Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. It was super to see year 10s back in school this week after Work Experience and I enjoyed catching up with many of them to hear more about their time with local employers. Staff have written about the year 8 trip to the races and the year 11 Apprenticeship Show amongst other reports this week.

Red/Blue School Wars—Safeguarding

I wrote to you all again separately about this on Monday and Wednesday. Thank you all so much with your vigilance around this matter. Please continue to keep monitoring the situation and we will stay in touch regarding any rumours circulating in the local area that might impact on the safety of Alcester Academy students. We did communicate with the Police, Youth Club and the Town Council about concerns that had been raised.

Year 9 Exams

Well done to year 9s who are conducting themselves in an exemplary way for their exam season. The invigilators have provided some outstanding feedback.

Mobile Phones

Just a reminder that mobile phones should be in school bags or lockers please and not in trouser pockets. We should not see any phones throughout the school day. Huge thanks for your support with this. The new mobile phone policy can be found on the website: Mobile Phone Policy

Young Enterprise

Good luck to our Young Enterprise team, PatchPals who will be in Leamington Spa, Royal Priors tomorrow for their annual trade fair. Please do pop by if you are in the area. Between 10am and 1pm is the best time to view the products on offer.

What's inside this week

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Homework for Year 7 and Year 8 Parent Voice

Miss Taylor has circulated a homework survey to year 7 and 8 parents. Thank you in anticipation of you completing this. We will share the results with you in due course.

Next Week

We are looking forward to the year 8 Climate Change Conference next week and year 7 Parents' Evening, live in the hall.

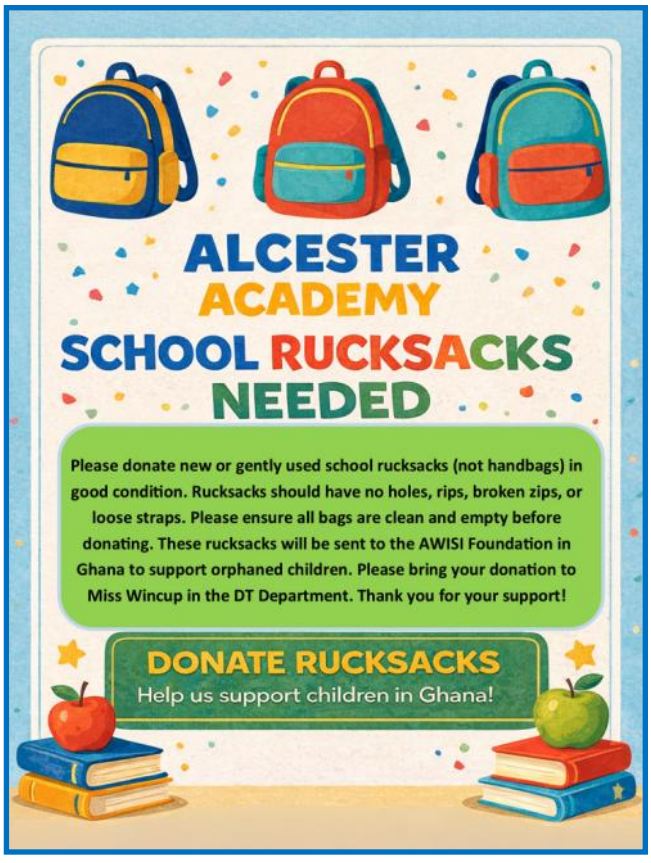
Year 10 have a Super Learning Day entitled *Safe and Sound* with Loudmouth. It is Easter Family Bingo Night on Friday 20th March with Friends of Alcester Academy.

Next week's bulletin will look slightly different as SLT aim to update you on the most recent consultations that have been released in the world of education. We will attempt to give you an unbiased overview of some extremely comprehensive documents.

Mother's Day

Wishing everyone a super Sunday ahead, and especially thinking of those families for whom this will be a more difficult day.

With best wishes,
Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



Year 11 Revision Timetables

WEEK A	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Music coursework - MU1	
Tuesday	Music coursework - MU1 Grade 7-9 Club Geography	English
Wednesday	Music coursework - MU1 DT coursework	Science Combined Computer Science
Thursday	Music coursework - MU1 History Clinic with Mr. Rossiter (invite only) History	Maths
Friday	Music coursework- MU1 Geography intervention	

WEEK B	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Music coursework - MU1	
Tuesday	Music coursework - MU1 Grade 7-9 Club Geography Media Studies	French German Food and Nutrition
Wednesday	Music coursework - MU1	Science Triple
Thursday	Music coursework - MU1 History Clinic with Mr Rossiter (invite only) History	Art & Photography Further Maths
Friday	Music coursework - MU1 Geography intervention	

Saturday/Holiday School Sessions 2026

Year 11 Easter School invitations will be sent out very soon.

Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

Inspiring Futures: Year 11 Explore Apprenticeships

This week, year 11 students were given the exciting opportunity to attend *The National Apprenticeship Show* at the CBS Arena in Coventry. The event brought together a wide range of employers, training providers, and industry representatives, offering students valuable insight into apprenticeship pathways and career opportunities.

Throughout the visit, students engaged positively with exhibitors, asking questions and learning more about the different routes available after GCSEs. Many took the opportunity to speak directly with employers and training providers about the skills, qualifications, and experiences needed to enter various industries.

The show also encouraged students to begin thinking more seriously about their future career choices. By exploring a variety of sectors—from engineering to healthcare, and the motor industry to the armed forces, students were able to broaden their understanding of the opportunities available through apprenticeships.

Overall, the visit provided an inspiring and informative experience, helping students to explore potential career paths and consider the many possibilities open to them as they plan their next steps beyond year 11.

Miss Bartlett

From Alcester Academy to Hollywood: Katie Masters Inspires Students

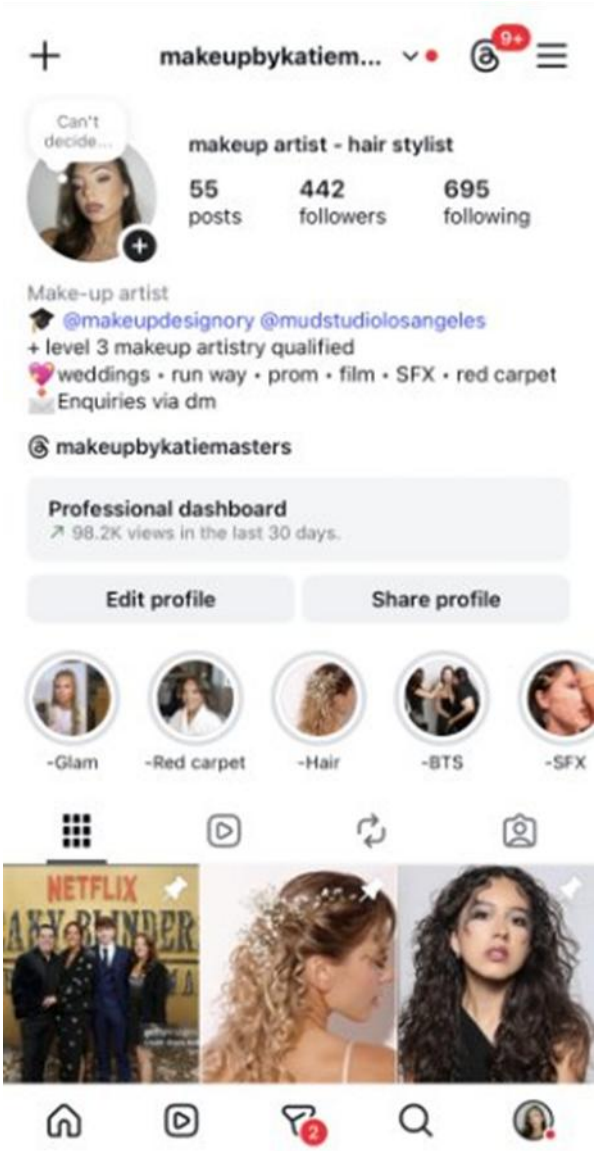
We were delighted to welcome former student Katie Masters back to Alcester Academy this week to host one of our Careers Zone Drop-in sessions. Katie left the Academy three years ago and her visit generated fantastic interest across all year groups.

After leaving Alcester Academy, Katie began her journey at Stratford College, studying a Level 2 Theatrical Makeup course, before progressing to University College Birmingham to complete her Level 3 qualification.

This opened the door to an incredible opportunity – a six-month course in Hollywood, Los Angeles, where Katie trained with MUDD Cosmetics. During her time there, she gained once-in-a-lifetime experiences, working with a range of professional artists and supporting the famous American Monster Palooza Festival.

Since returning to the UK, Katie has successfully launched her own makeup business, which is already thriving. In fact, just last week she worked on the makeup for the Peaky Blinders red carpet world launch—an amazing achievement.

We simply couldn't be prouder of Katie and everything she has accomplished. Her story is a wonderful example of where passion, hard work and determination can lead.



Be sure to follow Katie on her social media channels to see what exciting adventures come next!

Miss Bartlett

Year 8 Discover the Maths Behind Horse Racing

Year 8 enjoyed an exciting and educational maths trip on Wednesday and Thursday to Stratford Racecourse, delivered by the *Racing to School* charity.

During the visit, students explored how mathematics is used in the world of horse racing. The sessions were led by experienced professionals, including former jockeys and horse trainers, who shared their knowledge of the sport and the many roles involved in a race day.

Students took part in a range of hands-on activities around the racecourse. They measured the perimeter of the parade ring, learnt about the handicap system used to ensure fair racing, and even took part in a short race on the course to help them understand how handicaps affect performance. The group also visited the weighing room, where they discovered how jockeys are weighed before and after races and discussed the important rules and ethics behind this process.

Later in the day, students watched races from the Cheltenham Festival and learnt how to read race cards to understand information about the horses and riders. To fully immerse themselves in the experience, students also wore jockey silks throughout the day.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see how mathematics can be applied in a real-world setting while learning more about the exciting world of horse racing.

Miss Elliott—Lead Maths

British Science Week 2026

This week we celebrated British Science Week, and the theme for 2026 was curiosity. Curiosity is at the heart of science: it is the simple act of asking "why?" or "what if?" that leads to new discoveries about the world around us.

Throughout the week, students were presented with a different question each day designed to spark their curiosity and encourage them to think like scientists. Some of the questions included:

- If the Sun suddenly disappeared, how long would it take for us to find out?
- If humans became extinct, what would our school look like in three years?
- Why does it sometimes smell different after it rains?

Questions like these remind us that science is not just about facts and formulas—it begins with wondering about the world and asking questions that might not have obvious answers.

Students were then challenged to come up with a science question of their own—something they had always wondered about. As you might imagine, some of the submissions were… very creative.

However, one question in particular caught the attention of the science department. Charlie from 11MR asked:

"Why haven't we built Dyson Spheres yet?"

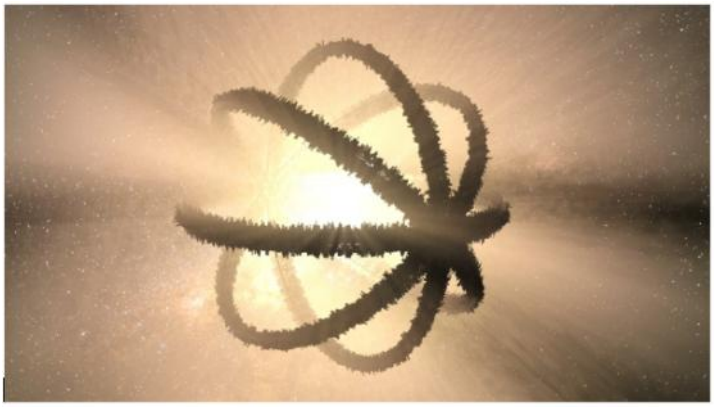
A Dyson Sphere is a fascinating idea proposed by physicist Freeman Dyson. It describes a huge structure built around a star to capture as much of its energy as possible.

To imagine how this might work, think of a campfire burning in the middle of a dark field. If you stand a few feet away, you only feel a small portion of the heat from the fire. Most of the warmth spreads out in every direction and disappears into the night air. If you wanted to capture all of that heat, you would need some kind of structure that completely surrounds the fire and collects the energy it produces.

A Dyson Sphere works in a similar way, but on an astronomical scale. Instead of a campfire, the structure would surround a star like our Sun, capturing enormous amounts of energy that could potentially power an entire civilization.

Of course, building something like this would be an extraordinary challenge. The materials, engineering, and sheer scale required are far beyond anything humanity can currently achieve. But ideas like this are exactly what science thrives on—bold questions that push us to imagine what might be possible in the future.

So thank you to Charlie for the excellent question. It certainly got the science department thinking! After all, curiosity is where every great scientific idea begins.



Second i/c of Science

Starting Date – September 2026
MPS/UPS + TLR2 (£3,527) – full time, permanent
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 24th April 2026
Interviews: Week commencing: Monday 27th April 2026

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

This is an exciting opportunity for an aspiring middle leader with a proven track record of exemplary student outcomes. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate commitment to effective leadership, exemplary knowledge of science curriculum development, ambition towards future management in a middle leadership position, and a willingness to contribute to the whole staff team.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and thoroughly supportive teaching team who work in collaboration within a highly successful science department. At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes. The science department features 5 fully operational and recently renovated laboratories and a full-time science technician.

The science department is proud of the progress that students make. Outcomes far exceed national averages for triple and combined science routes and the value-added measure and have done so for a significant number of years. We use AQA as an exam board and consider triple and combined pathways carefully towards the end of KS4.

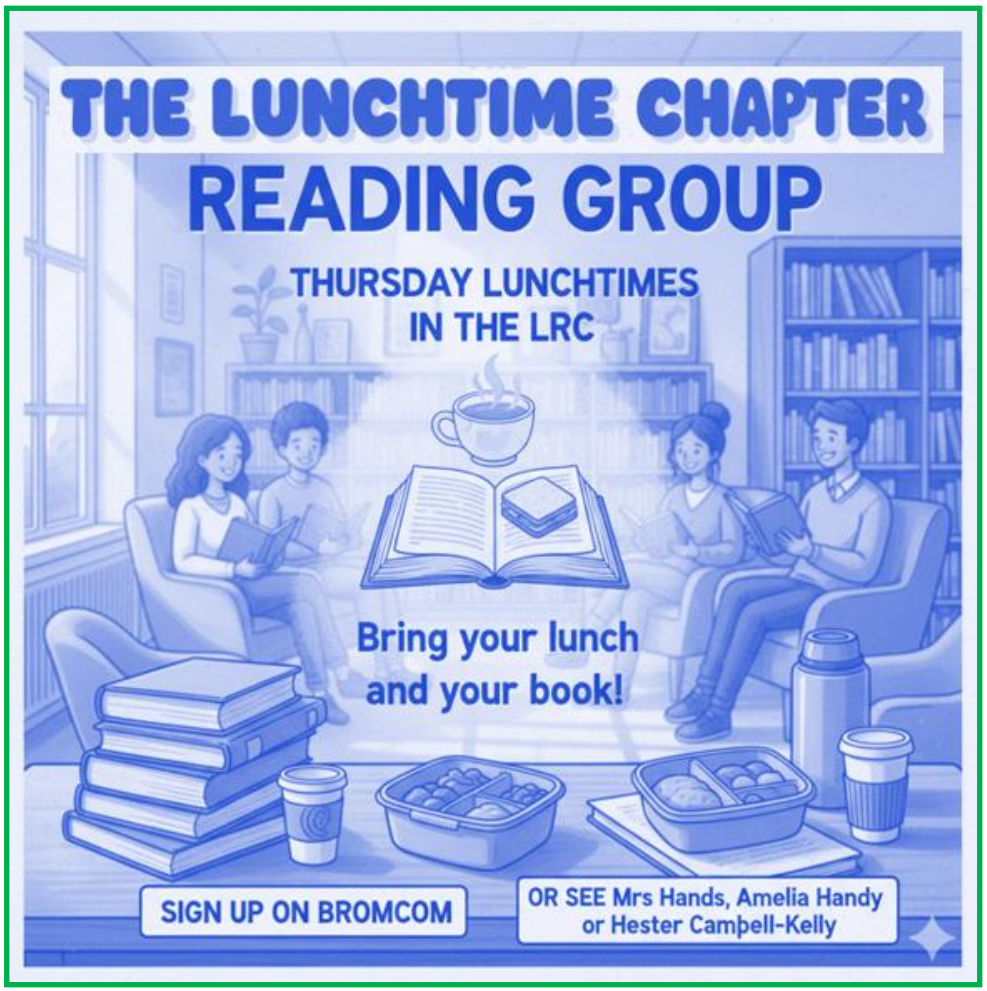
Second i/c of Science Information Pack

Science 2025 outcomes:

Biology: GCSE 9-7=99% 9-4= 46% Chemistry: GCSE 9-7=22% 9-4= 100%
Physics: GCSE 9-7=22% 9-4= 100% Combined: GCSE 9-4= 76% 9-5=58

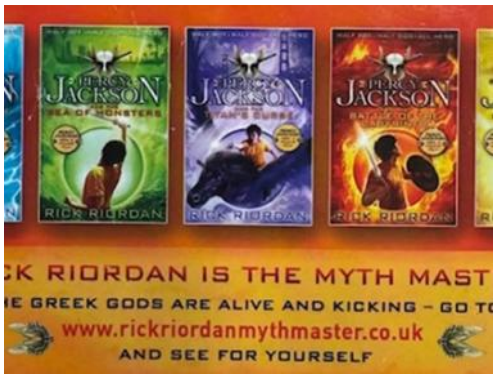
Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.

Alcester Academy



Safety Alert: Older Rick Riordan Books

Please be aware that copies of Rick Riordan books printed in 2010 or earlier may contain a web address that is now malicious. While the National Cyber Security Centre has blocked the site and the risk is low, we recommend checking any older copies you have at home. If you find the web address shown in the picture, in or on the back of the book, please obscure it with a permanent marker. Newer editions are unaffected. Thank you for helping keep our students safe online!



Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week: 93.4%

Top Tutors this week:

9AN with 99.6% attendance

9DA with 98.5% attendance

9RO with 98.1% attendance

10GA with 97.8% attendance

Top House this week:

Ragley with 94.1% attendance

Data from Friday 6.3.26 – Thursday 12.3.26

If your child will be absent from school, please notify our Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, with the reason before 8.50am each day. You can do this via:

⇒ **MCAS App—medical appointments and absences can be reported through the app**
⇒ **SchoolComms**
⇒ **Phone: 01789 762285**
⇒ **Email: louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk**

We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students who are leaving for appointments during the school day to come to the office a few minutes early so they can sign out promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms Louise Hatcher—Attendance Officer

What's Coming Up This Half Term

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 17th March	Student Climate Change Conference
Thursday 19th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening. LIVE school hall
Thursday 19th March	Christopher Edge author visit
19th/20th March	Year 11 performing arts controlled assessment days
Friday 20th March	Year 10 Super Learning Day *Safe and Sound*
Friday 20th March	Family Bingo Night
Monday 23rd March	Year 9 Enrichment Day
Monday 23rd & 26th March	Year 8 Shakespeare in the Forest trip
Tuesday 24th March	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Tuesday 24th March	Rock Academy Concert
Wednesday 25th March	Year 10 D of E Training
Thursday 26th March	Year 11 final school photographs
Thursday 26th March	Year 7 and 8 Warwickshire Book Award Final
Friday 27th March	End of term. School finishes at 12.40pm

As always, this covers most of the next half term, but certainly not everything that will be in place.

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
27th February—5th March 2026

Top Positive Point Students last week:

1	Erin	8BI	Oversley	14 points
1	Theo	8SA	Greville	14 points
3	William	8RW	Billesley	13 points
3	Dyl	8MO	Oversley	13 points
3	Nick	8BW	Billesley	13 points
6	Liv	8RW	Billesley	12 points
6	Lola	7RA	Greville	12 points
6	Lucy	7TN	Billesley	12 points
6	Yvette	8BI	Greville	12 points
6	Ellie	8SA	Greville	12 points
6	Faye	8SA	Ragley	12 points
6	Oscar	8MO	Greville	12 points

6th March—12th March 2026

Top Positive Points Students—

1	Liv	8RW	Billesley	14 points
1	Oscar	10YA	Ragley	14 points
3	Lucy	7TN	Billesley	12 points
3	Abigail	8MO	Oversley	12 points
3	Charlotte	7WI	Oversley	12 points
3	Asa	7LX	Greville	12 points

Top Positive Point House:

1	Oversley	630 points
2	Greville	604 points
3	Billesley	586 points
4	Ragley	583points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

1	7WI	147 points
2	7LX	140 points
3	8BI	137 points
4	7RA	136 points
5	8SA	131 points

Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Mr Hall	457 points
2	Miss Lewis	437 points
3	Mr Yarrington	409 points

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2026

Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 27th March at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term begins	**Monday 13th April 2026**
School closed	*Friday 1st May 2026—Teacher training day*
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026
Back to school	**Monday 1st June 2026**
Summer Term ends	Friday 17th July 2026 at 12.40pm
School closed	*Monday 20th July 2026—Teacher training day*

End of Term Early Finish—Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parent and Carer

End of Term Early Finish—
Friday 27th March 2026

The spring term will once again finish at an earlier time on Friday 27th March 2026. In order to support the safe dismissal of all children we will be staggering the finish times of students as detailed below:
12.25pm - Year 7 and 8
12.30pm - Year 9
12.35pm - Year 10
12.40pm - Year 11

We would like parents to travel one way along Gerard Road, entering at the top of Gerard Road via Captain's Hill and exiting via Gerard Road leading into Throckmorton Road. Alternatively, parents can make arrangements to collect children from Captain's Hill.

Unfortunately, none of our transport companies are able to change their schedules to accommodate this early finish so you will need to make alternative arrangements to collect your child.

If your child travels on a public service bus, please ensure you either check the timetable for an earlier service or make alternative travel arrangements for their journey home.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

English Schools Cross Country

Over the next two weekends three of our athletes will have the honour of competing at the English Schools Cross Country Championships. Will (year 11, Oversley) and Marijke (year 11, Oversley) will run this weekend at Sefton Park, Liverpool. Poppy (year 7, Oversley) will then compete next weekend at Stoneleigh.

We wish our three representatives the very best of luck for their representation at these prestigious events.

Alcester Academy Sporting Round Up
Year 8 Football v Studley

Following their impressive victory over Alcester Grammar School (AGS) earlier in the season, the year 8 squad continued their form with an outstanding 5-2 win against local rivals Studley, putting on a dominant display.

From the first whistle, Alcester played with a level of confidence and cohesion. Our year 8s picked up from where they left off in the last match and showcased slick passing and clinical finishing. The 5-2 scoreline was a fair reflection of a game where Alcester controlled the tempo and capitalized on their attacking opportunities.

Well done to the year 8s on another fantastic result!

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Year 10 Football v Studley

In a high-stakes encounter that served as the perfect curtain-raiser for next week's semi-finals, Alcester Academy's year 10s faced off against a strong opponent in Studley. With both teams having secured spots in their respective cup semi-finals this year, the quality on display was high from the opening whistle.

First Half: A Moment of Brilliance
The game began as a balanced, tactical battle, with both midfields fighting for dominance. Neither side was willing to give an inch, making clear-cut chances hard to come by. However, the deadlock was broken midway through the half by Studley. A spectacular long-range effort found the top corner, leaving the keeper with no chance and giving the home team a narrow lead going into the break.

Second Half: The Push for an Equalizer
The second half saw Alcester Academy step up the intensity. Playing with increased urgency, the boys pushed higher up the pitch and created several goal-scoring opportunities. Despite sustained pressure and a tireless work rate, the Studley defence held firm and a good save by the goalkeeper from an effort on target from Ethan in the second half kept the score to 1-0.

Final Result: A narrow defeat in an incredibly even contest that could have gone either way.

Looking Ahead
While the result wasn't what the team hoped for, the performance provided good preparation for the challenges ahead.

Good luck to the year 10 squad as they head into their semi-final match against Stratford School next week. If they bring this same level of grit and determination, it promises to be a fantastic game!

Next Week's Sport— After school:

NEXT WEEK'S SPORT W/B 16/3/26

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Staff training – No clubs	
Tuesday	Year 10 Football v Stratford Year 9 Basketball v Stratford	AA Stratford
Wednesday	Year 7 (B) SW Netball tournament All Years Girls Football training	Stratford Field
Thursday	No clubs – Year 7 Parents Evening	

Lunchtime Clubs:

Opportunities:

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Community Message from Bidford Parish Council

We are hoping you may be able to assist in promoting a survey which Bidford on Avon Parish Council are currently running. This needs to be completed by 31st March. Survey questions can be viewed via the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BqqwiCdZu0uok4nMJxOsgk7ZeIPNLclOsuOSxoX00VRURVU3QzdBMlJDN0pUNVM1Mk40OTNKRUVOUi4u

You will obviously be aware that some of your students are local Bidford residents (which includes the surrounding villages of Barton, Marcliffe and Broom). We are keen to launch the questionnaire and to encourage as many of these students as possible to take part in this.

Gina Miller—Deputy Clerk