

Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



10th December 2021

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope that you had a productive week. Things are gearing up here for the end of term and Christmas. Please scan through this bulletin to be sure not to miss out on a few key updates for next week.



I am grateful to the staff who supported the year 7 and year 8 trips this week. These are highlighted later on in the bulletin for you. It is so lovely to return to theatre trips again. The German Market is always a popular trip too and we make sure that there is a language theme to this.

Many congratulations

Congratulations to our Greig Hall student teams for their hard work last Saturday. Our students were on traffic control and car parking duties from 8am! We had year 10 students selling for their Young Enterprise Company and then year 8s as *Liv's Angels* (with Charlie as an honorary angel for the day too!) The year 10s instantly sold out of their fabulous bees wax food wraps, and our year 8s took £400 on the day. This will go towards Asthma UK and Red Wings Horse Sanctuary for Liv Worrallo. It was such a super event. I was delighted to see so many of you throughout the day. Miss Buckthorp managed to join us too. She is now back in school on a phased return until Christmas. I would be grateful if you would try not to overwhelm her with emails straight away. Many thanks.



Coronavirus

Statistics today are:

Year 7—1 case
Year 8—2 case
Year 9—1 case
Year 10—1 case
Year 11—0 cases

Please can I ask for your support in using LFT before children go on coaches for trips next week. I know that the staff would be grateful for this as well as our families. Supporting each other right now is key. The advice remains the same; please get a PCR test if you are in any doubt. Maintain your updates to me until the end of term please with a view to reporting positive cases. After that, let me know from Tuesday 5th January 2022 should you need to report cases from over the holiday period.

We will insist that students going on end of term trips wear a face covering in order to protect each other, your families and staff. Thank you.

There are several staff members now that have tested positive and won't be in until the new year. We are thinking of them and all families affected by covid right now.

Safeguarding over the Christmas break

We will leave key details of who you can contact for support over the Christmas period on the website homepage.



Warwickshire
Safeguarding
Children

<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children>

To contact the *Front Door* services please
call: 01926 414144.

Lines are open:
Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm,
Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.

As always, in an emergency, I will respond to you. I will be attempting to take some time off with my family at some point too.

Contacting staff

We have had two recent occasions of parents trying to contact staff about school matters via their social media accounts. I know that the majority of you completely respect the privacy of staff and this is just a gentle reminder of the boundaries in place.

Cold Weather

I know that I'm in a more senior phase of life when I am wondering where coats have gone! We do have cold weather provision for students to be indoors, but I would advise that students wear a coat to school please. We have said for many years now that hoodies are not permitted items to wear. If uniform can be updated as needed over the Christmas break, I'd be very grateful.

Nose studs are not permitted in school.

End of term

Students should be in school uniform next week on days when they are not ice skating. For trips, suitable attire can be worn other than uniform. On Thursday it is a non uniform day. Students

need to bring an item for the food bank collection please. See the allocated items at the end of the bulletin. These will be collected on the way into school.



Friday is *Christmas Jumper Day*. We take this very seriously at Alcester Academy. No jumper can be too bold, too bright or too Christmassy please! Andy in year 11 holds the record for wearing an entire Christmas Suit in year 8. It was just fantastic! Proceeds will be split between Save The Children and Liv's charities; Asthma UK and Red Wings. You can donate on the Gateway.



We finish at 12.40pm on Friday. For new parents, we do operate a one way vehicle route in order to assist picking the students up. This has worked very well for several years now. We use Captain's Hill to enter Gerard Road and leave via Gerard Road and Throckmorton. Please tell grandparents about this if they are collecting children.

Christmas dinners will be on sale for students on Wednesday and Thursday.

Very sadly, we have chosen to cancel the live church concert on Wednesday after hearing about PLAN B. We will offer you a recorded version at the end of term.

We welcome Miss Knowles as a new staff member next week who joins us for a hand over before Miss Bishop's maternity leave starts.

Goodbye Mr Sentance

I'm sure that you will join with me in wishing Mr Sentance, Principal at AGS, the very best for his early retirement. I have enjoyed a very positive working relationship with Mr Sentance since becoming the Headteacher here. I'm grateful for his support of our year 11 students choosing AGS for post 16. All the best Mr Sentance from the Alcester Academy community.

Thank you Mrs Craig

On behalf of the school community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cari Craig for her term as a school governor. Cari has been the Chair of our Finance and Audit Committee in

recent years, as well as holding the role as CFO for the Trust. Cari has spent hours and hours of her time volunteering to help the school in numerous ways. We will miss her energy and sparkly personality very much indeed. Cari has been a particular support to me in the early days of headship and I will miss this very much indeed.

Many thanks to the full governing body for their continued support of our students.

Many congratulations to the year 11s who presented their recent *Project SOS* to the Full Governing Body this week. We were all extremely proud of them.

Year 10 exams

Year 10 have now had their exam timetable in readiness for the January exams season.

Year 11

The majority of our year 11s have now completed their mocks and we look forward to revealing the results at Parents' Evening live on Thursday 6th January 2022 (covid permitting).

Year 11 Parents Evening

At this moment we are planning a live Parents Evening on Thursday 6th January 2022 for year 11 mock results. *If PLAN B* should develop further over Christmas, we are ready at a moments notice

to see parents via School Cloud. I know that this is not ideal but a necessary contingency right now.

Road Safety

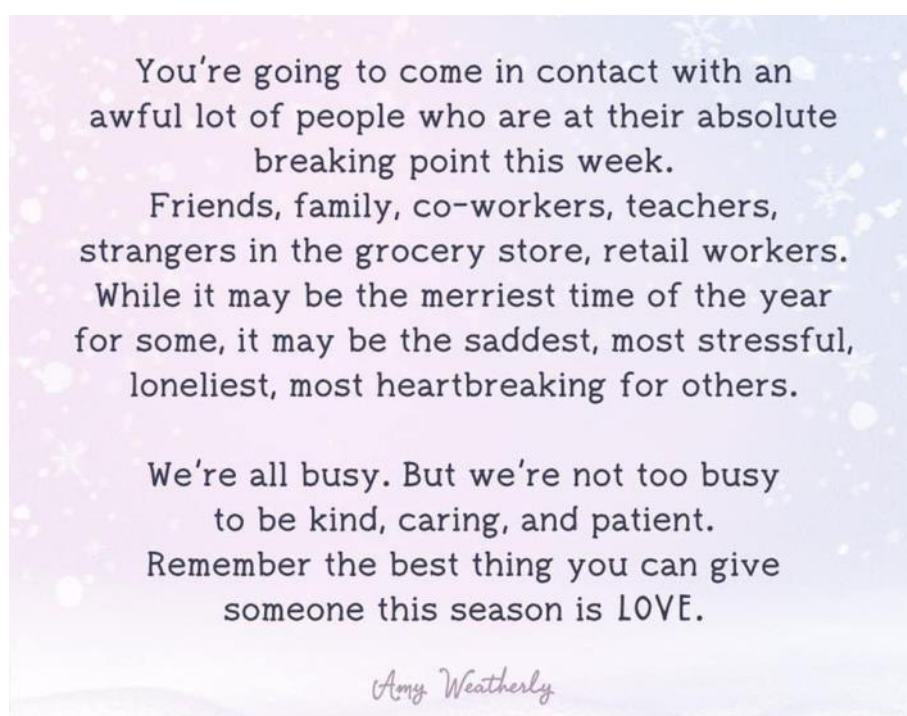
Following another very nearly serious accident on Wednesday with children sharing cycles/scooters, I am now insisting that students wishing to ride to school wear helmets. This is now non negotiable on safety grounds. Thank you.

The tweet below struck a chord with me when I saw it last night. How true this is as a time when we are all preoccupied and wrapped up in season busyness.

I'm very grateful to the staff for everything that they have put in to this term for the students. After a disrupted 18 months, they have pulled out all of the stops to pack in as many opportunities as possible for them all. We are all looking forward to a really lovely end of term with the students next week.

Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead. Card writing and wrapping ahead for me with a few cheeky mince pies!

Best wishes
Sarah Mellors
Headteacher



Epraise Updates—past 7 days

epraise

Top Students this week:

1	Charlie	9ST	26 points
1	Jack	10BI	26 points
1	Jake	7WI	26 points
4	Jessica	8HL	25 points
4	Rachel	9YA	25 points
4	Luke	10LE	25 points
7	Ruby	9BL	24 points
7	Devan	7HT	24 points
9	Sophie	9YA	23 points
9	Emmeline	10AN	23 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	Geography	453 points
2	PE	368 points
3	Art	282 points
4	Science	227 points
5	English	215 points
6	Maths	166 points
7	IT	152 points
8	Btec Pe	103 points
9	French	82 points
10	Philosophy & Ethics	66 points

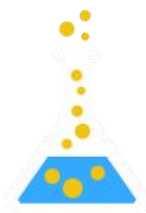
Well done everyone! Mrs Mellors

Top Tutor Groups—past 7 days:

1	7HT	185 points
2	9YA	183 points
3	10MA	178 points
4	7SI	173 points
5	8KA	168 points
6	8HL	158 points
7	8SO	157 points
8	10BI	155 points
9	7WI	152 points
10	7TY	141 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mrs Mellors	540 points
2	Mr Powell	447 points
3	Mr Bowater	347 points
4	Mr Yarrington	307 points
5	Mr Martin	278 points
6	Miss Lewis	234 points
7	Miss Cooper	180 points
8	Mrs Stedman	111 points
9	Mrs Weatherley	89 points
10	Miss Heitmuller	73 points



Year 7 reviews of *A Christmas Carol*

The English department took our year 7s to see *A Christmas Carol* at The Albany Theatre in Coventry.

When we returned to school, we asked pupils to write a review of the performance.



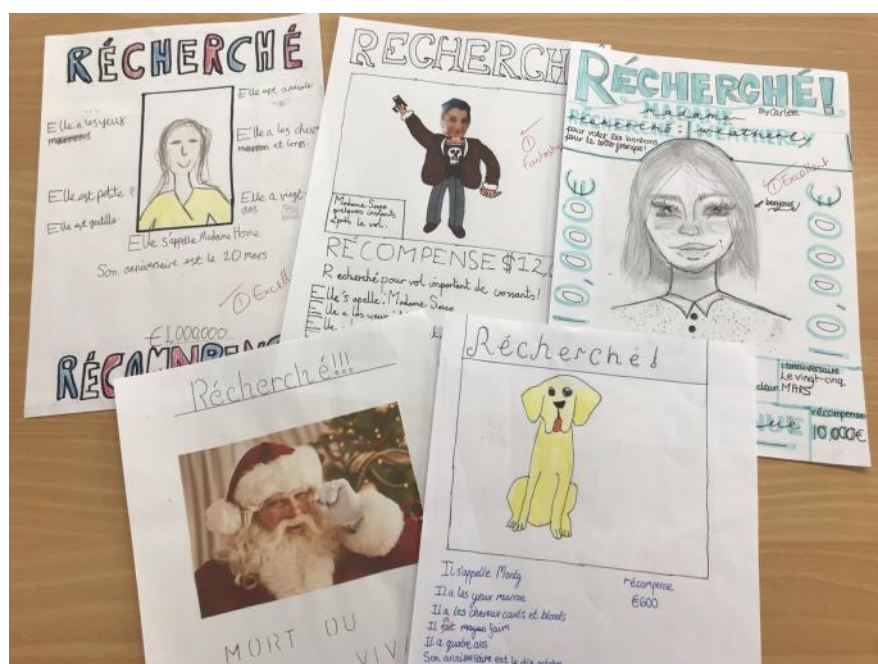
In my opinion, A Christmas Carol was absolutely amazing!! My favourite part in particular was where the last ghost appeared, The ghost of Christmas yet to come - Carlee

I absolutely LOVED A Christmas Carol at the theatre. The way the scenery moved was very clever and it was funny and sad in places. And the Ghost of Christmas Yet to come was SCARY! - Dylan

Overall, I think the Christmas Carol show was AMAZING. I really like the use of props, how they acted with Tiny Tim as a doll and the ghost of Christmas future was amazing! - Kian

It was an enjoyable, fun play! All the actors knew what they were doing and on top of that they did it well. Whoever produced it did a good job! The best part was when they brought out Tiny Tim on a stick, everyone laughed. 5 Stars! - Jacob

Les étudiants de MFL créent des affiches Wanted!



Well done to year 7 French students for their creative and imaginative Wanted posters.

Mrs Weatherley



End of term diary

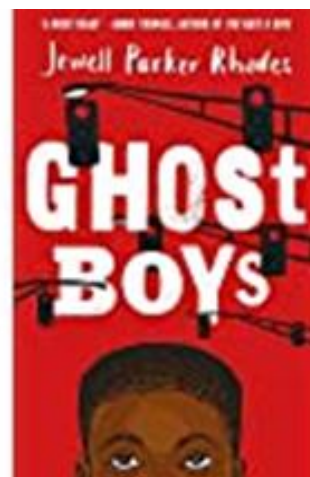
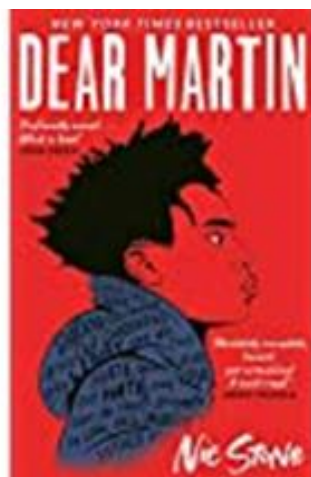
Monday 13 th December	Christmas Reward Trip Day (Not year 11 as some have a last Media mock exam) Christmas Concert Rehearsal Period 3-5 (year 10 and 11)
Tuesday 14 th December	Christmas Reward Trip Day Year 9 Panto Day (Rehearsal and viewing online stream of Panto) Christmas Concert Rehearsal (Year 7, 8 and 9)
Wednesday 15 th December	Concert rehearsals (All day) Christmas Concert — St Nicholas Church—to be recorded Christmas Dinner — Students
Thursday 16 th December	Food Bank collection in exchange for non uniform Year 9 Panto Day — Performing to Y7s (Perf p4/5) Year 7, 8 and 9 Reports out Christmas Dinner — Students
Friday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day for Asthma UK remembering Liv Worrallo Normal period 1 and 2 Period 3 — tutor time with certificates and awards Early finish 12.40pm

Our English department wish list

Thinking about buying a book as a gift this Christmas? Why not buy one for our English department? We are keen to expand our selection of class readers but funds are short!

Check out our Amazon Wish List if you think you can help

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1GOJVLAIZSRFT?ref=wl_share



World Scout Jamboree 2023 to South Korea

Hi I'm Toby, I'm in year 10 and in my spare time I am part of Monkey's Fist Explorers Scout Group in Alcester.

A couple of months ago, I applied for the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in Saemangeum, South Korea. The World Scout Jamboree is an international camp, where thousands of scouts from all over the world meet. They do lots of activities, make new friends, try new food, and all in all have an amazing time. I applied and was asked to go to the selection day!



just about held it together whilst on the phone. After the call ended I started running round the house, screaming, and crying with happiness. This was my dream, and this was a once in a life time opportunity. I am so happy and so grateful for the chance to go. The camp is about three weeks long. I feel so privileged and excited and cannot wait to go!

I now need to raise £3500 to fund the trip. I will be doing a number of things in the next year – cake sales, sponsored bike rides and other activities. If you are feeling generous,

The day was full of team building activities, which included teaching a skill, spaghetti tower, toxic waste challenge and building a shelter. Finally we moved onto the final task which was to make a promise to the planet. This included learning about the environment and how we can save it.

my JustGiving link is below. Just copy and paste into your browser. Thank you for reading!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/toby-james?utm_term=RJx8we6Qr

JustGiving™

Three days later, whilst I was doing homework, I received a phone call and was told that I had made it through to the Jamboree! I was so excited, and

A message from Mrs Mellors – We are very proud of you Toby!



Term Dates 2021—2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Autumn Term ends Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2022

School closed Tuesday 4th January 2022—Teacher training day

Spring Term begins

Years 7, 8 and 10 in school Wednesday 5th January 2022

Years 9 and 11 in school Thursday 6th January 2022

All students back in school Friday 7th January 2022

Half Term Monday 21st – Friday 25th February 2022

Back to school Monday 28th February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 8th April 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022

Back to school Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Term ends Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 12.40pm

[2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Date and Time	Subject	Duration
Monday 13th December		
8.50am	Media Paper 2	1hr 30
1.20pm	No exams	

School Attendance — up to 9.12.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
91.7%	92.8%	92.2%	90.2%	90.0%	91.4%

This week's top Tutor Groups

7RA – 93.8%, 8KA – 94.4%, 9BW – 95.9%, 10LE – 97.5% and 11HK – 97.0%

Well done! Mrs Hodges

Artwork of the Week



A biro piece of artwork by Jake, year 10, focusing upon creases as part of his GCSE coursework. Great detailed work! *Mr Yarrington*

Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable September 2021 – July 2022

Year 11

Mock Results & Parents' Evening — Thursday 6th January 2022 - 4-6.30pm
GCSE Mock Exams 2 — weeks beginning Monday 28th February & 7th March 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
GCSE Examinations — Monday 16th May — Tuesday 28th June 2022
(these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently)
GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29th June 2022 - all students must be available

Year 10

Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 10th & 17th January 2022
Exam Results Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17th February 2022
Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 9

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 24th March 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28th March & 4th April 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20th May 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18th July 2022

Year 8

Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 3rd March 2022 - 4-6.30pm
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 14th March 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
Options Evening — Wednesday 4th May 2022 — time tbc
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 7

Attitude to Learning Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 17th February 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20th July 2022



**SUPPORTING
ARDEN FOOD BANK**

We're collecting

Thursday 16th December

upon entry to school

<p><i>Year 7</i></p> <p>Instant Mash or UHT Fruit Juice Cartons</p>	<p><i>Year 8</i></p> <p>Tinned Fruit or Tinned Custard</p>	<p><i>Year 9</i></p> <p>Shower Gel or Shampoo</p>
<p><i>Year 10</i></p> <p>Pasta Sauce or Tinned Meat</p>	<p><i>Year 11</i></p> <p>Instant Coffee or Canned Tuna</p>	<p><i>Staff</i></p> <p>Toilet Rolls or Sponge Puddings</p>

Help support your local food bank—thank you!

WEAR NON UNIFORM IN EXCHANGE



WHY NOT BOOK A SLOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERT FITTING ADVICE?



From their very first crawling shoes to robust and stylish school shoes or shoes for those big weekend adventures, our kids in-store fitting experts will help you find the perfect fit for their growing feet. Plus, we have a personal shopping and fitting service for adults too.

With hundreds of Clarks stores to choose from, skip the queues and book a 15 minute measure and fit appointment at a time that suits you.



Clarks combine almost 200 years of expert shoemaking with everything they know about caring for growing feet to provide unbeatable all-day comfort. Their shoes pass up to 60 tough tests, from flexing leather 500,000 times to pulling laces to destruction. The results?

The best shoes ever, keeping little feet happy all day long.

To book your in-store fitting appointment visit www.clarks.co.uk or contact your local store.

IN-STORE FITTING

Avoid the queues and book your in-store measure and fit appointment online now at www.clarks.co.uk

Choose **Clarks Stratford upon Avon** and a time slot that suits you.

Plus, take along your child's most recent pair of Clarks shoes, and they'll check if they're still a good fit.

QUIET IN STORE FITTING?

Shoe shopping can be overwhelming for some children. If you think a shopping experience without crowds, noise and bright lights would be better, then book a Quiet Time appointment.

To do this, contact **Clarks Stratford upon Avon** on 01789 296068

Opening hours,
Mon to Fri 9.30am-7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm
Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm



Will you be alone this Christmas Day?
Just moved to the area and want to meet new friends?
 If so, join us for the
Alcester Community Christmas Day Dinner
 11am - 4pm at the Eric Payne Community Centre, St Faith's Road, Alcester B49 6AG
 Call us or email for your invitation:
 Tel 07414 851644
 Email: alcester-ccd@hotmail.com
WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!
 Can you spare an hour or two on Christmas Day, or a few hours before the big day? Call or email: 07414 851644 alcester-ccd@hotmail.com

Christmas Cupcakes
 £15 for 6
 (larger quantities catered for also)

The Rainbow Baker

Delicious vanilla Christmas cupcakes with handmade festive toppers.

Two styles to choose from:
 *White Christmas
 *Festive Friends

Ideal for your Christmas or Boxing Day buffet table.

PRE-ORDER BEFORE 12TH DECEMBER @ 5PM.
Collection on Monday 23rd December.
***These will stay fresh for 3 or 4 days.**

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.



WARRIORS RUGBY CAMPS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

DATE	CAMP TYPE	WHERE	SCHOOL YEARS
20 - 21 Dec	Warriors	Sixways Stadium	Yrs 2-6 (Boys & Girls) Yrs 7-10 (Boys)
20 - 21 Dec	Warriors Women	Sixways Stadium	Yrs 7-13 (Girls)

INCLUDED WITH YOUR CAMP:

- Quality coaching from Warriors staff
- A Worcester Warriors gift
- The chance to win prizes

WARRIORS WOMEN
EARLY BIRD FROM

£35

PER PLAYER
(OVER £1000 BOOKING)

WARRIORS
EARLY BIRD FROM

£65

PER PLAYER
(OVER £1000 BOOKING)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
AKINA GONDWE - 01905 459343
WARRIORS.CO.UK/RUGBYCAMPS
CAMPS@WARRIORS.CO.UK



WARRIORS COMMUNITY RUGBY

*Timings stated are the Camp arrival and registration time - coaching will start 30 minutes after the arrival time. Please refer to your online booking for more information.

Alcester Grammar School
Sundays 4pm - 5pm
January 30th - 10 weeks
£5 per session (or £40 for 10)

GIRLS CRICKET

Ages 9 to 13
Indoor softball transition to hardball

Alcester and Ragley Park Cricket Club

Enquiries :
girlscricket@arpc.org.uk




Christmas Cracker Hockey Offer

Adult £12 Under-16 £7
Per-ticket, per-game. Normal price £19 and £11 + booking fees

-  Wednesday 8th December vs. Belfast Giants (7.30pm)
Challenge Cup Quarter-Final First-Leg
-  Saturday 18th December vs. Guildford Flames (7pm)
-  Sunday 26th December vs. Cardiff Devils (5.30pm)
Boxing Day Bonanza
Skydome Arena, Croft Rd, Coventry CV1 3AZ

To book, complete the online form at:
<https://tinyurl.com/blaze-xmas>

Or scan the QR code.



Collect and pay for the tickets (in cash) on the night of the game.

Questions? Email: coventryblazehockey@gmail.com

coventryblaze.co.uk
 [@covblazehockey](https://www.facebook.com/covblazehockey)
 [@coventry_blaze](https://www.linkedin.com/company/coventry_blaze)
 [@covblazehockey](https://twitter.com/covblazehockey)
 [@coventry_blaze](https://www.instagram.com/coventry_blaze)

Enjoy the show.

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

PE Practices/Fixtures: week beginning 13/2/21:

Monday 13th December:
Year 8 Netball @ AGS (Invitation letters issued)

Tuesday 14th December:
Year 8 Archery (Invitation letters issued)

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible. Normal school PE kit is required.

All practices will run until 4.30p.m. and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.

For Fixtures a separate team sheet including all the necessary details will be sent out via parentmail.

