Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. It has felt like a quieter week in school with 82 of our year 9s in Skern Lodge. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the photographs on X, formally known as Twitter, and Mr Hall has taken some amazing footage from the egg drone that we have had donated recently. I can't wait to update you in more detail regarding the trip next week. Thank you to Miss Buckthorp for leading this alongside Mr Hall, Mr Badham, Mrs Evason and Mrs Clarke. And, we always appreciate

the hours of support from Mrs Savery in the office for arranging everything for trips such as these.



In other news this week, we held Mock Interviews for year 11s on Wednesday. In preparation, our students had to complete their full CV ready for this. We had various leaders in school to support the interviews. I am very grateful for their time:

Mike Dean—Chair of Governors Steph Parker—Warwickshire Skills Hub

Cam Farnell—Financial Skills Coach Jessica Rees—Worcester University Conrad Phafler—JCP DWP Mercia Schools Advisor









What's inside this week...

Page 3 Motivational Monday

Page 6 World Mental Health Day

Pages 18 & 19 Next Friends of Alcester Academy events

Lucy Richardson—Cadbury College Alan Wright—Arcus Amanda Lillis—HR Consultant Dominic Connolly—Development Company Bally Binning—Director Profcoach Verity Crichton—CV and Interview Coach Oliver Ansell-Hodges—AGS year 13 Bethany Adams—AGS year 13 Beth McGoldrick—AGS year 13





We celebrate World Mental Health Day with our Hello Yellow campaign and Take A Moment images. Thanks to Miss McKenzie for leading on this. She has written in more detail later on in this edition. Hello Yellow linked really nicely with our year 7 and 8 campaign around kindness last week for World Smile Day. Here are just a few things that students were nominated for:





- ♦ Helping with work
- \Diamond Letting me play football
- ♦ Helping with homework
- \Diamond Always being there for me
- ♦ Always being there for me and he is a true friend
- ♦ Carried my DT stuff to school (I had 3 bags that day)
- ♦ Sat next to me in tutor and on the bus
- \Diamond Helped me with some revision
- ♦ Reassured me that an appointment would be ok
- ♦ Helped me throughout my life. Especially in tough times
- ♦ My mum. She is always there for me. She is a hard working mother.
- ♦ Helping me with homework in the LRC
- \Diamond She smiles at me each time I go passed her
- ♦ She got me a bottle of water and looked after me when I felt sick
- \Diamond She tucked in my stool in science for me
- ♦ She always waits outside tutor with me
- ♦ He complimented me and said that I was a nice person
- ♦ Helped me out when I hurt my head and took me to LSU. He is always there for me.
- He put a smile on my face by putting me forward to represent my school in my favourite sport
- ♦ Helped me with my maths work when I didn't understand
- ♦ He made me laugh, he has good jokes
- ♦ Has been the only person to be my friend
- *Always says kind things to cheer me up.*

It really lifted me up to read these comments. Well done year 7 and 8 students.

Thank you Friends of Alcester Academy

FRIENDS OF ALCESTER ACADEMY

Many thanks to those parents who joined us on line for the second FOAA meeting of the year last night. We are working hard towards our next event.

Moving forward, I'm looking forward to joining Mrs Weatherley and Miss Heitmuller for MFL year 11 Saturday School tomorrow 10am to 1pm in school.

On Sunday then, we are proud to parade as part of the High Bailiff's Service in Alcester.

Next week sees *Motivational Monday* return. For new parents, this is dedicated staff time where they will be sending home praise emails during the day. Next Thursday is also chance for our year 7 parents and carers to come into school for the first formal opportunity to catch up on the start of term for new children to the Academy.

Year 11 Assembly

Thank you to Stratford-upon-Avon College for an inspiring presentation with year 11s today.

Stratford-upon-Avon
College

As I am writing this for you all, I'm listening to another bumper rehearsal for Aladdin in the hall. I appreciate the staff and students giving up last Saturday in school to go through the progress towards this to date. I'm getting very excited.

I'm certain, like you, with the tragic news of events in Gaza at present, it is refreshing to hear all about life at school. Please follow our social media pages in order to stay updated.

Follow us on X, formally known as Twitter: https://twitter.com/AlcesterAcademy
Follow us on Facebook:

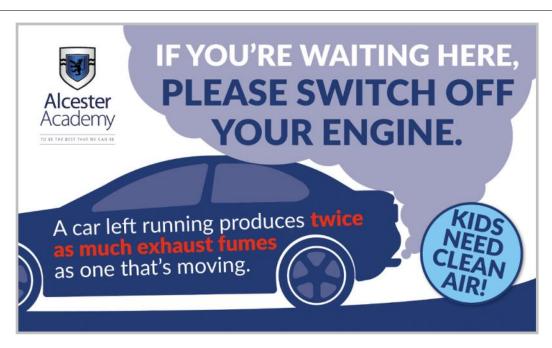
https://www.facebook.com/alcesteracademy1/Follow us on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/alcester academytl/

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Please wave if you see us in Alcester on Sunday.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



Epraise Leaderboard—this week

Top Students—this week:

1	Noah	7RA	21 points
2	Jude	7WI	18 points
2	Amber	7WI	18 points
4	Summer	7LX	17 points
4	Tesla	7TN	17 points
6	Jack	7TN	16 points
7	Charlotte	7WI	15 points
7	Bella	7KO	15 points
7	Jamie	8TY	15 points
10	Astrid	7TN	14 points

Top Tutor—this week:

7WI	236 points
7RA	228 points
7TN	226 points
7KO	222 points
7LX	220 points
8TY	218 points
8GA	196 points
11MR	185 points
8TU	182 points
8YA	181 points
	7RA 7TN 7KO 7LX 8TY 8GA 11MR 8TU

epraise Great Work Points

epraise.co.uk

Top Staff—this week:

1	Mr Yarrington	387 points
2	Mr Jones	312 points
3	Miss Lewis	301 points
4	Mrs Gorner	283 points
5	Mr Martin	256 points
6	Mr Rossiter	217 points
7	Mrs Weatherley	208 points
8	Mr Tuckey	142 points
9	Mr Bowater	130 points
10	Mrs Kowal	129 points

Top Subjects—this week:

1	English	598 points
2	Maths	540 points
3	Art	386 points
4	History	327 points
5	French	308 points
6	Science	182 points
7	Geography	172 points
8	DT	123 points
8	German	123 points
9	IT	122 points
10	Per Arts	116 points

epraise



LRC Autumn Term News

Summer Reading Competition

Congratulations go to Alice in year 9, who won the Summer Reading Competition held by the LRC.

She took quite a few pictures of her reading in various places over the summer, and her entry was the first one pulled out of the beach bag after the closing date.

Book Donation Thanks

Many thanks go to two parents who have donated a lot of books to the LRC this term. There were a lot of new titles, but I have also been able to replace some of our more popular tattier books with copies that are in a much better condition, for students to continue borrowing.

Accelerated Reading

The Accelerated Reading system is now available for all students in year 7 and 8 to quiz on the books they are reading.

Please only quiz on new books that you have read since the start of September.

Parents of students in years 7 and 8 should have received details of how to log into Home Connect, which allows you to view information about your child's progress. It also allows you to sign up to receive email notifications after they complete an activity or assessment at school.

To log in to Home Connect Website:

https://global-zone61.renaissancego.com/studentprogress/homeconnect?t=1893467

And then use your child's log in - they should know this. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries -

juliehands@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Jack in year 7 has become our first half-a-millionword reader this year! Congratulations Jack.







Warwickshire Teen Book Award

Shortlisting for the Warwickshire Teen Book Award took place this term. For this award the students themselves choose the four books for the shortlist, from a longlist of ten books that were chosen by staff at Warwickshire Schools Library Service (WSLS).

Some year 9 students were given extracts to read, and a clip to watch about each of the ten longlisted books. They then each voted for the four that they thought they would most like to continue reading. The results from Alcester Academy were sent off to WSLS to be counted with votes from all the other Warwickshire schools that are taking part.

Seven Alcester Academy students are taking part this year and they are looking forward to reading the four books that have been chosen!



LRC Social Media Accounts

The LRC has its own X account (formerly Twitter) -@AA LRC Library and Instagram account - aa_lrc Please follow us for all our latest news.





Mrs Hands

World Mental Health Day

#helloyellow



On Tuesday 10 October we were raising awareness as a whole school community for World Mental Health Day. Alcester Academy took part in Young Minds #helloyellow campaign by wearing yellow showing young people that they matter and deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what. The school was decorated with yellow ribbons and banners with Art and Photography students writing wellbeing messages on yellow tags that adorned every door across the school.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to make this day so special.











A Film For World Mental Health Day

Mental Health Awareness Poem

'Mental Health can be seen or unseen' has been our motto this week which is a quote taken from the most beautiful poem written by year 10 student Maya, specifically to mark *World Mental Health Day*. The poem was also captured in a wonderful, thought-provoking short film which can be viewed by clicking on the following link: Alcester Academy | Wellbeing.

Please feel free to share with friends and family.

Take a Moment and ITV Britain Get Talking

To further raise awareness of Mental Health, staff and students have been taking part in the social media campaigns *Take a Moment* and *ITV Britain Get Talking*. With the statistic of 55% of young people suffering from Mental Health issues being too afraid to open up, assemblies this week have been focused on encouraging students to 'Get Talking' and participate in tutor activities focused on conversations surrounding Mental Health and asking one another if they are ok.

There are many charities and organisations that support both Children and Adult Mental Health Issues. No one should ever suffer in silence, and we endeavour as a school to be there for our students, their families and community not just on World Mental Health Day, but every single day.





Supporting you with Mental Health Issues































Data Collection on SIMS Parent

Next week we will be sending invitations to all parents to register on SIMS Parent and check the following details are correct for your child:

Student Details * Your Contact Details * Medical Details * Dietary * Travel

Please use SIMS Parent to update these details throughout the year so that we can manage you and your child's data effectively. We WILL NOT be enabling attendance, reporting, homework assignments etc. as we already provide a platform for most of this information. The invitation will look like the one below and we hope as many parents as possible will update changes in this way. If you do not receive an invitation next week, please contact reception.

You're invited to start using SIMS Parent to manage your child's personal details at Alcester Academy. If enabled by the school, you can also view child's attendance, school reports, homework assignments and more.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

Accept Invitation

Arden Construction STEM visit

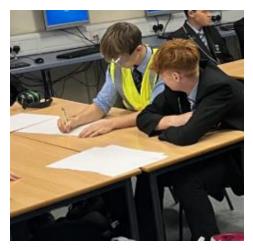
Arden Construction were in for a STEM visit to year 11 DT students. The students got to understand about PPE needed and the importance of health and safety across construction sites.

There were lots of opportunities to see different careers across the whole sector and the educational routes needed to get into these. The students were really engaged and had lots of questions to ask, they even got to plan the layout of a construction site and see how these would look in the future, as technology continues to be developed.

Miss Wincup







Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023

School closed Friday 27th October 2023

Teacher training day

Half term Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November 2023

Back to school Monday 6th November 2023

Autumn Term ends Friday 22nd December 2023 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2024

School closed Monday 8th January 2024

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024

Back to school Monday 19th February 2024

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

SUMMER TERM 2024

Summer Term begins Monday 8th April 2024

May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2024

Back to school Monday 3rd June 2024

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2024 at 12.40pm

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight

This week's spotlight focuses on Rosie in year 9 who has recently represented the County at football in a match against Shropshire in the Counties League. Rosie did the Academy extremely proud in this match playing at both centre-back and right back for the Warwickshire U14 team. The match ended in a 3-2 win for Warwickshire, well done Rosie!





This week's sport roundup: Year 10 Football v Stratford

Our year 10 footballers were drawn against Stratford High in the second round of the cup for a second year running. Despite last years one sided win for Stratford our year 10 team were motivated to make amends and show the level of improvement from year 9.

We had an outstanding start to the match, playing excellent passing football and competing in all areas of the pitch. Alcester races into an early 2 goal lead in the match. With tiring legs in the second half Stratford were able to score 2 to bring the match to a draw and the cup tie to be decided on penalties.



Unfortunate heartbreak for our year 10 side saw Stratford win the tie 3-1 on penalties, however so many positives to take forward for the rest of the League season. An incredible display and great progress from the side shown from the previous year.

Year 7 Football v Kineton

Our year 7 team took to the field for the first time this week against Kineton High School. The first half was incredibly even contest with chances at both ends of the pitch. Kineton scored midway through the half and despite a number of excellent attempts on goal, the Kineton goalkeeper managed to make a string of saves to keep the score at 0-1 going into the half-time break.

After the break, with Alcester started strongly with the opening of the second half seeing the Kineton goalkeeper make a string of saves to keep Alcester out. Against the run of play Kineton managed to score a breakaway goal to extend their lead. Despite this, Alcester heads didn't drop and soon after following some excellent football around the edge of the box, Jude was able to score with a clinical finish to bring the score to 1-2. As Alcester went chasing the equaliser we were left short at the back as Kineton capitalised with a further goal, with the match finishing 1-3.

Great spirit was shown by our year 7 team in their first match against a strong Kineton side with a number of Academy players. A lot of promising signs from our year 7 team who will look to grow in experience as the season goes on. Next up will be their cup match v Aylesford school on 18th October.



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



LUNCHTIME SPORT



- · Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 11th September on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- · Lunchtime sport will follow a set timetable each half-term and run from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1)
- · PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MONDAY - PE	TUESDAY - MO	WEDNESDAY - PW
11/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS ₃ BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
18/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS ₃ BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
25/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS ₃ BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
2/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL
9/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL
16/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL

After School Sport



THIS WEEK'S SPORT: W/B 16/10/23

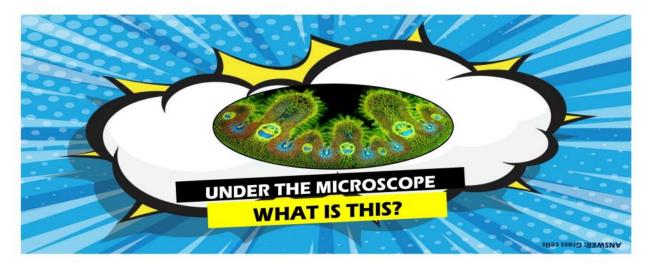


Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 9 Football v Myton- MO	Top Field
	U15 Girls Football v Kingstone Academy	Away
Tuesday	Year 9 Netball Tournament– PW/MR	Stratford School
	KS3 Girls Football- External Coach	School Field
Wednesday	Year 10 Rugby v AGS-MO	AGS Playing Fields
	Year 7 Football v Aylesford- PW	Away
	Year 7 and 8 Netball- PE	Courts
Thursday	Year 8 Football- MO	Field









Teaching Assistant Vacancy

Full Time

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

Scale F range 6-11 FTE £21,968 starting salary (Actual pro rata £18,811)

Alcester Academy

Starting: November 2023

Closing date: Thursday 19th October 2023 at 3.30pm

Interviews: Wednesday 25th October 2023

Learning Support at Alcester Academy

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

The Post

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days). We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact:

admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application.

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

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Extra Curricular Clubs

Monday

LUNCH

Science Club KS3

Acoustic Group Music Hut

AFTER SCHOOL

Ornithology T4

Tuesday

MORNING

Morning Sports Club

LUNCH

Young Enterpsie E6/5

> Pop Band Music Hut

Game Design It

AFTER SCHOOL

School Show Hall

Wednesday

LUNCH

Chess/Board Game

BBC Young Reporters

AFTER SCHOOL

Rock Academy Music

LGBTQIA+ club

Thursday

LUNCH

Environment Club

Rock Band Music Hut

Humanities Film Club Top of the Tower

AFTER SCHOOL

School Show HAll

Art Club

Friday

LUNCH

Chess/Board Game M4

Guitar Orchestra Music Hut

Saturday

Rock Academy 10am-11.30am

School Show 10m-4pm

7th October 21st October 11th November 18th November





STARTING CONVERSATIONS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

It can be difficult to speak with your young person about their mental health and wellbeing. It is important to try different methods and see what works for you.

Useful conversation starters:

"How are you feeling?"

"What was the best and worst bit of your day?"

"How can I help you?"

"I can see that you are feeling _____. Do you want to talk about it?"

"Today I felt ... How did you feel today?"



More conversation starters!

Some young people find it easier to have these conversations when they do not need to make eye contact. Try having these conversations whilst doing a normal activity, such as cooking dinner, washing up or even in the car!

Top Tip: Try to avoid starting these conversations around bedtime.

Discussing and expressing feelings:

- Try using emojis, coloured stickers or pictures to show how you are feeling.
- If your young person finds it hard to have these conversations, they could try sending you
 text messages to let you know how they feel or using a shared feelings diary.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court clarified 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 regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

Head teachers shall not grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless they consider 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. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance 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. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their 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 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.

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 and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

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

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'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. 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 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance: 94%

Top tutors this week:

7WI with 100% attendance—fab! 8GA with 99.1% attendance 9BI with 95.7% attendance 10HL with 98.1% attendance 11MO with 100% attendance—fab!

Well done!

Top House this week:

Greville with 96.8%

Reminder

If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285 or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Thank you!



Year 11 Revision

Please find attached the first part of our revision timetable for the rest of this half term (5 weeks). $Mr\ Cooke$

Day	Option lunch	Option after school
Monday	French, Sport PE1/ Study room M5	
Tuesday	Study room S5	
Wednesday	ICT Creative iMedia/ Media Studies/Study room E2	Computer Science Hospitality and Catering DT coursework catch up
Thursday	German/Study room E2	Art & Photography
Friday	Geography	



ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS



Family



Friday 10th November

Doors Open 6.30pm - Eyes down 7.00pm

1 Book (6 Games) - £2

6 Books (6 Games) - £10



Bar Tuck Shop & Snacks available

Pre-booking recommended.

Book now online or via the school office.

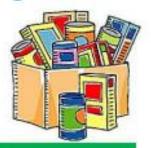
https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

Non Uniform Day



Thursday 26th October

Supporting both:



TA - FRIENDS OF ALCESTER ACADEMY



We are collecting Thursday 26th October upon entry into school

Donations will be used for prizes for the PTA Friends of Alcester Academy Fund Raiser happening on Friday 10th November. And to support the Arden Food Bank.

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Small chocolate boxes

Examples might include a box of maltesers, matchmakers or selection box







£2 Donation Payable on the Gateway

£2 Donation Payable on the Gateway

Year 10

Tuna or Rice





Year 11

Coffee or Tinned

Soup



Staff

Small Chocolate Boxes / Tuna / Rice / Tinned Soup or Coffee

Help support your PTA and local food bank—thank you!



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



In 2023, Children's Air Ambulance celebrates the 10th anniversary of our first ever patient transfer.

Much has changed within our pioneering service in those 10 years, and we're inviting children and young people to let their imaginations fly and tell us what they think helicopters will look like in the next 10 years.

The competition leaflet can be downloaded from the link https://bit.ly/3RHyWae

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY





Texan Peacocks will be playing a special gig
to celebrate their 20th year
on Friday 27th October from 7pm
at the Greig Hall in Alcester!
Tickets are £10 each!

Original member Mr Badham will be playing!

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/47014

