Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN

12th December 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon. Thank you to Mr Anderson for updating us last week around IT safety. This bulletin goes out once each term.

We're heading into another busy season here at school. I hope that this week's bulletin will update you all on a few areas for the end of term.

Today, our year 7 and 9 students enjoyed their end of term reward trips. Here are just a few photos of their adventures with more to follow next week.

What's inside this week

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Welcome Mrs Ball, New SENDCo

My name is Mrs Ball, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new SENCo at Alcester Academy. I am thrilled to be joining such an inclusive and supportive school community, where every pupil is given the opportunity to thrive.

I am passionate about working with children and families to ensure that those with additional needs receive the support they deserve. With over 25 years of experience in special educational needs, including roles within various educational settings and the local authority, I bring a wealth of knowledge and commitment to this role.

I look forward to getting to know our pupils and their families and working closely with you to provide the best possible outcomes for every child.

SEND Reforms. Have a say.

SEND Reform National Conversation - Online Series | Eventbrite

Some parents may be interested in the online events happening over the coming weeks. Make your voice heard on SEND reform—take part in what we hope will be the biggest national conversation on SEND in a generation. Join Schools Minister, Georgia Gould for our series of live online discussions with a panel of experts.

Well done Year 11s…

For completing the first round of mock examinations. Year 11 results evening is on Thursday 8th January 4-7pm live in school. SAVE THE DATE.

Thank you to Mrs Parr, Exams Officer, our invigilators and teaching assistants for all of their support organising the exams for students.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thank you for joining us online on Thursday 4th December for parents' evening. If you need anything further following this, please do let us know at school.

Congratulations…

…to all of the students who submitted tree toppers and Christmas cards for our competition. These were amazing. The winning entries were:

Artwork for the Christmas card was designed by Alfie, year 7, Greville House.

Congratulations also to Herbie, year 9 Ragley House, for competing in the British Cadet League for table tennis with his club in Stratford. We are very proud of you!

Wednesday Parent Drop-In

Parent drop in is now postponed until after Christmas. Our first session back is Wednesday, 7th January 2026, from 3.30-4.25pm. No appointment is required for this.

If I could ask that parents and carers try not to drop into school first thing in the morning, I'd be very grateful. This is our busiest time of the day with students and staff, and we don't like letting parents down if we cannot spend dedicated time with you. Appointments are needed other than for Wednesday afternoon drop-ins.

Understanding Ofsted's New Inspection Toolkit

You may find this link of use if you are still trying to understand the national inspection changes Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades - GOV.UK. Governors and SLT had a super Ofsted training session on Tuesday in readiness for the new inspection process.

School Council

We held a fantastic School Council meeting last Friday where I talked to the students about the proposed new summer polo shirt, school rewards, lunchtimes, toilet facilities, Ofsted and much, much more. I'll be feeding back to the students in whole school assembly online next Friday with Hester (Greville), Maisy (Oversley) and Noah (Oversley). The students were exceptional ambassadors for the school.

One of the areas highlighted was that the students feel that they cannot access their reward points as easily on Bromcom. I have arranged for Mr Hall to show all of the students how to do this in our final assembly next Friday.

Equipment Check

We do hold an equipment check each week in tutor time. We have noticed a decline in some items as we head towards the end of term. Please can you be sure that all students have a full set of equipment in order to learn. Thank you.

Stars in our Schools

Thank you to all of the support staff at Alcester Academy who help to make our lives a lot easier and continue to do so much for everyone.

Motivational Monday

We got December off to a flying start with a Motivational Monday. I hope that you enjoyed the lovely messages and praise points being sent your way. We do also enjoy receiving your responses to these. Thank you all.

Christmas Meal

You should have all received a communication about our Christmas menu that was sent on 2nd December. Please be sure that students have paid for their Christmas meal by the close of the day on Monday 15th December if they want one.

Students can make their payment at the canteen till. With regret, the Christmas meal cannot be purchased on the day. It has to be pre-ordered and prepaid. Children in receipt of free school meals need to be sure that they have ordered a Christmas meal in advance.

There will be other food options available for students to buy as normal on each day.

Are you eligible for free school meals as a family?

[Apply for free school meals: Eligibility for benefits-related free school meals (FSM) - Warwickshire County Council]

You may get more time over the Christmas period to look into this. Please find the link of use.

Save the Date

In our annual tradition, we are wearing Christmas Jumpers on Friday 19th December in order to support the charity, Save The Children. Donations can be made by the School Gateway. This is a non-uniform day for students.

Safeguarding over the Christmas Period

Staff will be spending time with their own families over the Christmas break. If you have any concerns about any children, please therefore use the following details:

Contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect immediately by calling 01926 414144.
Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm.
If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.
If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999.

Safeguarding Children

These details are always posted on the school website home page during every holiday period.

Some interesting statistics for you as we complete this term:

- 69% of students have attended at least one club or enrichment opportunity this term. A massive 20% of the school population were involved in the production of Grease!
- 62% of students have attended at least one trip this term (up until the end of November)
- 3051 positive points have been awarded this term to students by staff
- 47 students have been seen by the school counsellor or Lifespace this term
- £1489.09 has been raised for eight different charities this term. Thank you to everyone for making these superb opportunities happen. Save The Children is an additional charity for next week's fund raiser.

Early Finish—Friday 19th December

We have already written to you about the early finish on Friday 19th December. There will be a one way road system in operation to keep everything flowing as smoothly as possible. Do let relatives who might be picking children up know about this.

Moor Fields Charity, Alcester

Thank you to Moor Fields for their recent donation to school. It is appreciated a great deal indeed.

PTA Santa Run

Our wonderful PTA—Friends of Alcester Academy— will be on the Round Table Santa Run on Tuesday 16th December raising funds for school. We are very grateful indeed. Look out for them around the new housing estate opposite the Roebuck.

Thank you this term Governors

We continue to appreciate the support of our Governing Body all of whom are volunteers taking the time to dedicate hours and hours to school matters. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break.

Learning Support Unit

We are currently short staffed in LSU due to long term staff absence. I thank you and the students for patience at this time. The team are trying their absolute best to provide adequate cover.

Duke of Edinburgh

Thank you to year 10 parents who joined us online on Wednesday for the launch of this. Please reach out to Miss Buckthorp if you missed this. Thanks to Mrs Harrison for her super support with this too.

Next week

As we head into the end of term, we are looking forward to hosting our MP for a visit on Monday, then seeing some of you at the Christmas Concert in school next Tuesday evening. We also have our year 9 annual Panto and more reward trips to name just a few of the events happening in school as we count down to the Christmas break.

Wishing you all a superb weekend ahead. I'm sure that it is full of preparations and final touches as we build towards the Christmas break. Just remember to take some time out for yourselves if you can over the next couple of days.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

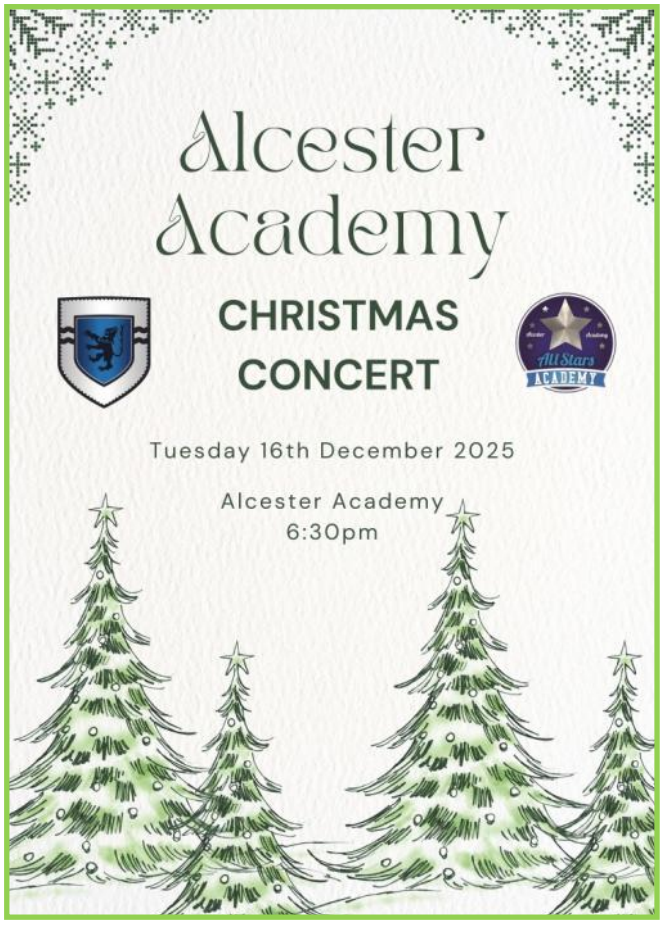
Key Dates for 2026

Tuesday 6th January	Full student return to school.
Monday 5th January	Staff training day. School closed.
Monday 12th January	Year 8 exams start in classes.
Weekend of 17th January	West End Trip.
Monday 19th January	Year 9 Super Learning Day. 'Trust Me'.
Wednesday 21st January	Year 7 Humanities Super Learning Day.
Thursday 22nd January.	Year 8 and KS4 German Super Learning Day.
Tuesday 27th January	Online Parent Forum on KS4 Reading at 6pm.
29th/30th January	Year 11 Performing Arts Controlled Assessment.
Friday 30th January	Family Bingo Evening. PTA.
Monday 2nd February	Year 7 exams start in classes.
Friday 6th February	Year 11 Poetry Live trip.
Wednesday 11th February	Year 11 Doctors Show trip.
Thursday 12th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening. Online.

This is not an exhaustive list of events. I'm certain there will be others to add or communicate about.

Save the Date—Our Christmas Concert

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Concert on Tuesday, 16th December at 6.30pm here at Alcester Academy. Join us for an evening of festive favourites and exciting new interpretations performed by a variety of our bands and ensembles. We look forward to celebrating the season with you.



Find a Soloist—Our Winners Announced!

On Tuesday, our year 7 cohort took part in the annual *Find a Soloist* competition, a much-loved Alcester Academy tradition, in which one of our newest students is chosen to open the Christmas Concert with the first verse of *Silent Night*.

After a wonderful morning of singing, we are delighted to announce this year's winners:
Anoushka (Billesley) and Ollie (Oversley).

We were truly impressed by the number of students who chose to step forward and perform. The courage, enthusiasm and talent shown by so many year 7 students was exceptional, and we would like to congratulate every single participant. What a wonderful array of singing ability we have in this year group.

We warmly invite all families to join us for the Alcester Academy Christmas Concert on Tuesday 16th December at 6.30pm. The evening will feature a wide range of performances from across the school, including ensembles, bands and of course, our talented year 7 soloists.

It promises to be a joyful celebration of music and festive spirit—we look forward to seeing you there.
Miss Sacco

Year 10 Performing Art Students Visit Stratford-upon-Avon College

On Thursday, 4th December our year 10 Performing Arts students visited Stratford-upon-Avon College for a fantastic day of theatre, inspiration and an insight into post-16 opportunities. The students were warmly welcomed by the staff and were given the chance to watch two high-quality productions, created and performed by the college's UAL Level 3 Acting, Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre students.

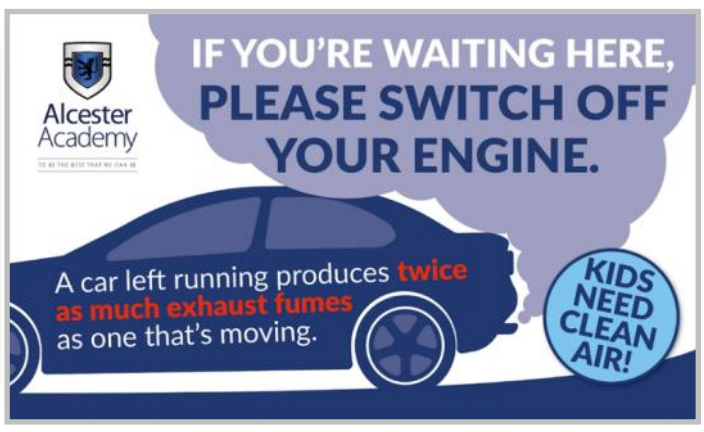
The first performance, Death Becomes Them, offered a bold and creative reimagining of Shakespeare's most dramatic moments, while the afternoon's Cabaret of Conflict showcased an impressive range of musical theatre talent, featuring songs from well-known shows such as Six, Come From Away, Les Misérables and Rent. Both performances demonstrated the professionalism, ambition and energy of the courses offered at the college.

Between the shows, our students enjoyed a guided tour of the facilities, including rehearsal studios, theatre spaces and technical departments. They also had the chance to speak with teaching staff and current students about life on a Performing Arts course, the application process, and the pathways available after year 11.

Our students left the visit enthused and excited, not only for their own Unit 1 performances in the first week back in January, but also for the potential opportunities awaiting them in Further Education. It was a valuable and inspiring day for all involved.

A huge well done to our year 10s, who represented the Academy brilliantly throughout.

Miss Sacco



ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS

Family BINGO Night

Friday 30th January

Doors Open 6.30pm — Eyes down 7.00pm

1 Book (6 Games) - £2

6 Books (6 Games) - £10

HTTP://FRIENDSOFAA.SUMUPSTORE.COM/

SUPPORT US BY VISITING THE "FRIENDS" ONLINE SHOP

Bar
Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available

Pre-booking recommended.

Book now online or via the school office.

https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

Help Us Stock Our Shelves: The School Library's Amazon Wishlist!

Our Learning Resource Centre School Library (LRC) is a vital hub for learning, imagination, and discovery, but keeping our collection fresh, diverse, and up-to-date is an ongoing challenge. We want to ensure every student can find a book that sparks their curiosity and supports their studies, but our budget can only stretch so far.

Why a Wishlist?

We've created and are continuing to add to a special Amazon Wishlist filled with titles that our librarian, teachers, and students will be excited about! This list includes:

- **Bestsellers and New Releases**: Books that students are buzzing about and requesting now.
- **Diverse Voices**: Stories that reflect the rich diversity of our school and the wider world.
- **Non-Fiction Resources**: Up-to-date materials to support classroom assignments and independent research in science, history, and more.
- **Graphic Novels and Manga**: High-interest items that help engage reluctant readers.

By using the Wishlist, you can purchase a book that goes directly to the school library. It's a simple, transparent way to know exactly what your donation is providing for our students. Every book donated becomes a shared resource for the entire school community for years to come!

How You Can Help

Supporting the library has never been easier! Here's how you can make a difference today:

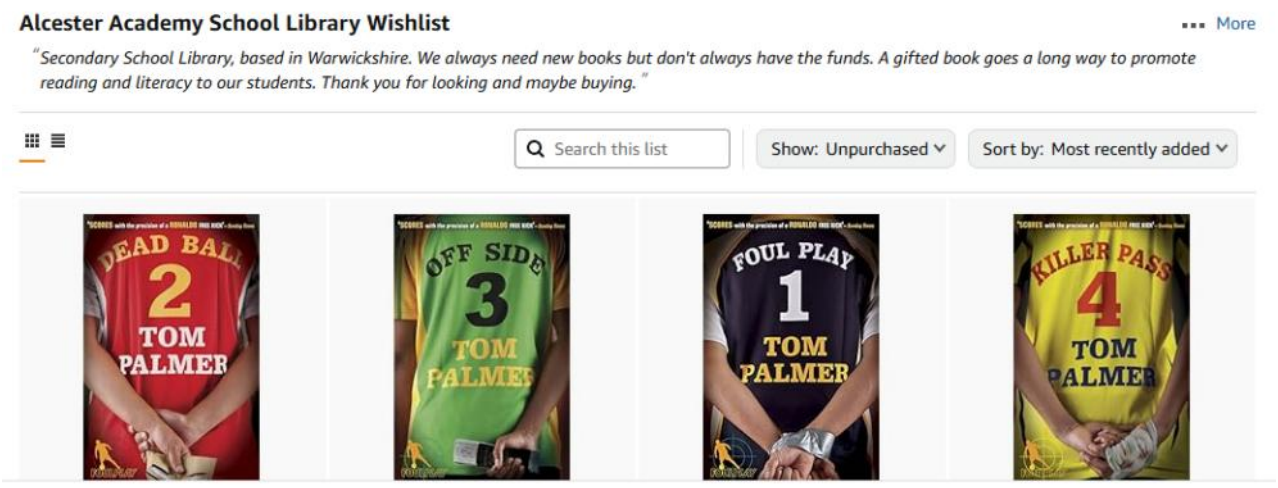
- **Find the List**: You can access the Wishlist by visiting https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EPAIJEMK3OSC?ref_=wl_share

Please note that it is no longer possible to directly search for a 'wishlist' on Amazon, and so this link is the only way to find it.

- **Pick Your Book**: Browse the items and choose a book (or several!) that you'd like to donate.
- **Check Out**: When purchasing, select the school's address (often listed as the "Gift Registry Address" during checkout) so the book is shipped right to us. Don't forget to include your name in the gift message if you'd like a thank-you note!

Even purchasing a single paperback can make a significant impact on our collection and put a smile on a student's face. Thank you in advance for helping us nurture a lifelong love of reading and learning in all our students! For more information, please contact the LRC Manager juliehands@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Mrs Hands—LRC Manager



LRC End of Term News

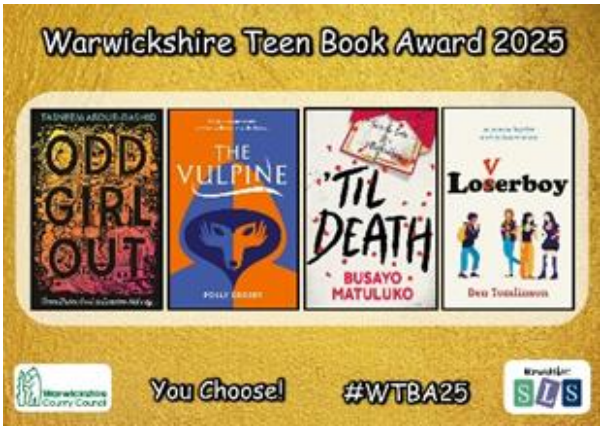
The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) aims to provide a lively, welcoming and well-resourced environment to support the learning and teaching within the school.

More new books for the library!

We've had another wonderful delivery of books kindly gifted from our Amazon wish list.
A huge thank you to everyone who has bought us books—your generosity means so much and helps us keep our shelves inspiring, exciting, and full.
We appreciate you more than you know!

Warwickshire Teen Book Award

The shortlist of four books was selected by year 9 students from across Warwickshire by holding 'longlist speed dating events' with extracts from eight books, back in September.



In October, the four books chosen to be read for the award were announced and during a very busy term some of our students somehow managed to find time to read the books.

We took part in a live online event on Wednesday 10th December, with staff from the School Library Service, eighteen other schools and all four of the authors.

Hester (Greville) was excited to learn that her blog competition entry won! After a Q & A session the SLS team were delighted to announce that the winning book, chosen by the students was *The Vulpine* by Polly Crosby, which was also the personal favourite for our students.

Warwickshire Secondary Book Award

This award offers year 7/8 pupils from schools all over the county the opportunity to read 6 shortlisted titles and review their favourites with their peers. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with students from other schools and promote the enjoyment of reading. The shortlisting for the 2025 award has been completed and the following books have been chosen:

Stealing Happy by Brian Conaghan
On the Wall by Anne Fine
The Twelve by Liz Hyder
The Line They Drew Through Us by Hiba Noor Khan
Shrapnel Boys by Jenny Pearson
Deadsoul Project by Dan Smith

Twenty students have signed up to take part in the award, (year 7 are pictured), and this week have been choosing which book they will read first over Christmas. They will be asked to cast their votes in March and the winning book will be revealed at an exciting ceremony, where at least one of the shortlisted authors is present, at King's High School in Warwick on Thursday 26th March 2026.

Student Librarian News

Our student librarian, Lydia (Billesley) completed the Bronze Student Librarian Award this week. Congratulations Lydia! She will now continue on to the Silver Award.

The LRC and the English Department encourage pupils to develop a lifelong love of reading with Accelerated Reader.

Did you know that Accelerated Reader (AR) produces an average of two years' reading age growth, in just one year while promoting reading for pleasure?

Students from years 7, 8 and 9 who are on the AR system, have been avidly reading and taking quizzes this term. Please encourage your child to read, and quiz because...

People who read are more likely to be involved in the world around them: Research shows that reading makes you more engaged in life around you, helping you to make the most of opportunities that come your way in life.

Reading helps your memory: Every time you read something new, your brain 'makes room' to fit it in. With these new spaces, you can take advantage of any new information. Good news when you need to revise for exams!

Reading helps to boost your analytical thinking: Reading helps you to recognise various patterns that occur in writing. If you are looking for a law or medicine career, this is important!

Reading expands your vocabulary: The more that you read, the more words you will come across. The more often you read these words, the more likely you are to understand them, and use them in your own writing and speaking.

Overdue Books

Overdue book reminder letters are emailed to student school Gmail accounts as books become overdue. Please remember to return or renew your library books and check your emails.

LRC Online Google Classroom Code—dt6iw3u

LRC X Account—@AA_LRC_Library

Instagram—aa_lrc

Use these links to access AR and your library account school or home

Accelerated Reading
https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1893467

Just doing a Google search will not link you to the school system.

Then type in your school network username (e.g. 21johnsmith) as you usually would, and use the password—abc123 (year 7, 8, 9)

Library accounts
https://apps.libresoft.co.uk/9374240-hmlpg8jkqb72jyx911bd-aa

Then log in through your @alcester.academy school Google account by clicking on 'sign in with Google'.

Click and collect service
Log on to your library account (as above) choose your book by browsing and searching the catalogue and reserve it (Actions>reserve book>confirm) to pick up from Mrs Hands in the LRC.

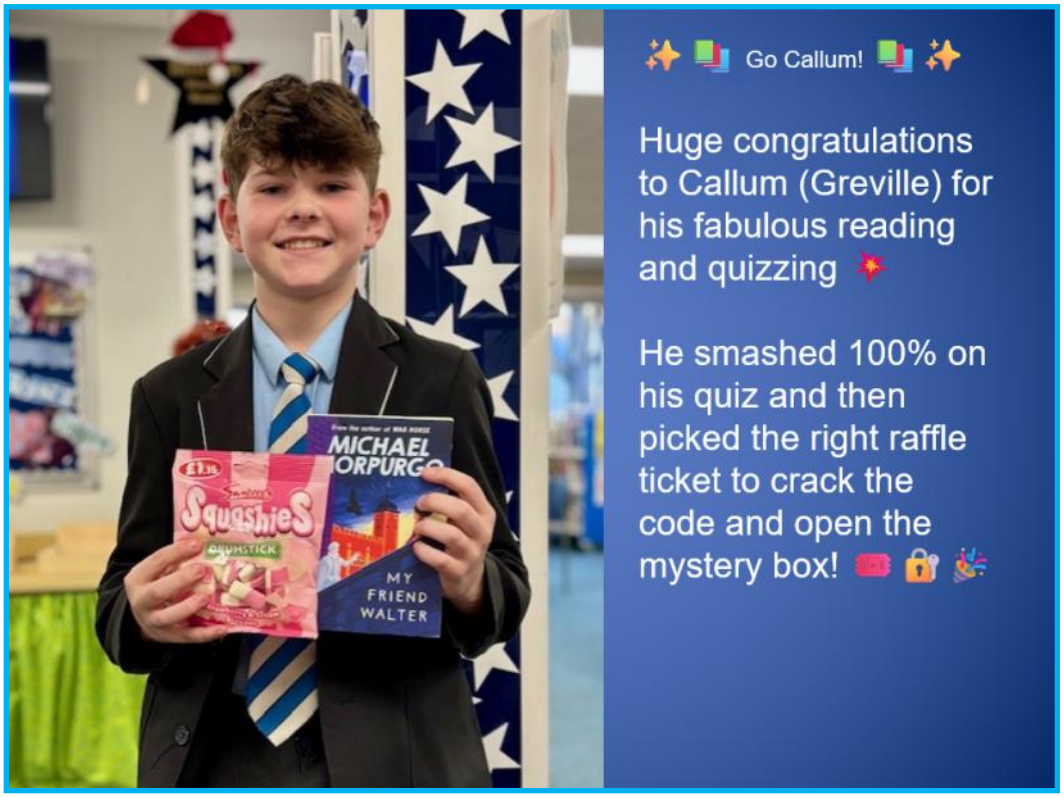
Mrs Hands—LRC Manager

Celebrating Our Accelerated Reader Quiz Winners

✨ 📚 Go Anabelle! 📚 ✨

Huge congratulations to Anabelle (Ragley) for her fabulous reading and quizzing — she smashed 100% on her D-Day Dog quiz! 🐶 🌟

And as if that wasn't enough… she then picked the exact right raffle ticket to crack the code and open the mystery box! 🎟️ 🔐 🎉



✨ 📚 Go Callum! 📚 ✨

Huge congratulations to Callum (Greville) for his fabulous reading and quizzing 🌟

He smashed 100% on his quiz and then picked the right raffle ticket to crack the code and open the mystery box! 🎟️ 🔐 🎉

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader®

Alcester Academy LRC Learning Resource Centre

Years 10 & 11 Conclude Final Round of Mock Interviews

We are pleased to share that the final round of catch-up mock interviews for Years 10 and 11 has now been successfully completed. These sessions provided students with valuable experience and helped them build confidence as they prepare for future college, apprenticeship, and career pathways.

We extend a special thank-you to Mr. Bove, who generously gave his time to conduct the interviews and support our students' development.

Copies of the students' CVs and their feedback forms will be sent to parents before the end of term.

Key Dates for next week...

Tuesday 16th December—Christmas Concert, at school, from 6.30pm

Tuesday 16th December—Year 7/8 Christmas Meal option (paid in advance)

Wednesday 17th December—Year 9 Enrichment Super Learning Day

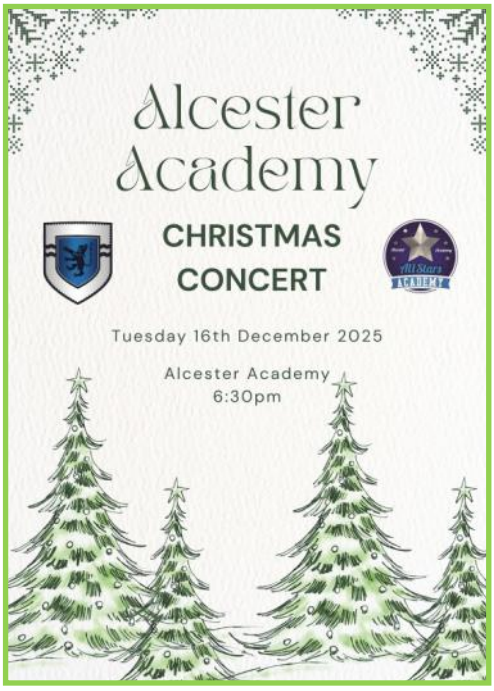
Wednesday 17th December—Year 9/10/11 Christmas Meal option (paid in advance)

Thursday 18th December—Year 9 annual panto for year 7s

Thursday 18th December—Christmas rewards trips for years 8, 10 and 11

Friday 19th December—Christmas Jumper Day. £2 donation to *Save the Children*

Friday 19th December—Break up at 12.40pm



Year 8 Geography:
A Term of Discovery and Achievement

It has been a truly great term for our year 8 geographers! From our hands-on visit to one of the UK's best landscapes, to the creative modelling within our own classrooms, the students have shown fantastic commitment and enthusiasm for understanding the world around them.

The engagement levels have been superb, and it is clear we have many budding geographers in the cohort who are already demonstrating the skills needed for GCSE success.

Fieldwork in Action: Cheddar Gorge

In November, we braved the elements for a visit to Cheddar Gorge. Fieldwork is an essential part of the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum, requiring students to observe physical processes and landscapes in the real world.

The students were exemplary, investigating how water and weathering have shaped this iconic limestone environment over geological timescales. Seeing these physical processes first-hand allowed the students to bridge the gap between textbook theory and the living landscape.

Hands-On Learning: Modelling Landscapes

Back in the classroom, we swapped pens for clay! To deepen their understanding of physical geography, students modelled complex terrain features.

Karst Landscapes: Recreating the limestone pavements and caves we studied at Cheddar.

Glacial Landscapes: Sculpting U-shaped valleys and arêtes to understand how ice has shaped the UK.

This tactile approach helped students visualize the powerful forces that alter our physical environment, a core requirement of the curriculum regarding geological changes.

Modern Geography: The Podcast Project

Most recently, year 8 has been exploring Human Geography, specifically the conflicts that arise when tourism puts pressure on fragile landscapes. Moving away from traditional essays, students have been scripting and recording 3-minute audio podcast-style reports.

Christmas Revision & Upcoming Exams

To ensure everyone is ready for the new term, every student has been issued a revision sheet to help structure their studies over the break. If the paper copy goes missing, a digital version is readily available on Google Classroom.

The Geography exam will take place during the second week back after Christmas. We encourage students to review their notes on Cheddar Gorge, Glaciation, and Tourism to ensure they feel confident and prepared.

Mrs Sandalls—Lead Geography

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected 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. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken after the a19th August 2024.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

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 – 4 in total).

First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

Attendance News

Whole School
Attendance this week: 93.5%

Top Tutors this week:

7RA with 96.1% attendance

8BW with 96.2% attendance

9AN with 99.2% attendance

10TU with 95.8% attendance

11GO with 97.7% attendance

If your child will be absent from school, please notify our Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, with the reason before 8.50am each day. You can do this via:

MCAS App: medical appointments and absences can be reported through the app
SchoolComms
Phone: 01789 762285
Email: louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk

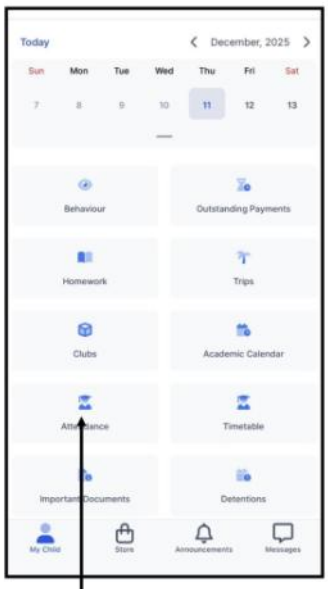
We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students who are leaving for appointments during the school day to come to the office a few minutes early so they can sign out promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms Louise Hatcher—Attendance Officer

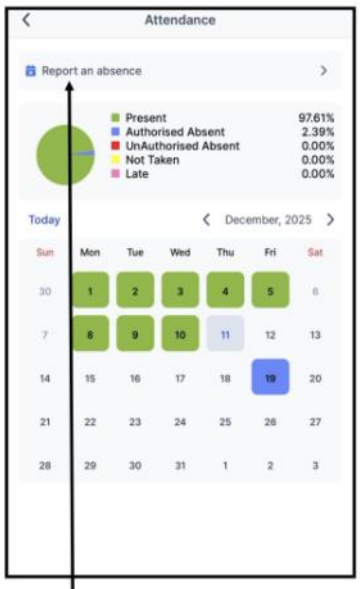
Transition to MCAS for All Absence Reporting

We are continuing to transition to reporting all absence (including illness and appointments) through the MCAS app. It is a simple process and allows you to see the absence has been logged almost immediately.

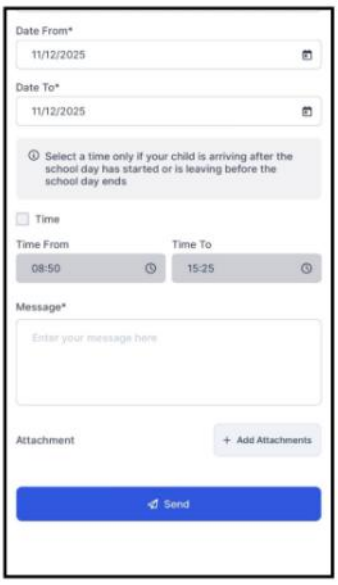
Below is a guide to how this is done:



Click on the attendance option.



Click Report an absence.



Complete the absence form and press send.

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
5th—11th December 2025

Top Positive Point Students:

1	Sophia	7TN	Greville	11 points
1	Abi	7LX	Oversley	11 points
3	Thomas	7LX	Billesley	10 points
3	Violet	7LX	Oversley	10 points
3	Ruby	7LX	Greville	10 points

Top Positive Point House:

1	Ragley	512 points
2	Billesley	510 points
3	Oversley	503 points
4	Greville	489 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

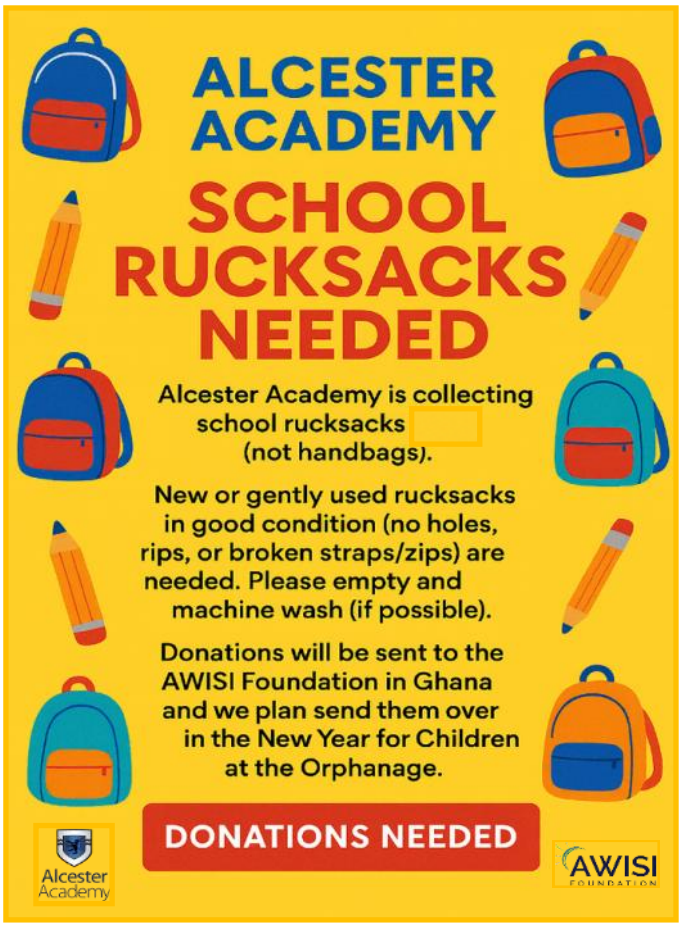
1	7LX	167 points
2	7TN	142 points
3	7WI	140 points
4	7RA	131 points
5	7PA	128 points

Top Positive Point Subjects:

1	Maths	290 points
2	French	228 points
3	English	225 points

Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Mr Hall	484 points
2	Mrs Weatherley	214 points
3	Miss Gruszczynska	208 points



Attendance Notice for Parents

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Alcester Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information parents are asked to review the data collection form on MCAS. If you need to make changes, please do so via MCAS or email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Alcester Academy

If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.

Alcester Academy

DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Autumn Term ends	Friday 19th December at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2026

School closed	*Monday 5th January 2026*
	Teacher training day
Spring Term begins	**Tuesday 6th January 2026**
Half Term	Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026
Back to school	**Monday 23rd February 2026**
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 27th March at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term begins	**Monday 13th April 2026**
School closed	*Friday 1st May 2026*
	Teacher training day
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026
Back to school	**Monday 1st June 2026**
Summer Term ends	Friday 17th July 2026 at 12.40pm
School closed	*Monday 20th July 2026*
	Teacher training day

Examination Invigilators

£13.68 per hour, claimed monthly

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 30th January 2026

Interviews: To be confirmed

Start date: To be confirmed

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Broad Description

The ability to work in a team, under direction, and to communicate effectively are essential. Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ and the Academy's regulations and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process. Alcester Academy runs a number of examination series during the academic year and would expect flexible availability during these times, dates available on request. Applicants must be available for at least 5 sessions (morning/afternoon) per week during internal and external exam seasons throughout the academic year.

The Application Process

This should be by completed application form emailed to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk - we do not accept CVs.

Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate.
We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.
We do encourage interested candidates to come and visit the school before making an application.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy, please contact head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application.

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. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.

Alcester Academy

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

This week's Sporting Round Up
Year 9 Netball v AGS

It was brilliant to see two year 9 netball teams take to the court against AGS this week in friendly matches. Our girls commitment to practise and school netball has been brilliant to see with our most attended club for girls shining on the court. We recorded a 14-1 and 6-0 victory versus AGS in matches, well done to everyone involved.

Year 8 Football Tournament

Our Year 8 footballer's enjoyed participating in the District Small Sided Tournament held at Stratford School this week. Our team showed great determination in matches and achieved a 4th place finish overall, out of eight schools attending.

Year 9 Girls Football Cup Semi Final v Southam College

In the Academy's first of three Mid and South Warwickshire Cup Semi-Finals this academic year, our year 9 girls took on last year's winners Southam College in an entertaining match played under lights.

Our girls showed incredible spirit to keep the catch competitive throughout and enjoyed the experience of taking on a team with some exceptional individuals, and last years winners of the cup competition. Well done to all girls involved in this fixture.

Student Spotlight
Jude and Ben—Year 9 Warwickshire County Football

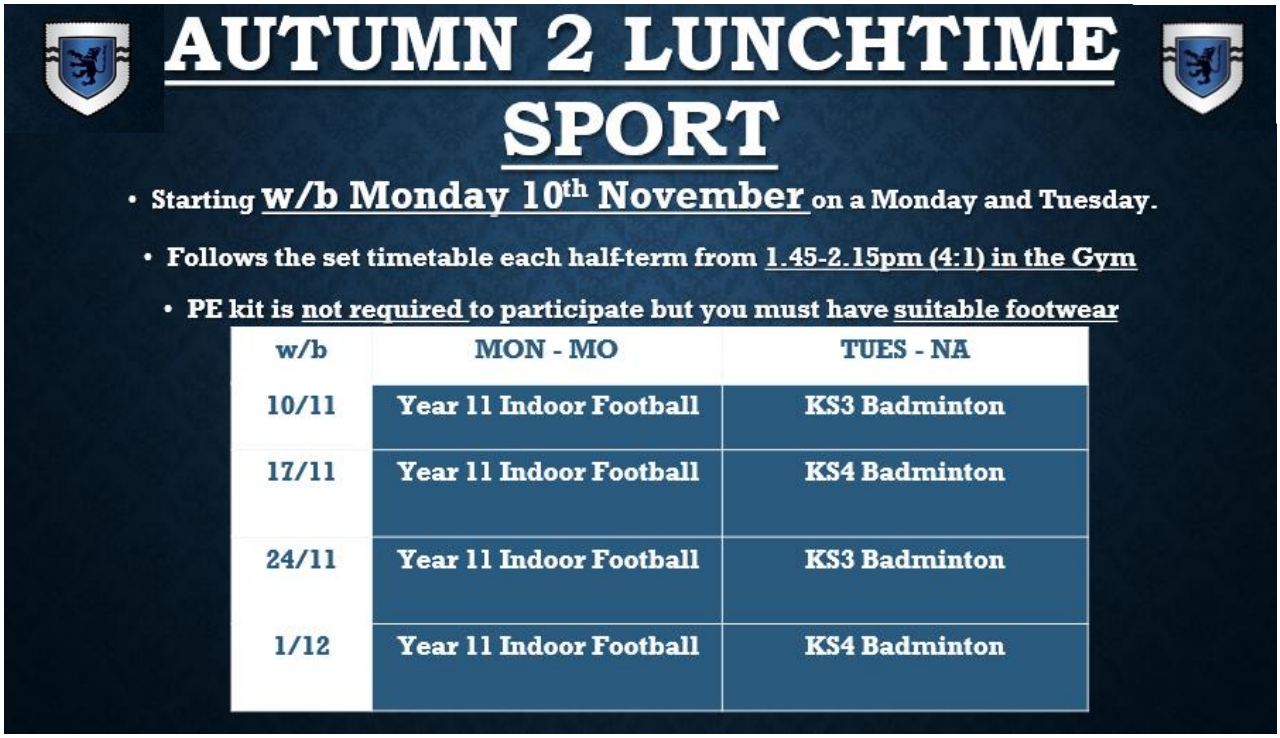
We would like to congratulate Jude and Ben in year 9 who represented the Warwickshire County football team this week. The boys were part of the team who took on Staffordshire County and came away with an outstanding 3-0 victory.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Next week's sport

There will be two sporting fixtures next week for year 7 to bring Autumn term sport to a close. All other fixtures and clubs will resume in the new year. Well done to all who have attended a practise or represented the Academy in sport this term. *Mr Moffatt*

Lunchtime sport



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Home to School Transport in Warwickshire

Help shape the future of school transport

We'd love to hear from families, carers, and young people about how we can make home-to-school transport better for those that need it.

How to get involved:
- Attend one of our drop-in or online events
- Respond online at **ask.warwickshire.gov.uk**
- Call us on **01926 410410**
- Email: **hometoschooltransport@warwickshire.gov.uk**
- Post your response to: **Transport Delivery (consultation) Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SP.**

Scan for more information including online survey, consultation events and Easy Read versions

/WarksLocalOffer

Warwickshire County Council

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FOR UNDER 18s

Calling all nature lovers, photographers and curious explorers!

Join our Nature Photography Challenge to discover, record and celebrate Alcester's amazing wildlife and habitats.

This could be wildlife, plants, trees, insects or landscapes from around Alcester

OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 TO AUGUST 2026

Submit your best photos and the winners will feature in the 2027 Alcester in the Wild Calendar.

info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

ags Alcester Grammar School

Sixth Form Subject Sampling Evening

Thursday 6th February 2026

Join us for an evening where you can sample six different subjects and get a real feel for our school and curriculum

SCAN ME

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

sixthform@alcestergs.com

Birmingham Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5ED

AbilityNet

Free digital skills training
Everyone Welcome
No need to book
Free Tea/Coffee and Biscuits included

Delivered by Matthew Quarless, trainer at AbilityNet
10:00 - 11:30 In the Function Room
Alcester Unionist Club, 46 High St. B49 5AB

Wednesday 25th February 2026 Session 1
Getting to know your Smartphone or Tablet;
Using a computer for documents

Wednesday 4th March 2026 Session 2
How to access Public Services eg Gov.UK;
How to manage your health online

Wednesday 11th March 2026 Session 3
How to shop online;
How to bank online

Session delivered by Jared Anderson
10:00 - 11:30 In the Function Room

Wednesday 18th March 2026 Session 4
Staying safer online

During the AbilityNet Sessions
Well Connected Computer Group drop-in sessions will be taking place in the Lounge as usual
Every Wednesday 09:30 - 11:30

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Please see this opportunity available from the British Army for those considering this as a potential career

Event: British Army Insights – A Guide for Parents & Guardians
Date: Tuesday 20 January
Time: 18:00 – 19:00

Register Now: https://britishar.my/GTQfiD

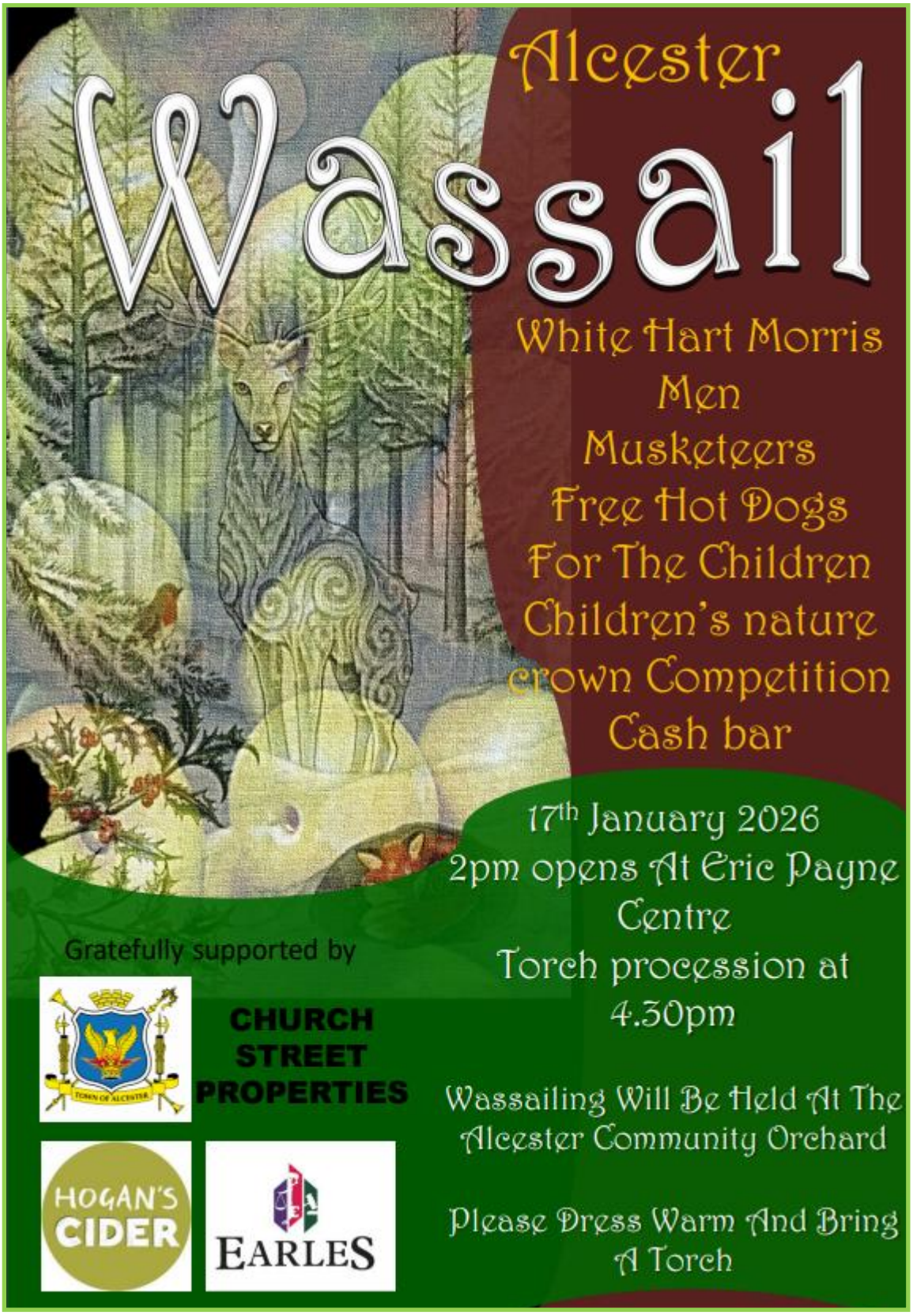
This online session is designed to give parents clarity and confidence about the opportunities the British Army offers young people.

Why it matters:
Recent research with over 600 parents and guardians revealed:

- Only 27% feel fully confident supporting their child through the application process.
- Nearly half (49%) want to attend an online session and receive resources about Army apprenticeships.

What parents will gain:

- A real look at life in today's Army, including roles, training, and qualifications.
- Inspiring stories from those with lived experience, plus practical advice and Q&A time.
- Insights into how the Army helps young people build confidence, resilience, and valuable life skills — all while earning and learning.

Bonus:
Attendees receive a FREE downloadable resource to help support their child's career choices.

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY