

# Alcester Academy

## WEEKLY BULLETIN



10th September 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! We've missed you all. I'm writing this with renewed energy and optimism for an exciting and prosperous new school year ahead. Fingers crossed!



I hope that you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer in some form. July and August saw the jubilation of the Olympics to the crisis in Afghanistan all in the matter of a few weeks. Elation and such tragedy all in one go. The students may decide that they wish to raise money for the refugee cause later in the year.

We were delighted to see the students back in school this week and we were particularly relieved to be back in normal teaching rooms without the need for face coverings right now. If the local covid landscape changes regarding an increased number of positive cases at any point, we will liaise with Public Health England and seek advice on whether to resume the need for masks. I'll keep you posted. My goodness, the school felt full, and I noted a complete change with this particularly at the end of the day as students were leaving the site. We will review procedures and routines as we settle back in to school life in order to make them as seamless as possible. Your extra attention on Gerard Road in cars would be appreciated right now as the students get used to being back for the new term, thank you.

This week I have led 'back to school' live assemblies in the hall with each year group. I must admit to it being a while since I had done this, but I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students physically rather than on



TEAMS! We have completed some vital assessments for Year 7s and some key study skills sessions for new Year 9s starting KS4 courses. Today, we spent an extended tutor time paying respects to the events of 9/11 some 20 years on. It was a very poignant time around school for sure. This was followed by a two minute silence at 11am in remembrance.

In this bulletin edition, I've concentrated on a few key areas regarding the information that you need to have in order to support the start of term. Each week I'll endeavour to keep you updated with news and views from around the academy.

### **Positive COVID cases**

Please keep us updated on any positive student cases. Work will be uploaded to Google Classrooms for students who have to isolate because of a positive PCR result. Google Classrooms codes and further information can be found on the website: <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19-> If you are a new parent and unfamiliar with Google Classroom, please log on to our training videos: <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19/google-training-room>

Thank you for your understanding regarding the positive cases that we have had this week in school. Because the children are spread more widely around the school now, refining close contacts is much harder. If we have written to you about this, please keep lateral flow testing on a regular basis to be safest. For attendance matters, please contact our Attendance Officer [JackieHodges@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:JackieHodges@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

**LFT (Lateral Flow Tests)** The students responded very positively to our lateral flow testing this week. I'm very grateful to them. Please now test regularly at home. Lateral Flow Devices can be obtained from Boots The Chemist or your local pharmacy. HUGE thanks to the staff team who facilitated this yet again in school so smoothly.

We are beginning to hear more about what a school vaccination programme 'may' look like, and I'll update you before this takes place in a lot more detail, be assured.

## Year 11 Results 2021

We were delighted to see that the hard work and commitment from the Year 11 students at Alcester Academy has been recognised in the outcomes for 2021 in spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic over the last two academic years. The staff at the academy have provided these students with a superb quality of education and pastoral support throughout this difficult period both in school and on-line when required. This, mixed with the sheer determination and resilience of our amazing students, has helped them to aspire to their post 16 destinations. They deserve this success so much. We are extremely proud of them all and wish them every success for the future.



## New Staff

Welcome to our new staff this term:



Hello! My name is **Miss Home** and I will be teaching Maths at Alcester Academy. My favourite subjects at school were Maths, PE and History. Outside of school I love sports and I run regularly in my spare time, so don't be surprised if you see me at sport competitions and any extracurricular sports clubs!

I studied Mathematics at university and during this time began to work for a tuition company which led me into teaching. The best part about teaching maths is breaking the stereotype that studying maths is 'useless' in real life. Check out my classroom display in M2 which gives lots of examples how the maths students use in class prepares them for the future!

After graduating from university with a maths degree, I spent 6 years working for educational technology companies, creating content to be used by schools. I then decided last year to train to be Maths Teacher so I could use my love of education and maths while working more directly with students. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy travelling and going for walks in the countryside – whatever the weather! I'm really excited now to be starting at Alcester Academy and getting to know the students here. **Miss Kavanagh**

I'm **Miss Jess Lee** and I am the new Teaching Assistant! I have just recently graduated with a degree in English and Drama from Royal Holloway University. I love all things performing arts and am a dancer as well. I'm super excited for the academic year ahead and can't wait to begin my journey at Alcester Academy.

We hope that they new staff will be very happy with us at Alcester Academy.

## Introducing our new Governor; Mr Doug Patterson

*I am a Senior Crown Prosecutor at the CPS and prosecute criminal offences in the West Midlands area. Previously I worked in London, where I trained in criminal and employment law, but moved back to the Midlands to have a family. I have daughter who is two and a son who is just a couple of weeks old. I wanted to become a Governor because I know how important school is in shaping a child's future academically, but also in developing rounded young adults.*

*If you are interested in becoming a new school Governor, please contact [emmahome@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:emmahome@alcesteracademy.org.uk), Clerk to the Full Governor Body.*





### **Warm Weather**

The unexpected heat wave this week called for some quick thinking on our part. If students have their tailored dark grey shorts already, they can wear these now until we say otherwise. This is for girls and boys. We will address removing blazers and ties on a daily basis with students as we see what the temperature

reaches. Finally, sunhats, sun cream and plenty of water might well be necessary at this time although our flash floods yesterday came as a shock too! Never a quiet moment at Alcester Academy as you are learning hopefully!

### **Welcome Year 7 Parents/carers**

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome our new Year 7 parents as we start this academic year together. If you are new to Alcester Academy it is important that you feel able to contact us at any time if you have any queries. The route of communication should be:

- Tutor contact first by e mail
- Subject Leader if you have concerns about a specific subject
- Contact LSU (Learning Support Unit) if you have pastoral or welfare concerns
- Attend drop-in on Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm (no appointment needed)

Contact Karen Buckthorp our Designated Safeguarding Lead and SLT (Senior Leadership Team) for matters related to this [karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

For matters related to Teaching and Learning, contact Wendy Woodman, SLT [wendywoodman@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:wendywoodman@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

For progress matters contact Nick Cooke, SLT [nickcooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:nickcooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

For IT matters, [help@lourdesit.org.uk](mailto:help@lourdesit.org.uk) This includes resetting passwords

And finally, I can be contacted [head@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:head@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

Teacher e mail addresses are by subject on the website [Subjects \(alcesteracademy.org.uk\)](http://Subjects.alcesteracademy.org.uk) Subject Leader e mail addresses are also on the website under: [Curriculum Contacts \(alcesteracademy.org.uk\)](http://CurriculumContacts.alcesteracademy.org.uk)

Matters related to Attendance need to go to [JackieHodges@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:JackieHodges@alcesteracademy.org.uk), our Attendance Officer

Please can I ask that parents do not turn up at school unannounced expecting to see a member of staff. We do not want to disappoint parents if we can't afford the time there and then to spend with you. Equally, we ask parents/carers to give staff 24 hours within which to reply to messages. I also do not expect staff to reply out of school hours. In the case of any emergency, please contact myself directly at

[head@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:head@alcesteracademy.org.uk) Weekend emails should be emergency matters only please.

Many congratulations to our new students for their truly excellent start to term. It is so lovely to see them all finally with us! In fact, all of the students have been an absolute pleasure to work with this week.

### **Keeping up to date – Twitter**

We have a number of Twitter accounts that you can follow in order to keep up to date with life at Alcester Academy. Our newest account is for our exciting extra-curricular offer. Miss Sacco and Mrs Farnell wrote to you this week in their capacity as Catch Up Co-ordinators @ClubsAcademy



Other active Twitter accounts include:

- @AlcesterAcademy (main one)
- @AlcesterRock
- @AA\_LRC\_Library
- @HStedman5 (Geography)
- @SENDAA13
- @AA\_Careers\_Zone
- @AAcademy\_House
- @AlcesterHistory
- @AcademyMfl
- @jamesyarrington2 (Art and Photography)
- @aa\_science
- @AAcademy\_PE
- @AlcesAcad\_TandL
- @AlcesterAllstar

We will shortly be sending out our Social Media Policy for new parents to read especially. Thank you in advance for supporting this. Other critical documentation will be sent out at the same time by our school office.



### **Congratulations Mike Dean – Chair of Governors**

Many congratulations to Mike Dean for being nominated as 'Volunteer Of The Year' by his colleagues for services to the West Midlands Ambulance Service as a First Responder. We are very proud indeed! Well deserved Mike!



### **Uniform**

Thank you so much for kitting the students out so smartly over the summer. As a parent myself, I appreciate that this is at a financial cost. The children look really smart, and I strongly believe that this, in turn, helps to create a positive culture around school and within our local community. Where we have contacted you about inappropriate items being worn, we would appreciate your early support in rectifying these quickly. We absolutely want to focus upon teaching and learning as we head into this academic year and not spend an unnecessary time on themes that we have clearly conveyed to students and parents in advance of term starting.

We had a number of messages from parents to SLT members on Saturday and Sunday about PE kit. As a reminder, our students have only ever worn kit to school during the covid months in order to avoid changing in close proximity in school. As we are now attempting to get back to normal, we have reverted back to a high standard of uniform being worn to school each day. This was communicated at the end of the summer term in anticipation of our return. From your messages, it seems that our secondary practice is different to our primary colleagues. We have investigated what other local secondary schools are doing. At this point we will not be changing our mind on students bringing kit to school.

### **Punctuality**

Please ensure that students are in school at 8.45am each day. Thank you.

I have contacted the 505 Green Bus Company after students were late in on three consecutive days this week.



### **Lockers**

We are hoping to be organising lockers using the School Gateway. Thanks for your patience whilst we organise this.

### **Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Please can you support us with a non uniform day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September for this very good cause. £2 donation per child. This will open on the School Gateway for you.

The Jeans for Genes campaign raises awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic disorder and raises money to fund projects that make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected.

Most importantly, the campaign brings together the genetic disorder community in order to make a loud noise about the issues that matter to them, shines a light on the organisations that work tirelessly to improve the lives of affected individuals; and celebrates the achievements of those living with a genetic disorder.

Non-Uniform Day  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September £2



For more information – click on the link

[Jeans for Genes Week - Mon 13th to Sun 19th September](#)



**Next Week:**

**Homework Club in IT4**

**Friendship Group in Hub 1 each lunchtime**

### **Training Days 21-22**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 – Teacher training day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – Teacher training day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 – Warwickshire Bank Holiday honoured in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee National Bank Holiday that falls within May half term.

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/term-dates>

### **Marle Hall**

We were sad to learn over the summer that Marle Hall will close as Warwickshire's named Outward Bound Centre. Many of our students have enjoyed superb trips to North Wales over the years (and staff!). We will be searching for a suitable alternative.

### **Traffic**

I've been in liaison with parents over the summer about a request to keep us all to the local speed limits please on safety grounds. If this could be a consideration around the area, I'd be very grateful. Thank you.

Phew! Such a lot to go through this week. I hope that I haven't overwhelmed you all with information. We do archive the bulletin editions each week on the school website under 'News' just in case you need to reference anything in future weeks. I'm aware that staff have also nominated some superb articles throughout this edition for your interest also.

If your child has gained success outside of school in any area, do not hesitate to let me know. We always want to celebrate this with you. As an example, congratulations to George in Y10 on his Worcestershire Golf success over the summer and those students who won key Alcester football club awards. We are very proud of you.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes  
Sarah Mellors



## **AWARD WINNERS—DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (TEXTILES)**

Zoe and Eloisa have now received their prizes from **The Sandra Cole Award for Textiles**. They were nominated for this award in memory of Sandra for their enthusiasm, dedication and creativity they bring to the subject. This generous award has meant that these two students are now set up with the equipment they need to continue with their creativity in textiles outside of school. The girls are extremely hardworking and were over the moon with their prizes. We look forward to seeing what they produce in the near future! Many thanks to The Cole Family for supporting this creativity.

***SLT Drop In every Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm.  
No appointment necessary.***

**DROP IN**

## (Re) Introducing Mr Cooke as a Senior Leader at Alcester Academy

It is a real privilege to write for the bulletin in my new senior leadership role. Now entering my 14th year working for this school, I cannot wait to support our young people in realising their potential this year. I have enjoyed embracing the challenge of my new responsibility alongside my teaching of KS4 English this week.

Alcester Academy pupils are serious and knowledgeable about the academic progress that they make and I am excited about playing an ever-closer part in helping them to succeed. Making progress across subjects every week, every term, every year is not a smooth ride, so our pupils must be equipped with resilience and a constant determination despite setbacks - the constructive and supportive environment of our community means that they are well placed to achieve this. In addition, our learners should, along with parents, be clearly informed by their teachers of how it is going too - hence continuing to build a strong reporting system which works for pupils, parents and teachers is an important responsibility this year.

I have been impressed with how year 7 have faced their tests this week - demonstrating a real drive in starting their journey with us. The results will provide the academy's teachers with start data so that we can create accurate targets and establish gaps in learning after what has been an unsettled period in education for children. In Alcester Academy, they have made the right choice!

For our other year groups, it is clear that the return to normality and rest has resulted in a renewed energy towards their studies as there has been a real intent 'to start as they mean to go on' this week!

Have an enjoyable weekend

Mr Cooke

[nickcooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:nickcooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk)



### Golf Success!

Pictured here, George in year 10, the U14 Worcestershire Golf Champion. George then qualified to play at the U18/U16 and U15 champion of champions event to represent Worcestershire county in Peterborough with an all expenses paid overnight stay and entry to the event itself.

Congratulations George. I look forward to updating you on his progress again soon.

## PE News

We will be issuing the practice list weekly this half term via Parentmail / Bulletin / Website / Displayed in the gym.

We have several fixtures coming up, so it is important that students attend in order to be considered for teams.

PE Practices: week beginning 13/9/21

- Tuesday 14th September: Yr8 Football
- Wednesday 15th September: Yr9&10 Netball and Football
- Thursday 16th September: Yr8 Netball & Basketball

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.

Alcester Academy

## Open Evening 2021

Tuesday 21st September - 6.30pm to 8.30pm



The Staff and Governors of Alcester Academy warmly invite you to our:

### Open Evening

Tuesday 21st September - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

### Guided Open Mornings

Monday 20th September to Friday 24th September 2021

9.30am to include a SLT Q&A session



Alcester Academy is happy to open its doors to prospective parents for Open Week 2021. Respectfully we ask families to book just one guided open morning at their convenience during this week.

Please call the main office on 01789 762285 in September or alternatively email [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk) anytime.

'There is a culture of high expectation in lessons.

Pupils are encouraged to aim high and teachers do not accept mediocre answers.'

*Ofsted 2019*

View our 360° tour at: <http://tours.lourdesit.org.uk/Alcester/>

Alcester Academy, Gerard Road, Alcester, B49 6QQ \* Tel: 01789 762285 \* Email: [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk) \* Website: [www.alcesteracademy.org.uk](http://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk)



Alcester  
Academy

We are looking forward to updating you next week on the Student and Staff start of term EPRAISE leaderboard!



## CAREERS UPDATE

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Careers and Enterprise Co-ordinator for Alcester Academy.

This role will allow me to support and guide students throughout their Academy journey and beyond. I firmly believe that whilst the pandemic has had a detrimental effect on many of us, our students have also missed a myriad of opportunities that would normally have been made available to them. I'm keen to create 'live' experiences for them this year and am hoping you can help.

I firmly believe that we as a school have a plethora of expertise from various sectors of the business community. I would like you to consider whether you are able to work with me to give our students an insight into some of the career opportunities available to them. This may be allowing students work experience with your company, or by visiting school to talk to them about your role. I'm also keen to create an 'Alcester Academy Careers Fair' to showcase both the local and wider employment sector.

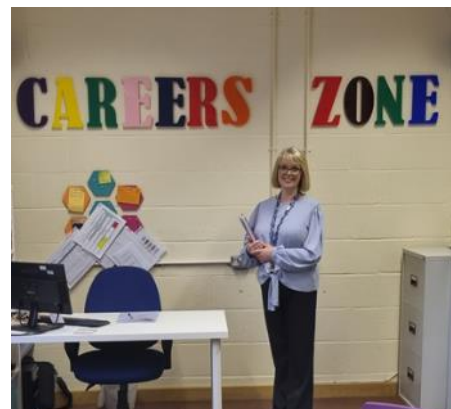
There is no real substitute for children interacting in person with their chosen role model. If you believe you have something to offer towards any of the above, then please contact me at [careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk) in the first instance. I look forward to hearing from you.

After the last 18 months let's make this academic year one to remember!

Kind regards  
Sascha Bartlett, Careers Advisor

## Young Enterprise

Year 10s have now begun their Young Enterprise journey. Watch this space for more details....



# Summer School 2021



@ConkersCentre fun today with new Y7s for Summer School @AlcesterAcademy Adobe Spark



Many thanks to the 93 year 7 children who joined us for a truly superb week back in July as part of their transition to secondary school. The students had a fantastic week with us covering activities related to literacy and numeracy as well as going on an exciting trip to 'Conkers' in Derbyshire.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff involved sincerely for giving up part of their holiday for this. It certainly supported how well the new students have settled in with us this week. Mrs Mellors

# Summer School 2021...con'td

When many students had finished school for the summer, here at Alcester Academy we welcomed 93 of our new year 7 students for summer school. During the week students had a wide and varied experience, making memories and friendships.

We started the week with team building skills. Developing new friendships was the main aim on day one with all students showed how they can work as a team. Activities required students to communicate – they did not disappoint. It was great to see groups working together so quickly.

Day two saw Alcester Academy visit Conkers with more challenging and varied experiences awaiting. Students had great fun building shelters, an activity all 11 year olds enjoy. Shelters were tested too with a water test; some students didn't remain very dry! Construction Derby saw our students challenged by building a scooter, without instructions, ready for racing. A great day out by all was had.

Summer school provided the opportunity to explore literacy and numeracy beyond the boundaries of the national curriculum. Students were able to use their literacy skills to investigate a 'murder' using the many clues left for our young detectives and further use their imaginative minds to write short stories based on shopping till receipts. It's amazing what you can tell about a person from a till receipt! Students had the opportunity to develop their Shakespeare being immersed in Macbeth and being challenged by writing short stories limited to 100 words.



Numeracy explored the concept of tessellation with students developing knowledge of shape and learning how to construct tetrahedral shapes and use these to build a kite with a difference. Using the new skills students built 3-D tetrahedral kites. It was great to see the enthusiasm and competitive nature of the students to build and fly their kites. Even with a very slight wind we were all able to enjoy flying the kites; who would have thought a tetrahedral flies!

Our final day was an opportunity to review their week mixed with a few surprises. Students turned reporters for the day and all wrote a news report for of weeks activities. Students were fantastic and not only wrote a news report, they then delivered and recorded their reports. We certainly have budding stars joining Alcester Academy. It is always great to experience the fantastic work of our students; we are always amazed on how they exceed the high standards we hope for. Of course, it wasn't all work on the final day as students were surprised with a bouncy castle – a great end to a packed week of activities.

We are so proud of the students attending summer school – the team delivering the week were amazed how every student participated in each activity and always tried their best. Their achievements seen during summer school really show that we have 5 exciting years ahead.

**Mr Bastock, Project Leader**

# Summer School 2021

