Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

11th June 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after a glorious half term week. I'm sure that we all benefitted from this even if only for the long bank holiday weekend. The students have returned refreshed and raring to go.

We continue to be covid free this week. Please don't become complacent however as I am aware that Public Health England are seeing the Delta variant creep as close as Stratford. We are urging you to continue to use your lateral flow devices to support any asymptomatic cases.

It was just superb to see the students back in school this week although there was a notable absence of our year 111s of course! As it has always been, and quite frankly should be, our year 10s adopted the former year 11 football pitch at lunchtime this week showing a physical symbol of stepping up although our year 7 girls might certainly give the year 10s a run for their money with their football talent and energy. This was so lovely to see. We are blessed with a superb field and when the sun shines, it makes for a fantastic school lunchtime. Behaviour around school continues to be exemplary.

The year 10s began their exams this week and I have been absolutely impressed with their hard work and maturity. These exams pause for a few days whilst our Geographers attend their field work trip to Blencathra. Thanks to Mrs Stedman and the staff team for organising and supervising these few days for the students. Factor 50 will be needed I'm sure this weekend!

I'm grateful to those year 8 students and parents who attended our Options presentation last night on TEAMS. Hopefully this answered any queries that you might have about the process. The year 8 reports were a delight to read this week and I was extremely proud to award the letters of commendation again to students showing the highest attitude to learning scores this year; thank you all!

I was devastated to read from Ofsted this week about the numbers of young people who had been subject to inappropriate sexual harrassment from their peers without reporting this. Can I assure you that the DfE are addressing this and I want you to know as parents that the governors and I take this matter extremely seriously. Please don't allow our children to suffer in silence. We are here to support you and deal with any matters positively in order to protect the students.

In other news this week

Year 9s - Ground breaking research *Teens 4 Teens*

Forty seven of our year 9s became involved in a pilot project with Marathon Kids UK and Loughborough University as part of the Mayor's Charity Project this year; Cllr Kathryn Cargill.

The project is the first of its kind in the UK aimed at looking at the benefits and barriers of exercise with young people in a bid to try and sustain an interest in physical activity into later years. After recent lockdowns, we feel that this will have some huge positive effects on mental health for our students. The students are doing this as part of their weekly PE lesson for a 6 week programme.

We are extremely proud to be associated with this research.

Price and Buckland - Uniform Launch

Finally I am able to send you details of the Price and Buckland online uniform launch at www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/alcester. Thank you for your patience with this. In line with the government guidance, we now have two uniform providers for you, with NSC in Alcester still supplying items.

PE wear will be online very soon for you. I've been told mid July. There is a link from our school website under uniform.

Alcester Town

Thank you to the Town Council for the extended loan of their gazebos during the pandemic that have kept students dry. We are very grateful indeed.

School Grounds

Continued thanks to Kerri Sparkes for the hours and hours that she has generously dedicated over months now to make our grounds so attractive. We are so very grateful.

National Thank A Teacher Day

National Thank A Teacher Day

For any parents or students wishing to provide thanks to a specific member of staff, your messages can be recognised via the 'Thank a Teacher Day' website on the national day for recognition; 23rd June.

Hot weather

The students are more than welcome to bring hats and sun cream in for their lunchtimes spent in the glorious sunshine right now. If this continues, we will look at uniform adjustments on a daily basis as needed.

Reports

The remaining reports are due out this half term. Year 10 parents will receive examination results. There will be a recorded Celebration event this year for you to watch with families at home.

Alcester Duck Race

Have you sponsored a duck yet? The race is Saturday 10th July. Sponsor a duck for just £1 by going to alcester-duck.elygin.co.uk

Did you see?

I'm sure that you noticed the array of hot air balloons last weekend in Alcester. Thanks to Diane Guthrie for capturing this wonderful photo for us. Coupled with the Red Arrows display, we had quite a treat locally!

Wishing you all a very restful weekend. Sunday will be a scorcher so please remind the students about not swimming in open water right now. We're all aware of the risks involved with this.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

And thank you to
Mr Bastock for his selection.

Amazon Smile and the PTA

Alcester Academy PTA raises money that goes towards activities and equipment that enhance the experience of students but would often be out of reach of normal school funding. In the past, the PTA has subsidised school trips, end of term activities, drama productions as well as the purchase of picnic benches, sports equipment and much more.

There is now a new way of helping the PTA. Amazon will now donate 0.5 pence to Alcester Academy PTA for every pound spent by parents, friends and staff at no extra cost to the purchaser. All you have to do is to go through smile.amazon and nominate Alcester Academy PTA as your chosen charity. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please click to get started.

https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1005303-0

smile.amazon.co.uk

Warwickshire County Council

Alcester Library has now reopened. The current opening hours are 9.30am – 5.30pm Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 10am – 1pm on Saturdays.
It is easy and free to join the library and to borrow books and access lots of other resources - you can sign up online before you visit, just go to warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries.

The library has a wide range of children's books available for loan, including books by bestselling authors, fiction books, funny books, and Information books full of fascinating facts and true stories. We also have a Beginner Reads collection for those just starting their reading journey and a dedicated collection for Young Adults.

As well as borrowing books you can use BorrowBox which is our eBook and eAudio platform, it has a huge collection of children's and young people's audio books and eBooks to choose from and new titles are added every month.

Visit warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries to find out more.

Staff Photography of the Week

During half term Mr Bastock visited Corfe Castle at sunrise. The castle and mist was captured at 4.16am, on a Fuji XT2 camera with a 16-55mm lens and a 0.5 second exposure.

Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2021

Summer Term ends	Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm

AUTUMN TERM 2021

School closed	*Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021* *Teacher training days*
Autumn Term begins	
Years 7 and 9	Monday 6th September 2021
Years 8, 10 and 11	Tuesday 7th September 2021
School closed	*Friday 22nd October 2021* *Teacher training day*
Half term	Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021
Back to school	Monday 1st November 2021
Autumn Term ends	Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Artwork of the Week

A GCSE coursework piece studying the hand, by Caitlin in year 11. Outstanding work. *Miss Nemeshanyi*

Dates for your diary

Year 10 Geography fieldwork	Sunday 13th—Tuesday 15th June
Year 8 School Cloud event for Options	*Tuesday 15th June 2021 4-6pm*
	Wednesday 16th 4-6pm for Geography
Bronze D of E Expedition	Saturday 19th—Sunday 20th June
Year 11 Prom	*Thursday June 24th (covid permitting)*
Year 6 New Parents' Evening	Wednesday 30th June
Year 9 Romeo and Juliet	*Thursday 1st July*
Rock Academy concert (covid permitting)	Friday 2nd July 7-9pm
Mop up immunisations	*Monday 5th July*
Year 6 Induction Day	Friday 9th July
Year 7 Show Us Your School event	*Monday 12th July 4-6pm*
Year 7-10 End of term trips	Tuesday 13th July
Sports Day (students only)	*Thursday 15th July*

School Attendance — up to 10.6.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Whole School
95.7%	94.0%	92.9%	91.5%	92.8%

This week's top Tutor Groups

7WI– 99.5%, 8YA – 98.1%, 9AN – 98.5% and 10RO & 10SO – 100%

Adult Autism Education Programme

Community Adult Autism Support Service (CAASS)

Are you an adult with an autism diagnosis or think you may be autistic and would like to find out more about this condition?

An online education programme for **adults** (18+ years) **with autism** (diagnosed, awaiting diagnosis or those that think they may be autistic), **living in Coventry & Warwickshire**. The course is suitable for individuals not currently accessing or eligible for learning disability support.

This 6 session programme looks at how we, as adults, are affected by autism; what challenges it brings (along with the positives); and where to seek support, with room for discussion and learning from each other.

For more information and to book your place please visit
http://caass.eventbrite.co.uk

Week one: Understanding Autism
Understanding what we know about autism. How common is autism? Is it increasing?

Week two: Autism and Positive Wellbeing
Looking at positive mental health from an autism specific viewpoint – how to stay well whilst living with autism.

Week three: Sensory Processing
When we live with autism, our sensory system is often a little different. Come and find out more about this and how you might be affected.

Week four: Communication, social anxiety and friendships

In this week we are looking at how to cope with social situations and how to manage the anxiety that may occur in social situations. We will also be looking at friendships both online and face to face.

Week five: Anxiety management and emotional regulation

In this week we look at ways of coping with overwhelming emotions and anxiety so that we feel safe and in control. We also briefly look at other services available and provide suggestions of where else you may find support.

Week six: The wider community – what support is out there for people?
In this final celebratory week we talk about the benefits of peer support and what other support may be out there for you.

We will be adding more locations and dates soon

If you would like to take part please book via Eventbrite or if you have further questions about the course, including other course locations, please call us on **024 7771 4545** and leave your name, number, postcode and the course you are interested in, or email caass@cwmind.org.uk

Year 9 Grange Hall Residential

Before half term, 57 year 9 students and staff spent an amazing week experiencing extreme land and water-based activities! The residential trip was based at Grange Hall Activity Centre, Bideford, north Devon.

Everyone enjoyed several activity sessions on the beach. Huge fun was had learning to surf, with many students gaining the skills to be able to stand up.

Out on the Bideford estuary, our students experienced water skiing—which was amazing to see. There were other high adrenaline experiences the students took part in, such as the Ringo (being pulled along by a high speed boat), and a RIB ride (a ridged inflatable boat being driven out to sea... at high speed). On the lake at the centre, students became proficient in raft building and dragon boating racing.

Students also went underground in a tunnelling experience, and took part in a highly competitive karting challenge. Groups eagerly took on the activities of crate stacking, tree climb and hoist, and Jacob's Ladder. The students also enjoyed more sedate activities such as coastal walks and rock pooling.

On the last night, everyone enjoyed crabbing, eating ice cream and playing the legendary Alcester Academy bingo, with lots of prizes won.

The students had a really fantastic time at Grange Hall, building teamwork and communication skills through fun activities.

It was such a lovely opportunity to see the students grow individually as well as collectively and, as staff, it was great to get to know different students outside of the school environment.

Thank you to all the staff who supported the residential trip. The students were exemplary and their enthusiasm towards the activities was so pleasing to see after such a difficult year.

We are looking forward to planning another trip to Grange Hall next year!

Miss Buckthorp & Miss Watson

"The caving/tunnelling was my favourite part - we did get a bit wet and muddy but that's part of the experience. The pitch black meant communication was paramount when you needed to find your way out. Everyone who went in displayed great teamwork. All of the activities required us to all work together and get on top of the task given."

Jake

"On the Grange Hall trip, my favourite activity was water skiing, although I wasn't very good at it! It was memorable because whenever someone fell off everyone jumped into the sea to save them. It ended up with most of us swallowing mouthfuls of sea water and some of us being taken by the current. It was so much fun!"

Ollie

IMAGINATION SPACE WORKSHOP

Hi everyone! Thank you for all the time you spent with us in the Spring, telling us about your experiences and what matters to you and your mental health.

We understand and really appreciate your feedback, and we need your help to make changes.

We have an exciting opportunity to create a whole new service and we need YOU to help us build it.

Join our online Imagination Space Workshop

This is an amazing opportunity to share your views, to get creative, and help us to design a new service focused around your mental health and wellbeing.

Date and Time:

- Monday 21 June 2021 at 5.30pm

To book a space or to have a chat about the workshop please contact rosie.thomas@peopletoo.co.uk

We will send you a link to join when you book your space.

Parent Carer Focus Group – young people's mental health services

Hi all,

Thank you for all the time you spent with us in the Spring, telling us about your experiences of accessing mental health services for young people and what matters to you and your family.

We understand and really appreciate your feedback, and we need your help to make changes.

We have an exciting opportunity to create a whole new service and we need your input to help us build it.

Please join our online Focus Group conversation.

This is an amazing opportunity to help us to design a new service focused around young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Date and Time:

- Tuesday 22 June 2021 at 6.00pm

To book a space or to have a chat about the workshop please contact rosie.thomas@peopletoo.co.uk

We will send you a link to join when you book your space.

IMAGINATION SPACE WORKSHOP

Are you a young person living in Warwickshire?

Would you like to be a part of an exciting project, and help us design a whole new mental health and wellbeing service for young people?

Join our online Imagination Space workshop!

This is an amazing opportunity to share your views, to get creative, and help us to design a new service focused around your mental health and wellbeing.

Date and Time:

- Monday 28 June 2021 at 5.30pm

To book a space or to have a chat about the workshop please contact rosie.thomas@peopletoo.co.uk

We will send you a link to join when you book your space.

Warwickshire County Council

Peopletoo
it works better with you

Year 8 options *Why Study Languages*

Today we welcomed undergraduate student Natalie Moore from Aston University to our year 8 assembly. Natalie spoke to year 8 about the advantages of studying a language both to future employers and as a life-long skill. Natalie outlined reasons why we need more language learners and talked about areas of work where these are most useful. She also spoke to us about the numerous opportunities that she has already had in her life to use her foreign languages where she would have least expected it. We are very grateful to Natalie as it is good for students to hear about this from another student, rather than always from us as teachers. The assembly was very inspirational and has already persuaded one member of staff to sign up for French evening classes!

Projet Monsieur/Madame

This week year 7 and 8 French students will be beginning their Mr Men projects. Over the next few weeks they will be writing a short story for children based on a Mr Men character of their choice.

The stories will incorporate all of the language learnt by pupils this year as well as offering an opportunity for creativity with the language. There will be prizes issued to all classes for the best books. These will be awarded for a variety of things including use of language, creativity and artistic talent.

Mrs Weatherley

MFL Idiom of the Week

English: Let sleeping dogs lie

French: Ne réveillez pas le chat qui dort

Literal meaning: Don't wake a sleeping cat

German: Kein schlafenden Hunde wecken

Literal meaning: Don't wake sleeping dogs

cn carers network

Carers lost, on average, 25 hours of support a month they previously had from services or family and friends before the pandemic (Carer Trust)

By Making Caring Visible and Valued this Carers Week we can make sure carers get the information and support they need.

Carers Week 2021

www.carers-network.org.uk

JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #14 - NEUROLOGIST

Epraise Updates—week ending 10.6.21

Congratulations to the Top Students this year:

1st	Harvey	7NE	Third week	264 points
2nd	Maya	7BW	Third week	263 points
3rd	Jack	7HT	Fourth week	242 points

Top Scorers this week:

1	Sophie	8BL	19 points
2	Stan	8ST	17 points
3	Ben	8CA	11 points
4	Emerson	8BL	8 points
4	Rudy	8BL	8 points
4	Sam	8BL	8 points
7	Diana	8CA	7 points
7	Ryan	7WI	7 points
7	Alex	7HT	7 points
7	Emily	8BL	7 points

Top Staff this week:

1	Mr Rowberry	358 points
2	Mr Bowater	247 points
3	Miss Bayliss	180 points
4	Mr Yarrington	172 points
5	Miss McDowall	81 points

Top Tutor Groups this week:

1	8BL	125 points
2	7HT	97 points
3	8CA	90 points
3	8ST	90 points
5	8YA	89 points

Top Subjects this week:

1	History	329 points
2	Geography	192 points
3	Art	156 points
4	English	150 points
5	Science	88 points

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

PE Practices

We will be issuing the practice list weekly this half term.
We have several fixtures coming up, so it is important that students attend in order to be considered for teams.

Week beginning 14/6/21

Wednesday 16th June: **Year 8 Tennis (boys and girls)**
Year 8 Rounders (girls)
Thursday 17th June: **Year 7 Tennis (boys and girls)**
Year 7 Rounders (girls)

If your practice night is on a day when you don't have PE come to school in your PE kit and wait in your bubble areas for the PE staff to collect you at the end of the school day. All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.
Mr Powell