

# Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



11th February 2022

Good afternoon everyone,

It's so good to be back properly this week after having Covid-19 myself. Thanks again to the staff for keeping things running smoothly in my absence. Mrs Woodman and Mr Cooke both also went down with Covid-19 at the same time. Miss Buckthorp did a commendable job looking after school in our absence, and the bulletin last week was a pleasure to read. We will try to facilitate a student take-over more often. Talking of which, we most certainly have a few year 11s who fancied their chances at running the school if things got too serious last week. Pictured here trying out my office for size... just in case!



*Head Boy Louie training some willing year 11s to sit in the hot seat if required... after SLT recently all had Covid-19!*



I am grateful this week to staff who have begun year 11 Saturday Schools. Mrs Stedman led a super geography online session last week-end. The year 11s were thrilled to compete for prizes... including a prestige pork pie for Harvey! Harvey tells me that the quality of his

field work is exemplary as a result of the thought of a prestige pork pie as his reward! Maybe not a 'healthy schools' initiative but certainly one where yet again, we value our students and get to know them all individually. It did bring a smile to my week for certain!

Thanks to the science team this weekend for being in school for the session tomorrow. I appreciate every one continuing to go above and beyond for our year 11s.



Once again, our LSU team stepped up and facilitated the vaccinations last week also. I am very grateful. We then had year 9 immunisations this week too. Miss Bartlett organised a visit during the *National Apprenticeship Week* from Solihull College for our year 10 and 11s in assembly.

 **Solihull College  
& University Centre**



This certainly gave them some food for thought about future destinations as well.

## THE GREIG HALL

In other news this week, I was excited to speak with one of our Town Councillors and the former Mayor of Alcester, Gill Forman about the contribution that our students can make to the presentation of the Greig Hall whilst it begins to undergo its renovations. This will be an art-based project that Mr Yarrington will oversee for us. Gill Forman is a valued Governor at Alcester Academy, and I am extremely grateful that the council have thought of our students to be involved in this opportunity. Watch this space for more specific details soon.

Our careers speakers continue in earnest. I am very grateful for friends, parents and community members for giving up their time to visit the students. This week we heard from a paramedic and a hair salon owner and barber in two different sessions. We were lucky enough that the salon owner was searching for two apprentices as well. What a fantastic opportunity! Students are alerted to these sessions in advance and can sign up for anything they wish to hear more about.

### Year 11 National Updates on Summer Exams

On Monday, we received notification of the final anticipated changes (if any) to the summer exams for students in specific subjects from Ofqual. We are just collating this and will send it out to year 11 parents before half term. Teachers will be discussing any updates with students in class.

### Year 7 Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to seeing year 7 parents and carers next Thursday 17th February via School Cloud. If this is your first time using School Cloud, we recommend that in order to secure a good connection on the evening, all other devices are restricted at the same time as online appointments. We are keen to get you the best reception for your teacher meetings as possible. Students should join parents for each meeting please. If you wish to address specific issues, please be direct with teachers as you'll find the time runs away very quickly otherwise.

### Health Advice—Vaping

We have circulated some important health updates from Warwickshire along with the bulletin, regarding e-cigarettes and vaping. As a reminder to parents, any student caught in school vaping will be given the most serious of sanctions. We have a zero tolerance towards this as I hope you will support.

### Super Learning Day

Thank you to Loudmouth for facilitating our *Safe and Sound* Super Learning Day for year 10 on Wednesday,



around the important topic of safer teenage relationships including consent.

Yet again, can I ask you to talk to your child about the content on their mobile phone camera roll.

Thank you in advance. I continue to be shocked at the inappropriate images and video footage that some students seem to keep on their phones of either themselves or others.

### D of E Silver Award

Well done to our Silver D of E team for their hard work training on Tuesday. Expeditions are on their way soon.



### Drop-in

Just a reminder that SLT Drop-In still takes place each Wednesday 3.25-4.25pm should you wish to leave any school-based queries with us to look into further for you.

### Congratulations Miss Bishop

Baby Maxwell arrived very safely. We wish Miss Bishop and her family many congratulations on behalf of the Academy community. We were also visited by Miss Nemeshanyi this



week and her baby daughter. Such a treat.

We also congratulate Miss Simpson who graduated in Brighton today. I hope that you had a great day celebrating Miss Simpson.

### Uniform

Thanks for helping us to sort uniform standards out. The students are looking very smart indeed. I watched them arrive to school on several occasions this week and I was so proud.

If you could check that any extra eye lashes stay safe at home, I would be especially grateful. This, along with skirt lengths, is my next area of focus, to maintain our high standards.

### Additional Training Day

Wednesday 20th July 2022 will now be an additional training day. Students will all break up at 3.25pm on Tuesday 19th July 2022.

### Covid-19 Update

All 12-15 years olds can now obtain a digital covid pass for travelling abroad:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/>

This may be of interest to you if you are considering a break abroad soon (obviously in school holiday time).



Current school statistics are;

Year 7: 5 positive cases

Year 8: 8 positive cases

Year 9: 1 positive case

Year 10: 4 positive cases

Year 11: 6 positive cases

Hopefully, you will agree that these statistics are finally beginning to head in the right direction. Thank you for your co-operation. We are sending good wishes to our poorly students and staff at this time.

Mrs Woodman and Mr Cooke will be preparing a bulletin for your interest for after half term. This will include further details around 'how we know what we know about the school' as school leaders. They will both update you on our lesson observation process, our pair-share book looks and other superb behind-the-scenes work that goes on to ensure that our students have a superb quality of education each day.

Just a reminder that we break up next Friday for half term. There is a year 11 chemistry session on Monday 21st February in school though.

Wishing you all a very relaxing Valentine's weekend ahead. Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes

*Sarah Mellors*—Headteacher





## Epraise Updates—last 7 days

epraise

### Top Students—last 7 days:

1	Jack	8HL	27 points
2	Isaac	8SO	20 points
3	Jack	8KA	19 points
4	Fleur	7SI	18 points
5	Harry	8SO	16 points
5	Darcie	8SO	16 points
5	Sophie	8RO	16 points
5	Mia	7RA	16 points
9	Oscar	8KA	15 points
9	Jack	8RO	15 points

### Top Subjects—last 7 days:

1	Maths	1090 points
2	Geography	341 points
3	IT	278 points
4	Science	274 points
5	Art	242 points
6	French	170 points
7	German	146 points
8	English	145 points
9	Computing	52 points
10	PE	48 points

### Top Tutor Groups—last 7 days:

1	7HT	216 points
2	7SI	208 points
3	8HL	207 points
4	8SO	199 points
5	7TY	176 points
6	8RO	175 points
6	8KA	175 points
8	8PW	156 points
9	7WI	155 points
10	7RA	148 points

### Top Staff—last 7 days:

1	Mr Martin	569 points
2	Mr Bastock	489 points
3	Mr Yarrington	287 points
4	Mr Bowater	218 points
5	Mrs Weatherley	170 points
6	Miss Kavanagh	165 points
7	Mr Anderson	148 points
8	Mrs Stedman	123 points
9	Miss Burgess	116 points
10	Miss Heitmuller	109 points



### School Attendance — up to 10.2.22

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
91.0%	92.1%	92.5%	90.2%	89.1%	91.0%

### This week's top tutor groups

7WI, 8SO, 9BW, 10BI and 11HO

*Well done! Mrs Hodges*

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

## Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable

### Year 11

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

### Year 10

Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
 Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Year 9

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

### Year 8

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

### Year 7

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

## Term Dates 2022

### SPRING TERM 2022

Half Term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Back to school	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
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### SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
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May Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
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Half Term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
Back to school	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

Summer Term ends	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 3.25pm
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**2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

## Could you win £2,500 for your school or college?

The Young Green Shoots competition is a way for young people to learn about climate change through creativity, to contribute to discussions about the environment and become advocates for positive change.

The competition challenges children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire to learn about climate change and to explore how each of us can take action to be a climate hero. Each of the category winners will win £2,500 for their school or college to spend on projects related to climate change and their work will form part of a showcase to leaders from the public and private sectors at the Coventry & Warwickshire Climate Summit event in March.



**Entries should be submitted by the competition deadline of 27 February 2022.**

### Who can enter?

Children and young people aged 4 to 19 who are in full-time education in either Coventry or Warwickshire. They should enter the category for their age at the time of entry:

Ages 8-11

Ages 12-15

Ages 16-19

### How to enter

To apply, simply answer the question:

### What does being a climate hero mean to you?

*Climate heroes do both big and small things, from planting a huge forest to turning off the lights when they aren't needed. And anyone can be a climate hero – it could be somebody famous, a government, a business leader, a local council, or it could even be you!*

*Show or tell us how your hero will protect the environment and fight climate change.*

For all the details please visit:

<https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/get-involved/young-green-shoots>

## extra CURRICULAR activities

Extra curricular activities will return after half term!

Miss Sacco



**A free event for all ages.**

Activities, Crafts and Games for all.  
Cakes and Drinks served all morning  
Free Lunch served

**SATURDAY 12TH  
FEBRUARY**

**10:30am - 1:00pm**

**Great Alne &  
Kinwarton  
Memorial Hall**

**To book a place at Fun & Chat**  
email: [FunandChatGA@gmail.com](mailto:FunandChatGA@gmail.com) or  
phone: 01789 763246  
(Please leave a message if unanswered)



Organised by  
St Mary Magdalen  
Church, Great Alne



**Tues 15 Feb 2022**  
**Eric Payne Community Centre**  
**from 3.20 till 5.30pm**

fun for the whole family -  
children please bring an adult!

**craft, celebration and tea**

For more information speak to  
Rev Katie Cross 01789 764261



**We're  
back!**



*It's the Alcester &  
Bidford Rotary*

**Charity  
Breakfast**

ENJOY A FRESHLY COOKED FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST  
AND HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR GOOD CAUSES  
IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.

Crawford Hall, Bidford  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
9.00am – 12 noon

Alcester Town Hall  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
8.30am – 12 noon

For more information please email [alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com](mailto:alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com)  
or visit our website [www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk](http://www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk)

**Rotary**  
Alcester & Bidford



Organised by Rotary with the generous support of  
Bidford Co-op, Clay Hall Farm Eggs, Freemans, Plato,  
Simply Fresh, Waitrose and other local businesses

### Year 11 Saturday School Timetable

		Session 1	Time	School or Online	Session 2	Time	School or Online
Saturday	12.2.22	Science	10-1pm	School Hall			
Monday	21.2.22	Chemistry	10-12 noon	School			
Saturday	26.2.22	English	10-12 noon	Online			
Saturday	5.3.22	Maths	9-11am	School	French Speaking	11-1pm	School

### Year 11 Revision Timetables

WEEK A	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Maths (by invitation only)	
Tuesday	English (by invitation only)	Maths
Wednesday	DT	English
Thursday	Biology triple	Physics triple
Friday	Combined Science	Chemistry triple

WEEK B	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Art/Photography <b>Maths (by invitation only)</b>	
Tuesday	Art/Photography	PTE
Wednesday	German (MFL2) Performing Arts/Music	iMedia and Computer Science Performing Arts/Music
Thursday	French (MFL1)	Art/Photography <b>Chemistry triple</b>
Friday	Geography	



## 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.**

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

### Practices and Fixtures

Week beginning 14.2.22:

#### Monday 14th February:

Year 9 & 10 Netball



#### Tuesday 15th February:

Year 8 Archery (Invitation letters issued)

Year 8 Basketball @ St.Bede's (selection letters issued)



#### Wednesday 16th February:

Year 7 & 8 Basketball @ AGS (selection letters issued)

Year 7 & 8 Netball



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 4.30pm 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.

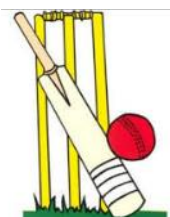
### Warwickshire Cricket Board February Half Term—Girls Only Cricket Camp

Kineton School on the 24th and 25th February 2022 from 10-2pm.

Ages 7-14, Girls of all abilities welcome.

£25 per day or £40 for 2 day booking.

Girls of all abilities welcome!



Booking link:

[WCB - February Half Term—Girls 2-day Cricket Camp](#)

