

# Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Good afternoon,

I hope that you have had a positive week.

There is a lot to update you on in this week's bulletin. During the week, we have thought about the theme of Remembrance in tutor time and in assemblies. Our perspex poppies have now raised £364. Thank you for your support with this initiative again this year. If you wish to have your poppy sent home, please contact [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk) after the weekend. We held a two minute silence today at 11 o'clock. The students respected this in a mature and dedicated manner. I was very proud. I look forward to seeing many of you in Alcester on Sunday for the Remembrance Service.



Yesterday, we held a planned whole school fire practice. This was the first time that our year 7s had experienced what this is like. Again, the whole school reacted in a timely and sensible way. We rang the alarm at the very end of break time in order to give the students a different set of circumstances to react positively to. Let's hope that we never have to do this for real.

It was lovely to see Stratford College in today talking to our year 11s about post 16 opportunities. Our year 11s are the first year group to have our new *Super Six* revision programme launched with them.



Mr Cooke has worked hard towards launching this and each year group will see it emerging across the academic year. Mrs Kirby, Exams Officer ran Invigilator training this week prior to mocks. We have an amazing team who help us throughout the year. It was so lovely to see them all back with us. It's a sure sign that the mocks are very close now!



The big news of the week has been our Careers Fair and the various trips that have gone out.

Miss Bartlett, our Careers Advisor has been working for months on the Careers Fair. There was such a positive buzz around the hall for this and every year group got to visit! She has written a lot more about this later on. We thank the *Herald* for featuring this, and to our special visitors, Chair of Governors, Mike Dean, The Mayor, Councillor Kathryn Cargill and her husband, County Councillor Mark Cargill, and County Councillor Piers Daniell. Huge thanks to our exhibitors for giving their time so generously. We had blogs written about the event by our exhibitors and comments on twitter and on LinkedIn.

Careers Fair  
2022

On Wednesday, we then had our KS4 art and photography trip to Birmingham and our KS4 politics trip to Warwick University. We were bowled over to hear a recorded welcome message from Nadhim Zahawi directed specifically to our students and AGS at the University.



# SUPPORTING

## PTA - FRIENDS OF ALCESTER ACADEMY



*We are collecting Friday 25th November upon entry into school*  
*Donations will be used for Prize Hampers for the PTA Friends of*  
*Alcester Academy Fund Raiser happening on Friday 2nd December*  
*All other goods will be donated to Arden Food Bank*

### Year 7

#### Chocolates

Examples might include a Chocolate Orange, large bars of Dairy Milk, Matchmakers and a small box of Maltesers

### Year 8

#### Biscuits

Examples include chocolate coated biscuits, or packets of Penguins, KitKat, and Breakaways

### Year 9

#### Savoury tinned goods

Examples include beans, tuna, corned beef, pie filling, and spam

### Year 10

#### Boxed cakes

Examples include Mr Kipling (there are other brands available!) and mince pies

### Year 11

#### Sweet tinned/ jar goods

Examples include custard, fruit, jam and marmalade

### Staff

#### Toiletries

These can be given as gifts such as shower and bath gels, body sprays and bath bombs

Donations containing alcohol can be donated but must be left in reception by an adult

**Help support your PTA and local food bank—thank you!**

## WEAR NON-UNIFORM IN EXCHANGE

Wow! Today, Mr Moffatt then gave the opportunity for some of our students to attend the Lawn Tennis Association Leadership Day. What an array of experiences just in a week! Thank you to the staff involved in arranging these opportunities. More detail is featured later on for you about these visits. Our students were all impeccable in their attitude and behaviour whilst out representing the school, as always!

## Whole School Attendance

Our whole school attendance is steadily rising now each week. I'm grateful to you all for working with us to ensure that this happens. Last week, the national attendance for secondary schools was 92.2% and we hit 94.6%. I'm thrilled to be in this position. We are closing this week on 94.8% and I can see 95% not far away for us next.



## Extra Bank Holiday

We will be honouring the additional bank holiday for the King's Coronation announced for 8th May. This is in addition to May Day on 1st May.

## Non uniform

Thank you for helping to raise £800 last week. 8X3 are very grateful indeed. This will be split between the Alcester Café and The Shakespeare Hospice. The next non uniform will be held on Friday 25th November. We are collecting goods for our Christmas Quiz hampers and Arden Food Bank as follows:

<p><b>Year 7</b></p> <p><b>Chocolates</b></p> <p>Examples might include a Chocolate Orange, large bars of Dairy Milk, Matchmakers and a small box of Maltesers</p>	<p><b>Year 8</b></p> <p><b>Biscuits</b></p> <p>Examples include chocolate coated biscuits, or packets of Penguins, KitKat, and Breakaways</p>	<p><b>Year 9</b></p> <p><b>Savoury tinned goods</b></p> <p>Examples include beans, tuna, corned beef, pie filling, and spam</p>
<p><b>Year 10</b></p> <p><b>Boxed cakes</b></p> <p>Examples include Mr Kipling (there are other brands available!) and mince pies</p>	<p><b>Year 11</b></p> <p><b>Sweet tinned/ jar goods</b></p> <p>Examples include custard, fruit, jam and marmalade</p>	<p><b>Staff</b></p> <p><b>Toiletries</b></p> <p>These can be given as gifts such as shower and bath gels, body sprays and bath bombs</p>

Donations containing alcohol can be donated but must be left in reception by an adult



THE  
GREATEST  
SHOWMAN

THE  
GREATEST  
SHOWMAN

THE GREATEST  
SHOWMAN



## Parent View

Thank you to the sixteen fantastic parents who have spent time updating parent view. I am so very grateful. If we can keep the momentum going on this, I'd be grateful. [Ofsted Parent View](#)



Remember, if there is something at school that you are dissatisfied with, please reach out to us to discuss this further.

## School Trips—Parent Voice

I am very grateful to those parents who have fed back to us about the time that our system releases school trips at. Mrs Savery works hard to ensure that the administration of the trips runs as smoothly as possible. As such, she is in discussion with the online operator to see if this can be altered at all to release trips at a more convenient time in the evening. You will be specifically updated on this as any trip is advertised.

Not every trip opportunity carries capacity for all students to attend in any year group sadly. As a small school, the impact of having a whole year group out for extended periods of time is also huge. We have to be able to continue to run the curriculum in school whilst residential take place. Thank you for your understanding with this.

## School Council meetings

The students are all spending time this week discussing key areas of school life in their tutor groups before School Council meetings. This is a regular opportunity for students to have their say about their school. Thank you to prefects who then run these meetings.

## Bag2School

We are very grateful for all of your generous donations. 290 kg was donated. Wow!



We have another collection booked for 25th April 2023. Next week, Mrs Farnell's environment group will be introducing the paper/bottle recycling bins in classrooms, and are also looking into battery and crisp packet recycling. Thank you to Miss Cooper for also supporting this drive.



## Year 11 Saturday School

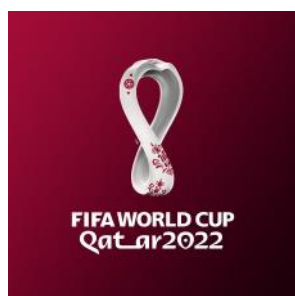
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Science	9:00 - 11:00	In school
	History	11:00 - 13:00	In school
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Maths	9:00 - 11:00	In school
	Geography	11:00 - 13:00	In school
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	English	10:00 - 12:00	In school (with Mrs Hoskin's group online)
	English	12:30 - 14:00	Mrs Farnell's group online

## PE Cross Country

Thank you to PE staff for supporting the County Cross Country at Stratford last weekend. Mr Moffatt has included this in his round up of the week later on for you. Well done to the students involved; Will and Marijke have made it through to the next round (running in an older category). Congratulations to Aiden, Arthur, Ollie and Ed competing in some wet and muddy conditions on Saturday.

## World Cup

We are all excited to be heading towards the World Cup 22 I'm sure. As a light distraction, each tutor group has drawn out a country to follow for this and I'll keep you updated on their progress. As a group of parents, you have drawn the Netherlands to support! Staff have Brazil and our Governors have Wales! We hope that you'll enjoy this bit of fun with us over the coming weeks. Thank you to Henry in year 10 for this fabulous idea!



For the first England match on Monday 21st November, those students wishing to watch it will be given this opportunity in school. Please speak to your child about this if you have a strong opinion either way about them taking time out of their studies to do this.

Very initial numbers tell us that:

Year 7—88 students want to watch the game

Year 8—92

Year 9—85

Year 10—108

Year 11—just a few want to watch the game



Congratulations to our new Sports Leaders for representing their peers. Mr Moffatt has listed these students in the PE section later on.

7KA	Iran
7LE	Germany
7RA	Saudi Arabia
7TN	Mexico
7WI	Qatar
8BI	Australia
8MA	South Korea
8MO	Serbia
8NE	Poland
8TY	France
9AN	Cameroon
9HL	Argentina
9PW	Japan
9RO	USA
9SO	Costa Rico
10BW	Portugal
10HE	Spain
10MG	Croatia
10ST	Belgium
10YA	Morocco
11BA	Denmark
11BR	Canada
11DY	Uruguay
11FR	Tunisia
11HK	Ghana
11WA	Switzerland
11BR	Canada
STAFF	Brazil
GOVERNORS	Wales
CANTEEN	Senegal
OFFICE	Ecuador
MDS/SITE	England
PARENTS	Netherlands

# Money Matters

[Get help with savings if you're on a low income \(Help to Save\): How it works - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Did you know...You can save between £1 and £50 each calendar month. You do not have to pay money in every month.

You can pay money into your *Help to Save* account by debit card, standing order or bank transfer.

You can pay in as many times as you like, but the most you can pay in each calendar month is £50. For example, if you have saved £50 by 8 January you will not be able to pay in again until 1 February.

You can only withdraw money from your *Help to Save* account to your bank account.

## Bonuses

You can earn 2 tax-free bonuses over 4 years. You'll get any bonuses you've earned even if you withdraw money.

After your first 2 years, you'll get a first bonus if you've been using your account to save. This bonus will be 50% of the highest balance you've saved.

After 4 years, you'll get a final bonus if you continue to save. This bonus will be 50% of the difference between 2 amounts:

- the highest balance saved in the first 2 years (years 1 and 2)
- the highest balance saved in the last 2 years (years 3 and 4)

If your highest balance does not increase, you will not earn a final bonus.

The most you can pay into your account each calendar month is £50, which is £2,400 over 4 years.

The most you can earn from your savings in 4 years is £1,200 in bonus money.

Your bonus is paid into your bank account, not your *Help to Save* account.



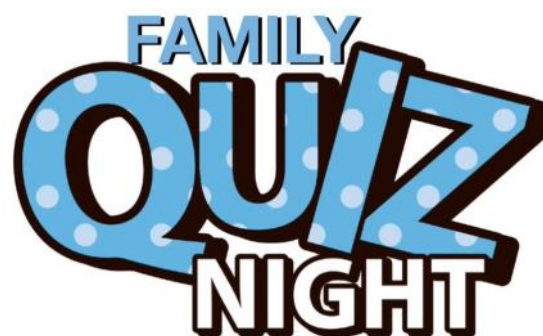
## Safeguarding updates

The DfE have reported a recent increase in suspicious drone activity around education settings. Most drones will be equipped with video and still cameras which can obtain high-quality images from several kilometres away. Please contact your local police if you see a drone flying over the school.

## Next Friends PTA Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday 17th November at 7.30pm via TEAMS.

Please contact [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk) if you wish to receive the link for this. We are in the final stages of the plans for the Family Quiz Night here. Have you got your tickets yet?



Friday 2nd December 2022  
@ Alcester Academy  
Prizes for the top 3 teams!

## Dates for your diary

### **Wednesday 16—Friday 18th November**

The Greatest Showman school production

### **Thursday 17th November**

PTA Friends meeting via TEAMS at 7.30pm

### **Monday 21st November**

Year 11 MFL Orals begin.

Rock Academy Concert (Evening)

### **Friday 25th November**

Non School Uniform. Food Bank donation day/prizes for Family Quiz Night

### **Monday 28th November**

Year 11 mocks begin

### **Friday 2nd December**

Family Quiz Night

### **Thursday 8th December**

Year 10 Parents' Evening on School Cloud

### **Friday 9th December**

Year 7/8 Rewards Trips

### **Monday 12th December**

Years 9/10/11 Rewards Trip

### **Tuesday 13th December**

Alcester Academy Church Concert for Christmas at St Nicholas Church

### **Wednesday 14th December**

Year 7 trip to see *A Christmas Carol*

### **Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th December**

Christmas Dinner days for students.

No pre booking needed. £3.20 to include dessert

### **Friday 16th December**

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children.

A small donation for the charity is appreciated and will be available on the School Gateway nearer the time. School finishes at 12.40pm. Break up.

For new year 7 parents, this is one of my favourite days of the year and yes, we do all—staff included—wear our Christmas jumpers with pride!



**DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARY**



## Politics Trip

*This year at the Academy, a group of students interested in politics have been participating in a Politics Club. In the first part of the project, we met the Chairman of the Stratford District Council, Mark Cargill, learned about local governance, and investigated the differences between the tiers of government. This week, we took a trip to Warwick University, in order to participate in a political debate alongside Alcester Grammar School.*

*On arrival, we met several student ambassadors, who gave us a tour of the campus, home to around 27,000 students (that's a few thousand less than the entirety of Stratford-Upon-Avon).*

*We got to look at the sports hall—home to a diverse range of options, the library, and the new Faculty of Arts building. Next, we participated in an interactive lecture on the principle of 'Politics is Personal'. Finally, we split into two groups, and together with the AGS students, we held a debate over the recent 'Anti-Protest' bill.*

*With one debate under our belts, the next step in our journey is going to be a more competitive debate held in Stratford, and I for one can't wait.*

*Massive thanks to Miss Bishop and Mrs Bennet for taking us; none of it could have happened without them.*

*Written by Harry, year 11*

It will be no surprise that my final comments relate to the production next week now. The students have worked so hard towards this, and we have more cast members than ever before participating I believe! Thank you if you have purchased your tickets in readiness. We welcome the primary schools for their matinee on Tuesday first followed by performances then on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening. I wish all of the staff and students involved in this the 'greatest' success and I am looking forward to seeing you all.

As a shout out, please don't forget Rock Academy playing on Monday 21st November directly after the show nights at The Greig Hall too. It's a very busy time of year in this department at school for sure as they then move on to arranging the Christmas Concert!

As ever, I remain indebted to you as parents for supporting the staff and students in every way possible. I continue to be overwhelmed with what we achieve each week.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors  
Headteacher





## SCIENCE NEWS THIS WEEK

### Not one, but two asteroids may have ended the age of dinosaurs

Scientists have discovered the remains of a crater 8.5 km (5.3 miles) wide buried hundred of meters beneath the seafloor off the coast of Africa. They suspect that the crater was carved out at the same time the Chicxulub crater was created in Mexico by the asteroid that wiped out the nonbird dinosaurs.



### Young people to have official voice at COP27

For the first time in its history, there will be space at the UN climate change conference for young people. The *Children and Youth Pavilion* at COP27 will enable young people to take part in, and hold, discussions and negotiations. This includes a *Youth and Future Generations Day* on 10th November.



### World Jellyfish Day

Thursday 3rd November was a special day to celebrate jellyfish. These mysterious creatures are found in waters all around the world. They are made up of mostly water and have no brains, blood or bones. In 1991 NASA sent 2000 jellyfish into space. They reproduced and by the end of the experiment there were nearly 60,000 jellyfish!



### Farmers in Ghana are saving chocolate from climate change

A new project called *Sankofa* has been trying to help farmers in Ghana use traditional growing methods to fight against the negative effects of climate change. Cocoa seedlings are planted under the shade of other fast-growing crops to create a natural 'roof' which protects the seedlings from the sun and makes a healthy micro-climate. Other crops are grown in between the cocoa plants, and farmers can sell those to make money.

## Remembrance History

Thank you to Miss Burgess for her contribution to this Remembrance edition.

### The history behind the our remembrance

The concept of the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey was inspired by the Reverend David Railton M.C. (1884-1955) who was a curate in Folkestone in Kent before becoming a chaplain to the 2nd Battalion of the Hon. Artillery Company on the Western Front during the 1914-1918 war. In 1916, in a back garden at Erkingham near Armentières in France, he noticed a grave with a rough cross on which were pencilled the words 'An Unknown British Soldier'.

After the war he became vicar of Margate in Kent and in August 1920 he wrote to Herbert Ryle, Dean of Westminster, suggesting a permanent memorial to the fallen of the Great War who had no known grave. King George V and the government, rather reluctantly at first, supported the idea and on 11th November 1920 David Railton saw his dream become reality.

On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag. Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at

random. The other three were reburied. A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight of the chosen soldier overnight.

On the morning of the 8th November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside. On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed: 'A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country'.

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside. There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals. A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London. He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.

The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War the union flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin.



It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son.

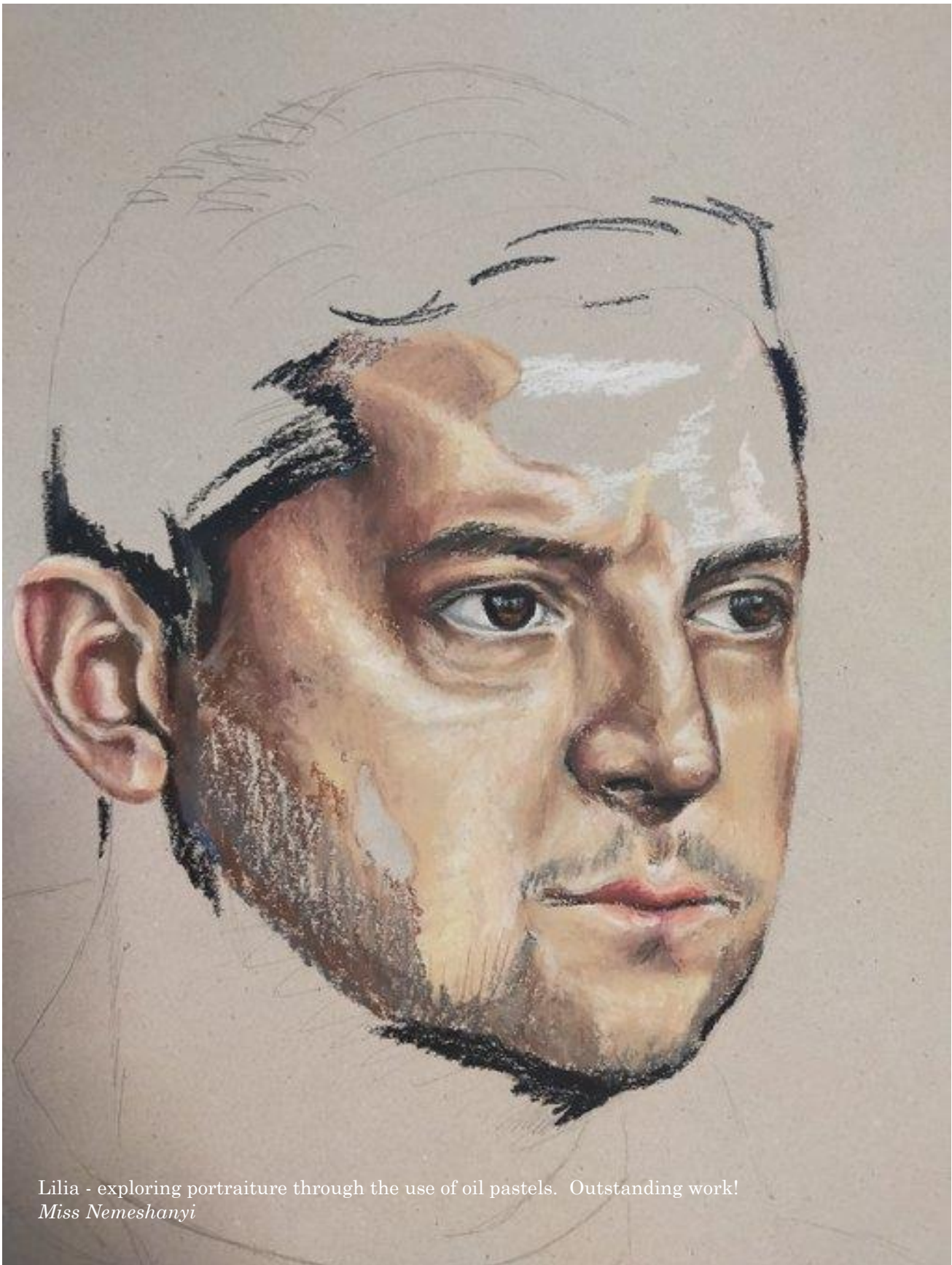
THIS is the reason we wear poppies. We do not glorify war. We remember - with humility - the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where our service personnel have fought - to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now take for granted. Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember the Unknown Warrior. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

*Miss Burgess*





## Artwork of the Week



Lilia - exploring portraiture through the use of oil pastels. Outstanding work!  
*Miss Nemeshanyi*



## Careers Fair 2022 at Alcester Academy



This week we held our first Careers Fair at the Academy in five years. This is just one of the events that due to the Pandemic we haven't been able to contemplate until now. As a result of this, we decided to pull out all of the stops and go for it!

On Tuesday, after months of research and liaising with both local and national organisations we were delighted to welcome 21 exhibitors into school on Tuesday. The hall was packed to the rafters with a wide variety of industry role models for the students to interact with throughout the day. Years 7 and 8 were the first to experience the fair. Their challenge was to find interesting facts about as many of the exhibitors as possible, with a reward for the tutor group with the most information. The hall came alive with their inquisitive questioning and the atmosphere was electric as they explored their first ever careers fair. The fire brigade even had an emergency call out and had to run to the engine which the younger students found extremely exciting. Luckily they were back in time for break time!

Following break, year 9 were given the opportunity to visit the fair and as with all key stage 4 students, they were invited to explore at least 3 organisations in more detail. Once again, it was fantastic to see students confidence grow as they probed and explored possible future career paths with the exhibitors.

Year 10 students had work experience at the forefront of their minds as they entered the hall, and I'm delighted to say that many of them enquired about placements. A number of these are currently developing into confirmed placements for next March, which is amazing and we sincerely thank our visitors for extending these invitations to our students. Look out for the Stratford Herald next week as a group of these students have been invited by Gill Sutherland, the Content Editor, to produce an article about the fair.

Finally, year 11 were given the freedom to explore the fair. Many of our students have an idea of which career paths they are interested in pursuing and this event gave them the opportunity to find out more information about these roles. For those students less confident, many of our local colleges were in situ to support post-16 conversations. Apprenticeships were of particular interest this year, and I'm delighted to say that we are very excited about conversations currently taking place with 'Broom Joinery' and 'The Eden Hotel Collection' about two of these students. Watch this space!

Overall, holding this fair was important to us as an Academy because we have a duty to ensure our students are given the support they require to make informed decisions about their futures. By inviting organisations into school, students have a 'live' opportunity to enquire about different career





paths with role models who can encourage and raise their aspirations. It also supports students' personal development as they learn to interact with peers at a more professional level. As a result of these conversations many of our visitors have extended invitations to the Academy to engage in future projects. For example 'Mavericks Hairdressers' have suggested taster day sessions for students and 'SJG International' are excited to explore STEM day experiences with the Academy. We are delighted to have such dedicated support from our local community.

All of this would not have been possible without each and every exhibitor who gave up their time to support Alcester Acade-



my. Thank you doesn't seem enough when we look at the resounding success of the day. We wish to thank our esteemed visitors, Alcester Town Mayor Catherine Cargill, County Councillors Mark Cargill and Piers Daniel and also our Chair of Governors Mike Dean for their support. Mostly, we wish to thank our exhibitors, Mavericks Hairdressers, Alcester Nursery Studio, Jumar, Helping hands, Heart of Worcestershire College, Ministry of Defence, Linneaus Veterinary Group, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue, Warwickshire College Group,

Warwickshire Police, SJG International, Broom Joinery, HS2 Engineering, Stratford College, Shakespeare's England, Eden Hotel Collection, Warwickshire County Council, Arcus, Concero, Thistle Fold Highland and Arden Construction Limited.

Please see the link below to access Concero Chief Technology Officer's blog about his day at the Alcester Academy Careers fair 2022: <https://www.mattian.co.uk/a-most-excellent-day/>





**Will you be alone this Christmas Day?**  
New to the area and want to make new friends?  
If so, join us for the  
**Alcester Community Christmas Day Dinner**  
at the Eric Payne Community Centre  
St Faith's Road  
Alcester  
B49 6AQ  
Call us or email for your invitations  
07414 851644  
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

**could you foster?**

**we urgently need foster carers in your area**

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding Provider

**nexus**  
fostering

We can help you to provide a young person with a stable, secure home.  
Call us on 0800 389 0143  
Visit us at [www.nexusfostering.co.uk](http://www.nexusfostering.co.uk)



## Alcester Academy Photography House Competition

Autumn Term

Deadline for all entries Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

The theme for this years photography house competition is Your Everyday. What does your day-to-day look like? What people surround you? What scenes do you see: idyllic landscapes or a busy community? We want to see your take on the world around you.

You can submit up to 3 images on Google Classroom – kfkqvjd

House points available for all entries and prizes for the top 3 photographs - Happy snapping!





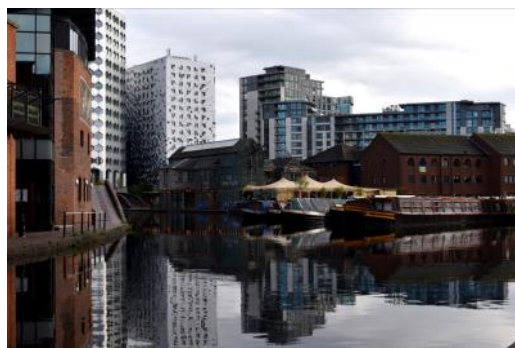
## Photography & Art Educational Visit to Birmingham – Wednesday, 9th November

On Wednesday, the Art Department took 65 GCSE photography and art students to Birmingham city centre to investigate a variety of portfolio aspects. Students were given the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the city and its architecture, society and other elements which link to their chosen portfolio pathways and meet GCSE assessment objectives. From Victoria Square, through to the splendour of Centenary Square and its iconic Birmingham Library, students began to explore the stonework of Edwardian and Victorian architecture against the reflections seen in modern steel and glass structures.



This then extended into Bindley Place and the canal basin before heading to the Mailbox and Grand Central. All students were an absolute credit to the academy, displaying exemplary behaviour and teamwork throughout their time in Birmingham. Many thanks to students, parents and to all staff who supported Wednesday's visit.

*Miss Nemeshanyi*



## Thank you!

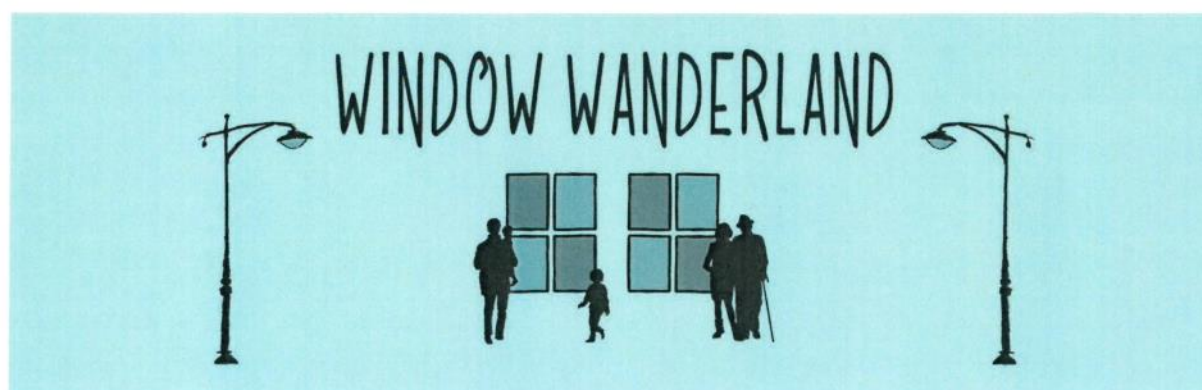
A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Bag2School collection this week. We collected a total of 290kg of clothes, shoes and linens which will be reused and recycled around the world.

The *Recycling and Environment Club* helped to organise this event and the monies raised will be used to further support recycling initiatives in school.

Our second collection is booked for 25th April 2023 and we hope to raise an even larger amount next time!

*Mrs Farnell*





## Alcester 2023

### 15<sup>th</sup> January – 22<sup>nd</sup> January

#### INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

- Show case your children's creativity
- Let the children experience links with their community

**What is it?** A brand-new event featuring displays in the front windows and gardens by your area's residents. Everyone is invited to make a display which can be big or small, from a simple candle to a puppet show- it's totally up to you as anything goes! Participating addresses will be put onto a map to form a trail on date.

This event is a fun, creative opportunity to light up our community during the dark winter. A chance to walk around our neighbourhood at night and enjoy it in a whole new light. You can make a display as individuals or as whole groups – originality and innovativeness are encouraged! Or just come out on the night to see the windows.

It was started in Bristol in February 2015 by Lucy Reeves and I have offered to organise it in your area, as I feel that this area will really enjoy the event.

The project is designed to:

- Inspire children to be creative and express themselves through the arts
- Enhance the children's citizenship and sense of belonging
- Develop community links between schools, parents and local residents

#### How can schools get involved?

I would like to offer a free assembly to the children around the date you would go so that they have awareness of the project. Then, if the school wishes, perhaps your art department could organise some workshops to make displays for the event itself. There is a prize for the best Classroom Window Display.

This is a brilliant opportunity to bring Art and community together. See our website <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/alcester-2023/> for the Map and display ideas. You can also register your school as a participant. To get involved or for more details please contact me on [kfoster.atc@gmail.com](mailto:kfoster.atc@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Kathrin Foster, Alcester Town Council





# FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT



Friday 2nd December 2022  
@ Alcester Academy

Prizes for the top 3 teams!

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start  
Only £2 per adult and £1 per child  
(maximum of eight in any team)



HOT DOGS, BURGERS & MEAT FREE OPTIONS

AVAILABLE @ £3 EACH

(SERVED IN THE BREAK)



PRE-BOOKING IS RECOMMENDED VIA

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofalcesteracademy>

OR AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR



SCAN ME

PTA - FRIENDS OF ALCESTER ACADEMY





1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – 2022/23 Academic Year:**

The Department for Education (DfE) has made funds available to every Local Authority in England to co-ordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities. The HAF programme provides activities at Christmas, Easter & Summer school holidays, with funding available for children who receive benefits-related free school meals (Reception to Year 11).

**HAF Entitlement:**

Eligible child can access funded sessions during main school holidays, with a breakdown of provided below.

- A maximum of 4 sessions in the school Christmas holidays.
- A maximum of 4 sessions in the school Easter holidays.
- A maximum of 16 sessions during the school Summer holidays.

A session is normally a minimum of four hours inclusive of a food provision, but activity times/duration vary with each HAF provider.

**What to do next:**

- You will need to apply for your child's HAF Code by completing a brief online form. This form only takes a few minutes to complete, with a separate form required for each eligible young person. This is to ensure we have the correct contact details and your preferred method of how the HAF code is sent. We also require you to read and agree to our terms & conditions of the HAF programme. This form can be located from <https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidays-activities-food-haf>
- Once your HAF codes are processed and sent, your child's unique code will last the academic year 2022-23 so there is no need for new codes to be re-issued for each holiday period. The code will be valid for Christmas, Easter & Summer holidays so please keep it safe. (We can always re-send it if it gets misplaced.)

**How to book activities:**

For the upcoming Christmas holidays, we will have the bulk of our HAF programme in place from Monday 19th December to Thursday 22nd December. There might be a few activities that run outside on these dates. All HAF information is available at <https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidays-activities-food-haf> with activity listings being available from Monday 21st November. You can then book sessions directly with your chosen provider using your unique HAF code, you will need to show this either at the time of booking or at your child's first session.

**Further Information:**

For any queries regarding the HAF programme please email [hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme@warwickshire.gov.uk) or contact us through the Family Information Service helpline on 01926 742 274.

Kind regards,

Warwickshire HAF Team



**ALCESTER ROCK ACADEMY**  
**PRESENTS**  
**LIVE AT THE GREIG!**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**MON 21ST NOV!**  
7pm  
*The Greig Hall*  
Kinwarton Road Alcester B496AD  
Adults £5.00  
Concessions £3.00



## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

### UPDATED 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 37,021 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring terms 2021/22.**



## Attendance News

**Whole school attendance this week: 94.8%**

**7RA—99.6% — Top Tutor across the school this week**

**8TY—96%**

**8MO—96%**

**9SO—98.4%**

**10YA—98.1%**

**11BA—98.2%**

**Top house: Well done Greville 95.5%**

Fantastic work—thank you for your continued support with attendance.

*Mrs Paula Taylor—Attendance Officer*



### Term Dates 2022-23

#### AUTUMN TERM 2022

Autumn Term ends

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 12.40pm

#### SPRING TERM 2023

*School closed*

*Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023*

*Teacher training day*

**Spring Term begins**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Half Term

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Back to school**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Spring Term ends (Easter)

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 12.40pm

#### SUMMER TERM 2023

**Summer Term begins**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

May Bank Holiday

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Bank Holiday

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Half Term

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**Back to school**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Summer Term ends

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 12.40pm

*School closed*

*Monday 24<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023*

*Disaggregated teacher training days*

# HOUSES AT ALCESTER ACADEMY

We ended last week with a four-way tie for our House's as they had all scored the exact same amount of House points so far this half term.

However, congratulations to **Billesley** who has now taken the lead this week!

Congratulations to Seb (**Billesley**), Aaron (**Oversley**), and Riley (**Billesley**) in year 7 for reading over half a million words!

They have each received 10 House points for their House's.

Thanks to Mr Moffatt and the PE department for their year 7 and year 8 House rowing competition last week.

Oversley won for year 7, and Billesley for year 8.

**Top House this week:**

**Billesley**

**Top Epraise points this week:**

**Greville**

**Top attendance this week:**

**Greville**

**Top students on Epraise this week:**

**Billesley** – Olivia (9RO)

**Ragley** – Luke (11BR)

**Greville** – Jimmy (11FR)

**Oversley** – Ben (9RO)

*Miss Lewis*

# HOUSES AT ALCESTER ACADEMY

## Epraise Leaderboard—past 7 days

### Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Luke	11BR	31 points
2	Maisie	11BR	25 points
3	Harry	11BA	22 points
4	Jimmy	11FR	21 points
5	Henry	10MG	15 points
5	Isaac	9SO	15 points
7	Joe	9HL	14 points
7	Jasmine	7KA	14 points
9	Abi	9PW	13 points
9	Olivia	9RO	13 points

### Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mr Bastock	631 points
2	Mr Rossiter	369 points
3	Mr Bowater	297 points
4	Mrs Stedman	267 points
5	Mr Weatherley	250 points
6	Mr Moffatt	223 points
7	Mr Yarrington	221 points
8	Miss Lewis	211 points
9	Miss Burgess	203 points
10	Mr Jones	201 points

### Top Tutor—past 7 days:

1	11BR	268 points
2	7WI	225 points
3	7RA	219 points
4	7KA	215 points
5	7TN	214 points
6	8MO	201 points
7	7LE	200 points
8	9HL	191 points
9	9SO	173 points
10	8BI	167 points

### Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	Maths	810 points
2	Geography	593 points
3	Science	503 points
4	History	492 points
5	English	422 points
6	Art	257 points
7	French	250 points
8	IT	115 points
9	PE	114 points
10	Btec Pe	68 points





## Geography News!

### GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

This week is COP27.

This is a climate conference where delegates from all around the world meet to discuss the growing issue of climate change. This year's meeting is in Egypt. This week has already been an interesting one because:

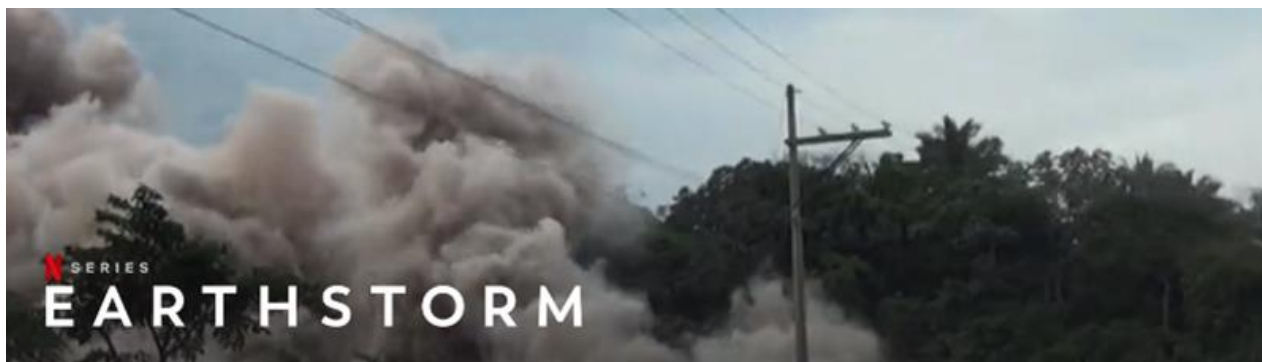
The number of delegates with links to fossil fuels at the UN climate summit has jumped 25% from the last meeting! 600 people at the climate conference are linked with fossil fuels. It is thought 50 private jets flew delegates in to Egypt for the climate conference.... Irony given the focus of the conference!

Keep an eye on what is happening and what agreements are made at [www.cop27.eg](http://www.cop27.eg)



### GEOGRAPHY ON THE TV

Mr Bowater and Mrs Stedman are very excited by the current series running on Netflix currently called 'earthstorm' which features live footage and eye witness testimony from major natural disasters including hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes and tornadoes. Great revision for year 11 on hurricanes and earthquakes for their forthcoming mocks!



### GEOGRAPHY AT THE ACADEMY

**DATES FOR THE GCSE RESIDENTIAL TRIP FOR THIS YEAR'S YEAR 10 HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AS 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2023. MORE ON THIS SOON**

**YEAR 11- DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR REVISION GUIDE ON SCHOOL GATEWAY OR DOWNLOAD FOR FREE OFF THE GOOGLE PASSPORT CLASSROOM**

**WEEKLY REVISION PASSPORT TASKS CONTINUE FOR ALL OUR YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHERS**

# SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS

## Sports Leaders

Congratulations to all students who have been appointed as Sports Leaders for 2022-2023. The PE department look forward to working with you all over the course of this academic year.

7	8	9	10	11
Toby 7LE	Aidan 8MO	Sophie 9RO	Zac 10YA	Edward 11DY
William 7LE	Scarlett 8MO	Emily-Lou 9PW	Holly 10BW	Max 11HK
Aidan 7KA	Will 8MO	Ed 9AN	Abi 10YA	
Alex 7KA	Alice 8MO	Kobe 9HL	Zoe 10BW	
Betsy 7KA	Sophia 8MO	Finlay 9SO	Jack 10MG	
Ollie 7KA		Thomas 9RO		
Eva 7KA		Aaron 9RO		
Daniel 7RA		Darcie 9SO		
Rio 7WI		Jonas 9RO		

## Swimming achievement

Congratulations to Arturo in year 8 who has qualified to represent the County in three different swimming events—50m backstroke, breast stroke and front crawl. An absolutely incredible achievement, we are very proud of you.



**Want to chat about your mental health?**

**Our helpline is available for Coventry and Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.**

**0800 616171**

Wellbeing for Warwickshire



# SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS

## Year 8 Football



Our year 8 Footballers took on Kineton on Wednesday afternoon in Round 1 of the SW Schools FA Cup. Some great football was played in the first half from both schools with Alcester having the better of the earlier exchanges. Kineton broke away to take the lead midway through the first half, before Johnny H who put in a fantastic performance playing up a year group, fired home an equaliser on the stroke of half-time. Unfortunately, in the second half Kineton produced a number of outstanding finishes and ran away with the victory. A great effort from our Alcester Academy players and a learning curve for them in their first match together playing on Astro-turf. Final score: 6-1.

## Cross Country

Six of our students represented South Warwickshire at an inter-county cross country event at Stratford School last Saturday. Well done to all students on this achievement and for a fantastic run on the day.

**Aidan, Marijke, Will, Arthur, Ed and Ollie**

Further congratulations go to Marijke and Will who have been selected to represent the County at a further cross country event.



## House Rowing – year 7 and year 8

Students in year 7 and year 8 have had the opportunity to take part in House rowing competitions over the past week. A fantastic effort from all with every student in both year groups taking part – An incredibly close competition between the houses.

House Results – Overall Winners (Distance):

### YEAR 7 HOUSE ROWING

	TOTAL	POSITION
<b>Billesley</b>	<b>2049</b>	<b>4th</b>
<b>Grevile</b>	<b>2130</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Oversley</b>	<b>2203</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>Ragley</b>	<b>2178</b>	<b>2nd</b>

### YEAR 8 HOUSE ROWING

	TOTAL	POSITION
<b>Billesley</b>	<b>2974</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>Grevile</b>	<b>2961</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>Oversley</b>	<b>2925</b>	<b>4th</b>
<b>Ragley</b>	<b>2957</b>	<b>3rd</b>

Individual results:

Year 7 Individual (Boys) – Tom

Year 7 Individual (Girls) – Naomi

Year 8 Individual (Boys) – Arthur

Year 8 Individual Girls) – Darcey



## SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS

**Week 1 Clubs – 3.25-4.30pm**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Extra-Curricular Club &amp; Staff</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>SW Boys rowing competition @ Alcester Academy</i>	<i>Gym</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Year 8 Football – Mr Moffatt</i>	<i>Field</i>
	<i>All years girls Football – Mr Powell</i>	<i>Field</i>
	<i>Year 7 Netball – Miss Hammond</i>	<i>Yard</i>
	<i>Bowmen of Alcester Archery - Selected</i>	<i>Gym</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Year 7 Football – Mr Moffatt</i>	<i>Field</i>
	<i>Year 8/9 Basketball – Mr Powell</i>	<i>Gym</i>
	<i>Year 8 Netball– Mrs Powell</i>	<i>Yard</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Year 7 Basketball – Mr Moffatt</i>	<i>Gym</i>
	<i>All years Girls Rugby – Miss Watson</i>	<i>Field</i>
	<i>All Years Boys Rugby – Miss Burgess</i>	<i>Field</i>

**Lunchtime week 2 – 1.45-2.15pm**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Extra-Curricular Club &amp; Staff</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>Year 7 Badminton - MO</i> <i>Year 7 Basketball – selection for Thursdays match</i>	<i>GYM</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Year 8 Badminton - PW</i>	<i>GYM</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Year 9 Badminton - PE</i>	<i>GYM</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Year 10 Badminton – MO</i>	<i>GYM</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Year 11 Badminton - MO</i>	<i>GYM</i>

**Next week's sport:****Fixtures/competition**

Monday 14th November: year 7-10 SW Boys rowing competition @ Alcester Academy

Wednesday 16th November: year 9 and year 11 SW Cup Basketball @ AGS

Thursday 17th November: year 7 Basketball v Stratford @ Alcester Academy

**Club Information**

Changes due to fixtures:

No Badminton club Monday after school due to rowing competition

No year 8/9 Basketball Wednesday due to fixture

Monday lunchtime year 7 Basketball try-out in the gym for Thursday's match v Stratford