# Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN

*10th January 2025*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. Welcome back after the Christmas break and a happy New Year to you all once again. It's lovely to have the students back in school and there is a positive buzz around the building as we step into 2025 together. I'm grateful for your attention to uniform over the break, and appreciate how smart the students are since their return.

As we head into this term, the House points stand as:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Oversley | 26,818 points |
| 2 | Ragley | 25,771 points |
| 3 | Billesley | 25,710 points |
| 4 | Greville | 25,440 points |

I'll be interested to update you during this term on how the House points develop.

epraise

## In news this week
## Alliance Training Day

THE Three Rivers Alliance

On Monday, the staff from all of The Three Rivers Alliance schools collaborated to share some training opportunities. It was a superb opportunity for staff to visit the other schools and network with colleagues.

The workshops were broad and varied as follows:

- Cross School Exam Support, Moderation and Marking
- Interdisciplinary Learning Within the Curriculum
- Using the Learning Pit to Promote Challenge, Resilience and Problem Solving
- Exploring Pedagogical Approaches to Effective Classroom Talk Across the Curriculum
- Introduction to AI for Teaching, Learning and Administration
- Evidence based interventions to support Dyslexia and Literacy in the classroom and Precision Teaching Strategies

## *What's inside this week...*


| | |
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| ***Page 7*** | ***Epraise Leaderboard*** |
| ***Page 11*** | ***Sports News*** |

Some staff feedback included;

*A brilliant session—thank you!*

*This was one of the best delivered and useful inset sessions I have attended. Superb.*

*Refreshing to speak to other school colleagues about this topic and many others!*

*A superb session which was a great use of the INSET day time. I really enjoyed it and felt it reinforced what we are doing well and what we are able to do to make teaching of SEND students more effective.*

*I enjoyed the session and hadn't realised how much AI can help with different aspects of a teachers role.*

*A really useful and well run afternoon. It is so valuable to make links with colleagues across the alliance.*

We are grateful to all of the practitioners who planned and led the sessions and look forward to the next development in this area for the benefit of staff and students.

## Science News!

On 10th December 2024, we were thrilled to hear that our science technician, Mrs K Passantino, had secured a huge grant from The Wolfson Foundation for some updates to our labs.

*'I am pleased to inform you that your application has been successful and that we are awarding Alcester Academy up to £49,700 towards the cost of refurbishment and equipment for science laboratories'.*

This is such exciting news for the school and the students. We aim that the project for these improvements will begin around September 2025. Watch this space! Thank you Mrs Passantino for your tenacity with this application. What a difference this will make!

## New School Role

The school now has a co-ordinator for equality, diversity and inclusion. Miss Bishop is the lead on these areas and I am certain that you will see signs of these important areas having a more prominent platform.

## Save the Children

Our last day Christmas Jumper fundraiser brought in a staggering £594.50 for Save the Children. Thank you all.

## Liv's Angels

Equally, the final amounts for Liv Worrallo's charities amounted to £392. Thank you all for this wonderful support.

## Thank you year 11 parents

Congratulations to our year 11s on an exceptional round of mock examinations in the autumn term. The students received their results last night at parents' evening and it was a delight to see so many parents for a live event. Thank you for attending on a very cold winter evening. Our Post 16 partners were able to join us and we were very grateful to host representatives from:

*AGS*
*SGGS*
*K.E.S*
*Stratford College*
*HOW College*
*WCG College Group*
*Chipping Campden School*
*Ask Apprenticeships*

If you have any queries about year 11 arrangements as we head into the journey towards final exams, please be in touch without hesitation. Well done to our Sports students who completed one of their first external exams on Wednesday. Great work all!

## Poor weather update

Note the separate communication that went out to parents on Tuesday regarding potential future school closures because of poor weather. It will be on a very rare occasion that school might close but I have outlined for you all the procedures that will be followed.

## Thinking of becoming a School Governor?

If you have had any thoughts around wanting to join the Governor Body at Alcester Academy, please reach out to the Chair of Governors, Mike Dean: mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk

I am always extremely grateful to governors for the support that is offered to the school. We have a wonderful array of expertise and experience collectively.

## Congratulations to...

Tracy Parkes, who has her bespoke service on Sunday at St Nicholas Church, in order to commemorate her new role as High Bailiff of Alcester. We all offer our sinere congratulations to her as Tracy makes Alcester history as the first ever female High Bailiff.

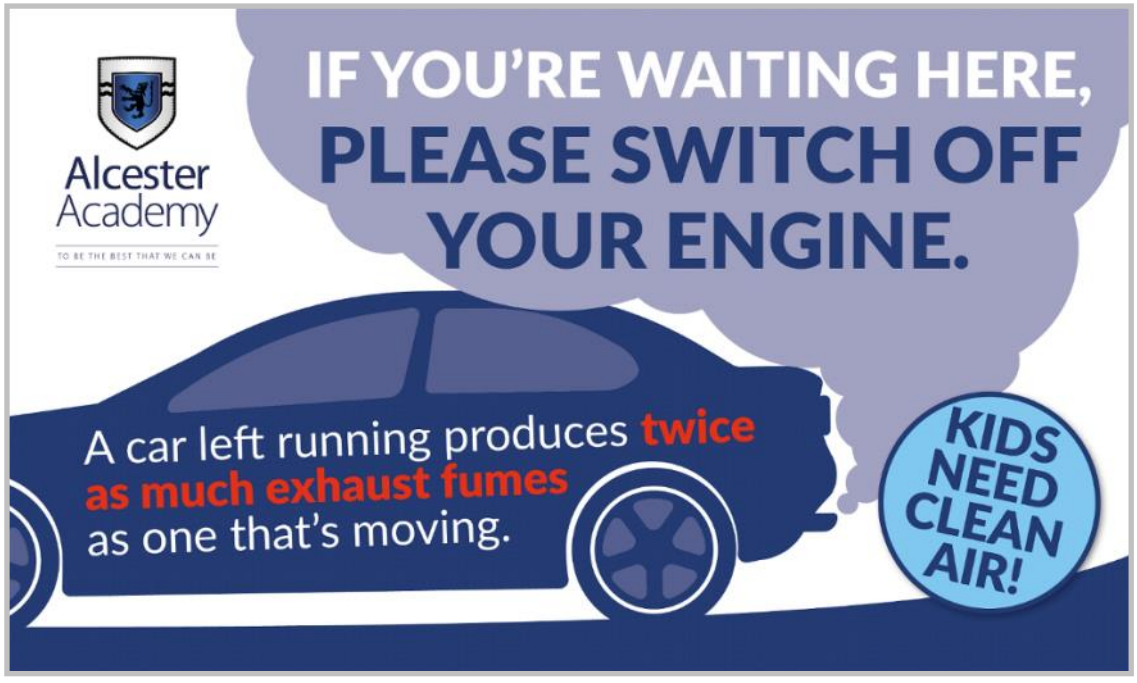
## Dates for your diary:

West End Trip—18th January 2025
Year 9 Exams—Week of 20th January 2025
Year 10 Work Experience—Week of 27th January 2025
Year 8 vaccinations—29th January 2025
PTA Bingo—Friday 31st January 2025. Tickets are on sale now.
Year 7 written reports out—4th February 2025
Year 8 Parents' Evening—6th February 2025
Year 8 Exams—Week of 10th February 2025
USA Ski trip out during February half term

As always, there are many other opportunities planned for this half term. This list certainly does not cover absolutely everything.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend ahead. Wrap up warm everyone!

Best wishes
*Sarah Mellors—Headteacher*



ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS
Family BINGO Night
Friday 31st January
Doors Open 6.30pm — Eyes down 7.00pm
1 Book (6 Games) - £2
6 Books (6 Games) - £10
HTTP://FRIENDSOFAA.SUMUPSTORE.COM/
SUPPORT US BY VISITING THE "FRIENDS" ONLINE SHOP
Bar
Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available
Pre-booking recommended.
Book now online or via the
school office.
https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

# Attendance News

**Whole School Attendance this week is 94.2%**

**Top tutors this week:**

7TN with 97% attendance

8AN and 8DA with 98% attendance

9GA with 96% attendance

10PL with 93% attendance

11MR and 11HE with 97% attendance

## Attendance Competition!

Please look out for our new attendance competition that is running from next week.

All pupils who have an absence-free week will be in the draw for some fantastic prizes. More details to follow next week!

If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Thank you, Mrs Hatcher

Alcester Academy

If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.

Alcester Academy

DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

## Parents' Evenings 2024-25

| | |
|---|---|
| **Thursday 6th February 2025** | Year 8 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud |
| **Thursday 3rd April 2025** | Year 9 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud |
| **Thursday 1st May 2025** | Year 8 Options Evening. Live in school |
| **Thursday 12th June 2025** | Year 7 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud |

SchoolCloud is the online video service

Extra Curricular Timetable
Spring 2025
Alcester Academy
Monday
Lunchtime
Mathematics Matters (Yr11)- PE1
Acoustic Group- Hut
Y8 Book Club - LRC
ART- A1 & A2
Tuesday
Lunchtime
Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
Y10/Y11- M1
Learn to Crochet -
Textiles (Student and teachers)
After School
European languages club -L2
(From Spring 2)
Wednesday
Lunchtime
Orchestra - Hut
BBC Young Reporter- E1
ART- A1 & A2
Chess club- M3
Y8/9 Scrabble CLub - LRC
After school
Detective Fiction club- E6
Cooking Club -
Alternate weeks
Thursday
Lunchtime
Young Enterprise- IT3
Pride Group- E4
Rock Band- Hut
Photography Club - A1
Year 7 Book Club - LRC
ART- A1 & A2
After School
Art Club ( GCSE only)- A1 & A2
Dance Club - Drama
Friday
Lunchtime
Youth Speaking- E4
STEM/Science- T2
Year 11 Year book-H4
ART- A1 & A2

# Epraise Leaderboard—for the past 7 days

### Top Students—past 7 days:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jake | 11MR | Billesley | 24 points |
| 2 | Alex | 9CR | Greville | 23 points |
| 3 | Ollie | 8RO | Billesley | 16 points |
| 4 | Osian | 11MR | Ragley | 14 points |
| 4 | Mae | 11MR | Ragley | 14 points |
| 6 | Poppy | 7WI | Ragley | 13 points |
| 6 | Chloe | 11GO | Billesley | 13 points |
| 8 | Austin | 7WI | Ragley | 12 points |
| 8 | Marc | 7WI | Oversley | 12 points |
| 8 | Faye | 7WI | Ragley | 12 points |

### Top House—past 7 days:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ragley | 708 points |
| 2 | Greville | 682 points |
| 3 | Billesley | 650 points |
| 4 | Oversley | 646 points |

### Top Subjects—past 7 days:

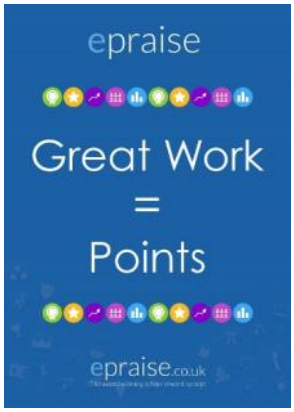
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | English | 466 points |
| 2 | Science | 352 points |
| 3 | Maths | 342 points |
| 4 | Art | 292 points |
| 5 | French | 269 points |

### Top Staff—past 7 days:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mrs Weatherley | 260 points |
| 2 | Mrs Gorner | 232 points |
| 3 | Mr Dallow | 199 points |
| 4 | Mr Martin | 194 points |
| 5 | Mr Yarrington | 185 points |

### Top Tutors—past 7 days:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7WI | 268 points |
| 2 | 11MR | 202 points |
| 3 | 9CR | 149 points |
| 4 | 7TN | 135 points |
| 5 | 9PA | 129 points |



NHS
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust

# Are you feeling down or in mental health crisis?

## Help is available to you.

SCAN ME

If you are in a mental health crisis,
**call 08081 966798**

**Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Helpline**
24/7 365 days/year
**Call 0800 616171**

**Samaritans**
24/7 365 days/year
**Call 116 123**

NHS
**Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull Talking Therapies**

**NHS Talking Therapies**
talking therapy for people with anxiety and low mood.
**To refer yourself: call 024 7667 1090 or visit:**
www.talkingtherapies.covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Recovery & Wellbeing ACADEMY

**Recovery and Wellbeing Academy**
free courses and workshops for to empower your mental health and wellbeing.
**Visit:** www.recoveryandwellbeing.co.uk

mind Coventry and Warwickshire

**Coventry and Warwickshire Wellbeing Hubs.**
**Visit:** www.cwmind.org.uk/drop-in-hubs
to find your local hub.

Dear Life
Life is dear, keep hold of it, you are not alone

**Dear Life**
local and national resources for people feeling suicidal, worried about someone who may be, or have lost someone to suicide.
**Visit:** www.dearlife.org.uk

**Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing**
self-care information to support adults, children and young people. Visit:
www.dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk

kooth

**Kooth**
online mental wellbeing community for 11-25 year olds, offering free, safe and anonymous support.
**Visit:** www.kooth.com

Qwell

**Qwell**
free digital mental wellbeing support for adults.
**Visit:** www.qwell.io

**If you feel there is an immediate risk to life: call 999 or go straight to A&E**

## Alcester Academy Term Dates

### SPRING TERM 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| *School closed* | *Monday 6th January 2025—Teacher training day* |
| Spring Term begins | Tuesday 7th January 2025 |
| Half Term | Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025 |
| Back to school | Monday 24th February 2025 |
| Spring Term ends (Easter) | Friday 11th April 2025 at 12.40pm |

### SUMMER TERM 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Summer Term begins | Monday 28th April 2025 |
| *School closed* | *Friday 2nd May 2025—Teacher training day* |
| May Bank Holiday | Monday 5th May 2025 |
| Half Term | Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025 |
| Back to school | Monday 2nd June 2025 |
| *School closed* | *Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day* |
| Summer Term ends | Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm |

# Year 11 Revision Timetables—Week A and Week B

| WEEK A | Lunch 1.50-2.20 | After school 3.30-4.15 |
|---|---|---|
| **Monday** | Biology Clinic in S6<br>*Study space - PE1* | |
| **Tuesday** | Media Studies Catch Up<br>*Study space - English department rooms*<br>History | English |
| **Wednesday** | Science - sets 3 and 4<br>*Science rooms* | French<br>DT<br>Computer Science |
| **Thursday** | ICT (iMedia)<br>*Study space - English department*<br>Religious Studies | Maths<br>German (Higher) |
| **Friday** | Geography intervention<br>*Study space - maths department* (M3) | Physics triple award sets 1 and 2 |

| WEEK B | Lunch 1.50-2.20 | After school 3.30-4.15 |
|---|---|---|
| **Monday** | *Study space - PE1* | |
| **Tuesday** | Media Studies Catch Up<br>Chemistry clinic in S1<br>*Study space - English department rooms*<br>History | Art/photography for exam prep |
| **Wednesday** | Science - sets 1 and 2 | French<br>DT<br>Computer Science |
| **Thursday** | ICT (iMedia)<br>*Study space - English department*<br>Religious Studies | German (Foundation)<br>Art/photography for exam prep |
| **Friday** | Geography intervention<br>*Study space - maths department* (M3) | Physics triple award sets 1 and 2 |

These timetables may be subject to change.

## Saturday School dates

Saturday 1st March and Saturday 8th March—with subject sessions to be confirmed.

# * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

## SPRING 1 LUNCHTIME SPORT

- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 13th January on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Lunchtime sport will follow a set timetable each half-term and run from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1)
- PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

| w/b | MON- NA | THURS - MO |
|---|---|---|
| 13/1 | KS4 Basketball | Y11 Indoor Football |
| 20/1 | KS3 Basketball | Y11 Indoor Football |
| 27/1 | KS4 Basketball | Y11 Indoor Football |
| 3/2 | KS3 Basketball | Y11 Indoor Football |

## **THIS WEEKS SPORT**: W/B 13/1/25

| Day | Extra-Curricular Club & Staff | Location |
|---|---|---|
| *Monday* | *No clubs - Staff meeting* | *N/A* |
| *Tuesday* | *Year 7 + 8 Girls Basketball (Practise to select for upcoming tournament) – NA* | *Gym* |
| *Wednesday* | *Year 9, 10 and 11 SW Girls Basketball tournament – PE/PW* | *AGS* |
| | *Year 11 Football – NA/MO* | *Field* |
| *Thursday* | *Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics (Practise to select for upcoming competition) – MO/PE* | *Gym* |

# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

## Message from Alcester Town Court Leet

Following on from the success of last year's event, the Court Leet and White Hart Morris Men will be holding a traditional Wassail at Alcester Community Orchard on Saturday 18th January 2025.

There will be a torch lit procession from the Eric Payne Centre. We will gather there at 4.00pm where you will have an opportunity to make your own nature crown, sing some traditional Wassail songs, watch Morris dancing and meet the Winter Queen and Holly King. The procession will begin at 5pm led by the Morris Men.

The ancient tradition of the apple wassail is to awaken the trees from their Winter sleep and to bless them in song and rhyme so that they will bear a good crop for us later in the year. This year we are pleased to say we had a bumper harvest! We will adorn the old apple tree with ribbons and hang cider-soaked toast in the branches and make lots of noise with pots and pans.
Please come to this joyful event for families with your homemade nature crowns. There will be a prize for the best children's crown.

Hot dogs will be on sale for the adults. Alcester Town Council have kindly agreed to sponsor us so that we can provide a free hot dog for the children. There will also be cider, beers and juices. It is essential that you dress in warm clothes and wear wellies. Please bring a torch for the walk back from the orchard. The orchard will be lit with festoon lights.

Bring a pot or saucepan to bang with a spoon to make some noise. Wassail! (Good health!)

Best wishes
Rosa Burden
Court Leet Wassail Committee

# TEXT ACADEMY

Alcester Academy

**Report incidents of bullying, theft, cyber issues, crime or anti-social behaviour**

**I'm being bullied - I don't know what to do -**

*text your message to: 07563130478*

*or*

*email your message to:*

*textacademy@alcesteracademy.org.uk*

**07563130478**

## *A message for children and parents about risks of ice and never to go onto ice from the RoSPA*

***The link below offers useful safety advice:***

***https://www.rospa.com/leisure-water-safety/water/advice/ice***

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ROSPA accidents don't have to happen

Beware - thin ice