# *Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN*

*12th March 2021*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I'm writing to you at the end of such a great week at Alcester Academy! Everything is once again beginning to feel more familiar here and we have been over the moon to see the students return. We're gradually re-introducing key routines and systems with each year group. From student feedback in recent school council meetings and completed surveys, they told us that they have missed friends most over the last nine weeks and so we have built in extra time for each year group bubble to spend with peers this week.

I wanted to sincerely thank you for taking the time to support us with the return to school plans and the need for the students to wear face coverings and participate in the lateral flow testing. It seems like such a feat to organise at the time of any big national announcements but with the excellent attitude of the students and the staff support, we are able to slip straight back into a calm and orderly atmosphere within the school. Just as it should be!

It is very important to me that the students begin to feel safe and happy once more at school. For many, this will be the case immediately. For other students, this might take a greater amount of time and I want you to know that we will work with you and the students in order to rebuild confidence lost over this lockdown. We shouldn't underestimate the impact of the last twelve months on individuals.

## Lateral flow testing

We are so proud of the students this week for the mature way in which they have approached their lateral flow testing. Thank you. We are also very grateful to the two test teams in school managing this huge task. I'm delighted that we had no positive results from the first test series. The second series is currently in progress.

## Lateral Flow Test Kits

We have received questions about how families can access test kits at home. The following links may help you along with the attached document outlining how to dispose of testing equipment at home safely. Please be aware that schools are not managing how families receive test kits. We just deal with those kits

## MFL Idiom of the Week

*English*: Practice makes perfect
*French*: C'est en forgeant qu'on devient forgeron
Literal meaning: It's by forging that we become a blacksmith
*German*: Ubung macht den Meister
Literal meaning: Practice creates masters

for students after they have had their three tests in school. We will issue more detail on this stage in the bulletin next week for you.

Order LFD tests for home or telephoning 119

You are able to walk in to larger test centres and request kits also (such as Stratford Leisure Centre). To find your nearest home test kit collection point visit: https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/

Self test instructions can be found at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957271/COVID-19-self-test-instructions.pdf

Hundreds of student home test kits arrived in school yesterday. We will distribute these next week with instructions for you. Staff have received their home test kits already. The home process is fairly easy to manage with all of the essential bits of equipment included in each box. Do not overly worry about this.

## Positive lateral flow results

This next update might take a moment to process. It certainly did for me when I read it! We have felt extremely lucky not to have received any positive lateral flow test results this week. Phew! If a lateral test result should develop as 'positive', this is considered enough to ask the student to then self-isolate for 10 days. A further full covid PCR test is not required. This is because we are considered a full test centre at school.

If you lateral flow test at home and get a positive lateral flow result, you must then apply to have a full PCR test at a national test centre. Thank you for your understanding with this aspect right now. I appreciate how strange it is to have two ways of addressing a positive lateral flow test result.

## Emotional and wellbeing support for students

The DfE have released some links and reading around wellbeing for us all. The link can be found here: https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/01/mental-health-resources-for-children-parents-carers-and-school-staff/

Don't forget though that we are keeping an eye on the students carefully as they return. If you have any new worries over the return to school period, don't hesitate to let us know please so that we can support more.

## Homework

I have explained to staff in school that the transition back for students should not include an overload of homework initially and you should expect that we will return to a normal quota after Easter. My initial priorities are around the safe return to school for students, with an eye on their emotional wellbeing, before homework. I hope that you agree.

## Assessment and reporting

*In light of the lockdown period, we have had to restructure the assessment cycle within school until the end of the academic year. Any assessments will take place in classrooms prior to the report cycles, with the exception of year 10 who will have exams in the hall after May half-term. The following provisional dates might be of interest to you:*

***Year 7***
*Full Reports w/c 24th May*

***Year 8***
*Full Reports w/c 7th June*

***Year 8 Options Evening***
*10th June (most likely to be virtual)*

***Year 8 Options deadline***
*23rd June*

***Year 9***
*Full Reports w/c 12th July 2021*

***Year 10***
*Mock data, ATL and exam targets*
*w/c12th July 2021*

## Future Events

Very provisional at this stage covid wise

Year 6 New Parents' Evening –
Wednesday 30th June at 6.30pm

Year 6 Induction Day –
Thursday 1st July

EXTREMELY PROVISIONAL
Celebration Evening –
Thursday 8th July for Award Winners and parents.

## National Tutoring Programme

We are thrilled to have embarked on the National Tutoring Programme as part of the Catch Up plan at Alcester Academy. Thanks to Mrs Farnell and Miss Sacco for their work on this.

National Tutoring Programme

## Year 11 plans for teacher assessed summer grades

We have sent a separate communication to year 11s and their parents about the plan for reaching teacher assessed grades. Year 11s also had an assembly today about this in order that we can begin to reassure them. If you have any queries at this time, please contact us. I reiterate that we are not aware of a summer leaving date for year 11s yet.

## Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thanks to so many of our year 7 parents for joining us last night for Parents' Evening. We hope that you found this useful. We look forward to seeing year 10 parents on 25th March!

## Headteacher Challenge – Prize Draw

Well done to Ewan in year 7 who was drawn as the prize winner for his efforts with the Headteacher Challenges throughout this lockdown. Ewan wins a £50 Amazon voucher! Congratulations! I reiterate my thanks to all of the students who entered these challenges over the last nine weeks.

# Term Dates

**SPRING TERM 2021**

| | |
|---|---|
| Spring Term ends (Easter) | Thursday 1st April 2021 |

**SUMMER TERM 2021**

| | |
|---|---|
| Summer Term begins | Monday 19th April 2021 |
| May Bank Holiday | Monday 3rd May 2021 |
| Half Term | Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021 |
| Back to school | Monday 7th June 2021 |
| Summer Term ends | Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm |
| *School closed* | *Wednesday 21st July 2021 Teacher training day* |

*2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE*

## Uniform

We understand the difficulties that you have faced trying to get new uniform items during a lockdown! Thank you if you have managed to do this. With the shops re-opening on 12th April, I hope that the Easter holiday will give you time to address any areas required so that we can come back in the summer term fully kitted out. Remember that tailored shorts are a uniform option for all students in the summer term instead of a skirt or trousers.

## A Tenner for Tom

We're now on £470 raised for local NHS causes. Thank you to those students who have managed to raise their £10s already! I'm so impressed. There are just three weeks to try and do this now. This fundraiser is on the School Gateway when the students have managed this. Don't forget to send in your photos showing how you raised the money to head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

And finally, I'm thinking that there should be a lot of tired children with you at home this weekend! I'm sure that many of you have missed seeing them around the home this week. Equally, for those of you working from home, perhaps you've finally had some peace too! I bet there has been far less washing up to do as well!

Next week sees the conclusion of the lateral flow testing with all year groups and a sense of 'back to it' then. I'm very grateful indeed to staff for supporting the return to school plans once again in spite of their own anxieties and concerns. These are never shared with the students. We want the student community to know that they are in an environment where they will be totally looked after each day. It has been a wonderful week here!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Sarah Mellors*
Headteacher

## ELEVATE PARENT WEBINAR

***The webinar series is completely free for parents at Alcester Academy.***

*Tuesday 23rd March:*
*Managing Technology and Distractions*

***Parents will also be sent the replay link if they have registered so if they miss it live, they can still access it.***

***Registration link: https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register***

# Artwork of the Week

**Shown above is fabulous artwork from Kayla from last year's year 11. It was an experiment on lighting conditions on the face. This work is a reminder of the amazing work produced before the first lockdown.**

**The Art Department are really looking forward to seeing inspirational work now we are back in school.**

***Mr Yarrington***

# Year 11 Careers Information

National Citizen Service (NCS) is now open for summer registration. The 2 or 3 week personal development programme will support students to; Meet new people, Try new things, Support their local community, Interact with businesses and develop the skills and confidence to take on life after school. The programme is also shaping to be one of the first opportunities for students to safely gather with friends, whilst still developing key life skills for future employment. Places will be limited but year 11 & 12 students can grab their place at weareNCS.com.

# epraise updates - week ending 11.3.21

**Congratulations to the Top Students this year:**

1st - Jack - Year 7 SEVENTH WEEK
2nd - Maya - Year 7 SEVENTH WEEK
3rd - Kaitlyn - Year 9 FIRST WEEK
3rd - Bea - Year 10 SECOND WEEK

**Top Scorers this week:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Harvey (7NE) | (6 points) |
| 2 | Evie (7NE) | (5 points) |
| 2 | Daragh (7NE) | (5 points) |
| 2 | Lucas (8YA) | (5 points) |
| 2 | Charlie (7BW) | (5 points) |
| 2 | Finlay (7BW) | (5 points) |
| 2 | Maya (7BW) | (5 points) |
| 8 | Oliver (8MA) | (4 points) |
| 8 | Tom (7HT) | (4 points) |
| 8 | Jake (7NE) | (4 points) |

**Top Staff this week:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Miss Heitmuller |
| 2 | Mr Bowater |
| 3 | Mr Dyer |

**Top Tutor Groups this week:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7BW | 82 points |
| 2 | 7HT | 57 points |
| 3 | 7NE | 56 points |
| 4 | 7WI | 55 points |
| 5 | 7TY | 54 points |
| 6 | 8ST | 37 points |
| 6 | 8YA | 37 points |
| 8 | 8CA | 34 points |
| 9 | 8BL | 32 points |
| 9 | 8MA | 32 points |

**Top Subjects:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Science |
| 2 | Maths |
| 3 | English |

# Vacancy
# Teacher of Mathematics

**Required for September 2021**
**Full time or part time considered**
**Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 26th March 2021**

**Interviews: Week of 29th March 2021**

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, hard-working 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 2019 far exceeded National Averages: 93% at grades 9-4, 75% at grades 9-5; with a progress 8 score of +0.9.

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.

The successful applicant will be an outstanding classroom practitioner. The role is suited to either experienced teacher looking for a new challenge or an NQT.

We are looking for a colleague who:

- is passionate about developing independent, confident learners
- revels in promoting a real interest in mathematical processes and skills.
- is committed to inclusive education
- can sustain high quality teaching and learning
- demonstrates energy, creativity and commitment
- is willing to actively contribute to all aspects of school life

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.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

# Vacancy
# Teacher of Art and Photography—Maternity Cover

**Starting: September 2021 until May 2022 MPS/UPS**

**Interviews: Week commencing 22nd March 2021**

**Closing date: Friday 19th March 2021 at 12 noon**

A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding Art 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 thoroughly supportive teaching team which works within a highly successful Art and Design Technology cluster.

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 Art department is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; last years' results far exceeded National Averages: the open block subjects achieved a P8 of +0.77 and the school was in the top 5% in the country for progress.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

# Vacancy
# Teacher of English—Maternity Cover

**Starting September 2021 until July 2022 MPS/UPS**

**Interviews: Week commencing 22nd March 2021**

**Closing Date: Friday 19th March at 12 noon**

A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding English 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 thoroughly supportive teaching team who work in collaboration with a highly successful English department.

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 English department is proud of the progress that students make. A cohesive group of 6 teachers and one specialist teaching assistant and a team who have an established record of excellent results. 2019 results far exceeded National Averages and the department has a consistent and achievable target of 90%+ at grades 9-4, 70%+ at grades 9-5 and 40%+ at grades 9-7. The English 2018 and 2019 set of results placed us within the top 10% nationally - with an average P8 score of +0.9.

This is a temporary, yet exciting, post covering a maternity leave.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

# Padlet messages

*Thank you to those parents and students who used Padlet recently to relay lockdown thank you messages. Here are just a few:*

padlet padlet.com/sdyer20/Alcester

## Thank you!

Send a thank you to a member of staff, department, or even the whole school!

S DYER FEB 03, 2021 08:31AM

### Science SLD

Thank you to everyone who took part in the SLD. It was amazing to see all the activities being done with such enthusiasm
Thank you to the staff for supporting the day in school and the science team

### mrs megee

thank you for always giving us amazing recipes to cook at home in hospitality & catering! :)

### mr dyer

thank you to mr dyer for always supporting his pupils & always offering help if we need it, your one of the teachers people remember sir :)

### to Mrs Hoskin

i really enjoy your lessons i always feel like i learned something in them you make them really interesting and i always come out with a smile on my face :) :)

### TO ALL STAFF

Thank you to staff throughout the school for all of your extra efforts and hard work during this difficult time. It is genuinely very much appreciated.

### thank you miss watson

### Performing Arts

A big thank you to all those brave students who put their cameras on and took part in the drama games this half term. You're superstars.

### A Big Big Thank You to all the Teachers and Staff for all the effort, support and hard work they have given to keep school and learning going due this time.

Thank you to all the teachers who are working hard in this pandemic

HM Government
NHS
Every
video call
is making
a difference
By meeting friends virtually we're helping stop the spread of Covid-19, because the less we go out, the less likely we'll come into contact with the virus.
Let's keep going
STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES