

# Alcester Academy

## Weekly Bulletin

12th June 2025



### Weekly Headlines

Good afternoon,

I hope that you had a good week all. It was lovely to see the year 9s back in school after their memorable experiences last week in Newquay. Miss Buckthorp has written about this in more detail later on. I was so very proud to hear of such exemplary conduct by the students during their trip. Thank you all!

#### Congratulations D of E students

...for a wet, but worthwhile weekend on their bronze expedition. Thanks to Mrs Harrison and Rezilient for their supervision



#### World Environment Day

Miss McKenzie, Assistant Head Teacher spoke to Y7-10 about World Environment Day this week in assembly. As part of this theme, I'm delighted to let you know that our bee orchids are thriving just outside of school reception; an endangered species.



In this weeks issue:

Pg. 3: Wildlife Photography Competition Winner

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Pg. 6: The Cornwall Watersports Trip

Pg. 7: DofE Exhibition and the 9 to 5 Theatre Trip

### Contacting staff

If you need to contact any member of staff, please do this by telephone call, or e-mail, allowing a 24 hour window in order to receive an initial response. If you are expecting contact and do not receive it, please let a member of SLT know. We always try to communicate in a timely manner. Alternatively, drop in continues each Wednesday 3.25-4.25pm where you can leave any issues with a staff member to investigate further.

Several parents/carers have recently contacted me to say that they haven't heard from a specific member of staff as expected. Please don't wait for this. Do get in touch.

### Year 7 update

Congratulations to year 7s who will shortly receive their end of year reports. It was a pleasure to read these earlier in the week. Well done everyone!

### Thanks to Governors

We have had a number of governor visits to school over the last few weeks in order to facilitate interviews, school trips, parent meetings and this week, two of our governors accompanied Miss McKenzie and other staff on a learning walk around the Academy. The focus areas were adaptive teaching, literacy and pupil premium.

### School Attendance

“Don't let children skip school on birthdays, parents are urged.”

This week, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has urged parents not to allow their children to skip school on their birthday, after research found that pupils are 55% more likely to be absent on that day. The Department for Education recorded 5 million more days in the classroom last year - the biggest improvement in attendance in a decade, improving attendance is everyone's responsibility. Schools are being given better tools to identify problems early and work with families to address them, while encouraging parents to play their part.

**Mrs Hatcher, Attendance Officer is currently not in school. Please direct all attendance communication to our admin address or to a member of SLT in the interim.**

### Mobile Phones – Reminder

If students must bring mobile phones to school, they must be switched off and put in bags or lockers for the day. Lots of students are keeping these in trouser pockets still. Students in Y7 are deterred from the need to have a smart phone. This will continue into Y8 and for new Y7s in September 2026.

### Year 11 Leavers

We are very excited to celebrate our year 11 leavers today, more photos and information to follow.



### In memory


We send our deepest condolences to the Vining family who are neighbours of the school after hearing of their sad loss recently.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend ahead. Whichever World Cup team you are cheering on, do enjoy the coverage over the next few weeks.



**Sarah Mellors**  
**Headteacher**  
**Alcester Academy**

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## National Drowning Prevention Week

Within Miss McKenzie's Environment Day assembly, she did talk about water safety after such tragedies over half term nation wide. This is timely as it is the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week next week.

Below is a poster outlining the water safety code.



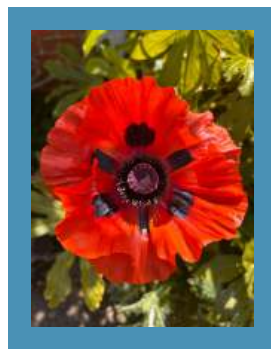
## Alcester Town Wildlife Photography Competition

Congratulations to :

Ethan, Y9 Oversley  
 Chloe, Y9 Greville  
 Ellis Y7, Greville  
 Leo, Y7 Oversley

Who all recently entered the Alcester Town Competition. We were delighted to receive a visit last week from our Mayor; Cllr Gill Forman and the Health and the Well Being Coordinator, Wendy Sherwood who presented the students with a bee hotel for the school as their prize. We are so proud of all of the students on this success. Huge congratulations!

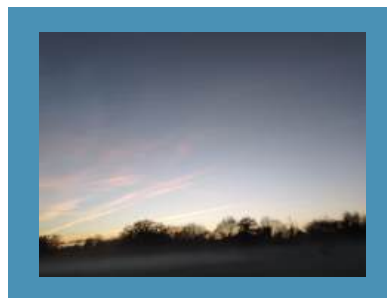
The winning photographs are:



Ethan



Chloe



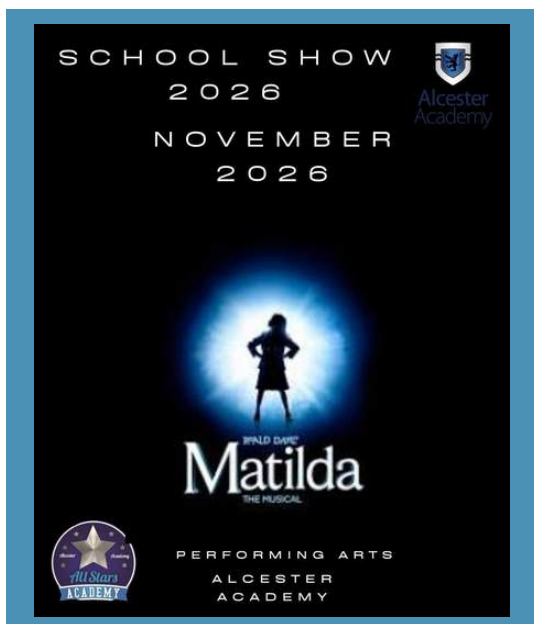
Leo



Ellis

## School Show 2026/27

We are delighted to announce that next year's school show will be Matilda. More news to follow shortly.



## Domestic Abuse Victims

This resource might be useful for children who are victims of domestic abuse: [WeMatter - Victim Support](#). Do also reach out to school if we can help in any way.

## Year 7 Get Hands-On with Science at the Big Bang Fair

On Tuesday 9th June, our year 7 students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC – a vibrant celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that truly brings learning to life.

The fair was divided into six exciting zones: Technology and AI, Environment and Sustainability, Design and Innovation, Health and Wellbeing, Energy and Transport, as well as a programme of live stage shows. This gave students the chance to explore a wide variety of topics and discover just how broad and creative STEM careers can be.

Throughout the afternoon, students immersed themselves in a fantastic range of hands-on exhibits. They engaged with leading organisations such as Rolls-Royce, EasyJet, BUPA, the Royal Navy and Women in Engineering, gaining valuable insight into real-world applications of what they learn in the classroom.

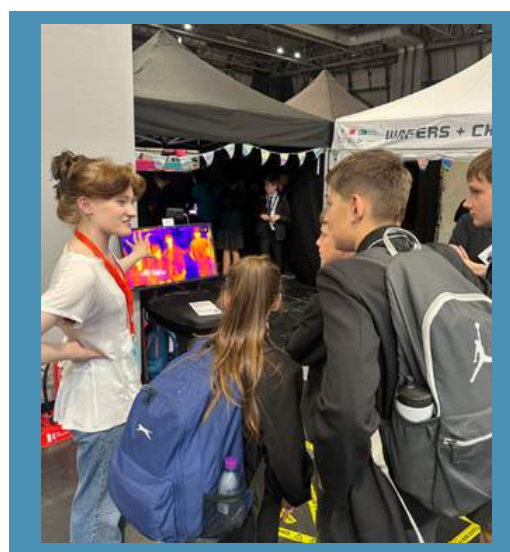


There were plenty of memorable highlights. The virtual reality station proved hugely popular, giving students the opportunity to “perform” open heart surgery in a safe (and mess-free!) environment. The flight simulator was another firm favourite, with many students keen to take to the skies and test their skills as pilots.

Students could also take part in a drone workshop, where they piloted drones and tackled a series of engaging problem-solving challenges. This session helped them understand how drone technology is used in real-life careers, from emergency services to environmental monitoring.

Another standout experience was the Zoolab workshop, where students had the chance to get up close with a range of exotic animals, including snakes, tarantulas and lizards. This session introduced them to the fascinating concept of biomimicry – learning from nature to solve human problems. Students also explored how scientists study wildlife in the UK, using real ecological equipment and evidence-based clues to identify which animals had passed through different habitats. By analysing tracks, signs and data, they gained an appreciation of biodiversity, habitat health and the challenges wildlife faces in a changing climate.

We are incredibly proud of our students, whose behaviour throughout the trip was exemplary. They represented the school with maturity, curiosity and enthusiasm, making the most of every opportunity presented to them.



It was a truly inspiring experience, and we hope the day has ignited a passion for STEM subjects and encouraged our students to start thinking about the exciting possibilities that lie ahead in their futures.

Mrs K Passantino  
Science Technician

## Reading Buddies

Warwickshire are looking for school aged children to become reading buddies over the summer for much younger students, find the link below or scan the QR code at the back of this issue:

[Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers Needed - Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers Needed - warwickshire](#)

## PARIS - MAY 2026

Over May half term, students from year 9 and 10 spent four days in Paris, France. We stayed at the Château de Grande Romaine in Lesigny, a small village 15 km from the centre of Paris. We had amazing weather and thoroughly enjoyed our visit. Students took part in a range of activities at the centre and enjoyed some free time when they could play football, pool, go swimming or just relax.

In addition, we spent a busy day in Paris climbing the Eiffel Tower, enjoying a cruise on the Seine and some shopping in Montmartre. On Sunday we visited Disneyland Paris and had an amazing time on the rides and shopping. After a final morning of shopping on Monday, we caught the ferry back to England. A fantastic time was had by all and I look forward to next year's trip with our current year 9 students.



Here are some thoughts from the students that came on the trip:

*"I have always wanted to go to Paris and I loved being able to go with my friends. It was an amazing experience to be able to see Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower, walk up to Sacré Coeur - the highest point in Paris - and go for a trip on the Seine."*

*"I really enjoyed visiting the city of Paris. It was lovely spending my time abroad with friends. The views from the Tower were amazing. The boat trip was relaxing. It was interesting to see the old-style Paris around Sacré Coeur and do some shopping. Our day out at Disney was magical. I would recommend this trip to all."*

## Year 11 leavers' assembly

We had a superb morning with our year 11 leavers today after a wonderful 5 years together with them. For this year group, we were unable to hold a formal transition in their summer before starting due to covid. In year 7, they then endured another lockdown period. It will always be a life long memory for them all, I'm certain.

After their chemistry GCSE this morning, we held an extended break time with some treats followed by a heartfelt assembly where we shared music, stories and some amazing photographs of the last five years. Thanks to Mrs Matthews, Senior Site Supervisor for providing all of the students with leaving bracelets. We have a few remaining GCSE exams next week followed by our prom at Kings Court Hotel, Coughton on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The students have all worked incredibly hard and deserve this final celebration.



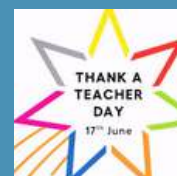
## Looking to next week

Good luck to Y10s for their exams. We look forward to seeing some Y6 students for a pre transition morning. And, it is Day 1 of the Y7 Super Learning STEM experience.

## National Thank a Teacher Day

Next week is 'National Thank A Teacher Day' [Resources for Stakeholders - Thank a Teacher](#)

If you, or your child/ren wanted to nominate anyone, you can find details of how to do this on the website. Equally, we do have a 'thank you' board for the school near the reception area.



# Year 9 Cornwall Watersports Adventure 2026

Last week 70 year 9 students along with Miss Buckthorp, Mrs Austin, Mr Nash and Mr Tuckey , all set off for the beautiful Cornish beaches for a week of water sports.



Over the next few days, we found ourselves body boarding, learning to stand up surf and catching waves at Great Western and Fistral Beaches in Newquay. After a couple of days in Newquay, we went off to Swanpool Beach in Falmouth and spent two days doing raft building, kayaking and there was lots of fun on the Mega SUP with some great teamwork being shown. One of the favourite activities of the week was coasteering where many faced their challenges by jumping off the high rocks and making their way along the coastline at Falmouth. It was great to see the students really supporting each other. There was even some time for some rock pooling and some surf lifesaving.



The weather was challenging with lots of rain and wind which meant the waves for our surfing lessons were amazing about 6-8 feet, but our amazing group of students coped and just got on with it not letting the weather stop them from having a great time.

Our evenings were spent on the beach playing games, we even managed some Alcester Academy Bingo back in the hotel with some very popular seagull themed prizes and a quiz, we even managed a trip to the amusements.



It was a real pleasure to see how the students all got on, supported each other, grew in confidence and learnt how to live alongside each other as well as seeing them gain confidence and learning new skills.

The students were an absolute credit to the school, they were all delightful company, and they were complimented by everyone who worked with them. The staff in our hotel said they were the cleanest school group they had ever had - all the instructors from Elemental UK really enjoyed working with them, and loved their spirit, politeness and sheer enthusiasm in all that they did, this made us very proud!

Miss K Buckthorp



## Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Exhibition

Last weekend our year 10 students completed their Bronze Assessed Duke of Edinburgh Expedition working with Rezilient, our expedition providers. The weekend was spent completing a challenging walk around the Ratley area near to Banbury. The students led the way navigating, using maps and compasses and practicing the skills they've learned on the training days in school and on their practice expedition back in April.



The groups were complimented on their campcraft skills and we saw some impressive meals being cooked, despite the wind and rain. The students showed a fantastic level of determination and resilience over the weekend and they were super ambassadors for the school. We look forward now to them completing the rest of their Bronze Award.

Miss K Buckthorp



## Trip to see 9 to 5: The Musical!

On Thursday evening Mr Palmieri, Miss Buckthorp, Miss Bartlett and Mrs Austin took 56, Y9 and Y10 students to The Core Theatre in Solihull for a fabulous production of 9 to 5. We arrived early to get a guided tour of the stage and set props, along with the live music section, sound and lighting equipment used to put on such a professional show. In the making since January, the cast and crew put together this amazing production based on the hit 1980 film, 9 to 5 with music by Dolly Parton.



We had our own Mr Hall helping to provide the toe taping live music for the show, as part of the talented orchestra. The outstanding singing, dancing and acting was adored by the students, with the loudest cheers for Miss Sacco, Miss Lee and the two Miss Owens, who the students loved to see perform on stage. A standing ovation and a picture with the cast finished off a brilliant night at the theatre.

Mr M Palmieri



# Positive Points Leaderboard!

## Top Students:

Rosie	11MR	7 points
Finn	11MR	7 points
Rosie	11MR	7 points
Ella	11MR	7 points
Jake	11MR	7 points
Eddie	11MR	7 points

## Top Tutor:

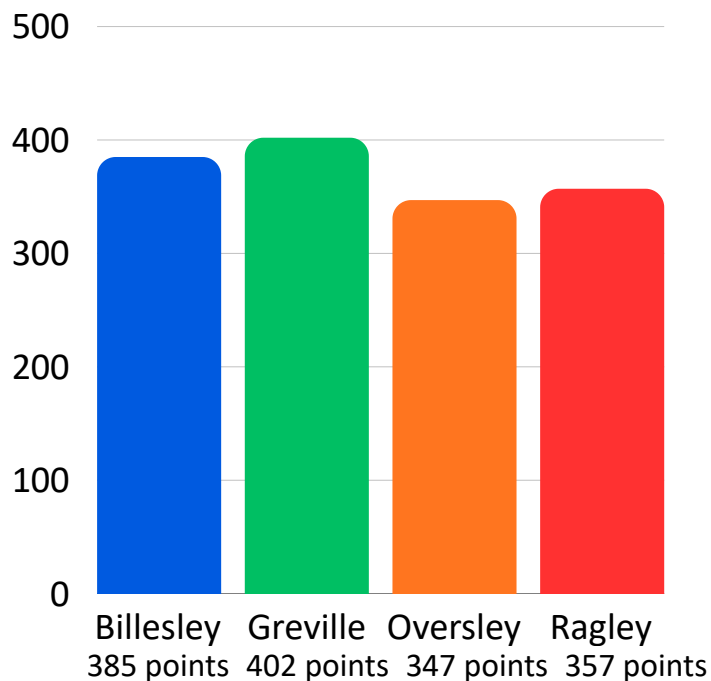
8SA	140 points
11MR	135 points
7RA	93 points
7LX	92 points

## Top Staff:

Mr Yarrington	332 points
Mrs Weatherley	218 points
Mrs Marshall	173 points

## Top Subjects:

Art	222 points
French	211 points
German	170 points



## Weekly House Points



# Attendance Updates!

## Top tutor attendance this week!

1. 8BW with 98.4% attendance
2. 9AN with 97.5% attendance
3. 9DA with 96.9% attendance
4. 7LX with 96.7% attendance



Mrs Hatcher, Attendance Officer is currently not in school. Please direct all attendance communication to our admin address or to a member of SLT in the interim.



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



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

## Key reasons why 95% attendance is important to Alcester Academy

### Academic attainment

High attendance is directly linked to better results. Primary students with 95–100% attendance have 30% higher odds of reaching expected standards in reading, writing, and maths, with even higher impact in secondary school.

### Preventing Persistent Absence

Anything below 95% is considered "not good enough" and may require intervention. Dropping below 90% is classified as persistent absence, limiting a child's chance of success.

### Cumulative loss of learning

95% attendance means missing about 9-10 days per academic year. While this is the acceptable standard, any further absences drastically reduce the chances of reaching target grades.

### Future earnings and opportunities

Missing school affects long-term prospects. Persistently absent secondary pupils could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to those with near-perfect attendance.

### Social development

Regular attendance helps students build lasting friendships, confidence with peers, and familiarity with routines.

If your child is struggling to be in school regularly, please take time to talk to them and see what barriers they feel are impacting them. We hold regular support meetings with parents and students to look at the support available to ensure regular attendance.

# Sports News!

## Student Spotlight

### Maisy, year 10 - Oversley (Taekwondo)

Last weekend year 10 student Maisy competed at the Open Welsh Taekwondo Championships, held in Cardiff. This was an opportunity to compete against other martial artists from across the United Kingdom. Maisy arrived early to competition and performed a special technique kick which is performed through a wooden board. Next up was patterns, which is a set of movements to complete. The pattern put together relies upon performing a routine which is then graded. Sparring concluded the championships and Maisy came second within this aspect. Overall it was a brilliant experience to compete in the different aspects and Maisy is looking forward to the England Championships which will be held in Manchester next month, we wish Maisy the very best of luck!



## This week's Sports roundup

### Year 9 Super Six Athletics

Our year 9 Athletics teams finished in 4th place at the annual Super 6 Competitions held at Stratford School.



### Year 8 Super 6 Athletics

Our year 8 teams competed on Tuesday of this week. Our boys achieved a brilliant 3rd place finish with our girls finishing in 5th place.



### U15 Cricket Cup Semi Final v Camp Hill

Our year 9 and 10 cricket players really enjoyed the challenge of taking on Camp Hill School from Birmingham in the Semi-final of the Stokes-Knight Regional Cup. Despite not progressing to the finals day our students performed resiliently and came away proud of their performance against superior opposition on the day.



### Warwickshire School's County Championships

This weekend six of our athletes will be representing the district of South Warwickshire at the County Championships for the chance to represent the Warwickshire County Team in future competition. Best of luck to all of our athletes who have qualified for this event. Many thanks also to Mrs Powell, who will be supporting the leadership of the South Warwickshire Team on the day of competition.

Dexter Carruthers (Y10)

Will Hovell (Y11)

Marijke Tear-Verweij (Y11)

Scarlett Dawson (Y11)

Arthur Mansbridge (Y11)

Daisy Jelfs (Y10)



# NEXT WEEK'S SPORT

## W/B 15/6/26



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 7 Super 6 Athletics competition (Selection only) All Years Tennis	Stratford School  Courts
Tuesday	Y7 South Warwickshire Rounders tournament U13 and U15 Boys Tennis v Thomas Moore	AGS  AA
Wednesday	U13 and U15 Girls Tennis v Stratford Year 9 and 10 Rounders	AA Field



Alcester  
Academy

## Pre-Loved School Uniform sale!

An opportunity to purchase pre-loved uniform at a discounted rate! Whether you are a current student or joining in September, please come along.

WHEN?: 9<sup>TH</sup> July 3:30-4:30pm

WHERE?: School Hall

CASH ONLY PLEASE!

ACYS Presents



# Wendy and Peter Pan

18th and 19<sup>th</sup> June 6:30pm

Tickets £5 each

Available to buy via Evolve Shop

We are thrilled to announce that Circus Ginnett is in Alcester with shows from this coming Wednesday 10th until Sunday 14th of June.

Join us for an unforgettable experience filled with breathtaking performances, acrobatics, and magical moments that will leave your students and their families in awe.

To make this wonderful event more accessible, we are pleased to offer your school an exclusive discount code: SCHOOL. This code provides 20% off bookings for families purchasing tickets online, by telephone 07562 450045 or on site. All they need to do is quote SCHOOL or type it on the discount box online.

For ticket purchases and more information, please visit our website [www.ticketsource.co.uk/circus-ginnett](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/circus-ginnett). Don't forget to use the discount code SCHOOL at checkout!



Help Us Stock Our Shelves!

# The School Library's Amazon Wishlist!

Our Learning Resource Centre School Library (LRC) is a vital hub for discovery! Help us keep our stock fresh, diverse and up-to-date.



## Why a Wishlist?

- ★ Bestsellers & New Releases
- 👤 Diverse Voices
- 🔬 Non-Fiction Resources
- 💬 Graphic Novels & Manga

**Purchase a book that goes directly to the school library!**

## How You Can Help



Let's Start!

- Find the List: Visit the [Amazon Wishlist here](#). (Amazon no longer supports a direct search for wishlists.)
- Pick Your Book(s)
- Select the school's address ("Gift Registry Address") during checkout to ship directly to us.
- Include your name in the gift message if you would like a thank-you note from the school!

**Every Book Makes a Difference!**

Thank you for nurturing a lifelong love of reading!  
For more info: [juliehands@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:juliehands@alcesteracademy.org.uk)





# Calling Young Volunteers!

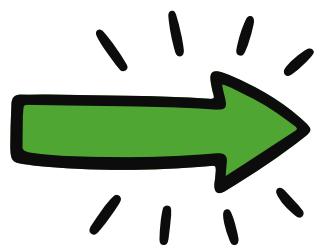


## Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers needed

- Are you confident in chatting to children aged 4-11
- Do you enjoy reading and talking about books
- Are you aged between 13 and 17



Then apply before 15<sup>th</sup> June here



<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jobs-volunteering/library-volunteering-opportunities-1/2>





# Open Days

## Old Campden House

Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire  
Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 June 2026 | 11am – 5pm

Part of ChippingCampden Open Gardens  
Sudden Impulse Theatre performing open air Shakespeare  
19 & 20 June 2026 | Book tickets directly

Free entry, pre-booking preferred via Landmark website or scan the QR code

Scan to book tickets

