Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you have had a good week and feel closer to being 'Christmas ready' at this time. These final few weeks are passing me by very quickly now and like all of us, I'm sure that you are busy with gift wrapping and card writing. Spare a thought in that chaos for our neighbours and friends who might be struggling at this time of year for various reasons, non more acute than the pandemic.

You should be aware now from the media and my communication on Wednesday that the DfE has asked schools to close early in order to provide a greater length of time for any students who might have to self-isolate as a result of being in close contact with a case. As a result, we are now finishing for Christmas on Thursday 17th December at 3.25pm. I'm sorry for the short notice. I appreciate that it is not ideal having two training days in one week and hope that you understand that this is out of my hands somewhat. Please see the coronavirus section of this bulletin with regard to reporting student cases over the Christmas period.

At the end of term, we prepare to say farewell to a few members of staff. We will miss them and I thank them sincerely for their contribution to the school over a number of years.

Mrs Seys - Business Manager

Mrs Seys has worked at the school for a period of 17 years! She first arrived in 2003 to look after the school finances. Mrs Seys has decided that it is finally time to spend some time looking after herself instead of the various headteachers over the years; 4 in total! And not to forget looking after our school finances! We wish her the very best for the future. I know that she wants to travel when she can in light of coronavirus and spend a lot more time with family and

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

School closed	***Monday 14th December – Teacher training day***
Autumn Term ends	**Thursday 17th December 2020 at 3.25pm**

SPRING TERM 2021

School closed	*Monday 4th January 2021 – Teacher training day*
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 5th January 2021
Half Term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Back to school	Monday 22nd February 2021
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Thursday 1st April 2021

her treasured dogs. Mrs Seys has many friends at the Academy and we'll miss her very much indeed.

Mr Arris - Science

Mr Arris has worked with us for the last three years and has contributed such a lot to the students and their love of science. More recently, we have seen the dramatic side of him with his work on the school productions and, more importantly, his cameo roles. Mr Arris is leaving us to join a school in Birmingham where he can gain some sixth form experience. We have very much enjoyed working alongside him and we wish him every success for the future. We know that he'll be missed a great deal by students and colleagues.

Miss Bishop - History

Miss Bishop has started her maternity leave. We will update you with exciting news in the new year! I did threaten Miss Bishop nicely that the first baby under my headship would have to be named Sarah and luckily, Miss Bishop is looking forward to a bouncing baby boy! Phew! That was a close shave! All the best Miss Bishop. Thank you for leaving everything in Mr Rowberry's safe hands (with Mr Rossiter at the helm!).

In other news this week

Warwick Castle skating trips

Sincere thanks to staff for making the trips happen this week for years 7-10. It was a bracing session for all involved but helped to begin to create a super end of term for all. Whilst back at base, students at school enjoyed Miss Buckthorp's Christmas Quiz and some festive films. We enjoyed giving the students these opportunities after such a year.

Christmas dinner

Christmas dinners will be served *grab-and-go* style next Tuesday and Wednesday for students. With a dessert, this is £3.20. There will be no need to book. However, Year 7 and 8 should have their meal on Tuesday 15th December, in order to fit in with the activities going on the following day. I must give our catering team a big shout out for their hard work since returning in September. It is no easy task feeding 640 students each lunchtime within 35 minutes! We all thank them for their dedicated service to the students.

Christmas Jumper Day

We remember *Save the Children* as a charity on Thursday 17th December where we look forward to what new (or older) knitwear is about. This is a £1 donation please via the School Gateway.

Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Monday 14th December

Just a reminder that Monday is a teacher training day and the school is closed.

End of term activities donation

If you're able to, we would appreciate a minor end of term donation for activities. Thank you. We are suggesting £5 if you can afford this for year 7, 8 and 9. These year groups have more activities planned than year 10 and 11. We are aware if you have already given to school fund so please don't feel that you need to make two contributions this year. I am very grateful for your support this year with various school collections.

Sponsor a Snowflake

I'm delighted to say that the snowflake display is taking shape. All proceeds are going to help the *Alcester Town Christmas Dinner Fund* for our lonely neighbours. You can still sponsor a snowflake on the School Gateway for £3. We have currently raised £522.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

This will be held on Thursday 7th January virtually on *SchoolCloud*. Year 11 parents and carers will see a separate communication regarding this. Mock results will be given by teachers as parents meet them for appointments. The data report for the mock results will be issued on Friday 8th January. Congratulations to year 11s on completing mocks with such commitment and dedication. We're very excited to see your results and feel very blessed that we did not encounter a positive case during this important time. Please have a good rest over Christmas year 11 and recharge!

Thank you Governors

I would like to take this opportunity personally to thank our Trustees for their dedication to school matters once again this year. Their support in my first, very unusual year of headship has been invaluable and I appreciate the hours of time that they give to school.

Report feedback

Thank you to those parents and carers providing feedback on our new look reports. Remember that the reports sent out this week are interim reports and not the final written school report which is issued later in the year. We've received a couple of queries from year 8 parents about options and how this process works. Whether virtual, or in person, we will host an information evening about our options process in the Spring term followed by a parents' evening before children select subjects. Please see my separate communication on this from earlier in the week.
All students receive two interim reports and one full written report each academic year. At least one parents' evening is then in addition to this.

Support agencies

I wanted to take time to recognise those professionals that have worked with staff and students this term in spite of coronavirus; Life Space, Claire Gibb our counsellor, and the team of counsellors, SEND Supported, SALT and Educational Psychology. We have appreciated this support continuing for the benefit of students in a difficult time.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Temperature in school

Under guidance, school is well ventilated at present with the heating on! Crazy times I know. As such I would most certainly advise the students to layer up; t-shirt, shirt, school jumper and blazer. I would also suggest that a coat should be worn for break time and lunchtimes.

Reporting Positive Coronavirus Cases over Christmas

Parents and carers must make contact with me until Wednesday 23rd December if there are any CONFIRMED cases of coronavirus with students head@alcesteracademy.org.uk I may then have to update other families where children have been in close contact with a view to self-isolating for 14 days.

If confirmed cases occur after this point, we need to be updated on Monday 4th January 2021 (training day). We ask that in this period of time, you seek GP advice or help from NHS 111 as needed. Remember, for a positive case, it is 10 days isolation and 14 days for the close family members. If a case is confirmed with a students after 23rd December, please keep an accurate time line for us of symptoms and test result date. Thank you. Mrs Hodges, Attendance Officer will not reply to emails over the Christmas period. Thank you for respecting this.

We're really looking forward to a great week at the end of term (well, three days!). I can't wait to share some of the highlights of this in a special bulletin edition next Thursday for you. In the meantime, enjoy the long weekend and we will see the students back as normal on Tuesday morning.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Head teacher

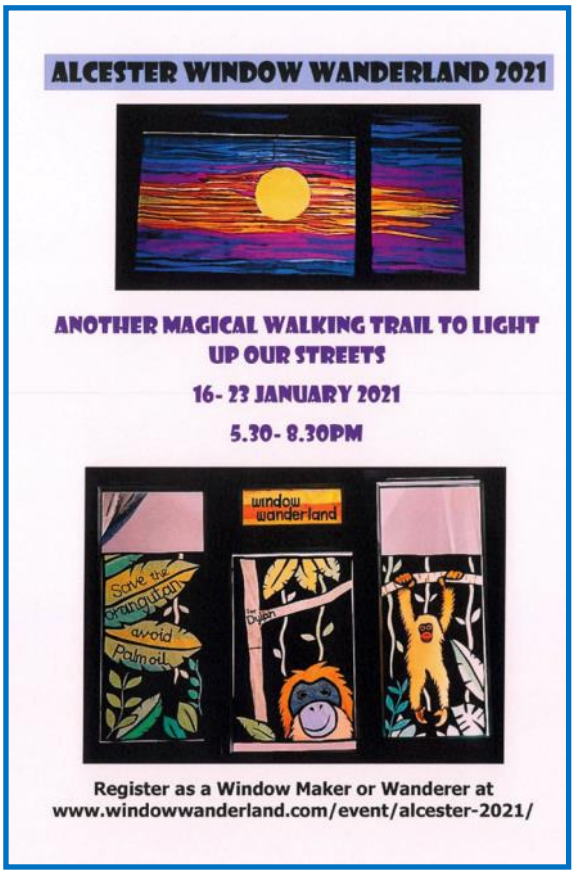
epraise news

Top Three Students
1st—Issy—Year 9
2nd—Kaitlyn—Year 9
3rd—Harvey—Year 7

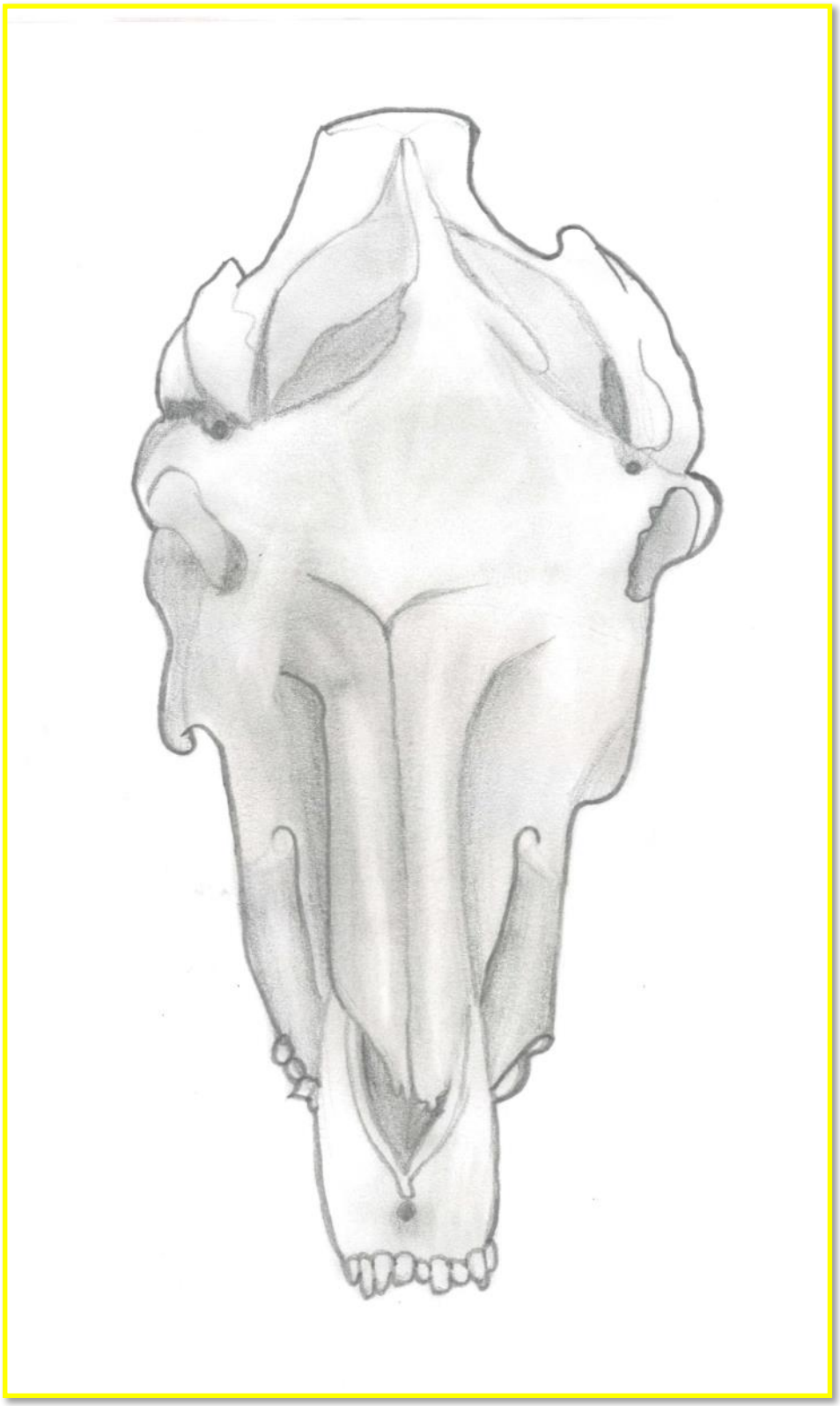
Topping the charts in the other years
Year 8—Luke
Year 10—Dan
Year 11—Millie

Top Tutors
1st—7HT
2nd—7TY
3rd—9WA

Top Staff
1st—Mr Arris
2nd—Mr Bastock
3rd—Miss Heitmuller



Artwork of the Week



A fantastic piece of work by Chloe in year 7. Students have been studying the work of Georgia O'Keeffe and her love of natural forms. Chloe has been investigating skills of observation and use of varied tone to represent form and surface qualities. Well done Chloe! *Mr Yarrington*

Photography of the Week

This week we have two amazing photographs from The City project work by Tilly, 10SO. She has based her photos on previous research she has done on the Festival of Colour. To capture the vibrant colours and the joyful expressions is outstanding. *Miss Nemeshanyi*

Vacancy
School Business Manager

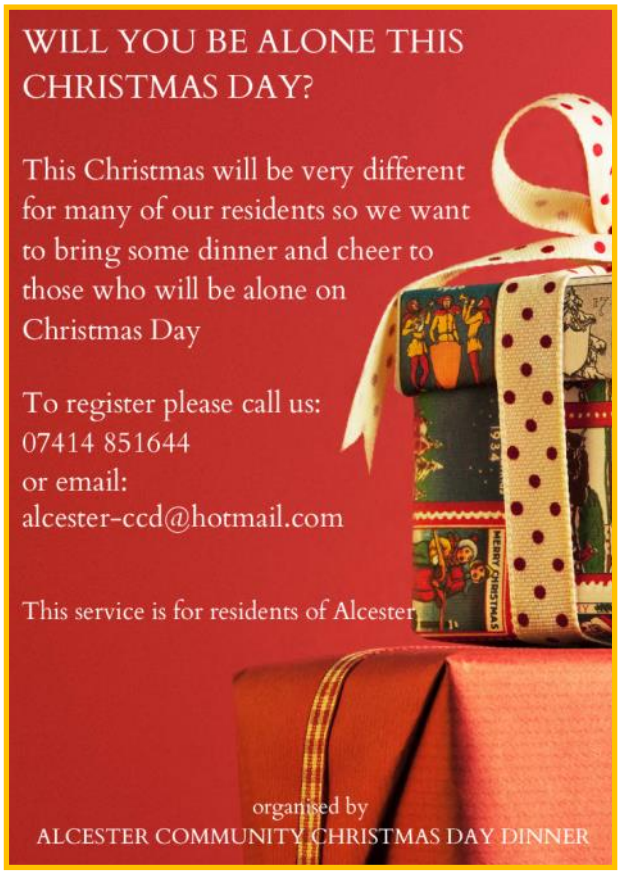
Alcester Academy

Interview date:
Week beginning 14th December

Starting:
As soon as possible, ideally no later than January 2021

The successful candidate must have strong financial and business management skills and equally impressive leadership ability as Business Manager, to lead a group of
support staff and manage the financial,
administration and IT functions supporting the academic and non-academic activities.
If you have any queries about the role or would like to discuss it in more detail, please contact Sarah Mellors – head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

ADVERT ON THE
SCHOOL WEBSITE



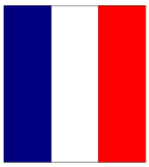
Hair donations

We were delighted to hear news of two siblings donating centimetres and centimetres of hair to a children's cancer charity for wig making. Well done Mia and Violet. We are so proud of you both.

https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/

The Little Princess Trust provides free, real-hair wigs for young cancer sufferers or for children and young people experiencing the devastating effects of hair loss. We also fund pioneering, life-saving research into childhood cancers. We use hair donations and fundraising monies sent to us by our amazing supporters, to manufacture and fit our beautiful real hair wigs. Established in 2006, we have supplied over 8000 wigs to children and young people and have invested circa £5 million into ground-breaking childhood cancer research.

Language Idiom of the Week



English: To be a pain in the neck

French: Casse-pieds
Literal meaning: Foot breaker
German: Auf die Nerven gehen
Literal meaning: To get on someone's nerves

School Attendance — up to 10.12.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.6%	**94.1%**	**94.9%**	**92.5%**	**93.6%**	**94.4%**

This week's top tutors per year group — well done!

7BW- 99.6%, 8BL - 98.0%, 9AN - 97.6%, 10SO - 95.0% and 11BR - 98.7%.

HM Government
NHS
TIER 3
VERY HIGH ALERT
FROM 2 DEC
MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY
No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).
BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS
Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.
RETAIL
Open.
WORK AND BUSINESS
Everyone who can work from home should do so.
EDUCATION
Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.
INDOOR LEISURE
Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.
ACCOMMODATION
Closed (with limited exceptions)
PERSONAL CARE
Open.
OVERNIGHT STAYS
We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.
WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS
15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.
ENTERTAINMENT
Indoor venues closed.
PLACES OF WORSHIP
Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
TRAVELLING
Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.
EXERCISE
Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.
RESIDENTIAL CARE
COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).
LARGE EVENTS
Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.
Find out what support you can get
For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.
gov.uk/coronavirus
If you have any coronavirus symptoms:
A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste
Get a test and stay at home
For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus
HANDS
FACE
SPACE