

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know that I quite often say this but where did that week go then? In the blink of an eye, we creep closer to half term already. I couldn't be more proud of the way in which the students have conducted themselves since returning to school in September. Life here feels buoyant and as it should once more in school!



Thank you to all of the students that supported Open Evening on Tuesday night. We were absolutely over-whelmed with the number of visitors through the doors and, as ever, our students conducted themselves in an impeccable way. They are always our very best ambassadors. At one point the queue to get in to reception had reached Gerard Road. We managed to fill the hall three times for the SLT presentations estimating that there were between 400 and 500 visitors. Thank you to Governors for supporting by attending the evening.

Here are just a few visitor comments about the event:

What did you enjoy about our school?

- ◇ *The whole process and professionalism.*
- ◇ *The energy, the displays were fantastic, the space in the room, the cleanliness.*
- ◇ *Evidence of strong leadership, staff commitment to pupils, results, pastoral care*
- ◇ *Very useful, it was a great opportunity to see the school and hear from the experts*

who clearly has so much knowledge and passion about the school community.

- ◇ *All SLT were passionate and seemed very genuine about their drive and commitment to be and do their best for the pupils and school*
- ◇ *Really useful insight into the ethos and ambition and expectations of the school. Great to see so much going on in all areas - we got a great feel for the school which would never have been captured in a brochure or a video on the website.*
- ◇ *The feel and ethos of the school - the balance between pastoral support that felt genuine and accessible, and a culture of a high expectation and desire to see everyone do their best. It didn't feel like an exam machine though the results are clearly impressive.*
- ◇ *Nurturing environment as well as good academics.*
- ◇ *It was good to hear from a number of teachers and SLT members and it gave a great impression of a well-run, cohesive and happy school.*

I am very grateful to the staff for supporting Open Week. It has been a very tentative time for us in school. We have had to balance the safety of the school under coronavirus with our desire to share it with prospective parents and students. As ever, the staff pulled out all of the stops to make it a thoroughly superb night. See some of the photographs on Twitter [@AlcesterAcademy](https://twitter.com/AlcesterAcademy)



In other news this week, we held two Super Learning Days for year 9s on Wednesday and year 7s on Thursday. Staff have written about these further in the bulletin for you.

I have enjoyed speaking with students in the top ten for epraise points in each year group and building some healthy competition between them. In year 7 as an example, the leading positions change on a daily basis right now. Our staff thoroughly enjoy this challenge on their own leader board too. Assembly focussed on British Values this week. Once again, we made the most of Microsoft TEAMS to deliver this to the whole school. Year 7s had a separate assembly as well this week, with a few Alcester Academy reminders.

Today some of our year 8 students took part in the *School Forest Games* with Mr Powell, Head of PE. How exciting does that sound. Den building, orienteering and lots of other activities. We will write a more detailed account for next week's issue. I can't wait to see photographs of how they all got on.

D of E

A big apology to our Silver year 11 DofE students for not mentioning them last week in the bulletin, as they embarked upon their Practise Expedition to Wiltshire over the weekend. I'm very grateful to staff for supporting this. A huge *well done* to everyone. We certainly had some weary faces in school on Monday.



Maternity Leave

We wish Ms Elliott all the very best as she starts her maternity leave this week. We're excited to hear some wonderful news very soon. Mr Dyer (ScottDyer@alcesteracademy.org.uk) will now take the reins as Acting Head of Maths whilst Miss Elliott is enjoying her new baby. I would also like to thank Mr Hollis who is stepping in to teach Ms Elliott's classes during this period.

Finally our maths team have their own Twitter account. Please follow them on [@AlcesterMaths](https://twitter.com/AlcesterMaths)



Year 10 Catch Up

Maths and English have all kindly agreed to run some booster catch up sessions for invited year 10s in October half term. Students will be sent invitations to these taking place on Tuesday 26th October. Thank you to staff for agreeing to give up yet more of their own time for our students.



What is your child learning?

It is very early days to be discussing the responses posted on Parent View, as there are only a limited number available. Thank you if you have provided these. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

With regard to being involved in more detail about what your child is learning (Question 5 on the Parent View questionnaire), please remember that long term plans are available for every subject on our website under the *Quality of Education* tab. <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education>



Here you can see topics, themes and a plan for each subject by year group. Staff have worked tirelessly to provide these for you.

If you haven't yet given your views on Parent View, please can you? Thank you so much. Fifty is our record to beat from last year. We can gather more than this together surely?

Save the Date

As additional support, we are adding a KS3 Parent Forum to our school schedule live by Microsoft TEAMS on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 6pm. At this, representatives from English, maths and science will give a brief overview of the year 7/8 curriculum for you. I do hope that this helps you to feel more involved. Details to access the link will be sent to year 7/8 parents after half term.

Charity Reminders

Next Thursday 21st October is a non uniform day in aid of Myton Hospice. The SchoolGateway is open already for your donations, thank you in advance.

We have also opened our Poppy sponsorship again this year in aid of the British Legion (Alcester division) if you would like to commemorate a perspex poppy at the front of school for a donation of £5.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Year 11 Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to seeing year 11 parents/carers on Thursday 21st October via School Cloud (not held in school). Forgive us if we are dressed casually after the non uniform day here in school.

Save the Date

There is a year 11 Parent Forum on Tuesday 2nd November via Microsoft TEAMS. This will outline the course requirements in:

*GCSE French and German
at 5.30pm with Mrs Weatherley*

*GCSE English and maths
from 6pm
with Mrs Farnell and Mr Dyer*

We hope that this will support you and students through the course requirements. A link will be sent after half term to you.

Mr Cooke is working with staff to update year 11 parents on any 2022 course changes as a result of coronavirus. This will be sent out to you as a separate document.

It is intervention WEEK A from Monday 18th October for year 11s.

Year 11 Assembly

St Benedict's led our year 11 assembly today regarding their Post 16 provision. I would like to offer my thanks to the staff and students who came to see us. Miss Bartlett has organised a number of providers to come in over the coming weeks.

Starting Alcester Academy

I asked two of our highest epraise students in year 7 to write about their experiences so far at Alcester Academy as follows:

My name is Dylan and I am a new year 7 student at Alcester Academy. Before attending the Academy, I went to St Nicholas Primary School in Alcester and was the House Captain for Oversley. My start at high school has been great, making new friends and experiencing some interesting subjects and topics. The Academy is really easy to get around once you get to know the system. All the teachers here are kind, friendly and have been really supportive during this start of the new school year.

We all thought that homework was going to be a big issue when starting high school however it's really not, the amount of work in year 7 has been fine, if you are organised and just do it then it is manageable. The older kids have bonded with us during break and lunchtimes, sharing the field and have been allowing us to play with them too. Alcester Academy gives all students opportunities to join lunchtime clubs and after school clubs which is brilliant. I have already represented the Academy in competition against St. Benedict's at football, and running the cross country against lots of other schools too. Alcester Academy is amazing and I've had the best start possible.

Thank you. Dylan

Before doing the year 7 summer school, I was both nervous and excited because I didn't know what it was going to be like. I didn't know anyone going to Alcester so I was worried I wouldn't make any friends. When I joined summer camp I made lots of friends and had a great time.

Since starting I have really enjoyed all of the different lessons and extra curricular activities (especially being part of Beauty and the Beast).

It's been so enjoyable to learn lots of interesting and new things since the start of year 7 and I know I will enjoy the rest of the year lots. My absolute favourite lessons are PE, Art and English. I would also like to mention that all the staff here are really friendly, nice and supportive! Overall, my first half-term here has been fantastic. Thanks! Lottie

Thank you for these uplifting accounts Dylan and Lottie!

Clubs update

Those students who have already filled up ten spaces on their *Clubs' Card* will be recognised for this commitment very soon. I've been involved in the planning for this and it's very exciting indeed.

Winter Grant Scheme – Support for meals over half term

Warwickshire have very kindly agreed to support vouchers for those parents/children eligible for benefits related free school meals over half term. Further details will follow from Mrs Kirby.

School work during lockdown

Please refer to the bulletin dated 10th September 2021 for full details of what to do if your child is isolating. All former bulletins can be found on the website under *News*.

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/news/bulletin->

SEND Update

I am just letting you to let you know that Warwickshire County Council has launched new SEND Inclusion Guidance to support individuals to meet the needs of learners in mainstream schools in Warwickshire. The SEND Inclusion Guidance is available online as part of Warwickshire's Local Offer.

The Green Bus

I have been in touch with The Green Bus about the punctuality of their service yet again. This is letting our students down. They have said that their compliance team will investigate this for us.

Regarding my recent communications about Woodstones, I was contacted yesterday by their Director who said: *'the students on the 243 were fabulous. The majority of them had passes ready and it was lovely. I drive the bus for the company'*. This is so lovely to hear. Thank you.

Outside School Achievements

Many congratulations to Jefferson in year 9 in the recent Coventry Cycling Club Hill Climb Championships.

He competed last weekend on a two part course. Riding for his sponsor, Mick Ives Race Team, he was fastest junior, and 4th fastest overall, beating a number of adults on the 2 climbs. (Please note - no helmet, as hill climbing is all about weight, so competitors are not mandated to wear a helmet!)



Well done to David in year 9 for completing his cycle restoration project!



We must also celebrate the achievement of Marijke in year 7 who ran the Alcester 10K last weekend in just 44 minutes and 20 seconds. Wow! Pictured here with the Mayor.



Coronavirus Updates

I am currently monitoring the number of confirmed positive cases of coronavirus in year 7. I would like to recommend that all parents keep up with completing regular lateral flow tests (LFT) and I do need to highlight that it would be very worthwhile for year 7 parents to remain more vigilant at this time.

I have already highlighted that identifying close contacts is virtually impossible now that we are no longer operating in bubbles.

Please maintain safe routines over half term with LFTs, and seek a full PCR tests for your child if you are concerned. Mrs Hodges, our Attendance Officer will be having a well-deserved break over half term. You can email me if you need to regarding covid head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. If your child tests positive over half term however, there is no urgency to let us know until Monday 1st November 2021 when we return to school.

October half term

Please don't forget that we break up at 3.25pm on Thursday 21st October.

I'd like to wish you all a very relaxing weekend. Good luck to our young performers rehearsing again this weekend for *Beauty and The Beast*. Thank you for your continued commitment to the school and your on-going support. Showing the school to prospective parents this week has helped me to reflect on what a special place it is here! I am extremely proud indeed.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Sam in year 9 for receiving the first 10 points on his extra curricular card. He now receives his bronze extra curricular award on epraise, as well as already being a centurion.

Well done Sam! If your child has received 10 points or more, please let them know to go and see Miss Sacco to receive their bronze award and 10 epraise points.



Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable September 2021 – July 2022

Year 11

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20th October 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 21st October 2021 - 4-6.30pm
Virtual Parents' Forum — Tuesday 2nd November 2021 - time tbc
MFL Mock Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 22nd November 2021
GCSE Mock Exams 1 — weeks commencing Monday 29th November & 6th December 2021
Mock Results & Parents' Evening — Thursday 6th January 2022 - 4-6.30pm
GCSE Mock Exams 2 — weeks beginning Monday 28th February & 7th March 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
GCSE Examinations — Monday 16th May — Tuesday 28th June 2022
(these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently)
GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29th June 2022 - all students must be available

Year 10

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 1st December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 2nd December 2021 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 10th & 17th January 2022
Exam Results Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17th February 2022
Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 9

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 24th March 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28th March & 4th April 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20th May 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18th July 2022

Year 8

Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 3rd March 2022 - 4-6.30pm
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 14th March 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
Options Evening — Wednesday 4th May 2022 — time tbc
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 7

Attitude to Learning Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 17th February 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20th July 2022

Shakespeare Day for year 7s



We were delighted to welcome *West End in Schools* on Thursday 14th October. All year 7 students took part in an acting workshop with a leading actress from the west end, exploring the themes and

characters of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*. Students worked hard in all areas of the workshops and some great acting took place. *Miss Sacco*

Petit déjeuner



8PW enjoying their French breakfast prize from European Day of Languages.

Year 9 SLD—Trust Me

On Wednesday, year 9 took part in their first of two Super Learning Day with Loudmouth. The title of the day was *Trust Me* - a fun and informative theatre in education programme on sexual health and consent.

The day started with a play and then a question and answer session with the two characters. Students then went on to complete a series of workshops that dealt with the themes of contraception, sexually transmitted infections, sex and the law, and consent.

The day was very successful and students engaged well with what can be sensitive subject matter.

Mrs Powell



Epraise Updates—past 7 days

Top Scorers—past 7 days:

1	Will	11BR	38 points
2	Alex	11BR	35 points
2	Alfie	11BR	35 points
2	James	11FR	35 points
5	Richard	11BA	31 points
6	Jack	8HL	24 points
7	Finley	10TN	22 points
7	Ted	10MA	22 points
9	Oliver	10MA	20 points
9	Jeremy	8KA	20 points

Top Tutor Groups—past 7 days:

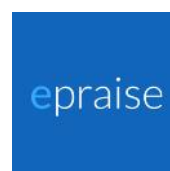
1	8SO	301 points
2	7HT	258 points
3	8HL	244 points
4	8PW	240 points
5	8KA	237 points
6	11BR	227 points
7	7SI	215 points
8	8RO	213 points
9	7RA	190 points
10	7WI	175 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mr Bowater	1945 points
2	Mr Anderson	1937 points
3	Mrs Stedman	1840 points
4	Mr Yarrington	1826 points
5	Mr Bastock	1792 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	Geography	3681 points
2	Maths	2947 points
3	Science	2894 points
4	IT	2316 points
5	Art	1907 points



Term Dates 2021—2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021

School closed

Friday 22nd October 2021

Teacher training day

Half term

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021

Back to school

Monday 1st November 2021

Autumn Term ends

Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2022

School closed

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half Term

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February 2022

Back to school

Monday 28th February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter)

Friday 8th April 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins

Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday

Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022

Back to school

Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Term ends

Thursday 21st July 2022 at 12.40pm

School closed

Friday 22nd July 2022

Warwickshire-honoured Bank Holiday (in lieu of the May half term Jubilee date)

2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Revision Timetable for year 11

Please find below the intervention timetable for year 11s which commences next week.

Attending revision sessions is an important part of achieving the very best GCSE grades.

Pupils have had an assembly this week and should now be considering their commitments - putting in the effort now is the right decision!

Mr Cooke

WEEK A	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Informal Maths revision	
Tuesday	Informal Maths revision	Maths
Wednesday	DT	English
Thursday	Chemistry (Br) or Biology for Triple Alternate weeks - see dept lists	Biology (Cp) or Chemistry (Br) for Triple alternate weeks - see dept lists
Friday	Combined Science	

WEEK B	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Art/Photography	
Tuesday	Art/Photography	PTE
Wednesday	German (MFL2) Performing Arts/Music	iMedia and Computer Science Performing Arts/Music
Thursday	French (MFL1)	Art/Photography
Friday	Geography	


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THE GREAT

educaterers  A FOOD STORY


BAKE OFF

◀ **COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT STAR BAKER?** ▶

A great opportunity to showcase your skills, win one of 3 cash prizes and get the chance to lift the trophy and be named
EDUCATERERS BAKE OFF CHAMPION 2021

So get your whisks at the ready and send us a short video of you baking a sweet or savoury treat to take to a BONFIRE PARTY.
 Send your video to contactus@educaterers.co.uk by Friday 29th October.


Judging will take place w/c 1st November, with the best 3 star bakers going forward to a live cook off in November where finalists will be asked to create a showstopper Winter Wonderland cake.



Don't forget to include your name and the name of your bake and please put Bake Off Video in the subject box on the email. The competition is open to all Educaterers' colleagues and clients

TOP TIP - The video needs to give an outline of what you are doing, with some really good shots of the finished bake, so just keep it nice a simple.

If you love to bake, don't delay have a go today.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around 800 million active users worldwide.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know About



TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – so it is possible for a child to be exposed to explicit and age-inappropriate content.



EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and want to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.



TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be "the next big thing" will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep you intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.



IN-APP PURCHASES

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. Buying coins is now restricted to over-18s – but TikTok doesn't require users to verify their age on sign up, so a young person could easily access this feature if they were determined to.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.



MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

In early 2021, TikTok changed the default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.



LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.



ENABLE FAMILY SAFETY MODE

'Family Safety Mode' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok refreshed its Safety Centre in May 2021, providing new resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.



USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.



Meet our expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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For **Reading Well Books on Prescription** (BOP) recommended self-help books, audio CDs and e-books
visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/booksonprescription



GO ONLINE

togetherall.com completely anonymous online community, free to people living in Warwickshire, available 24/7



TELEPHONE 24/7 HELPLINE

Ring a team of trained and experienced support workers 24/7 via the **Mental Health Matters Helpline** on **0800 61 61 71 (0300 330 5487** for mobiles) or try Time Online, the online Chat Service via the website: www.mhm.org.uk/coventry-warwickshire-helpline



SPEAK TO SOMEONE

In person at **Warwickshire Wellbeing Hubs** - free one to one support, walk-in sessions and bookable sessions -visit: www.cwmind.org.uk/wbw call: **02477 712288** or email: wbw@cwmind.org.uk



ACCESS THERAPIES (IAPT)

A service for people who are feeling stressed, anxious, low in mood or depressed, providing advice, information and therapy - call **02476 671090** or visit: www.healthymindservice.com to self-refer



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Rise - Warwickshire's emotional wellbeing and mental health services and support for children, young people and their parents. Call **0300 200 2021** or visit www.cwrise.com



FREE LOCAL LEARNING

Visit the **Recovery and Wellbeing Academy** to do a course or workshop specifically designed to empower your mental health and wellbeing. <https://recoveryandwellbeing.covwarkpt.nhs.uk> or call **0300 303 2626**



LIFELONG WELLBEING

Build wellbeing into your daily life by adopting the **5 Ways to Wellbeing** to feel good and function well.
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/5ways



Visit: www.wellbeing4life.co.uk



warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth

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facebook.com/PublicHealthWarwickshire

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

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 each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each 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 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.

School Attendance — up to 14.10.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
92.8%	92.7%	91.0%	88.9%	86.7%	90.6%

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

We have several fixtures coming up, so it is important that students attend in order to be considered for teams.

PE Practices/Fixtures: week 18/10/21:

Monday 18th October:	Year 8 Netball
Monday 18th October:	Year 7 Football
Tuesday 19th October:	Year 11 Football @ Henley
Wednesday 20th October:	Year 9 & 10 Netball
Wednesday 20th October:	Year 8 Football
Thursday 21st October:	Year 7 Netball

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible.

Normal school PE kit is required.

All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.

For Fixtures a separate team sheet, including all the necessary details, will be sent out via parentmail.

Golfing Congratulations!

Many congratulations to George (year 10) who won the Claret Cup at the Vale Golf Club at the weekend. Off a handicap of 7 George shot a gross score of 71 (one under par) giving him a nett score of 64 to retain the title he won last year in fine style. George continues to make extraordinary progress with his golf and his handicap will now drop to 4.8, a marvellous achievement.

In addition to this, he has been playing County golf for Worcestershire at U16 level and was recently part of their League winning team. In his own age group he is reigning County champion which, all in all, represents a fabulous set of achievements by anyone's standards!

Very well done George and good luck with your future golfing adventures.

Mr Powell

