Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you have had a great week.

Year 9s began our week here with a mature and sensible approach to their exams. I was thrilled to see how the students responded to the routine of these, and it bodes well for their future. Impeccable is the word that best describes them all! Year 9 exams continue on Monday and Tuesday next week, with Wednesday being used as a catch-up day if required. Please note that during year 11 GCSE exams, no catch-up days are scheduled. All students need to be in school for every examination. The rest of school was calm and purposeful this week, I'm very pleased to say.

Next week is our *exam focus week* as year 8s prepare for their exam series week beginning 23rd January 2023. Let's hope that year 8s approach their exams in the same committed way as year 9. Year 8s have received their exam timetable, and had their *Super Six* revision sessions in readiness for next week.

Thank you to parents who attended the online Friends of Alcester Academy meeting last night. We are looking forward to planning our next *Family Bingo* event which will be on Friday 17th March. We will host a non-uniform day again on 10th March in lieu of raffle donations for this again please. This worked a treat for the *Family Quiz Night* and the collection will be shared with the food bank again. They were extremely grateful for your generosity before Christmas. Details will follow for you.

PTA meetings can be found at: Friends of Alcester Academy.



We are grateful to Shottery Girls' Grammar School for hosting a visit from our year 10 and 11s this week. This has given our students some food for thought regarding their post 16 choices.



Skiers

Our skiers continued to get ready for their big international trip, happening very soon now, with a trip to the Snowdome again this week. Thank you to the staff who support these visits in order that the students can get the most out of their time on the slopes in the USA at half term.



Congratulations

To those year 11s who had external exams this week in iMedia and Child Development. We are proud of you.

Smart Watches

We would ask for your support in ensuring that the message service on smart watches is disabled whilst children are in the school building please. Tutors will be conveying this message to tutees. More and more children are using smart watches and if we are not careful, the functions on these mimic mobile phones. I insist that teaching is always a priority without staff being interrupted by students intercepting messages.

Pick up from school

We have previously asked but, please can you switch off engines as you are waiting for children at the end of the day. Also, please pick up from Gerard Road, or surrounding roads, rather than parking in the school car park. Huge thanks for this.

Healthwatch Winter Survey

Share your views with three quick questions: https://www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk/news/2022-12-08/winter-outreach-3-quick-questions



Call us on 01926 422 823 to share your views over the phone or to request a paper copy of the questions. Written responses can be sent back to us at: FREEPOST Healthwatch Warwickshire. Further information about our work can be found at www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk.

Congratulations Alcester U16 Football

This photo was lovely to see on twitter last weekend. The majority of this squad are our Alcester Academy students. Well done lads!



Visit from Nadhim Zahawi MP

We have received notification of an MP visit to school in April 2023. More details will follow in due course.

Uniform

Nose piercings are not permitted in school. Students have always and will continue to be asked to remove these if seen. This issue takes up an extraordinary amount of time and often, very unnecessary stress. Thank you for your support.

Unloved gifts and toys

During January we are collecting any new, unloved Christmas gifts for our community campaign for December 2023. These should be gifts suitable for the elderly.

Equally, we are happy to take any new, boxed toys that are unwanted for children in the



community for next Christmas. With thanks.

Thank you

Further to my update and photo in the last edition, Liv's bench arrived this week. We were pleased to receive this and thank Sharon and Matt, Liv's parents very much indeed. They also gave the school a very generous financial donation. We will be working alongside Liv's friends to put this to a fitting purpose.

Weather Watch

Please refer to the bulletin dated 6th January 2023 for details of our school closure arrangements just in case the weather turns on us unexpectedly. 6.1.23 AA Weekly Bulletin.pdf (alcesteracademy.org.uk)

The Diana Award

diana-award.org.uk



The Diana Award was founded on Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change their community,



their country and the world. The organisation exists to empower young people to make that positive change. I am delighted that a group of our students took their first steps into training to become school anti-bullying ambassadors for this worthy cause yesterday. We will update you more as their journey continues.

Can you believe it is Friday already? Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead. Certainly, one to blow the cobwebs away weather wise!

Best wishes

 $Sarah\ Mellors \\ Headteacher—Alcester\ Academy$



Useful diary dates 2023

Monday 23rd January. Year 8 exams start in the hall.

Wednesday 25th January. Year 11 Cup Match (re-scheduled) lesson 4 and 5. Top field by the turning circle.

Monday 30th January. Year 10 Super Learning Day. Safe and Sound.

Tuesday 31st January Year 7/8 Super Learning STEM Day.

Thursday 9th February. AGS Subject Sampling Evening for year 11.

Thursday 9th February. Year 9 Super Learning Day. Calling it Out.

Tuesday 14th February. Year 11 History Show. 3.30pm. More details to follow.

Wednesday 15th February. Year 11 Doctor's Show lesson 1-4.

Thursday 16th February. Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm School Cloud.

Friday 17th February. Year 9 Detective workshop day.

18-25th February International Ski Trip HALF TERM (dry ski sessions taking place this half term).

Monday 27th February. Year 11 Mocks start (2).

Thursday 2nd March. World Book Day.

Week beginning 13th March. Year 10 Work Experience Week.

14/15th March. Year 11 Practical exams for Hospitality and Catering.

Thursday 16th March. Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Bristol.

Friday 17th March. Bingo Family Night. 6.30pm. Hall.

Monday 20th March. Year 8 Super Learning Day. Talking Heads.

Tuesday 21st March. Year 11 School Photo Day.

Thursday 23rd March. Year 10 Parent Form on Exams. Arrangements TBC.

Thursday 30th March. Sports Awards Evening. Invited students. Details to follow.

Friday 31st March. Early finish 12.40pm.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday 20th April. Year 8 Parents Evening to begin the Options Process.

Various reports published throughout this term.

This is not an exhaustive list, just a guide.

epraise

205 points

Epraise Leaderboard—this week

Top Students—this week:			Top Staff—this week:	
1	Brandon	9PW 25 points	1 Mr Rossiter	

	l	Brandon	9PW	25 points
9	2	Jake	9PW	24 points
,	3	Annabelle	7LE	15 points
,	3	Ollie	8MO	15 points
į	5	Ashlyn	8MO	14 points
(6	Georgia	7WI	13 points
(6	Maisy	7WI	13 points
(6	Alex	7KA	13 points
(6	Benjamin	7LE	13 points
(6	Matthew	8NE	13 points

1	Mr Rossiter	415 points
2	Mr Martin	381 points
3	Mr Yarrington	366 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	305 points
5	Mr Jones	303 points
6	Mr Moffatt	280 points
7	Miss Burgess	208 points

9 Mr Bastock 200 points 10 Miss Lewis 178 points

Top Tutor—this week:

1	7LE	231 points
2	7KA	219 points
3	7WI	218 points
4	8MO	209 points
5	7RA	201 points
5	7TN	201 points
7	11BR	182 points
8	8NE	157 points
9	8BI	143 points
10	8TY	142 points

Top Subjects—this week:

Mrs Stedman

8

1	History	535 points
2	Maths	467 points
3	Science	426 points
3	Art	426 points
5	Geography	361 points
6	French	306 points
7	English	277 points
8	IT	241 points
9	PE	204 points
10	Design Technology	113 points

HOUSES OF DECESTER OCCUPENTY

Wow Greville, congratulations! This week, Greville has been top of attendance and Epraise. However, Oversley takes the lead on our 1st week back!

Congratulations to Aaryan for receiving 20 House points for Oversley after reading one million words. Congratulations also to Harry, Hester, and William for reaching half a million words and receiving 10 House points each.

Top House this week: Oversley

Top Epraise points this week: Greville Top attendance this week: Greville

Top students on Epraise this week:

Billesley – Ollie (8MO)
Ragley – Jake (9PW)
Greville – Lillia (11BR)
Oversley – Brandon (9PW)
Miss Lewis

Term Dates 2023

SPRING TERM 2023

Half Term Monday 20th – Friday 24th February 2023

Back to school Monday 27th February 2023

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 31st March 2023 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2023

Summer Term begins Monday 17th April 2023

May Bank Holiday Monday 1st May 2023 Bank Holiday Monday 8th May 2023

Half Term Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

Back to school Monday 5th June 2023

Summer Term ends Friday 21st July 2023 at 12.40pm

School closed Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th July 2023

Disaggregated teacher training days

Year 11 revision timetable—Spring term

	Week A Lunchtime	Week A After school	Week B Lunchtime	Week B After School
Monday	Geography skills		Science (Miss Radbourne – set 3)	
Tuesday	iMedia & Comp Science DT	Computer Science Maths (Mr Hollis and Miss Home) (if not C.S)	German DT	Maths (Miss Elliott and Mr Hollis)
Wednesday	French iMedia & Comp Science	History	Maths	English
Thursday	Geography writing	Art and Photography English (if not Art and Photography)	Childcare Combined Science (Miss Cooper)	Maths
Friday	Physics	Triple science	Physics	Triple science

Artwork of the Week





Period: 2022 to 2023 Courses for Parents and

those Caring for Children



Understanding and Supporting Children Aged 12+ Years with Anxiety – 1 session – Friday 20th January 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding Emotional Regulation in School Aged Children – 1 session – Monday 23rd January 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance – 1 session – Monday 30th January 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance – 1 session – Saturday 4th February 2023, 9am to 11am (Saturday course)

Understanding and Supporting Children Aged 12+ Years with Anxiety – 1 session – Saturday 4th February 2023, 12 pm to 2pm (Saturday course)

Courses available online - via Zoom

Understanding Emotional Regulation in School Aged Children – 1 session – Saturday 4th February 2023, 2:30pm to 4:30pm (Saturday course)

Understanding Self-esteem in Children and Young People - 1 session - Thursday 9th February 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding and Supporting School Aged Children Who Self-harm – 1 session – Monday 13th February 2023, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Understanding Sensory Needs in School Aged Children - 1 session - Thursday 16th March 2023, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Understanding Low Mood in Children and Young People - 1 session - Thursday 30th March 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding and Supporting Children Aged 3-11 Years with Anxiety – 1 session – Monday 8th May 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding Sensory Needs in School Aged Children – 1 session – Saturday 13th May 2023, 9am to 11pm (Saturday course)

Understanding Low Mood in Children and Young People – 1 session – Saturday 13th May 2023, 12pm to 2pm (Saturday course)

Understanding Self-esteem in Children and Young People – 1 session – Saturday 13th May 2023, 2:30pm to 4:30pm (Saturday course)

Understanding and Supporting Children Aged 12+ Years with Anxiety – 1 session – Thursday 18th May 2023, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Understanding Emotional Regulation in School Aged Children – 1 session – Wednesday 24th May 2023, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People with Emotionally Based School Avoidance – 1 session – Friday 9th June 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding Self-esteem in Children and Young People - 1 session - Monday 12th June 2023, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Understanding and Supporting School Aged Children Who Self-harm – 1 session – Thursday 22nd June 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding Sensory Needs in School Aged Children - 1 session - Friday 30th June 2023, 10am to 12pm

Understanding Low Mood in Children and Young People – 1 session – Monday 3rd July 2023, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Our Academy is not a School, College or Academy in the traditional sense of the word, you don't need to be academically minded to attend and there are no tests, exams or assessments. The Academy delivers a learning approach to personal recovery and wellbeing that is offered by a partnership of organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire. We offer a wide range of FREE courses and workshops designed to empower you to become an expert in your own recovery and wellbeing.

For course descriptions and to enrol, please see website below:

Online registration

Visit: https://www.recoveryandwellbeing.co.uk/ Email: Recovery.Academy@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Call: 0300 303 2626



Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership

V2

MOST NEEDED THIS MONTH

Top 5 Items Needed This Week

- 1. Tin Veg Meals
- 2. Razors
- 3. Coffee

Alcester Academy

- 4. Antibacterial Spray
- 5. Laundry Liquid Detergent

12.1.2023

WHERE TO DONATE

LOCAL SUPERMARKETS

STRATFORD

Tesco Morrisons

Waitrose

Lidl

Sainsbury's Local (Bridge St)

Co-op Trinity Mead

OTHER COMMUNITIES

Bidford Co-op & One Stop Claverdon Community Shop Henley-in-Arden Co-op & One Stop

Mickleton Village Shop Tiddington Spar

Wilmcote Village Stores

FOODBANK WAREHOUSE

FRED WINTER CENTRE, 41 GUILD STREET, STRATFORD CV37 6QY

MON AND WED 2-4PM, SAT 9.30-11.30 AM

PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT ACCEPT FOOD DONATIONS OUTSIDE THESE TIMES

There is a donation basket in the foyer area of the Fred Winter Centre for small donations

THANK YOU

Tel: 07736 929029

info@stratforduponavon.foodbank.org.uk Registered charity no 1153297







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



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

text your message to: 07563130478

or

email your message to:

textacademy@alcesteracademy.org.uk

07563130478



Warwickshire Governor Services

School Governance Professional (part time)

Warwickshire Governor Services runs a successful clerking service for schools in the county and surrounding area. We wish to recruit additional School Governance Professionals (formerly known as clerk to the governing board) to deliver a high-quality clerking service to schools, to meet demand.

The main duties are:

- providing advice to the governing body on governance, constitutional, and procedural matters
- providing effective administrative support to the governing body and its committees, including minuting meetings to a high standard.
- ensuring the governing body is properly constituted.
- · managing information effectively in accordance with legal requirements.

School Governance Professionals will be employed by Warwickshire County Council but will usually be allocated to specific schools. Day to day accountability is to the governing body.

This is a flexible part-time role, which can involve clerking for just one school (to fit around your substantive post) or it can be grown to involve clerking for many schools. The hours can be agreed with candidates on an individual basis. Pay (including holiday enhancement) is £14.21 per hour.

You will mainly work from home, with some attendance of meetings at times convenient to the governing body, typically early evening. These are both on-line and in-person meetings (when covid restrictions allow).

We are looking for someone who:

- has excellent written skills, including being able to identify relevant information, take accurate notes at meetings and summarise information to prepare high quality minutes
- is computer literate, especially with Word, web, and email, and has access to equipment for working from home
- is an efficient administrator, able to use initiative and able to work under pressure including meeting deadlines
- can research and manage advice from a variety of sources
- is able to work with detailed information, such as DfE governance regulations and provide detailed and accurate advice
- has excellent communications skills, including the ability to liaise, and build effective relationships with senior school staff and support them in a professional way
- · understands the importance of confidentiality and integrity
- · is willing to work in the evenings
- will undertake CPD and an accreditation programme

School Governance Professionals will receive support, full induction and will be expected to attend the induction training course, held termly, after appointment. You will also be expected to attend the follow-on Effective Clerking course within the first or second term. Continuing professional development is provided. The role is subject to a DBS check.

If you would like to have a conversation about the role, please email catherinechatterton@warwickshire.gov.uk

The closing date is 24th January 2023.

In science news this week...

A comet not seen in 50,000 years is streaking past earth soon

A newly discovered comet may soon become visible to the naked eye as it shoots past the earth in the coming weeks for the first time in 50,000 years, according to astronomers. The comet, called C/2022 E3 (ZTF), was first spotted passing Jupiter in March last year. After travelling through our solar system it will come closest to our sun on January 12th and pass nearest to earth on February 1st. It should be easy to spot with a good pair of binoculars, possibly even with the naked eye, provided the sky is not illuminated by city lights or the moon.



Brain games may be able to predict how bad your next cold will be

Researchers at the University of Michigan have discovered that poor immune performance is linked to periods of changing cognitive performance. In a study, participants were tested on their attention, reaction times and ability to switch between numbers and letters. The volunteers were then exposed to a cold virus and asked to rate their symptoms. Typically, those who reported the worst symptoms had inconsistent scores in the cognitive testing.

Monkeys made ancient sets of stone tools in Brazil

Researchers believe that ancient stone tools discovered in Brazil are the work of capuchin monkeys and not early humans as previously thought. Archaeologist Agustin Agnolin and palaeontologist Federico Agnolin say they "are confident that the early archaeological sites from Brazil may not be human-derived but may belong to capuchin monkeys".





Scientists gave penguins a mirror, and raised a lot of questions

In a recent test, a waddle of 12 Adelie penguins were exposed to a mirror under different conditions. When in a group there was little reaction, but when the penguins were isolated they investigated their reflections. The scientists observed "rapid movements of their heads, flippers or bodies...the visual attention of all the subject penguins was firmly on their images during the entire timespan". Self-awareness may exist as a spectrum as this mirror test implies, meaning new experiments may be needed to probe this aspect of consciousness.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of Platt v Isle of Wight Council which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. 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.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

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

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 37,021 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn/Spring terms 2021/22.

Attendance News

Whole School: 94.4% House: Greville 95%

7WI—99.2 % 8MO—96.8% 9RO—99.2%

10BW—95%

11BR—96.1%



Reporting Absences

Parents must report any absence from school including medical appointments requiring absence, and any Covid related ill health leading to absence, to the student absence line by 9.30am on each day of absence to 01789 762285 and press 1.

Where there has been no contact from parents/carers and the child remains absent without explanation Academy staff will make contact with parents/carers to ask the reason for absence. In the first instance School Comms will be used to send a message via the app or text, followed by contact via phone, if no response is received. Medical evidence (for example, this could be medical appointment cards, prescribed medication labels) can be requested to support student absences from school. Our Attendance Officer will follow up unexplained or concerning levels of absence as outlined in our Attendance Intervention Process. *Mrs Paula Taylor*

DT house competition Open to all year groups & the deadline is 31st January—any questions to Miss Wincup!

design challenge brief

YOUR OBJECTIVE:

Design and develop a top, bag or pair of shoes for Burberry

IDEAS:

ITEM TYPE: Will it be a top, bag or pair of shoes? **TARGET CUSTOMER:** Who will wear it?

THEME OR SOURCE OF INSPIRATION: What will it be?

DESIGN:

VISUALS: What does the product look like?

FEATURES: How does the product function? What key features will make it stand out?

IDENTITY: How does the product's design align with the theme or brand?

MATERIALS: What will the product be made of?

CREATE:

Share your idea by writing a one paragraph written proposal alongside an accompanying visual design. Be as creative and as visual as you like!





SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

This week's fixtures

Well done to all students who have represented the school in fixtures this week. It has been great to get back to competitive sport following the Christmas break.

Well done to year 7 basketballers for achieving your first win this year against Alcester Grammar School.



Year 9 Netball v AGS and St Benedict's @ AGS



Year 8 Basketball v St Benedict's @ Home



Year 7 and 8 Basketball v AGS @ AGS

Next weeks confirmed fixtures:

Monday 16th January – Year 7 Basketball v Shipston (HOME) Tuesday 17th January – Year 7/8 girls Basketball v Shipston (HOME) Wednesday 18th January – Year 9/10/11 Girls Basketball at Shottery (AWAY) Wednesday 18th January – Year 7 and 8 Basketball v St. Bede's (HOME)

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

Extra-curricular Sport

Next week will move to week 2 sports clubs at both lunchtime and after school. Please see below for timetables for next week and any changes due to fixtures:

Week 2 Clubs - 3.25-4.30pm

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location	
Monday			
	STAFF TRAINING		
Tuesday	Bowmen of Alcester Archery – Mr Powell	Gym	
	Year 9 Football – Mr Moffatt	Field	
Wednesday	Year 10 Football – Mr Moffatt	Field	
	Year 9/10/11 Netball – Mrs Powell	Playground	
	Year 10/11 Basketball – Mr Powell	Gym	
Thursday	All Years Girls Rugby — Miss Watson	Field	
	Year 11 Football – Mr Moffatt	Field	

Changes due to fixtures:

No year 10/11 Basketball after school on Wednesday due to fixture. Players can attend Friday lunchtime to practise.

Year 9/10/11 Netball moved to Thursday 19th January due to fixture.

Year 9 Football on Tuesday moved to Friday after school.

Lunchtime week 2 - 1.45-2.15pm

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 8 Volleyball - MO	GYM
Tuesday	Year 9 Volleyball - PW	GYM
Wednesday		
Thursday	Year 7 Volleyball – PE	GYM
Friday	Year 10 + 11 Volleyball – MO	GYM