

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. Welcome back and once again, a very happy new year to you. This week has gone very quickly and I'm extremely proud of the wonderful start to 2024 that the students have made. Thank you for the close attention to uniform that you have provided over the Christmas period. The students all look very smart indeed.



If you have any queries about this, please refer these to nickcooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

This forum was recorded and can be found, if you missed it, at www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/teaching--learning---assessment/assessment.

This is a brief version of the bulletin for you this week.

Equally, for year 10 parents on Wednesday, we welcomed the opportunity to update you, before work experience week, on Unifrog. It won't be long now until the students are out on their placements.

Attendance

I'm thrilled to reveal that attendance this week has reached 95.9%. This is the first time since covid that we have returned to 95%+. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment towards this. As promised, I will be giving an extended break time to students next week as a reward for this fantastic effort.



Parent Forums

Thank you to those year 7 and 8 parents and carers who joined us last night online, for reminders and updates with regard to KS3 assessments.



Year 11 Saturday School

Mrs Sandells will be in school tomorrow 9-11am for year 11 geography revision. This is followed then by science at 11-1pm. I appreciate staff giving up their Saturday for this, and to parents for getting students in to school. Students can wear their own clothes; I suggest they wrap up warm, although the heating will most definitely be on. The students will be based in the hall for the geography session moving to labs thereafter.

What's inside this week...

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Demerits update

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Epraise—Facts & Figures

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Sports News

Coats

I'm extremely surprised by how many students are telling me how cold it is at break and lunch time, but yet have no coat on. I'm sure that you have a battle each morning with this, but can I urge students to add an extra layer with a coat as it is a little crisp right now! Thanks so much. I did send a separate communication about this earlier in the week.

Trips

In response to parent voice, January 2024 sees the reset of all behaviour linked to trips. This means that all students get a fresh start to work towards the end of academic year reward trips under the 'good behaviour' criteria. Thank you for providing your thoughts around this over time. We have listened and accept that a misdemeanor in September should not necessarily be held against a student then until June or July.

Demerits

We will be releasing the reasons for classroom demerits to all parents starting this term. We hope that this helps you at home to add more context to useful conversations. If you need any support to download the EPRAISE App, do reach out to school. It is useful if you get all notifications in real time, and this includes praise of course.



Outside school success

Do continue to let us know about any student success outside of school this year. We really enjoy sharing this with you all.

Key dates

I did outline the key dates for this half term in my letter earlier this week. I'll add these to next week's bulletin. Of note, are year 9 exams that start directly after February half term.

There is a planned PTA, Friends of Alcester Academy meeting online next Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7pm.

Lego Therapy

If you have any lego sets that you have finished with at home, our therapy leaders would really appreciate these for use with students. Thank you in advance.



Go Harry!

We continue to champion Harry in year 8 as his *Junior Bake Off* journey begins on air! Look out for this on Channel 4 each weekday at 5pm.



**HARRY, 12
WEST MIDLANDS**



**Junior
BAKE OFF**

Harry lives in the West Midlands where his time is split between living with his mum and dad. He has two younger identical twin sisters and a dog called Molly. Sporty Harry plays football for his school and local team in defence or midfield. He also likes athletics, swimming, basketball and has all the bases covered when it comes to rounders! Away from sports, Harry likes to get creative, drawing and making people's birthday cards for that personal touch. Harry's mum taught him the basics, but in the past three years he's been baking more seriously. Harry enjoys the process behind baking, whether making something sweet or savoury, but the most exciting part for him is sharing the end product with his friends and family.

Mr Jones visits Astwood Bank Primary School

We were delighted to join with Mr Jones to celebrate his invitation to Astwood Bank Primary School, and year 3s this week. Mr Jones was invited back to the primary school, as part of a history project, where he was questioned by the information hungry 7 and 8 year olds. He was a pupil there from 1960-1966, and then also taught at the school from 1977-1979.

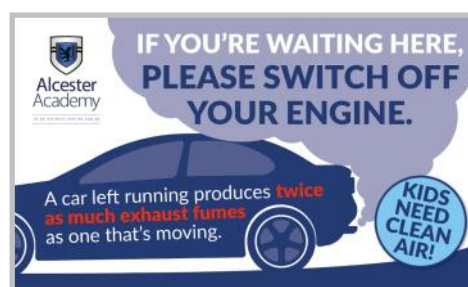


Mr Jones' father had also been a pupil at the school from 1949-1958, when the school was an all aged school, going from age 5 to 15. I'm sure that you'll agree, this is quite a track record, and we all offer Mr Jones our congratulations on being part of this school's amazing journey with his family. Such fascinating local history for sure!

And for this week, I think that completes the updates. I wish our year 11s all the very best as their mocks start next week with MFL speaking exams. Then from 22nd January we start 3:2 days in order to run the written exams.

Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead.
Wrap up warm everyone!

Best wishes. *Sarah Mellors*—Headteacher



Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2024

Half Term Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024

Back to school Monday 19th February 2024

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2024

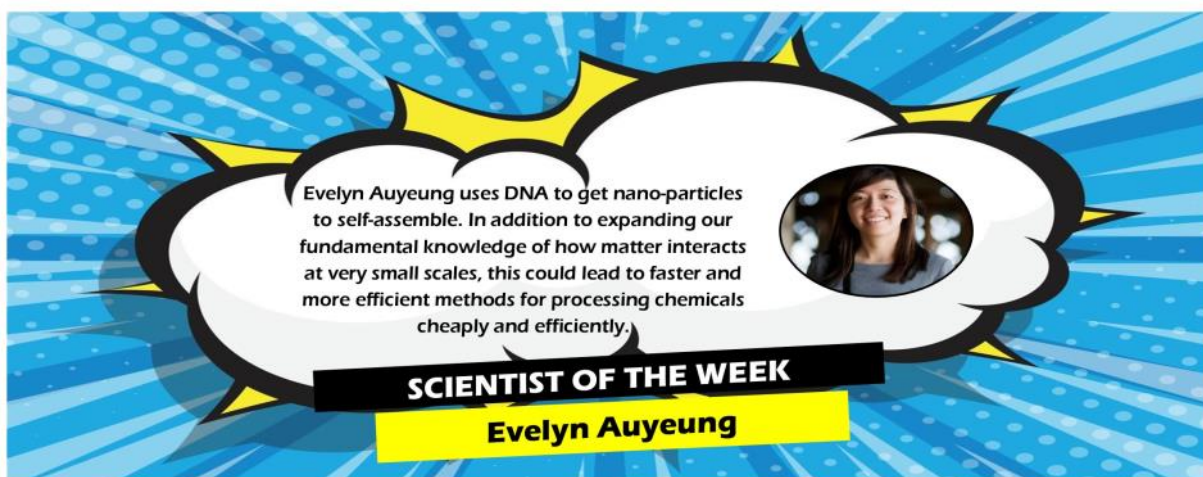
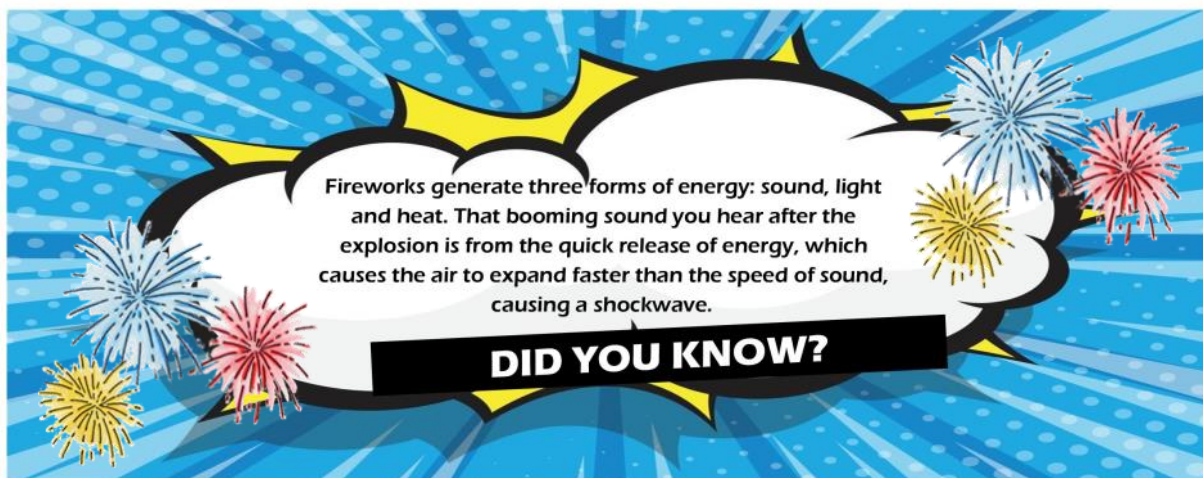
Summer Term begins Monday 8th April 2024

May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2024

Back to school Monday 3rd June 2024

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2024 at 12.40pm



Epraise Facts & Figures

Student Leader board:

1	Noah	7RA	214 points
1	Chloe	7KO	214 points
3	Ethan	7KO	208 points
4	Maddie	7KO	205 points
5	Phoebe	7KO	204 points
6	Alfie	7LX	199 points
7	Zachery	7KO	194 points
8	Bella	7KO	193 points
9	Lauren	7TN	190 points
10	Isabella	7RA	189 points

Top Students—this week:

1	Ilani	8GA	15 points
2	Anthony	8GA	12 points
3	Isabella	7RA	11 points
3	Lauren	7TN	11 points
3	Chloe	7KO	11 points
6	Noah	7RA	10 points
6	Anna	7KO	10 points
6	Maisie	7RA	10 points
6	Joe	8SI	10 points
10	Eva	8TY	9 points

Top Tutor—this week:

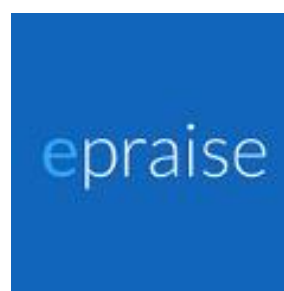
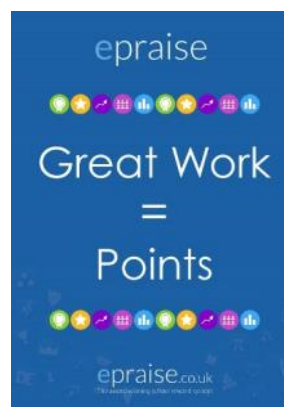
1	7RA	150 points
2	7TN	139 points
2	7KO	139 points
4	8TY	138 points
5	11MR	134 points

Top Staff—this week:

1	Mr Yarrington	318 points
2	Miss Lewis	294 points
3	Mrs Gorner	289 points

Top Subjects—this week:

1	English	699 points
2	History	359 points
3	Art	340 points



Teacher of Maths

Recruitment incentive offered and/or TLR for suitable candidate

Closing date: 12 noon on Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Interviews: Week commencing 29th January 2024

(provisionally Monday 29th January)

[ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes. The Mathematics Department is friendly, hardworking and committed to making learning maths an interesting and enjoyable experience for all our students. The department is comprised of experienced teachers and a dedicated HLTA.

The maths department is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; results in 2023 far exceeded National Averages.

Maths is taught across both KS3 and KS4 in groups that are set by mathematical ability. Students have four 60-minute maths lessons during each week. They follow the Pearson second edition scheme of work for KS3. During KS4 students follow a tailored scheme of work adapted from the Edexcel syllabus. At KS4, students can opt to study Further Maths and Statistics as well.

We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding, equality of opportunity, and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

An enhanced DBS check will be required.





Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance: 95.9%

Top tutors this week:

7WI with 96.7% attendance
 8YA with 100% attendance
 9SA with 100% attendance
 10HL with 99.4% attendance
 11MO with 100% attendance

Top House this week:

Greville with 97.5%

We have seen a brilliant start to the Spring term with attendance over 95%. We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting their children with attendance and learning time. We would also like to say a huge well done to pupils for showing such resilience.

If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day. This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Thank you, *Mrs Hatcher*

the national sleep helpline

Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
 Wednesday 9am - 11am

Alcester Academy Choir

I am delighted to be running the *Alcester Academy Choir* which starts on Tuesday 16th January, 3.25 - 4.15pm, in the school hall.

The choir is open to all year groups, and we will be exploring a wide range of repertoire and singing techniques.

I am super excited to get started and there will be many opportunities throughout the school year to participate in performances both in and outside of school.

I can't wait to see you Tuesday!

Miss McKenzie



Alcester Academy Choir

Tuesdays 3.25- 4.15pm
 Main School Hall

What Children & Young People Need to Know about FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's *not* the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having *ours* challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right *not* to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS

National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Extra Curricular Clubs—Spring Term 2024

<p>Monday</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>Science Club KS3 S3</p> <p>Acoustic Group Music Hut</p> <p>Art rooms Available for all art students</p> <p>AFTER SCHOOL</p> <p>Ornithology T4</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>Young Enterpsie E6/5</p> <p>Pop Band Music Hut</p> <p>Mock Trial E2</p> <p>Art rooms Available for all art students</p> <p>AFTER SCHOOL</p> <p>Choir Hall 4.15 finsih</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>Chess/Board Game M4</p> <p>BBC Young Reporters E1 (KS3 only)</p> <p>Digital Fashion T4</p> <p>POKEMON club PE1</p> <p>Art rooms Available for all art students</p> <p>AFTER SCHOOL</p> <p>Rock Academy Music</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>Environment Club E2</p> <p>LGQTQ+IA E4</p> <p>Rock Band</p> <p>Humanities Film Club Top of the Tower</p> <p>Art rooms Available for all art students</p> <p>AFTER SCHOOL</p> <p>Art Club KS4 only</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>LUNCH</p> <p>Chess/Board Game M4</p> <p>Dance club Drama Studio</p> <p>Guitar Orchestra Music Hut</p> <p>Art rooms Available for all art students</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>Rock Academy 10am-11.30am</p>



Alcester Academy
TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

Year 11 Revision

Please find attached our revision timetable for this half term. Pupils need to ensure that they have their prom/hoodie card signed by their teachers after completing a successful revision session. *Mr Cooke*

Day	Core LUNCH	Core AFTER SCHOOL
Monday	Study Room M5	
Tuesday	Study Room S5	English
Wednesday	Study Room E2 or Science	Science
Thursday	Study Room E2	Maths

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



****SPRING 1 LUNCHTIME SPORT****



- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 15th January on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- Lunchtime sport will follow a set timetable each half-term and run from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1)
- PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MONDAY - PE	TUESDAY - MO	WEDNESDAY - PW
15/1	Girls 'Just Dance'	Year 11 Football	All years Table Tennis
22/1	Girls 'Just Dance'	Year 11 Football	All years Table Tennis
29/1	Girls 'Just Dance'	Year 11 Football	All years Table Tennis
5/2	Girls 'Just Dance'	Year 11 Football	All years Table Tennis

After School Sport



****THIS WEEKS SPORT**:**
W/B 15/1/24



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Staff Training	N/A
Tuesday	External Archery (Selected) – PW Year 7 + 8 Girls Football – External Coach Year 10 Rugby – MO	Gym Field Field
Wednesday	Year 9, 10 + 11 Basketball @ AGS – PE + PW Year 7 + Year 8 Girls Basketball – MO	AGS Gym
Thursday	Year 7 Indoor Athletics Trial – MO + PE	Gym

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *



****SPRING TERM SPORT****



- Sports Clubs will continue to be advertised on a weekly basis in Spring Term
- Clubs to start next week w/b Monday 15th January and will run from 3.25-4.30pm after school

Where can I find out about sports clubs?

- School bulletin each Friday for the week ahead
 - Daily notices from tutors
 - Whiteboard outside PE changing rooms
- All information regarding competitive fixtures will be emailed home at the earliest opportunity and team sheets for selection displayed on the PE notice board

EXTRA-CURRICULAR
SPORT



2023-2024
SPRING TERM



@alcesteracademy
#AASport



TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE



@Academy_PE
#silverblueblack

TEXTACADEMY

**Report incidents of bullying, theft,
cyber issues, crime or anti-social behaviour**



I'm being bullied - I don't know what to do -

textacademy to 07563130478

with your message

or

email your message to:

textacademy@alcesteracademy.org.uk

07563130478

Teacher of Science (Maternity Cover)

Salary: TMS

Contract Type: Full Time

Contract Term: Temporary (maternity cover)

Required: From February 2024 (start date negotiable)

[ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding science department within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally as a result of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and supportive science team as maternity cover. At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes.

The science department is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; in 2022 results far exceeded National Averages: P8 for the whole school was +0.46 and science achieved a VA of +0.55. In 2023 86% achieved a minimum of 2 grade 4s in science with 71% achieving at least 2 grade 5s. Applicants will be considered from all points of experience, including early career teachers. In Key Stage 3, teachers would have sole responsibility for a class and are expected to deliver all content. At Key Stage 4, teachers are given more opportunity to teach within their specialist area. As a small department, flexibility and teamwork is particularly important. An ability to teach physics at Key Stage 4 would be desirable, however not essential. At KS4 both combined and triple science is offered. We currently work with AQA.

If you feel that Alcester Academy could be for you, please feel free to arrange a conversation or a school tour with our Head of Science, Debbie Marshall or simply complete the application form. Email address—admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post.



Teaching Assistant Level 3

Full Time

Working term time only (39 weeks to include 5 Teacher Training days)

Scale H range 14. FTE £27,334 starting salary. Actual pro rata £23,511.

Starting: As soon as possible

Closing date: Friday 19th January 2024 at 12 noon

Interviews: Week commencing 22nd January 2024

[ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

Learning Support at Alcester Academy

Working under the supervision of the SENCO and teachers, assist and support teaching and learning, working with individuals or groups, and assist in providing general care, safety and welfare for pupils.

The Post

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) for an experienced teaching assistant ideally with an NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent). You will be working predominantly with a student with an EHCP but also other students with a variety of SEND needs.

We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

If you have any queries or concerns, please get in touch with carihaynes@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application. Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding, equality of opportunity, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be required.



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

*A message for children and parents
about risks of ice and never to go onto ice from the RoSPA*

The link below offers useful safety advice:

<https://www.rospa.com/leisure-water-safety/water/advice/ice>



accidents don't have to happen



Beware - thin ice



**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
an open door to supporting your mental health

