter) to make a new word moving from top to bottom.



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Door Hanging

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M Horton

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## Solutions

### SUDOKU

2	1	5	7	8	3	4	6	9
7	4	3	1	6	9	2	8	5
8	9	6	5	4	2	7	3	1
3	5	4	8	7	6	9	1	2
1	6	2	9	5	4	3	7	8
9	7	8	3	2	1	5	4	6
5	2	1	6	3	7	8	9	4
4	3	9	2	1	8	6	5	7
6	8	7	4	9	5	1	2	3

### PICTOGRAMS

1. The game is up
2. Box office
3. Pile on the pounds

### MINICROSS

1	A	R	M		3	D	E	S	E	R	T
	D		O			I	K			U	
6	V	I	B	R	A	T	I	7	O	N	5
	I					M			R		I
9	C	O	10	N	V	E	N	11	E	12	T
	E			U		T		N		E	
			13	T	H	E	A	T	R	E	
14	W	A	S			R	O			D	

**WORDLADDER** (Here is one possible solution, there are others)

**PINE - Fine - Find - Fend - Feed - Fled - Flee - Free - TREE**



## SANCTUARY TAX & TRUST SERVICES LTD

As the cost-of-living spirals and more of our children struggle to get a footing on the property ladder it is now more important than ever to plan our family's inheritance. The team at Sanctuary Tax & Trust explain how many families find themselves victims of avoidable losses and why simply writing a will does not guarantee our family will inherit as we wish.

For the vast majority of people, we spend all our lives working to build up wealth, through property, savings and pensions we look at providing financial security for our families and when our final day arrives, we hope these assets will pass to the people we care about the most, partners, children, relatives and friends. Traditionally, people have chosen wills to document their wishes and while writing a will is important, it does not provide any protection for the assets within it.

### Considerations when planning Inheritance

**Care Fees** – As we live longer the likelihood of needing care becomes greater and under the government's changes to the social care act should the need for care arise, we could see our asset taken down to just £23,250. The new assessment process will see everybody with property and saving over a combined value of £100,000 being required to pay for their care.

**Relationship Failure** – When passing assets purely through a will we see many leaving their assets to their children but not giving consideration to what would happen if one of their children was to divorce. This can lead to a child seeing half of their inheritance in the hands of an ex-partner and in the event of early bereavement this can lead to grandchildren being disinherited.

**Inheritance Tax** – The current IHT framework can be complex and unknowingly people can leave their children and even grandchildren with an Inheritance tax issue.

**Probate** – The cost of probate has risen dramatically over the last few years, and it can be a lengthy and drawn-out process. On average, with a will, probate will typically take 6 – 12 months to complete, without a will it could take up to 2 years.

**Its Never the Wrong Time To Do The Right Thing** – While people appreciate that inheritance planning is important many will delay seeking the correct advice. By putting off today what we can do tomorrow we run the risk of running out of time or, in the event of an illness, seeing our options being dramatically reduced.

### Why Sanctuary Tax & Trust Services?

With over 20 years of experience in Estate and Inheritance planning we have helped families in the area protect their assets and plan their inheritance in the most cost-effective way. While the individual family's circumstance may vary, the one constant is that each family aims to provide the maximum amount of inheritance possible without the stress of complexed legal jargon.



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**OCTOBER**  
**2025**

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**[www.potterswayhousecare.co.uk](http://www.potterswayhousecare.co.uk)**

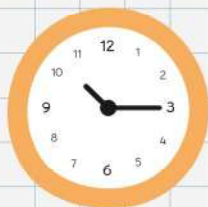
# CHILDREN'S PUZZLE PAGE

## WHAT'S THE TIME AT SCHOOL

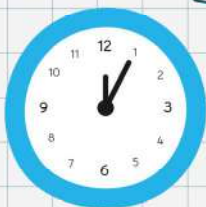
Can you help work out what time it is? Look at the clocks and write the time you see as a 24-hour digital time (like this: 08:40).



SCHOOL STARTS



MORNING BREAK



LUNCHTIME



ASSEMBLY



HOME TIME



Why did the echo get a detention on the first day?  
It kept answering back.



Why does a maths book always look sad?  
They are full of problems.

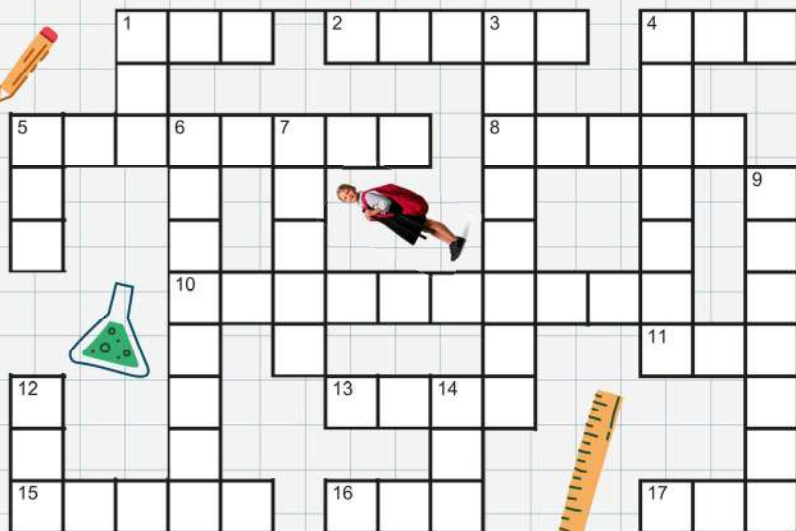


What does an English teacher like to eat for breakfast?  
Synonym rolls.



## BACK 2 SCHOOL WORDFIT

ART  
BREAK  
BUS  
COMPUTER  
DESK  
FRIENDS  
FUN  
HOMEWORK  
LAB  
LIBRARY  
SIR  
LUNCHBOX  
MATHS  
MUSIC  
PAD  
PEN  
PLAYGROUND  
SIT  
SPORT  
TRY





# RODE HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inspiring learning - Nurturing minds - Achieving for life

**Ofsted: 'Outstanding' (in all areas)**

At Rode Heath Primary School we spark **creativity**, fuel **curiosity**, and build **confidence** to help young minds thrive in a fast-changing world.

## WHY CHOOSE RODE HEATH?

**Outstanding Teaching & Learning** – High expectations and a creative curriculum that sparks imagination and a love for learning.

**A Focus on the Whole Child** – We nurture every child's potential through personal attention, enrichment opportunities and strong pastoral care.

**Global & Green Outlook** – From forest school to eco-projects and digital innovation, we prepare children for a changing world.

**Supportive & Welcoming Community** – Parents and carers are valued partners in every child's journey.



- ✓ On-site pre-school provision
- ✓ Wrap-around care  
7:30am - 6:00pm

## CORE VALUES



Curiosity



Teamwork



Fairness



Resilience



"I love coming to Rode Heath because everyone is really kind, lessons are fun and there is always something exciting going on like clubs, trips and special days - it's a great place to learn."

Rode Heath Primary Pupil

We can't wait to welcome new families into our fantastic school.

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Contact us to book your visit: **Website:** [www.rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk)  
**Email:** [admin@rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk) | **Call:** 01270 314414



## Outstanding A-Level and Vocational Results at Alsager School

**We are incredibly proud to share the outstanding achievements of our Sixth Form students at Alsager School, who have received their A-Level and BTEC results today. Their results are a testament to their resilience, commitment, and sheer hard work, as well as the unwavering support of our staff and families.**

Headteacher, Andrea O'Neill said:

*"This year's results reflect the dedication and perseverance of our students, many of whom have overcome significant challenges during their studies. Their success is richly deserved, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow into confident, capable young adults. It was lovely this morning to see so many come in with their family members and see the sense of relief all round! They deserve the celebrations that will undoubtedly be taking place later."*

Students across a wide range of subjects have achieved exceptional grades, enabling them to progress to a variety of exciting destinations including top universities, apprenticeships, and professional pathways.

Students secured a wealth of top grades enabling them to access the top universities; one student is off to University of Cambridge to read History. University of Liverpool is a popular destination this year, but students are off to University of Sheffield, Durham University, Loughborough University and some going further afield to Plymouth and Edinburgh. There is a mix of subjects to be studied as well. Whilst the sciences are as popular as ever, there are more unusual courses such as Japanese Studies, Applied Golf Management Studies and an Actor Musicianship at Rose Bruford College.

Andy Rayner, Director of Sixth Form is so proud of all of the students:

*"Whilst the majority of our sixth formers have opted to go to university this year, some have chosen to go down the apprenticeship route and one student has even set up her own business 'Pawtastic Adventures', which is absolutely amazing. These results are not only a celebration of academic success but also of the character and ambition that each of our students brings to our community. Whether heading to Russell Group universities, specialist arts and technical colleges, or directly into employment and apprenticeships, we know they will continue to thrive and make a positive impact in the wider world."*

The staff could not be prouder of what our students have achieved. Their journey is just beginning, and we look forward to hearing about the incredible things they will accomplish in the future.



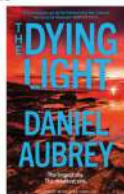
# Alsager Library

## Opening Hours

**Monday 10am to 5pm**  
**Tuesday 10am to 6pm**  
**Wednesday 10am to 5pm**  
**Thursday CLOSED**  
**Friday 10am to 5pm**  
**Saturday 9am to 1pm**

## 2nd Tuesday Murder Club

**presents**  
**Local Author Talk and**  
**Book Signing**  
**Daniel Aubrey**  
**Tues 09 September**  
**2:30pm to 3:30pm**



## PRE SCHOOL

**RHYME TIME**  
**MONDAY 11AM**

\*

**STORIES AND SONGS**  
**FRIDAY 11AM**

\*

**BABY BOUNCE**  
**FRIDAY 2PM**

\*

**FAMILY STORIES AND**  
**SONGS**  
**SATURDAY 6TH**  
**SEPTEMBER**

**FREE, NO NEED TO**  
**BOOK**

## CHILDREN'S

**LEGO CLUB**  
**MONDAY 3:30PM**

\*

**GAMES CLUB**  
**FRIDAY 3:30PM**

**FREE, NO NEED TO**  
**BOOK**

**TAKE A LOOK AT OUR**  
**FACEBOOK /**  
**WEB PAGE**  
**FOR FUTURE EVENTS**

\*

**FAMILY HUB LITTLE STARS**  
**WEDNESDAY 1:30PM**  
**CALL FOR MORE DETAILS**

## ADULT

**COLOUR AND CHAT**  
**MONDAY 2PM TO 4PM**

\*

**2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY MURDER**  
**CLUB**  
**THRILLER BOOK**  
**GROUP**  
**TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**2:30PM**

\*

**COFFEE MORNING**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**10AM TO 12PM**



## Alsager Community Support

Free help and advice for local people provided  
by local volunteers

**AS THE NEW  
SCHOOL TERM  
APPROACHES, POP  
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SCHOOL UNIFORM  
SHOP**



Our popular scheme is designed to ease the financial strain on families, while promoting sustainability for the environment.  
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2



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ANIMALS  
IN NEED**



CC REG No. 519969 [www.alsager-animals.net](http://www.alsager-animals.net)

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Next Coffee Morning 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Alsager Civic Centre - Admission 50p

We help with stray & abandoned cats & dogs and find their forever homes. We also provide a rehoming from home service.



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PRESENTS

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FRIDAY

7:30PM

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Wednesday 10th September 2025

Doors 7.00pm Starts 7.30pm

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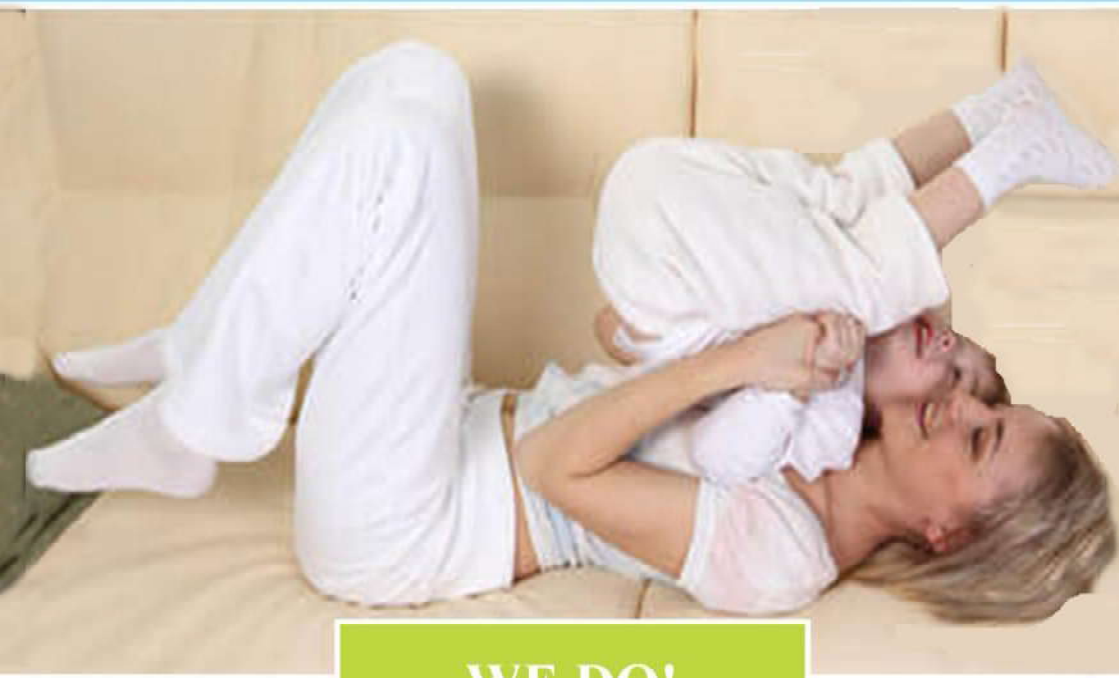
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