

# Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



*15<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

Dear Parents and Carers

Good afternoon

Thank you to Miss McKenzie for writing the bulletin last week. Hopefully, you enjoyed reading things from a different perspective. If you sent in special messages for individual staff as a result of this, we all appreciated these very much indeed.

We've had plenty of poorly children and staff this week with some nasty winter bugs flying around. Thank you for working with us on this. The students have coped really well when they might not have had their regular teacher in place. Get better soon everyone! Ironically, we also had the immunisations this week. Those students receiving these did so really well.

## **Thank you partners**

At this time of year, I'd like to formally thank our professional partners. We are very lucky to work with some extremely

knowledgeable specialists in their fields of expertise. These include Lucy Clarke and Clair Cole from SEND Supported, and Dawn Preece, a Senior Education Psychologist. Claire Gibb and Albi, Rob Townsend, a Lifespace mentor, Sue Small a Young Minds Matters mentor and Sarah Pashley, also a Young Minds Matters mentor.

## **Thank you PTA**

Thanks to the Friends of Alcester Academy for taking part in the Santa Run in Alcester on Sunday with the Round Table. We are very grateful to you indeed.



## ***What's inside this week...***

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## End of term round up and reminders

### Safeguarding over Christmas

We will be taking a break over the Christmas period. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please use the following guidance:

*If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door) immediately by calling 01926 414144. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm. If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922. If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately by calling 999.*

[Home | Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board](#)  
[safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

## Save the Children

Don't forget that we are raising money for *Save the Children* next Friday 22nd December. You can upload a donation via the School Gateway (suggested £2). We have saved our Christmas Jumper Day 2023 until 22nd December and most of us do join in with this.



**Save the Children**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**JUMPER DAY**

### Early finish— Friday 22nd December 2023

We finish at 12.40pm on Friday 22nd December. Thank you for helping us to do this. I can't remember a year when we have broken up quite so late! We do operate a one way system on this day. It really helps the traffic flow.

**COPING AT CHRISTMAS**

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

 ☎ 0300 123 3393 ① Helpline 🌐 mind.org.uk	 ☎ Text SHOUT to 85258 ① 24/7 text service 🌐 giveusashout.org	 ☎ 116 123 ① 24/7 helpline 🌐 samaritans.org
 ☎ Text YM to 85258 ① 24/7 text service 🌐 youngminds.org.uk	 ☎ 0800 58 58 58 ① Helpline for men 🌐 thecalmzone.net	 ☎ 0800 068 4141 ① Under 35s Helpline 🌐 papyrus-uk.org

If grandparents, or other relatives are picking children up, please do let them know in advance.

Please enter Gerard Road via Captain's Hill and exit via Gerard Road, leading into Throckmorton Road. Alternatively, parents can make arrangements to collect children from Captain's Hill.

Thanks for helping by following this. It creates a safe and steady exit for all.

### **What's in a locker?**

We try to remind students to bring PE kits home at the end of term. If you can help us to remind the children, please do!

### **Back to School—January 2024**

All children are back to school on **Tuesday 9th January 2024.**

### **Matters to resolve?**

Please can you be sure to raise any matters that need resolving before we break up, rather than writing to staff over the Christmas period. Thank you. It just helps to create a clean and satisfactory end to term for everyone, and the chance for emails to be switched off for a little while over Christmas and the New Year.

I always guide staff not to respond to emails over their holiday time; Christmas more than ever. I appreciate your understanding with this. Family time is so important.

### **Thank you year 9-11 Parents and Carers**

I appreciated it if you recently completed the curriculum survey on our KS3/4 split. I will report the results of this to you after Christmas.

### **Year 11 Saturday Schools for Mock Exams**

Saturday Schools will be on 13th and 27th January 2024. Subjects will be confirmed very soon.

Year 11s will get their mock timetable straight after Christmas, with MFL speaking exams starting on 15th January 2024 in order to start these off.

Mocks are completed on Wednesday 7th February with the year 11 performing arts assessments on 8th and 9th February 2024.

SLT have enjoyed meeting with all of the year 11s this week individually in order to discuss how we can best support each of the students.

### **Save the date (s)**

We are running an online KS3 (year 7/8) Parent Forum on the topic of Assessment on Thursday 11th January 2024, from 6-7pm for your interest.

This will be via TEAMS. We will be sending a link out very shortly to those of you who might be interested in this.



**KINDNESS  
CHANGES  
EVERYTHING**



Year 10 Work Experience Week begins on Monday 29th January 2024. We're very excited about the numbers of students involved in this.



Year 8 Parents' Evening is Thursday 8th February 2024 on SchoolCloud. I will send out a detailed dates list after Christmas for you.

### Year 10 parents

Thank you all for joining us online for parents' evening last night. I hope that you found this useful.

### Remembering Liv

As we head towards the end of term, we remember, and dedicate this bulletin to dear Liv and her family, as the anniversary of her very sudden and sad death grows close again. Liv would now be in year 10. We think about her often in our day to day work with fond memories. A life taken far too early.



Wishing you a good weekend ahead. I'm sure that things are getting busier for everyone with preparations or celebrations. My assembly this week for year 7-10 focussed upon the work of various charitable organisations. It is so easy to get immersed in the commercialism of everything right now, and I wanted the students to consider what some families and individuals face over the Christmas period in reality as a lived experience. This might be a topic that you want to pick up at home over the coming days.

Whatever you are doing, have a super weekend ahead.

Best wishes

*Sarah Mellors*  
Headteacher



"FRIENDS"  
OF  
ALCESTER ACADEMY



## Epraise Facts & Figures

### Student Leader board:

1	Chloe	7KO	193 points—First week at No. 1
1	Maddie	7KO	193 points—First week at No. 1
3	Noah	7RA	190 points—First week at No. 3
4	Alfie	7LX	188 points
5	Ethan	7KO	187 points
6	Zachery	7KO	185 points
7	Phoebe	7KO	175 points
8	Amber	7WI	174 points
9	Bella	7KO	171 points
10	Isabella	7RA	170 points

### Top Students—this week:

1	Matilda	7LX	16 points
1	Ava	7RA	16 points
3	Maddie	7KO	13 points
4	Ethan	7KO	12 points
4	Faith	11KA	12 points
4	Kyra	11HE	12 points
4	Michael	7LX	12 points
4	Bella	7KO	12 points
9	Ashlyn	9BW	11 points
9	Astrid	7TN	11 points

### Top Tutor—this week:

1	7KO	191 points
2	7LX	174 points
3	7TN	171 points
4	7RA	165 points
5	8TU	135 points

### Top Staff—this week:

1	Mrs Gorner	412 points
2	Mr Rossiter	362 points
3	Mr Yarrington	214 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	196 points
5	Mrs Kowal	189 points

### Top Subjects—this week:

1	English	678 points
2	History	448 points
3	Science	323 points
4	Art	253 points
5	French	196 points





## LRC End of Term News

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) aims to provide a lively, welcoming and well-resourced environment to support the learning and teaching within the school.

### Things to note from the LRC

**Thursday 7th March 2024**—World Book Day

**Monday 20th May to Thursday 23rd May 2024**—

A Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the LRC, which will be open to all students at breaks and lunchtimes. More information will be given nearer the time.

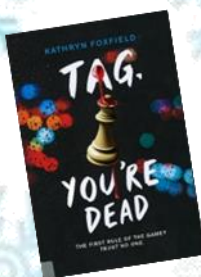
**Overdue book reminder letters** – are emailed to student school Gmail accounts as books become overdue. Please remember to return or renew your library books and check your emails.

**LRC Online Google Classroom Code—dt6iw3u**

**LRC X Account—@AA\_LRC\_Library**  
**Instagram—aa\_lrc**

### Warwickshire Teen Book Award

The shortlist of four books was selected by year 9 students from across Warwickshire by holding 'long list speed dating events' with ten books. Back in September year 9 students took part in a 'speed dating' session with extracts from each of the ten books. The four books to be read where voted for and during a very busy term some of our students somehow managed to find time to read these books and vote for their favourite one.



We took part in a live online event on Tuesday 12th December, with Angela and Jess from the School Library Service, eighteen other schools and also all four of the authors. Two were in the UK, one in the USA and one in South Korea!

After a Q and A session the SLS team were delighted to announce that the winner, chosen by the students, was *Tag You're Dead* by Kathryn Foxfield. Although the personal favourite for our students was *Happy Head* by Josh Silver.

### SLS Warwickshire Secondary Book Award



This award offers year 7/8 pupils from schools all over the county the opportunity to read six shortlisted titles and review their favourites with their peers.



This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with students from other schools and promote the enjoyment of reading. The shortlisting for the 2024 award has been completed and the following books have been chosen:

*The Door of No Return* by Kwame Alexander  
*When I See Blue* by Lily Bailey  
*The Lighthouse* by Alex Bell  
*Steady for This* by Nathanael Lessore  
*Dogs of the Deadlands* by Anthony McGowan  
*Tyger* by S F Said



Nineteen students have signed up to take part in the award and have been choosing which book they will read first over Christmas. They will be asked to cast their votes in March and the winner will be revealed at an exciting ceremony, where at least one of the shortlisted authors is present, at Shire Hall in Warwick on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

The LRC and the English Department encourage pupils to develop a lifelong love of reading with Accelerated Reader.



Did you know that Accelerated Reader (AR) produces an average of two years' reading age growth, in just one year, while promoting reading for pleasure? Students from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who are on the AR system, have been avidly reading and taking quizzes this term. Please encourage your child to read, and quiz because—

**People who read are more likely to be involved in the world around them:** Research shows that reading makes you more engaged in life around you, helping you to make the most of opportunities that come your way in life.

**Reading helps your memory:** Every time you read something new, your brain 'makes room' to fit it in. With these new spaces, you can take advantage of any new information. Good news when you need to revise for exams!

**Reading helps to boost your analytical thinking:** Reading helps you to recognise various patterns that occur in writing. If you are looking for a law or medicine career, this is important!

**Reading expands your vocabulary:** The more that you read, the more words you will come across. The more often you read these words, the more likely you are to understand them, and use them in your own writing and speaking.



Jack in year 7 has made it onto the Millionaire Club stars, by reading more than a million words since September!

Kaitlyn, Amelia, Evie and Isla are hot on his heels!

Use these links to access AR and your library account school or home—

### Accelerated Reading

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1893467> (just doing a Google search will not link you to the school system). Then type in your school network username (e.g. 21johnsmith) as you usually would, and use the password – abc (year 8,9,10) or abc123 (year 7).

### Library accounts

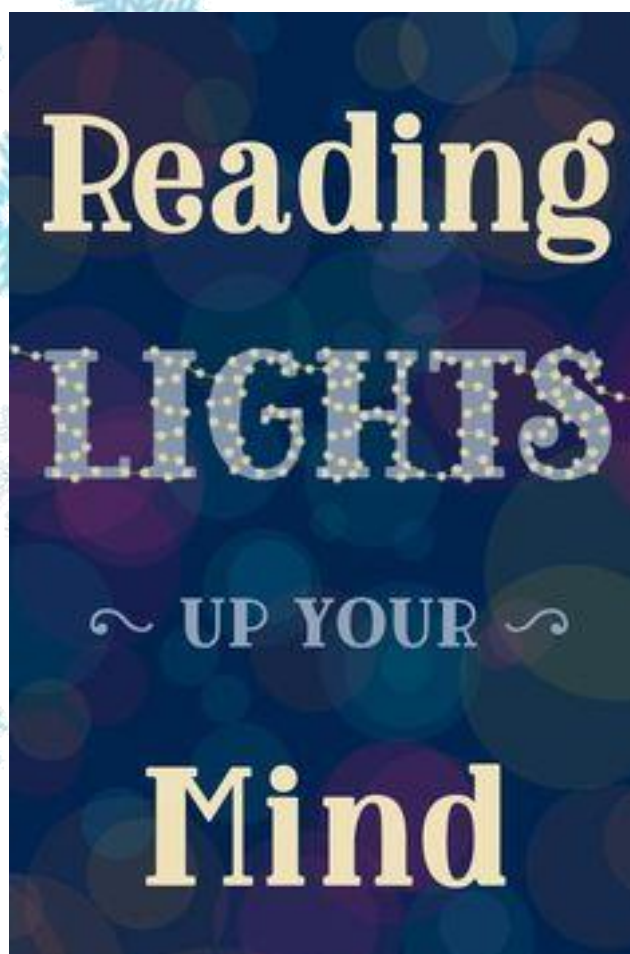
<https://apps.libresoft.co.uk/9374240-hmlpg8jkqb72jyx911bd-aa>

Then log in through your @alcester.academy school Google account by clicking on *Sign in with Google*.

### Click and collect service

Log on to your library account (as above) choose your book by browsing and searching the catalogue and reserve it (Actions>reserve book>confirm) to pick up from Mrs Hands in the LRC.

*Mrs Hands*



## Attendance Updates

**Whole School Attendance: 92.9%**

**Top tutors this week:**

*7WI with 97.6% attendance  
8TY with 98.5% attendance  
9BW with 90.1% attendance  
10HL with 98.5% attendance  
11ES with 100% attendance*

**Top House this week:**

*Greville with 95.4%*

Our whole school attendance has improved slightly this week. If your child is feeling better towards the end of a bout of illness, please encourage them to return to school, as this can really support their attendance and minimize lost learning time. Thank you.

If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day. This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing [louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

Thank you.



*"Attending school every day can help your child to achieve their aspirations, and the aspirations you have for them."*

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## Year 11 Revision

Please find attached our revision timetable for this half term.  
*Mr Cooke*

Day	Core LUNCH	Core AFTER
Monday	Study Room M5	
Tuesday	Study Room S5	English
Wednesday	Study Room E2 Or Science	Science
Thursday	Study Room E2	Maths



## Alcester Academy Term Dates

### AUTUMN TERM 2023

Autumn Term ends Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at 12.40pm

### SPRING TERM 2024

*School closed Monday 8th January 2024—Teacher training day*

**Spring Term begins Tuesday 9th January 2024**

Half Term Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024

**Back to school Monday 19th February 2024**

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at 12.40pm

### SUMMER TERM 2024

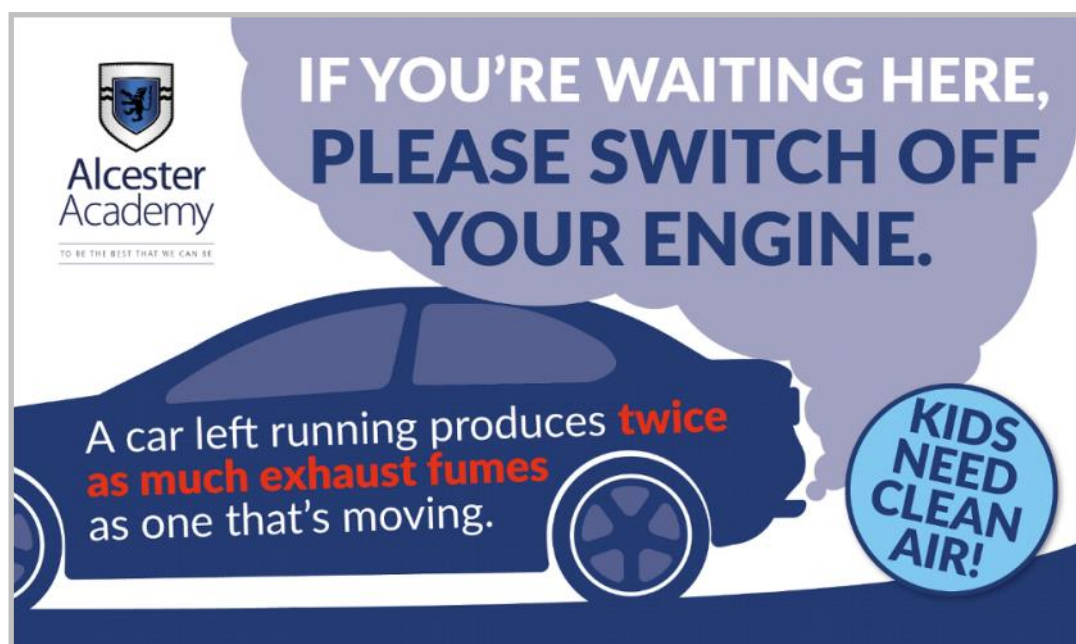
**Summer Term begins Monday 8th April 2024**

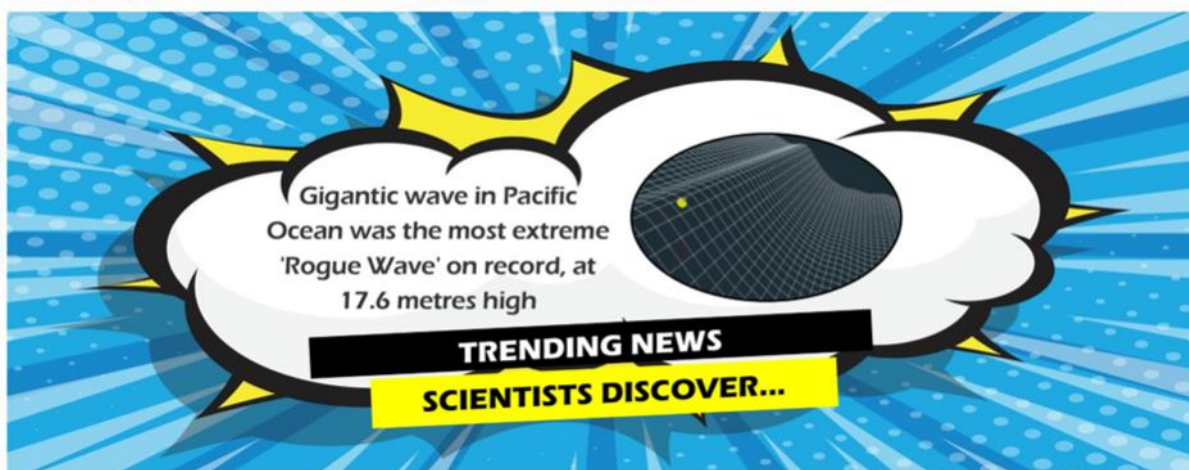
May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2024

**Back to school Monday 3rd June 2024**

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2024 at 12.40pm







## Year 10 mock interviews

On Wednesday, all year 10 students participated in mock interviews held in the school hall.

Their personal CVs were discussed and the students had an opportunity to practice talking about their strengths and attributes in advance of post-16 interviews next year.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to those parents who were able to support us with this process.

*Miss Bartlett*



## Alumni News

Dan Hughes, a student alumni, has received an offer, on the day, from Bird College—Conservatoire for dance and musical theatre—to study a BA Hons in Dance and Musical Theatre.

This is a phenomenal achievement and we wish Dan all the best!

*Miss Sacco*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIEL HUGHES WHO HAS AN OFFER FROM BIRD COLLEGE FOR BA HONS IN DANCE & MUSICAL THEATRE**

## \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \*

### End of term message

As we approach the end of Autumn term, I would like to take the opportunity to say well done to all students who have been a part of Alcester Academy school sport so far this year.

Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to school sport. Through attendance at lunchtime or after school clubs, to playing in competitive sports fixtures representing the school, you have all played your part in an extremely positive Autumn term of sport for the Academy.

I have been very proud to feature so many of our students in the 'Student Spotlight' focus of the bulletin for reaching exceptional levels of sporting performance outside of school.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our newest cohort to the Alcester Academy sport team and they have not disappointed, with year 7 students attending sports clubs in great numbers each week. We have fielded competitive teams within football, basketball, indoor rowing and netball since the start of the year.

We look forward to resuming sport in the Spring term both within PE lessons and extra-curricular alongside many other opportunities including the re-launch of our school Sports Leaders, swimming galas and our annual Sports Awards Evening at the end of Spring term to celebrate the years achievements.

Wishing all of our students and families a Merry Christmas from the Alcester Academy PE department and a well-earned break over the festive period. *Mr Moffatt—Head of PE.*



### After School Sport



## **\*\*THIS WEEK'S SPORT\*\*:** **W/B 18/12/23**



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday		
Tuesday	External Archery Coaching (Selective) – PW U15 Rugby v Shipston	Gym Away

**After school and lunchtime sports clubs will resume in Spring term.**



## \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \*

### Student Spotlight:

#### Dylan – County Football

Many congratulations to Dylan in year 9 who continues to do the Academy proud in representing the Warwickshire County Schools U14 football team.

Dylan travelled to Stafford Town FC on Monday night to represent Warwickshire County Schools FA U14s in a league fixture against Staffordshire, under the floodlights.

The game was physical, hard fought and very even. Eventually, Warwickshire came from 2-1 down to win the fixture 3-2 and put them top of the league after just two games.

A fantastic result for Dylan and his County team and we wish them the best of luck for the remainder of the season.



### This week's sport roundup:

#### Year 11 Football and year 10 Rugby postponed

Unfortunately, due to the significant rainfall recently we had two fixtures postponed until the new year: year 11 Football v Sidney Stringer School and year 10 Rugby v King Henry VIII School.

Rearranged fixture dates will be communicated once arranged.

#### Year 7 Netball

On Monday thirteen year 7 girls went over to Alcester Grammar school to play in the third and final friendly netball evening. We played lots of short games which gave us and the AGS students a chance to play in lots of different positions and with different people. The girls made so much progress and really learnt a lot in a short space of time. A really enjoyable evening!



## Teacher of Science (Maternity Cover)

**Salary: TMS**

**Contract Type: Full Time**

**Contract Term: Temporary (maternity cover)**

**Required: From February 2024 (start date negotiable)**

### [ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding science department within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally as a result of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and supportive science team as maternity cover. 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 is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; in 2022 results far exceeded National Averages: P8 for the whole school was +0.46 and science achieved a VA of +0.55. In 2023 86% achieved a minimum of 2 grade 4s in science with 71% achieving at least 2 grade 5s. Applicants will be considered from all points of experience, including early career teachers. In Key Stage 3, teachers would have sole responsibility for a class and are expected to deliver all content. At Key Stage 4, teachers are given more opportunity to teach within their specialist area. As a small department, flexibility and teamwork is particularly important. An ability to teach physics at Key Stage 4 would be desirable, however not essential. At KS4 both combined and triple science is offered. We currently work with AQA.

If you feel that Alcester Academy could be for you, please feel free to arrange a conversation or a school tour with our Head of Science, Debbie Marshall or simply complete the application form. Email address—[admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

*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.*





## Teaching Assistant Level 3

### Full Time

**Working term time only (39 weeks to include 5 Teacher Training days)**

**Scale H range 14. FTE £27,334 starting salary. Actual pro rata £23,511.**

**Starting: As soon as possible**

**Closing date: Friday 19th January 2024 at 12 noon**

**Interviews: Week commencing 22nd January 2024**

### [ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

#### **Learning Support at Alcester Academy**

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

#### **The Post**

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) for an experienced teaching assistant ideally with an NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent). You will be working predominantly with a student with an EHCP but also other students with a variety of SEND needs.

We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

If you have any queries or concerns, please get in touch with

[carihaynes@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:carihaynes@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

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



## Examination Invigilator

### ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE



**Deadline for applications—Friday 12th January 2024**

**Interviews will be held on Monday 15th January 2024**

We are currently seeking a reliable person to join our team of invigilators to assist in the conduct of all internal and external examinations at the academy. Experience is not necessary as full training will be given. £11.97 per hour, claimed monthly.

The ability to work in a team, under direction, and to communicate effectively are essential.

Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ and the academy's regulations and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process. Alcester Academy runs a number of examination series during the academic year and would expect flexible availability during these times, dates available on request.

*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.*

*A DBS check is required for appointment to this post.*

*\* Strictly no agencies \**

## CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



## CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

5-6PM  
AGES  
7-11YRS

6-7PM  
AGES  
12-15YRS

**FREE  
SESSION!**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH DEC**  
TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL REDDITCH  
BOOK NOW:  
WOLFPACKGIRLSFOOTBALL@GMAIL.COM

The **MORE** that you **READ**,  
the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW**.  
The **MORE** you **LEARN**,  
the more **PLACES** you'll **GO!**  
~ Dr. Seuss



# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

## SPEND

Support for **P**arents of children with  
**E**ducational needs, **N**eurodiversity and **D**ifficulties.

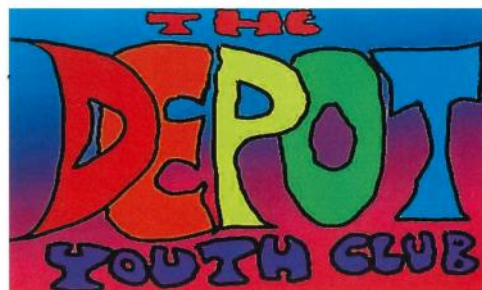
*SPEND is a monthly parent/carer support group for people caring for children with additional needs who feel isolated or overwhelmed in Alcester, Bidford, Studley and surrounding villages.*



*Come and spend time with people who understand.*

**FIRST MEETING: FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2024 - 9.45-11.15AM**

The Depot, Eric Payne Community Centre  
off St Faith's Road, Alcester, B496AG



*Volunteer Youth Club Assistants needed at  
The Depot Youth Club in Alcester*

*Are you passionate about helping young people?*

*Interested in sport, mentoring, music or games?*

*Would you like to make a difference to young people's  
lives?*

*Are you available on Tuesdays or/and Thursdays  
between 6:30 - 8pm?*

*No experience necessary, just enthusiasm*

*For more information, either pop along one Tuesday  
evening and ask for Becky or Phil, or email Wendy  
at the Town Council: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk) Tel:*

*01789 766084*

