

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



13th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the close of another busy school week. Despite continuing to be in a second national lockdown, we have a lot to update you on this week again from a school perspective. There is a glimmer of more optimism this week with the announcement of a potential vaccine, earlier than we had hoped for and I know that this has given us all such a boost! I'm not so thrilled by the news that students in Wales won't be taking summer examinations. We are keeping an eye on this very carefully in order that we might be able to convey a confident and secure message to our year 11s at this time. For year 11 parents, see the message about mocks later on in this bulletin.



to receive before Christmas. We're thinking about our year 9 bubble who are working from home right now and we can't wait to see you very soon back in school.

We are now planning a 'bumper' end of term after a rotten year for the students frankly. We hope that you'll help us to embrace some different curriculum ideas during the final weeks in order to help students to build their memories of school that often last a lifetime.

As ever, the support of staff right now is tremendous. I thank them sincerely for the personal sacrifices they are making with their own families right now by being in school each day for the students.

School continues to be a safe and purposeful environment. Mrs Woodman will be reporting on 'learning' news before Christmas. Year 10 full written reports are also underway for you

I hope that you remain safe at this time and I extend my thanks as always to you for your support right now. I never take this for granted.

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

School closed

Monday 14th December – Teacher training day

Autumn Term ends

Friday 18th December 2020 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2021

School closed

Monday 4th January 2021 – Teacher training day

Spring Term begins

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half Term

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021

Back to school

Monday 22nd February 2021

Spring Term ends (Easter)

Thursday 1st April 2021

Final word on Remembrance

We were delighted that *Midlands Today* picked up the feature on our community donation to the British Legion this year. Following that, the students appeared on *BBC Breakfast* and *CBBC Newsround*! Wow! Quite an achievement and I'm very grateful to you all. If you want to receive your poppy, please let the office know (admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk) and we'll arrange this, otherwise we will recycle these for next year! I was so proud of the students attitude on Wednesday when we held a whole school two minute silence. We're now working on our Christmas idea that will raise funds for the local community again. Watch this space.

Arden Food Bank Collection

We will be collecting for Arden Food Bank on Friday 27th November. Students can wear their own (appropriate) clothes to school in exchange for the following items please:

One item chosen for each child please	Item	Or...
Year 7	Long life milk	Small selection boxes
Year 8	Mince pies (x6)	Small jars of instant coffee
Year 9	Tinned ham	Fruit juice
Year 10	Savoury biscuits	Chutneys / pickles
Year 11	Short bread	Fruit juice
Staff	Christmas pudding	Instant custard sachets



I hope that you'll join us in considering this of great value to our community right now. For newer, year 7 parents, this has been received very well by the Food Bank previously and we hope that you all support a great cause right now. Thank you. (Sadly, please don't send in other items).

History Updates

We welcome Mr Rowberry to the History teaching team. Mr Rowberry will be making a transition with Miss Bishop this half term as she gets ready to go on maternity leave at Christmas.

Mr Rossiter will be picking up Miss Bishop's year 11 teaching in his role as Head of History. We hope that Mr Rowberry is very happy with us at Alcester Academy.



Maths Updates

Mr Peace has joined us for a few weeks in the maths department in order to support the team further during this difficult lockdown period. Inevitably the coronavirus situation is impacting staff and their families as it is with you at home. Thanks for your understanding right now.

Uniform

I'm ever closer to signing a new partnership with Price-Buckland <https://price-buckland.co.uk/>. This will be as well as the National Schoolwear Centre. This will be an online service with free deliveries to school for parents. I've endorsed the school wear garments at this stage and I am just finalising the PE wear. Further information to follow over the next few weeks hopefully! Thanks for your patience with this matter recently. I apologise again to those parents who have been let down with supply.

Saturday School – year 11

Thanks to staff, students and parents for supporting last Saturdays MFL session. It was a superb turn out with a lovely atmosphere. Tomorrow is slightly different as we are running our Geography session via Google Meet. Details have been sent out. We're keen to know how this goes.

Year 11 mocks

After hearing the news about no exams being held now for year 11s in Wales next summer, the

mocks that we are holding in the next few weeks are more important than ever *if* England decide to use centre assessed grades again. We will approach the preparation and execution of the exams as thoroughly as ever and hope that the students realise how important these may become. 3:2 days start on Thursday 26th November. For year 7 students, this will be new and we will take children through the concept carefully. We convert to three lessons before lunchtime and two afterwards in order to facilitate exams. There are no bubble changes, we just move the day by the hour required for an earlier lunchtime.

Future Parents' Evenings



We will be trialling the video system *School Cloud* <https://www.schoolcloud.co.uk/> for year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 3rd December. Optimistically this should facilitate you meeting virtually with your child's teachers. We are working to make this as effective as possible right now. We would ask year 9 parents and carers to work together with us on our first attempt using this. Hopefully moving forward then we can use this platform for all further Parents' Evenings. I'm going to be using this as the platform for my own daughter's sixth form parents' evening next Thursday and so I'll keep an keen eye out on how it works from a parent perspective and feedback to you next week.

Assemblies

We are pleased to say that we are resuming themed assemblies albeit virtually still. Mr Cooke spoke about Remembrance on Wednesday in a live whole school link and next week we are thinking about 'anti bullying' together.

Funding

Careers was successful in securing £2,000 from The Future Careers Fund – Skills for Employment. This money is to be spent on providing Virtual Work Experience opportunities for our year 10 students. Stretch Development, providing us with life-time access to motivational talks by David Hyner this will help our year 11 students aim higher, by raising their aspirations and equipping them with

essential skills and confidence. Young Enterprise, to motivate our year 10 students to succeed in the changing world of work by preparing them with the work skills, knowledge and confidence they will need.

Universal Music UK Sound Foundation Grant

Alcester Rock Academy are thrilled at the arrival of our new wireless



mixer thanks to a grant of £750 from The Universal Music UK Sound Foundation! This will enable us to mix and record live much more easily (especially with current restrictions) and offer much better / safer access to our student musicians and techs at school and in the wider community.

Outdoor Gym Grant

We were delighted to hear that we have obtained £750 for outdoor gym equipment.

Elevate

We are thrilled to welcome Elevate in to school on Monday for some virtual students skill sessions with year 10 and 11. These will be followed up with similar parent sessions in due course. <https://uk.elevateeducation.com/>



Young Enterprise

We are also delighted that Young Enterprise got started this week in year 10. Mrs Hale is leading on this. There was a huge turn out from students so I'm excited to see how many companies get up and running in the near future. Good luck all!



Closing date

Today is the closing date for applications for our new [Business Manager](#) and [Teacher of Science](#). Please visit the school website for further details.

EPRAISE UPDATES

***Congratulations to the
top three tutor groups:***

**** 7HT * 9WA * 7TY ****

***With 7WI, 7BW AND 7NE rapidly on their
tails! Exciting!***

***Congratulations to the
top three students
across the school:***

***Romano 9WA and leader for Greville
Isabelle 9WA and leader for Billesley
Hannah 9BI and leader for Oversley***

***Congratulations to Alfie year 9,
leader for Ragley***

***In other year groups,
Brandon is leading in year 7
Elliott is leading in year 8
Dan is leading in year 10
Louisa is leading in year 11***

***Well done to everyone for their hard
work. We're thrilled to recognise this
success and thank all students for great
behaviour in lessons.***

***Mr Arris is leading the staff league table
right now! Go science!***

Coronavirus Updates

When a case is confirmed please could I urge parents to read the letters sent out extremely carefully. In last weeks bulletin, I outlined the tiered approach to these and there are subtle differences to reflect:

(Read the bold at the top of the letter to support you further)

Letter A - your child has been in close contact and should self isolate.

Letter B - READ CAREFULLY. Your child is in

the same year group bubble and may have used the same classrooms etc but DOES NOT have to self isolate. Watch them carefully for symptoms developing though.

Letter C - to the rest of the school as information only. This will outline what year group the confirmed case is in.

We react quickly when we hear that there is a case. Often this has been at weekends or of an evening. If you could read letters carefully, it might avoid unnecessary queries. All information is outlined for you in these letters. Thank you.

Work for students self-isolating

Work for students self-isolating will be set via normal google classrooms. Students have the codes for these but they are on the website if needed.

If there happens to be no work posted, please go to the 'self-isolation classrooms'. Again codes are on the website.

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19->

Our reception continue to get lots of queries about this. The children have been shown where this work is now on several occasions.

Understanding

Can I reiterate that your support is really needed at this time please. We cannot do anything more to minimise risks or spread of the virus and we are obliged to isolate children within close contact of a confirmed case for fourteen days. We have no choice about this I'm afraid. Where we can, we do this at the weekend in order to give you time as parents to sort childcare, or a learning environment at home if required.

In my experience since March, I am extremely satisfied with our routines and remote offer at Alcester Academy compared to schools nationally. We MUST work together right now please. The biggest help you can give us right now is supporting us with children wearing face coverings in class and corridors. Not a legal requirement in class but very helpful in order to keep cases down.

In the midst of some frustration on Saturday night, I thank the parent who wrote me an uplifting message - much appreciated indeed! It is very unfortunate that year 9 has encountered three cases to date.

Parent illness

PHE tell us that transmission from adults is still the highest incidence rate of the virus. Please do not send children in to school therefore if you have symptoms yourself. We appreciate this. If children are ill, also apply caution and keep them off school until they are feeling better or tested negative. You've all been amazing with this and I thank you on behalf of staff.

Have a lovely weekend.

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher



Winter package to support families

There is a new guidance document outlining the support intended for families over the winter coronavirus period. [Winter package to provide further support for children and families.](#)

Bedrock Vocabulary

The English Department are delighted to announce that all pupils in years 7 and 8 have now been given access to Bedrock Vocabulary. Over the coming few days, the children will be given their log in details along with an explanation of how they will use this paid for resource to enhance their learning. They will log into the platform during their English lesson to get started, and then there will be an expectation that they log in weekly to complete the activities set as part of their homework.

Bedrock was first introduced to our pupils back in May, and it proved to be a valuable resource that was well received by both parents and pupils. Please support your child by encouraging them to keep up with the work set, and asking them about the new vocabulary they have been learning.

Mrs Farnell



LRC News

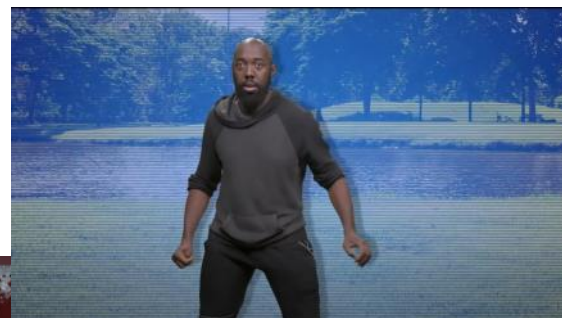
Free virtual screenings of *The Three Musketeers*

Warwickshire Libraries are holding two free virtual screenings of a production of *The Three Musketeers* by Open Book Theatre Company, originally staged for London libraries in association with ASCEL & Arts Council England for Black History Month.

Experience Dumas' swashbuckling epic in all its 2020 glory as this modern adaptation explores the literary classic through a digital age transformation, screened via Microsoft Teams. Featuring a cast of African/Caribbean heritage performers and contributions from young people across the capital. View the trailer [here](#).

You can register for this event on Eventbrite to

attend: [Monday 23 November](#) at 7pm and [Saturday 28 November](#) at 10am (Screenings last about 45 minutes and will be via Microsoft Teams).



RENAISSANCE myON Reader™

Watch this space.....Renaissance myON® Reader is a student-centred, personalised literacy environment that gives students access to more than 6,000 enhanced digital books. Alcester Academy will soon have access to this platform, which will enhance our library and the Accelerated Reader system. Students will be shown how to log-on and access their new e-Book accounts over the coming weeks.

Mrs Hands



Frances in 7WI has become our latest Word Millionaire this week! Congratulations Frances! Wear your badge with pride.

School Attendance — up to 12.11.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.2%	94.3%	95.1%	92.3%	92.8%	94.2%

Top tutors per year group — well done!

7BW and 7TY. 8CA, 9SC, 10RO and 11HK.

Artwork of the Week



**This week's artwork is by Hannah — a year 10 art student.
Hannah has done an phenomenal job capturing the hands on such details.
Great Work!**

WILL YOU BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS DAY?

This Christmas will be very different for many of our residents so we want to bring some dinner and cheer to those who will be alone on Christmas Day

To register please call us:
07414 851644
or email:
alcester-ccd@hotmail.com

This service is for residents of Alcester

organised by
ALCESTER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

epraise Parent Guide

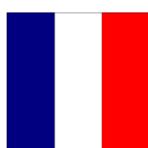


epraise gives you the opportunity to see how well your child/children are getting on and helps to keep you up-to-date with what's happening at the school. The guide will show parents and carers how to register an account online and what information you can see. Don't worry if you can't see everything that is in the guide as each school can use epraise differently.

www.epraise.co.uk > login > downloads tab > Parent Guide

Year 11 Revision Timetable

WEEK A wb- 9/11, 23/11.	Lunchtime	Afterschool
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	Chemistry (sets 1 and 2) (M1) English (M2-5)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	Music & PA (Music rooms) Science combined if not Music&PA (M1)	Music & PA (Music rooms)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2)	Maths (M rooms)
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1) Textiles	Independent study at home
WEEK B wb-2/11, 16/11, 30/11.	Lunchtime	Afterschool
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	English (M rooms)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	Music & PA (Music rooms) Science combined if not music/pa (M1)	Geography (M1)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2) Textiles	Biology sets 1 and 2 (M4 and M5) Maths (M1 -4)
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1)	Independent study at home



Language Idiom of the Week

English: To cost an arm and a leg

French: Coûter les yeux de la tête

Literal meaning: To cost the eyes from your head

German: Viel kosten

Literal meaning: To cost a lot





SUPPORTING ARDEN FOOD BANK

*Collection Day for Food Donations
Friday 27th November*

<p><i>Year 7</i></p> <p>Long Life Milk Small selection boxes</p>	<p><i>Year 8</i></p> <p>Mince pies (x6) Small jars of instant coffee</p>	<p><i>Year 9</i></p> <p>Tinned ham Fruit juice</p>
<p><i>Year 10</i></p> <p>Savoury biscuits Chutneys or Pickles</p>	<p><i>Year 11</i></p> <p>Shortbread Fruit Juice</p>	<p><i>Staff</i></p> <p>Christmas Pudding Instant custard sachets</p>

Help support your local food bank—thank you!



SPORTS NEWS * * * SPORTS NEWS * * * SPORTS NEWS

Worcester Wolves Basketball—Attention Fans!

We have some exciting news (phew!)...

We know things won't be the same without you cheering on the Worcester Wolves in person at the Arena for now, but do not fear, as yesterday the club announced you can tune in and show your support straight from the comfort of your own home via YouTube for FREE! You read that right – free of charge!

The announcement in full can be read on the Worcester Wolves website by clicking here.

All Worcester Wolves Men's Team and Women's Team home fixtures will be streamed free of charge by subscribing to our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/worcesterwolvesofficial>



We know this year has been difficult and we hope this will come as a sincere thank you to you all for your unwavering support – and bring you as close



as we can to the action and excitement of British Basketball!

You can still support the club by taking a trip to our online shop to get your hands on your official Worcester Wolves merchandise via <https://worcesterwolves.org/product-category/merchandise/> and keep an eye out for our new lines for the 2020-2021 season coming this week!



Tune in and cheer on the Worcester Wolves Men's Team on **Saturday 14th November at 7:00pm** when the Wolves take on the Surrey Scorchers at the University of Worcester Arena – and don't forget to subscribe! #TogetherWeAreStronger

ALCESTER ACADEMY

INTER-HOUSE

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Check into the House Google Classroom to access a series of fun activities for you to complete to gain points for your House.

There are a wide range of activities available including a Weekly general knowledge QUIZ.
Good luck, and I look forward to seeing your efforts in the coming weeks!

PW

XTMAS CARD DESIGN

SHORT STORIES

PHOTOGRAPHY

TRICK SHOTS

COAT OF ARMS DESIGN

sy6jica

POETRY

IT'S SHOWTIME!

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

MOVIE POSTER DESIGN

MY PERFECT HOLIDAY DESTINATION!

WEEKLY QUIZ!

MEDITATION

YOGA

CIRCUIT TRAINING

DESIGNER GEAR

