Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



10th November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after half term. I hope that you had a lovely break.

Firstly, I would like to say how grateful I am for the 138.5kg of food generated for Arden Food Bank on the day that we broke up.

Wow! It is such an important cause and we will continue to support this.

I am looking forward to seeing many students in Alcester on Sunday for the Remembrance Parade. I know that so many local organisations are supported by our students and families. Mr Cooke spoke about this theme in assemblies this week.

Thank you if you have contributed to the wonderful display outside school. We have currently raised £226 with the Purple poppies and £231 with the Red poppies.



Credit goes to Mr Yarrington and Mr Kirby for supporting this wonderful array of colour. Congratulations to those students who took part in the half term activity too. The work completed was stunning.





For your information on average 6-7kgs is given to each individual. During the week of 25th October 2023, Arden Food Bank gave out 313.7kgs of food to 29 adults and 20 children. All of your donations are very much appreciated.



What's inside this week...

Page 9 Half term activity commemorating Remembrance Day

Page 10 Year 8 Speaking Competition report

Pages 19, 20 & 21 Sports News

In other news this week, our year 11s headed off to the National School and College Leaver Festival at the NEC on Tuesday. I was overwhelmed by the students' goodie bags which included water bottles, socks, post it notes, pens and model aircraft! I was thrilled to hear from them regarding how positive this event had been. Miss Bartlett has written more about it later on. Thank you to KES for speaking to year 11s today in assembly about their sixth form provision.

We were delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Alcester yesterday, Councillor Vaughan Blake and his Consort. Year 10 students Charlie and Darcie toured the school with the Mayor, and our new Young Enterprise Company in year 10 presented their ideas for this year; Silva Organix is their name. Councillor Vaughan was pivotal in securing funding for us to continue to run Young Enterprise this year. We are very grateful.







Goodbye and thank you Mrs Spicer!

Today we say farewell to Mrs Spicer, one of our midday supervisors. I'm extremely grateful for everything Mrs Spicer has done to support students in her time with us. We'll miss you lots!

Welcome!

Conversely, we welcome two new midday supervisors to the team—Mrs Timofte and Mrs Hopkins.

I hope that you'll be really happy with us at Alcester Academy!



Congratulations to year 7s

Year 7s had a celebration assembly on Wednesday this week to recognise their first, fabulous half term with us. Congratulations to all students.

Year 7 House badges

It was lovely to be in Miss Sacco's assembly yesterday where our year 7s got their new House badges. Would you believe that it had been twenty years since the Houses were first introduced? Thanks to Mr Millen for being our honorary presenter!

Tickets now on sale!

Have you secured your Aladdin and Rock Academy tickets yet? Please visit the School Gateway to avoid disappointment!





Headlines over half term

There were a few national headlines that caught my eye over half term that might be of interest to you all.

Fewer children walking to school, targets unmet

Fewer children are walking to school than six years ago meaning the Department for Transport's objectives to increase active travel rates by 2025 are unlikely to be achieved. The targets sought to increase the percentage of children aged five to ten who usually walk to school from 49% in 2014 to 55% in 2025. The Daily Telegraph & The Times

Social media platforms will be required to deactivate any under-aged children's account

The Digital Secretary Michelle Donelan has said teenagers will have to prove they are over 13 to be on social media in the same way that supermarkets demand ID checks to buy alcohol. In an interview with *The Telegraph* to mark this week's royal assent of the Online Safety Act, Donelan said she expected social media platforms to model their age checks for children on Challenge 25 where shops require ID to buy alcohol if they suspect you are younger. She said social media firms will be expected to deactivate any under-aged children's account or face "humongous" fines for failing in their statutory duty to enforce age limits. She also warned social media bosses they would face jail if there was a repeat of the Molly Russell scandal, said she expected social media firms to stamp out misogyny and pledged there would be no compromise on encryption where it put children's safety at risk from paedophiles. The Daily Telegraph

Trips

Just a reminder following our communication before half term that our published deadlines for trips will be honoured from now on. With regret, we cannot extend these, or add students on to trips at short notice any longer. This just puts too much pressure on to administrative procedures. The students have all been told this too.

D of E

Congratulations to our new year 10 cohort for their first session with Rezilient today.









During the October half term both Shannon in 9BI and Scarlett in 7WI completed a charity glow walk in Evesham in aid of The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust. Congratulations to both students. We are very proud indeed.

Christmas jumper day— Save the Children

We will be celebrating this day on Friday 22nd December, not on the national day – 7th. I



adore watching the students arrive to school in their jumpers! Donations can be made nearer the time on School Gateway with thanks.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you a sombre and thoughtful weekend ahead. We'll go from the joys of bingo tonight, into the excitement of rehearsals tomorrow and then the reflection of the events for the 11th and Sunday.



With best wishes,

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher







Epraise Leaderboard

Top Students—this week:

1	Alfie	7LX	19 points
1	Immy	9SA	19 points
3	Noah	7RA	18 points
3	Georgia	9BW	18 points
5	Jamie	10PW	17 points
5	Sam	9BW	17 points
7	Tilly	8SI	16 points
7	Alex	8SI	16 points
7	Isabella	7RA	16 points
7	Dylan	9SA	16 points

Student Leaderboard:

1	Noah	7RA	131 points
2	Zachery	7KO	128 points
3	Harry	8TY	121 points
4	Chloe	7KO	114 points
4	Amber	7WI	114 points
6	Maddie	7KO	112 points
6	Alfie	7LX	112 points
8	Alex	8SI	110 points
9	Ethan	7KO	108 points
10	Isabella	7RA	107 points

Top Tutor—this week:

1	7LX	232 points
2	7TN	226 points
3	7RA	225 points
4	7WI	209 points
4	7KO	209 points

Top Staff—this week:

1	Miss Lewis	401 points
2	Mrs Gorner	370 points
3	Mr Yarrington	347 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	275 points
5	Mr Martin	258 points

Top Subjects—this week:

1	English	853 points
2	Maths	492 points
3	History	412 points
4	Science	407 points
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5	Art	331 points



epraise





ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS



Family



Doors Open 6.30pm - Eyes down 7.00pm

1 Book (6 Games) - £2

6 Books (6 Games) - £10



Bar Tuck Shop & Snacks available

Pre-booking recommended.

Book now online or via the school office.

https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

Dates for your diary this half term

Week of 20th November—Year 8 Exam Focus Week.

Week of 27th November—Year 8 exams in the hall.

Tuesday 21st November—Aladdin matinee for primary schools.

Wednesday 22nd- Friday 24th November—Aladdin performances. Tickets needed.

Thursday 23rd November—Friends PTA meeting online at 7pm.

Tuesday 28th November—Rock Academy Concert. Greig Hall. Tickets needed.

Wednesday 29th November—Previous Year 11 certificate collection at 4-5pm.

Friday 1st November—D of E training. Year 10.

Friday 1st November/Monday 4th November—Year 11 core mocks in class.

Tuesday 5th December—Year 10 CV writing workshop.

Thursday 7th December—Year 11 Parent Forum online. Revision for mocks.

Wednesday 13th December—Year 10 mock interview.

Thursday 7th December—Year 10 Parents' Evening. Online.

Monday 18th December—Year 9 Super Learning Day. Medical Mavericks.

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December—Rewards Trips. No communication has been sent out yet.

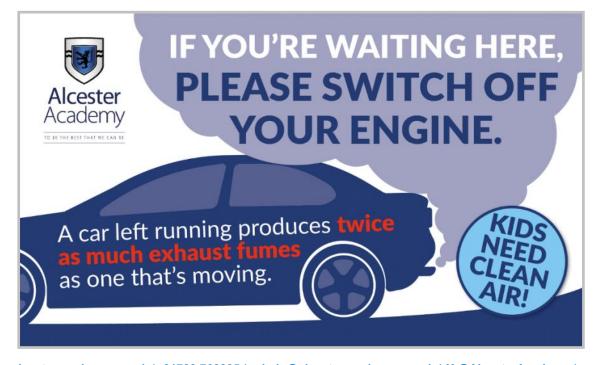
Year 8 written reports out before term ends.

Friday 22nd December—Break up for Christmas at 12.40pm. One way road system in operation.

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children.

This is not an exhaustive list. Just a guide for you.

We will advertise Christmas dinner days nearer the end of term.



Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Back to school Monday 6th November 2023

Autumn Term ends Friday 22nd December 2023 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2024

School closed Monday 8th January 2024

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024

Back to school Monday 19th February 2024

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2024

Summer Term begins Monday 8th April 2024

May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2024

Back to school Monday 3rd June 2024

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2024 at 12.40pm



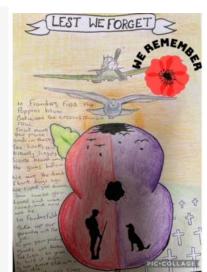
Students were tasked over the half term holiday to design and create colourful rocks, stones and paintings or pictures to commemorate Remembrance Day 2023.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We have received absolutely stunning remembrance pieces that mark this special day beautifully and gives a real essence of community and cultural inclusion.

Miss McKenzie



























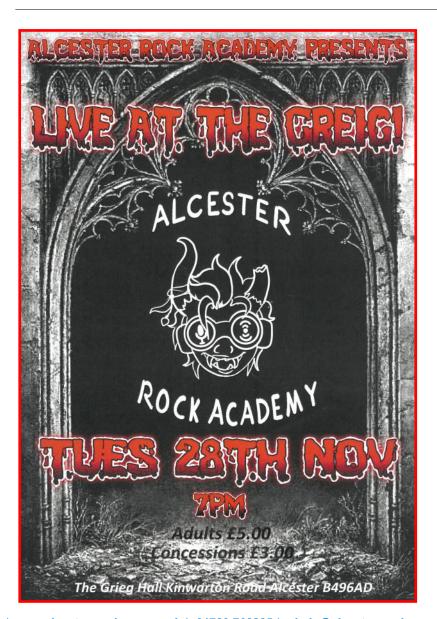
Speaking Competition

On the last day before half term, year 8 had their Speaking Competition within English. We did this virtually and we were so proud of the effort, respect and dedication that they all showed to the competition.

Fifteen of our year 8s entered the competition, and we had speeches varying from the gender pay gap within society, to the crisis that is vegetable mental health! Congratulations to our three winners; each speech was well thought out and was presented brilliantly (even though virtually!).







Live music gig

Alcester Rock Academy— Live at the Greig is on Tuesday 28th November from 7pm, at the Greig Hall, Alcester.

Tickets are now on sale on the School Gateway.

Adults—£5 Concessions—£3

Come along and support our musicians!

Mr Badham

Photography Work of the Week

I have been studying Jo Whaley for my GCSE photography project.

To achieve an edit inspired by this photographer,
I carried out a photoshoot at Stratford Butterfly Farm. I used Photoshop
to edit my images. See below the RAW/Edited versions.

Mim—year 10 photography student





Teacher of English

Starting January 2024 (or as soon afterwards as possible)
MPS/UPS considered

Closing Date: Friday 8th December 2023 at 12 noon

Interviews: Week commencing 11th December 2023



A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding English department within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally as a result of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and thoroughly supportive teaching team who work in collaboration with a highly successful English department. At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes. The English department is proud of the progress that students make. A cohesive group of 6 teachers and one specialist teaching assistant and a team who have an established record of excellent results.

In 2023, the English outcomes were:

English and Maths 4+=86% English and Maths 5+=59% Total Attainment 8=54.9 English 4+=94% English 5+=80% English 7+=35% English 1+=35% English 1+=35% English 1+=35%

This is a permanent post (subject to a successful probation period). Applicants will be considered from all points of experience, including early career teachers. If you feel that Alcester Academy could be for you, please contact the Subject Leader, Hayley Farnell, for an informal discussion and/or school tour, or simply complete the application form. More details regarding this post and an application pack are available by emailing: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post.

Teacher of Science (Maternity Cover)

Salary: TMS Location: Alcester, Warwickshire

Contract Type: Full Time

Contract Term: Temporary (maternity cover)

Required: From February 2024 (start date negotiable)

Closing Date: Friday 8th December 2023 at 12 noon



A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding science department within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally as a result of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and supportive science team as maternity cover. At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes.

The science department is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; in 2022 results far exceeded National Averages: P8 for the whole school was +0.46 and science achieved a VA of +0.55. In 2023 86% achieved a minimum of 2 grade 4s in science with 71% achieving at least 2 grade 5s. Applicants will be considered from all points of experience, including early career teachers. In Key Stage 3, teachers would have sole responsibility for a class and are expected to deliver all content. At Key Stage 4, teachers are given more opportunity to teach within their specialist area. As a small department, flexibility and teamwork is particularly important. An ability to teach physics at Key Stage 4 would be desirable, however not essential. At KS4 both combined and triple science is offered. We currently work with AQA.

If you feel that Alcester Academy could be for you, please feel free to arrange a conversation or a school tour with our Head of Science, Debbie Marshall or simply complete the application form. More details regarding this post and an application pack is available by emailing: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post.

Teaching Assistant

Full Time Working term time only (39 weeks including 5 Teacher Training days)
Scale F range 6-11 FTE £21,968 starting salary (Actual pro rata £18,811)



Starting: ASAP

Closing date: Thursday 16th November 2023 at 5.00pm

Learning Support at Alcester Academy

Working under the supervision of the responsible teacher, assist and support teaching and learning, working with individuals or groups, and assist in providing general care, safety and welfare for pupils.

The Post

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days). We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. Please send your completed application to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The application deadline is 5.00pm on Thursday 16th November 2023. Interviews take place week commencing 20th November. Provisionally 22nd November 2023.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post.

Second i/c of maths

MPS/UPS + TLR Subject to experience

Closing Date: Friday 8th December 2023 12 noon Interviews: Week commencing 11th December 2023



The School

Alcester Academy is a highly successful 11-16 school with 647 students currently on roll. Alcester is located between Studley and Stratford-Upon-Avon. The school has an excellent reputation based on examination results, a progressive approach to educational development and a strong sense of community. At our last inspection, Ofsted judged us good with a view to returning very soon in order to re-assess this decision towards an outstanding judgement. The schools' overall Progress 8 score for 2019 was 0.77, which once again places us as one of the top performing non selective schools in Warwickshire, and in the top 5% nationally. In 2022, the Progress 8 score for the school was +0.46.

The school has a new leadership team and we consider that the welfare of staff is of paramount importance.

Further details about the school can be found on our website, including our current curriculum information. Our X feed (@AlcesterAcademy) is another excellent source for a feel of the school.

The Post

This is an exciting opportunity for a strong middle leader with a proven track record of exemplary student outcomes. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate experience of effective leadership and ambition towards future management in a Middle Leadership position, and a willingness to contribute to the whole staff team. Flexibility and the ability to innovate are desirable qualities, along with energy and capacity for hard work. The successful candidate will have a good understanding of what effective Teaching & Learning looks like for children of all abilities and be committed to enable all students to access the curriculum in order to fulfil their academic potential. They will be able to engage and enthuse students of all aptitudes. Resilience and drive are desirable qualities in order to ensure that students at Alcester Academy are provided with the very best life opportunities possible.

The National School and College Leavers Festival visit

On Tuesday, year 11 visited the NEC to take part in The National School and College Leavers Festival 2023. This annual event showcases all opportunities including apprenticeships, further and higher education, graduate schemes, entry level roles, and general employment. Offering visitors the chance to engage with top employers, colleges, universities and training providers in a face-to-face, interactive environment. The National School and College Leaver Shows are the perfect opportunity for school and college leavers to discover more about post-school and post-college opportunities. Students engaged in many practical situations ranging from laser quest to operating various modes of transport including a helicopter. They were then able

to register their interest in various carers using a QR code system meaning that they can investigate in further detail once at home.

With a plethora of freebies on offer a great day was had by all and everyone came home with a wide range of gifts.

Miss Bartlett





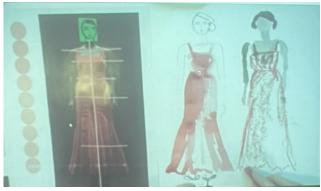
GCSE Textiles webinar

Students took part in a webinar through the V&A Museum this week learning about the career of a fashion illustrator. They had a walk through of the Chanel exhibition where they saw work from throughout her career. They learnt about the fabrics and decoration she used and how she used these to create the iconic look for example, the buttons she used in her work had her star sign on them and were usually gold.

The students then had the opportunity to learn how to draw some of Chanel's famous pieces including a suit and a dress. *Miss Wincup*







Attendance News

Whole School Attendance: 94.3%

Top tutors this week:

7LX with 95.4% attendance 8GA with 99.5% attendance 9SA with 94.3% attendance 10SO with 99.5% attendance 11MO with 100% attendance—fab!

Top House this week:

Oversley with 95.5%

Reminder

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.





Year 11 Revision

Please find attached our revision timetable for this half term. $Mr\ Cooke$

Day	Core LUNCH	Core AFTER SCHOOL
Monday	Study Room M5	
Tuesday	Study Room S5	English
Wednesday	Study Room E2 Or Science	Science
Thursday	Study Room E2	Maths









* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

This week's sport roundup: Inter-area Cross Country 4th November

Many congratulations to our eight athletes who achieved District Colours in representing South Warwickshire in Cross Country last Saturday. Despite the awful conditions, all did us extremely proud in representing both Alcester Academy and the local District Schools in wider competition.

A huge well done in particular to Will and Marijke in year 9 who finished as race winners and will progress to represent the County team in future events – well done all! Thank you also to Mrs Powell for supporting the students on the day during the half-term break!

Ethan, Noah and Isabella—year 7 Toby and Harry—year 8 Will and Marijke—year 9 Ed—year 10



Our U13 Girls have done us proud in the National Cup this year. A great experience for all and fantastic to see so many year 7s playing up an age group.

Unfortunately for the girls, they met a formidable opponent in the Crypt School from Gloucester who will be one of the favourites for the competition and despite us not progressing, the girls showed an incredible team spirit and determination particularly within the second half of the match.

U14/U16 Girls Football Tournament

Adding to another brilliant week for our girl's football teams were the participation of our U14 and U16 teams in the district tournament at Stratford School.

Some brilliant football was played by both teams and positive finishing positions with our U14s finishing 3rd and our U16s just being edged out to 4th on goal difference. Fantastic to see so many girls taking up the opportunity to play football and the enthusiasm and commitment shown on the pitch.











* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



HT 2 LUNCHTIME SPORT



- · Lunchtime sports clubs to start <u>w/b Monday 6th November</u> on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- 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 <u>suitable footwear</u> to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MONDAY - PE	TUESDAY- MO	WEDNESDAY - PW
6/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS3 Basketball
13/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS4 Basketball
20/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS3 Basketball
27/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS4 Basketball
4/12/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS3 Basketball
11/12/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS4 Basketball

After School Sport



THIS WEEK'S SPORT: W/B 13/11/23



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Level 2 Boys Indoor Rowing Competition - MO/PW/PE	Gym
Tuesday	External Archery Coaching (Selective) – PW	Gym
	KS3 Girls Football – External coach	Field
	Year 7 and 8 Rugby – MO	Field
Wednesday	Year 7 Basketball Tournament – PW	AGS
	Year 9, 10 + 11 Girls Netball - PE	Courts
	Year 9 Football v Kineton - MO	Kineton
Thursday	Year 7 + 8 Girls Netball – PE/MR	Courts
	Year 10 Football - MO	Field

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Year 8 South Warks Basketball Football Tournament

Our year 8 ballers were excited to get the season underway at the annual South Warks Basketball tournament at AGS.

Despite some rustiness in play early on, the lads grew in confidence with each game and soon got back to the free-flowing basketball played last year in the junior NBA competition.

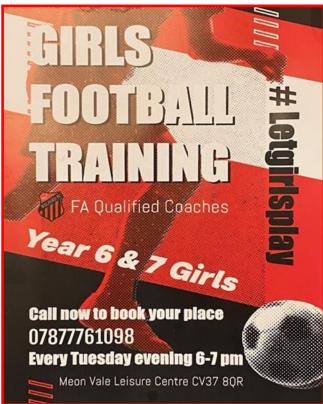
With many club basketball players in attendance on the evening the competition and standard was strong from schools across the district.

Our year 8 team finished with a very respectable 4th place finish and look forward to the season ahead.

Mr Moffatt







Extra Curricular Clubs



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Free Alcester Employment, Skills and Training Event



Are you looking for work?
Perhaps a career change, or do you want to learn something new to level up your skills and improve your chances of employability?

We have invited a variety of local employers, training providers and employment support agencies to help you kick start your next steps.

Come and explore full time, part time and apprenticeship positions in your local area and get support to reach your full potential!

Everyone is welcome!

Monday 13 November 2023 4pm to 6:30pm

Eric Payne Community Centre
Jubilee Fields, St Faith Road
Alcester B49 6AG



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Shakespeare's School welcomes applications from both male and female students who seek:

- · Academic challenge and success
- A wide range of subjects, often in very small classes, taught by specialist teachers
- Expert preparation for entry to leading universities
- A high level of competitive sport, with national and international competitions and tours
- Outstanding music tuition for ensemble and solo performers
- Critically-acclaimed drama performed on the national stage
- The opportunity for overseas travel, undertaking field trips, work experience, exchanges and expeditions
- To be part of a thriving Sixth Form community and to participate in a vast array of activities including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Young Enterprise, LAMDA Speaking in Public, Sports leadership and volunteering

To find out more, please join us to meet staff and current students
For further details please visit www.kes.net/admissions

Purse allow planty of time for parking. Regretably only disabled parking is available on allo.

Please visit our website to pre-register your attendance at our Stoth Form Open Evening through our on-line booking system, Ticket Source, accessed at the bottom of our home page.

Whilst pre-registration is not essential it will speed up your registration on the evening. Thank you.

Chapel Lane, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 68E | T: 01789 293 351

We assure wished invite

Scan this QR code to Pre-Register to attend this event.



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



School is a place where young people often experience anxiety for several reasons. Some people may worry about making friends or fitting in, have difficulty understanding school work, or feeling exam pressure.

School-Related Anxiety Warning Signs:

- Not sleeping well
- Feeling sick or complaining of butterflies in their stomach
- Not wanting to get out of bed in the morning
- Increased anger or upset at school or home

More information about self-soothe boxes!



It is common that young people show symptoms of school-related anxiety in evenings or early mornings before school. The first step to supporting your child is to understand what is causing these feelings.

Top tip: Some children may find it difficult to be asked direct questions about their feelings. Try creating a mind map with them about school, including everything that is on their mind.

Strategies to Try at Home:

Keep a record of patterns in behaviours to share with the school's Mental Health Lead

