Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

14th May 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

I'm absolutely delighted to write to you this week after Monday's positive news that helps to see the easing of some further key covid restrictions in school. We continue to be covid free at Alcester Academy!

On Monday 17th May, we will be happy to see our students return to class with no requirement to wear face coverings in lessons. This will be such a relief after many weeks of not hearing students clearly and not seeing facial expressions either. We can't wait! If students want to continue to apply caution and wear face coverings whilst learning, we will accommodate this of course. All students will be expected to wear face coverings still in communal areas such as the corridors and in the hall. This will also be a necessity as they enter and leave school, during lesson change, and at break time and lunchtimes. Students will not have to put their face covering on to walk along Gerard Road any longer however. This is all outlined in the DfE Guidance— https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984846/FINAL_Face_coverings_in_education_guidance.pdf. And has been endorsed also by Public Health England. Students must continue to wear their masks on buses until further notice. We do expect this to happen without question on safety grounds.

We are hoping that this approach will continue to keep our students safe still in the more crowded areas of school. We are very mindful that protecting all students is paramount but especially year 11s who just have the last three weeks of assessment time left with us.

Continuing to use your LFDs at home as we ease things is absolutely critical please. Huge thanks for supporting all of our safety measures over recent months. You have helped to make a mammoth task much easier.

From Monday 17th May 2021 Alcester Academy students…

MUST	DON'T HAVE TO
• Wear a face covering on buses • Wear a face covering entering or leaving school • Wear a face covering in school corridors, toilets, the hall or other indoor communal areas	• Feel that they have to wear a face covering whilst sat in class • Wear their face covering whilst walking down Gerard Road • SHOULD NOT comment on others who still wish to continue to wear a face covering at all times if they wish to. This is completely a personal choice and we need to respect this as a school community

HM Government
NHS
Test and Trace
Twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing
Test at home
Report online
Keep life moving
Let's take this next step safely.
GET YOUR TESTS
FROM SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

Half term holidays abroad

Please can I take this opportunity to ask parents to continue to be respectful of the covid rules around foreign travel over the half term period. As tempting as the sunshine looks right now, we must continue to follow the restrictions and testing required by law.

If I could ask you to consider this over the summer period also, I'd be very grateful. We won't be able to authorise any absence as a result of quarantining.

In other news this week at Alcester Academy

This week saw the weather return to flash rainfall and even thunder storms. Our students adapted to break time plans very maturely on the whole and we worked out impromptu new routes through school in order to get every one fed very safely whilst staying dry!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience whilst we were dealing with the School Comms issues regarding credit on the students' contactless cards. This has not been ideal I know.

Thanks to Miss Buckthorp and parents for being part of the year 9 Grange Hall meeting virtually on Monday evening. This is a new centre that we are using in Bideford, Devon and I am looking forward to hearing about the experiences that the year 9 students have.

This week, year 8s have been fully engaged in their Option Tasters lessons. We have received some outstanding feedback regarding their attitude in these sessions. Equally on Wednesday, we paused these sessions to run a Most Able day for some year 8s and 9s as they learnt how to design aircraft in our SLD STEM day. See further on in the bulletin for more details. There was such excitement! Thanks to Miss Elliot for organising this. Miss Sacco has begun the year 8 G & T Performing Arts group now after school each week, for invited students. Sporting opportunities continue after school as well. As you can see, we are slowly creeping back to some kind of normal routines at the Academy. It feels fantastic.

Year 6 news

We are planning to run a summer school for year 6s as part of their induction to life at secondary school. We will be in touch with further details soon. This will be in the first week of the summer holidays held at Alcester Academy.

Year 7 news

I am looking forward to inviting year 7 parents into school next half term as part of a *Show Us Your School* evening with your children. It dawned on me that after missing a personal induction last summer, you might like to walk around the school again and what better guides to have than your own children! Provisionally we have set the date for Monday 12th July 4-6pm. I will ensure that the teas and coffees are ready for your arrival! We can't wait to see you. I'll send out confirmation nearer the time.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week has officially been Mental Health Awareness Week. You might appreciate however that is always high on our agenda. Miss Buckthorp has included a few self-help reminders and useful websites later on in the bulletin as a helpful reminder for you.

School Cloud Parents' Evenings

Just a reminder to complete the very short Google survey on whether you want to keep School Cloud for Parents' Evenings next year.

So far the results show:

76.8% of people want to stay online
13.3% would like to revert back and
9.9% have no preference
233 people have signed up (year 7-10)

Here is the link if you need it again:
Parents' Evening Survey

Reminder – Parent View

Also, a reminder that if you have not completed your Parent View survey, please can you? This is very important to us. Thanks.
https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/

Collecting children from school

Please can you ensure that you report to school reception wearing a face covering in order to collect children for appointments or ill health grounds. Thank you. We will not send children out to you whilst you are sat in parked cars on safeguarding grounds. We would appreciate advanced sight of the appointment card (to Mrs Hodges, Attendance Officer), and naturally, we ask that appointments are made outside of the school day where possible please.
Students should not use their phones to alert you to pick them up during the school day. They must speak to LSU staff who will make an informed and rationale decision based upon need at that time. Parents will always be contacted if we have concerns.

Attendance to school

We are continuing to look at how we might support families who need to improve attendance. As a reminder, the expectation is that children will attend school 100% of the time. We do appreciate that children get ill however and we will begin to apply interventions once attendance drops below 95%. This is a national expectation from the DfE and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for understanding and working with us to achieve this. You will see from the weekly statistics for each year group that we must continue to make improvements in this area now we are back from lockdown.

Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2021
Half Term
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021
Back to school
Monday 7th June 2021
Summer Term ends
Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm

2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Cycling to school

If your child cycles to school, they must wear a helmet on safety grounds. We are repeatedly having to deal with this issue. The consequences of not doing this are unimaginable.

Throckmorton Road

Many of you will have seen that SLT have recently changed their duty position to Throckmorton Road. One of our residents has raised concerns about inappropriate behaviour from students travelling to and from school via this route. If you have any information regarding this, I'd be grateful to hear. This is on the back of another neighbour telling me how 'exemplary' behaviour has been!

Former Great Alne Primary School Families

Calling all ex-Great Alne Primary School pupils, parents and staff!

After 16 years as the Headteacher of Great Alne Primary School, Mrs Hendrie will sadly be retiring at the end of the summer term. We know that many of you will have happy memories of your time at Great Alne and we would like to put together messages from pupils, parents, and staff past and present. If you would like to send a message for Mrs Hendrie, or know of someone who would like to, then please send either a video recorded message or an email to wrapa-round2024@welearn365.com

If you also wish to include photos or memories of your time associated with Great Alne Primary that would be great. We would be grateful if you could send your messages by Friday 28th May.

Many thanks, from the Staff at Great Alne Primary School

Warwickshire News

We need the views of your parents and carers

Warwickshire County Council want to know what you think about the schools' admissions service, so that they can improve what is on offer to future users.

So if your child has started at a new school in the last year or so, please take 10 minutes to tell them about your experience.

Click below to access the survey that closes on 23 May.
Feedback Questionnaire

Please help us to improve the SEND local offer webpages

We are in the process of making our SEND Local Offer website more useful and user friendly.
Can you spare 5 – 10 mins to imagine you are searching for the answer to a series of given questions, such as what is an EHCP? Follow the menu/pages to where you would expect to find the answer.

It's as simple as that but invaluable to make sure we get the right information in the right place for parent, carers, young people and professionals.
Thank you for your time.
This exercise will close on the 26th May 2021 (please see the links below)

Professionals
Young people
Parent/carers

To find out more about the Local Offer or to become more involved contact Lynette at lynettefarrar@warwickshire.gov.uk
Please see the sheet at the end of the bulletin regarding the SEND Local Area Inspection due in Warwickshire soon.

Carers Week is coming - June 7th 2021

Carers Week 2021 is a month away. We want to celebrate all those who have a caring responsibility for a family member or friend during the week.
Join in the conversation from 7th June 2021.
For information go to
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers
#makecaringvisible

Local Businesses

Please don't forget that we are offering our local businesses a free A6 advert in colour, to go in our *Business Bulletin* on Friday 28th May. Please send artwork to head@alcesteracademy.org.uk if you wish to be part of this. I have included a flyer reminding us all to shop locally at the end of this week's edition.

In conclusion, we wish our year 9s the best of luck for their first official D of E expedition this week-end. Let's hope for some dry weather for them. Thanks to Mrs Evason and the team for organising this.

Today marks ten years exactly since my interview for the Deputy head role at Alcester Academy. I then had my 40th birthday the day after. It was such a celebration. There are no surprises there-fore that tomorrow marks another milestone for me. I would like to take this opportunity to sincere-ly thank you all so much for making today special in so many ways; staff, governors, students and parents. I have loved every moment of the last ten years here. We are indeed a very special community and I never take that for granted. Wishing you a superb weekend!

Best wishes *Sarah Mellors—Headteacher*

Getting prepared for our Local Area SEND inspection

Ofsted

Care Quality Commission

Warwickshire County Council

Warwickshire Parent Carer Voice

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group

May 2021

Welcome

This briefing provides an overview of the Local Area SEND inspection and some of the work that is taking place to prepare. All Local Areas are subject to a Special Educational Needs and/or Disability inspection, carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This joint inspection will look at outcomes for children and young people in the local area across education, health and social care. It is anticipated that Warwickshire will receive an inspection from June 2021.

SEND inspection - what is involved

The inspectors will look at how the local area collaborates to meet the requirements of the SEND reforms (2014).

Overview of format:

- 5 working days notice given
- Inspectors working within the local area for 5 days
- Focus groups and school visits will take place on week 2 after notification
- Inspection will only take place during term time

Inspectors will look at how well local areas identify pupils with SEND, how their needs are met and outcomes for children and young people. As part of the collection of evidence, inspectors will visit a number of providers including early year's settings, schools, Further Education colleges, independent schools and health provision. This evidence gathering will add to the inspector's understanding of how all providers and agencies work collaboratively together. However, providers are not under inspection, as they are still subject to their particular inspection regime.

How else will schools be involved ...

- All schools are asked to send out a pre-prepared letter provided by the Local Authority, to parents of children/ young people with SEND with details of how to access a webinar The webinar is pre-recorded but will enable parents/carers to contribute their views to the inspection. The webinar provides further information for inspectors to base their key lines of enquiry on.
- The webinar will be available over an 8 day period from the start of the inspection.

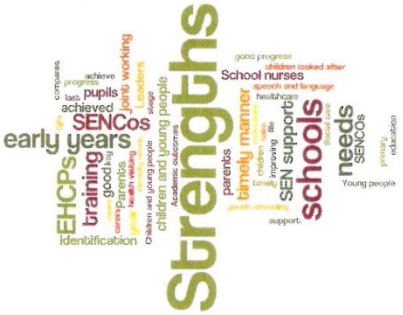
SEND inspection - schools involvement

Schools will not be inspected as a result of the local area having a SEND inspection. If inspectors become aware of safeguarding concerns, additional enquiries will be made to ensure matters are dealt with appropriately. However, there will be requirements for selected schools to accommodate Ofsted inspectors:

- A small selection of schools will host inspectors and arrange focus groups with:
  - leaders and governors
  - a group of pupils (selected by the Lead Inspector)
  - parents/carers (of any children)
- Representatives on selected focus groups
- The Local Authority will be in contact with you to make the necessary arrangements

Ofsted / CQC inspection letters

The Word Cloud below, represents some of the key words within the inspection outcomes letters, produced by Ofsted and CQC. These words are taken from three local areas reports and highlight strengths.



If you would like more information on what Ofsted and CQC are highlighting within inspection letters, please use the following link: Post 23rd March 2017 click here.

ALCESTER'S INDEPENDENT HIGH ST. ONLiNE!

LOTS OF OUR AMAZING INDEPENDENT SHOPS NOW ONLINE IN ONE PLACE AT:

WWW.ALCESTER.TOTALLYLOCALLY.SHOP

IF YOU SHOP ONLINE, YOU CAN NOW SHOP LOCAL TOO

BROWSE OUR TOWN'S INDEPENDENT SHOPS, PAY WITH ONE PAYMENT, CLICK & COLLECT OR CHOOSE DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME. HELPING TO BOOST OUR REAL HIGH STREET BY KEEPING MONEY IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

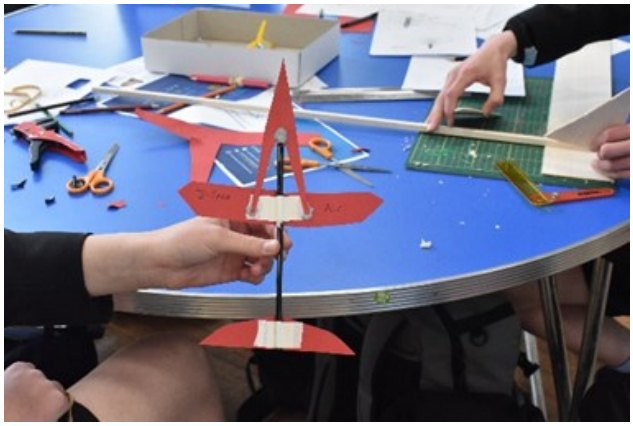
IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO SHOP LOCAL ALCESTER

Aircraft STEM Day at Alcester Academy

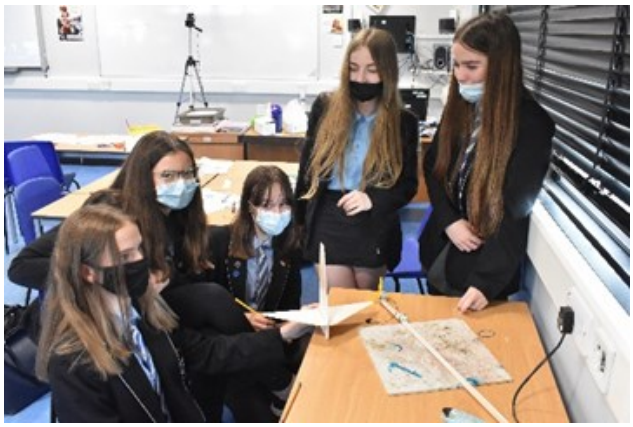
This week saw 30 year 8s and 9s take part in a STEM day. The theme of the day was based around aircraft design.

Students started the day by discovering the different types of careers involved in Engineering and which career path would suit their personality.

The students learnt about the science behind aircraft design and started by making a protype aircraft straw glider.



After evaluating this design, the teams went on to designing their final aircraft model. In teams the students had to come up with a company name, aircraft name and a concept for their ultimate plane to present to the rest of the teams. Teams need to work effectively together to ensure all that all parts of the project were completed on time.



Students used the knowledge they had learnt about aircraft components and theory to design the key features of their model. This included thinking about the structure and shape of the empennage and wings. The empennage and wings were made from bolster wood and wooden dowelling. Students needed to make sure they were exact with their measurements and cutting to ensure symmetry in the design. Another key aspect of the design was to ensure the wings were positioned in the correct place, this involved finding the centre of gravity.

The students also had a chance to work with electronics to make an engine for their model. Students needed to wire together the propeller, motor and super capacitor. This needed a steady hand to ensure that the wires were threaded correctly.

At the end of the day students presented their concept aircrafts to the groups to persuade the judges to invest in the design in a *Dragon Den* style pitch. Students were very creative with the features of their aircrafts and many included cinemas, trampoline parks, water parks and 5 star restaurants. Once the pitches were completed we headed outside to launch the aircrafts. In year 9 the winning aircraft reached 15 metres, in year 8 it reached 12 metres. Well done everyone!

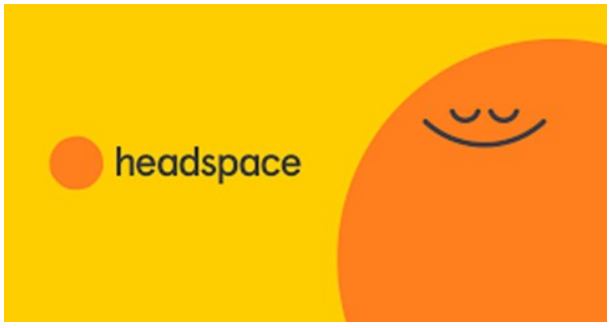
Miss Elliott

Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event when there is an opportunity for the whole of the UK to focus on achieving good mental health. The Mental Health Foundation started the event 21 years ago. Each year the Foundation continues to set the theme, organise and host the week. The event has grown to become one of the biggest awareness weeks across the UK and globally. This year the theme is nature and we want as many people as possible – individuals, communities and governments – to think about connecting with nature and how nature can improve our mental health.

During long months of the pandemic, millions of us turned to nature. Our research on the mental health impacts of the pandemic showed that going for walks outside was one of our top coping strategies and 45% of us reported that being in green spaces had been vital for our mental health. Websites which showed footage from webcams of wildlife saw hits increase by over 2000%. Wider studies also found that during lockdowns, people not only spent more time in nature but were noticing it more.

During Mental Health Awareness Week 2021, we will pull together the evidence that demonstrates the powerful benefits of nature for our mental health. We will look at nature's unique ability to not only bring consolation in times of stress, but also increase our creativity, empathy and a sense of wonder.

Also check out the Headspace App or their website which offers audio relaxation.
https://www.headspace.com/



Remember there is always someone to talk to ……

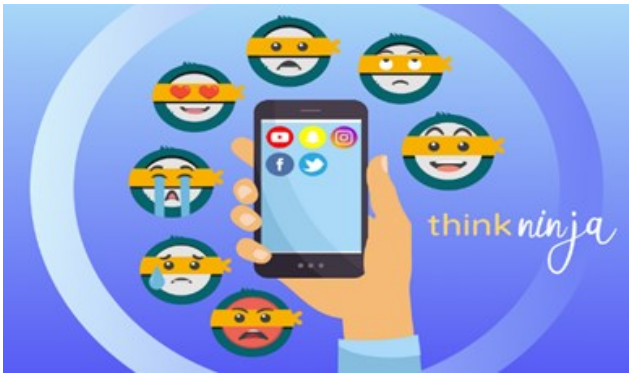
Online counselling services:

Feagans

Online counselling for teenagers

Fegans
Counselling Children, Supporting Parents

https://www.fegans.org.uk/online_counselling_teenagers/



Think Ninja:

shout
for support in a crisis

A great website full of advice and guidance on all topics including exam stress for young people and they have a great app you can download too. See @THINKNINJA

Shout:
Anxious? Worried? Stressed? Get 24/7 support

Epraise Updates—week ending 13.5.21

Congratulations to the Top Students this year:

1st	Maya	7BW	Sixth week	245 points
2nd	Harvey	7NE	First week	234 points
3rd	Jack	7HT	First week	231 points

Top Scorers this week:

1	Harvey (7NE)	13 points
2	Luke (9SC)	8 points
2	Max (9BI)	8 points
2	Eve (9SC)	8 points
2	Olivia (9SC)	8 points
2	Jacob (8MA)	8 points
7	Harriet (9BI)	7 points
7	Charlotte (9SC)	7 points
7	Isabelle (9WA)	7 points
7	Hannah (9BI)	7 points

Top Staff this week:

1	Mr Bowater	333 points
2	Miss Heitmuller	156 points
3	Miss Watson	145 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	120 points
5	Mr Bastock	118 points

Top Subjects this week:

1	Science	12819 points
2	Maths	9144 points
3	English	5050 points

Top Tutor Groups this year:

1	7HT	3612 points
2	7TY	3540 points
3	7BW	3498 points
4	7NE	3260 points
5	7WI	3057 points

MFL Idiom of the Week

English: A man's home is his castle
French: Charbonnier est maître chez lui
Literal meaning: A coalman is master in his house
German: Daheim bin ich König
Literal meaning: At home I am king

Connections 2021

In May half term our year 11 G & T students will be going to the Belgrade Theatre Stage to perform *The IT* by Vivienne Franzmann, as part of the National Theatre Connections 2021 programme, and the Coventry City of Culture.

A live stream of the event will also take place that week. We are also delighted to be working alongside Hannah Joss (National Theatre Director) in this venture.

More details to follow soon.
Miss Sacco

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

Practice Schedule Summer Term 2021

Day/Date	Activity	
Tuesday 18th May	**Year 8 Tennis**	
Wednesday 19th May	**Year 9 Athletics & Cricket**	
Thursday 20th May	**Year 8 Athletics & Cricket**	
Tuesday 25th May	**Year 9 House Football**	**Schools' Football Week 2021**
Wednesday 26th May	**Year 8 House Football**	
Thursday 27th May	**Year 7 House Football**	

School Attendance — up to 13.5.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
95.8%	93.8%	92.7%	91.1%	92.2%	93.2%

Top Tutors — congratulations!

7WI - 97.3%, 8MA - 98.8%, 9AN – 97.2%, 10RO – 98.1%, 11BR - 97.1%