Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

16th January 2026

Good afternoon.

I'm grateful for a calmer week in terms of the weather watch and I'm thankful to you for sending the students into school on Friday, appropriately dressed and warm. We had a super school attendance last week at 95.4%. National secondary attendance was 91.8%. The students were content and in great spirits on Friday despite several of them hoping that we might have been closed due to the weather conditions!

Adverse Weather Update

Thank you to the parent who fed back last Friday about the swift decision to move to non-uniform for the students. I do appreciate that for our neuro diverse student community, this may cause further anxiety at short notice. Students never have to do this, and we had plenty of children continuing to wear their usual uniform at school on Friday as a personal choice. We are always attempting to work towards an inclusive environment.

This week has been a busy one with year 8s embarking on their exams. Congratulations to the students for their hard work and commitment this week. We held some superb virtual reality knife crime sessions led by Warwickshire professionals with some year 9s. There will be an article with details of this next week.

LSU Update

We are attempting to send you a standard communication if your child has accessed LSU for additional support during any school day. This way, hopefully, by working together, we can continue to remove any barriers for the students and offer personalised support where needed.

Recent Assemblies

Last week, Miss Sacco spoke to students about school cultural development. She linked this nicely to the opportunities available for students to participate in at school, the school values, the behaviour expectations and the House system. Please see our Spring Clubs offer for students within this edition! Do encourage your child to try something new this term.

What's inside this week

Page 4	*Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard*
Page 6	*Students Engage in Policing Careers Session*
Page 8	*German Week 2026*
Page 16	*Sports News*

This week, Mr Hollis led assembly on *Walk Your Dog Month*. He has been looking forward to this theme for many weeks. Naturally, this concentrated on the wellbeing aspect of life with pets which I can totally endorse after only becoming a dog owner in recent years. Walking a dog is a great way to beat the January blues!

Career Drop Ins—Employer Encounters

Student Career Drop Ins are back! Miss Bartlett has written about two specific drop ins over recent days for you all. Students need to sign up in advance to be part of any of these that they are interested in. See pages 6 and 7.

Snowdome Session

Our skiers are making steady progress each week now at the Snowdome. It won't be long before their European trip at half term.

There are still a few places left for Ski USA in February 2027. Contact Miss Buckthorp if you might be interested for your child.

Thank you Friends of Alcester Academy

I appreciate those parents who attended the meeting on Wednesday evening in order to discuss future events.

This weekend

We are wishing the Performing Arts department a fantastic trip to the West End with KS4 students. Amongst other adventures, the students will see *Operation Mincemeat* at the Fortune Theatre.

And, good luck to our cross country athletes competing at Princethorpe College. We are very proud of you all.

Into next week…

We are looking forward to hearing about the year 10 STEM trip to National Grid, our Alcester Academy older scholars are participating in Debate Mate, Rotary Youth Speaks have their first round of competition at Stratford Manor, year 9 have a SLD entitled *Trust Me*, year 10 have their D of E launch and year 7 have their humanities SLD. This just touches on just some of opportunities next week at school for our students.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS

Family BINGO Night

Friday 30th January

Doors Open 6.30pm — Eyes down 7.00pm

1 Book (6 Games) - £2

6 Books (6 Games) - £10

HTTP://FRIENDSOFAA.SUMUPSTORE.COM/

SUPPORT US BY VISITING THE "FRIENDS" ONLINE SHOP

Bar
Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available

Pre-booking recommended.

Book now online or via the school office.

https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
9th January—15th January 2026

Top Positive Point Students:

1	Oscar	10YA	Ragley	15 points
2	Harry	10GA	Oversley	14 points
2	Min-Seo	10GA	Oversley	14 points
2	Tom	10YA	Billesley	14 points
2	Eva	10KI	Ragley	14 points
6	Grace	7WI	Billesley	13 points
6	Jess	10YA	Ragley	13 points

Top Positive Point House:

1	Oversley	666 points
2	Ragley	661 points
3	Greville	614 points
4	Billesley	607 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

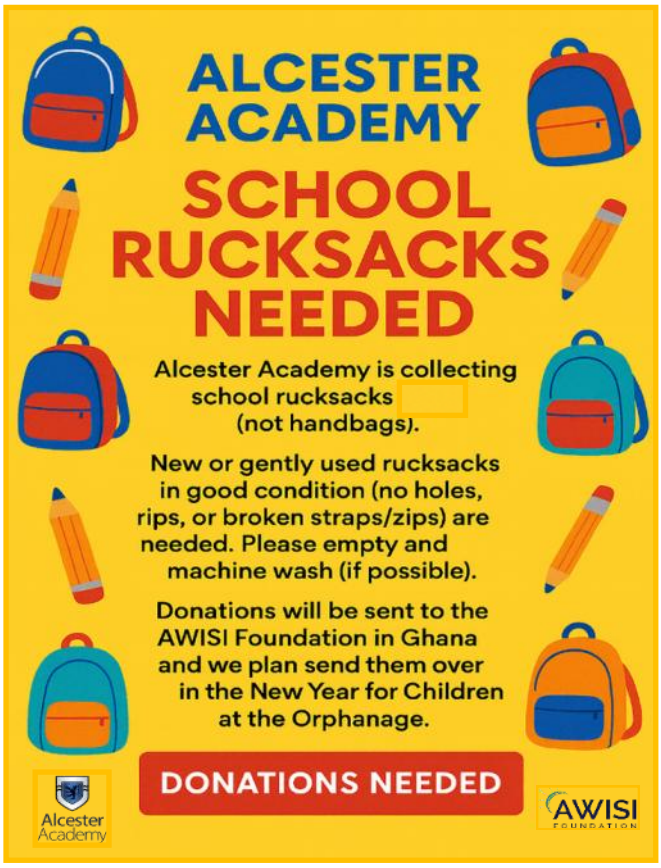
1	10GA	142 points
2	7LX	140 points
3	8SA	135 points
4	7WI	130 points
5	10YA	127 points

Top Positive Point Subjects:

1	English	682 points
2	French	292 points
3	Art	259 points

Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Mr Hall	506 points
2	Miss Lewis	435 points
3	Mr Yarrington	391 points



Attendance Notice for Parents

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Alcester Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information parents are asked to review the data collection form on MCAS. If you need to make changes, please do so via MCAS or email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Alcester Academy

If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.

Alcester Academy

DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

Students Engage in Policing Careers Session with PC Savidge

On Monday, Alcester Academy welcomed PC Savidge from Warwickshire Police, for a student drop-in session focused on careers in policing. This well-attended session was extremely popular, with around 40 students taking part.

Students were given a valuable insight into the wide range of roles and career pathways within the police force. PC Savidge spoke in detail about the application process, the skills and personal qualities required, and what to expect during an officer's probationary period.

As a highly experienced officer, PC Savidge shared first-hand experiences from a variety of specialist roles, including traffic policing and firearms, which students found particularly engaging. There was also a dedicated opportunity for students to ask questions about real-life incidents and the realities of police work.

We are very grateful to Warwickshire Police and PC Savidge for giving their time and providing such an informative and inspiring session for our students.

Miss Bartlett

WARWICKSHIRE POLICE

From Silverstone to Formula 1: Eliott Inspires Students with Career Journey

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Eliott Parkes, an ex-pupil of the school, who visited to deliver a Careers Zone drop-in session for our students.

Eliott shared his inspiring career journey, beginning with his studies at Silverstone College of Motorsport, progressing through work on Formula 3 cars, and ultimately reaching the pinnacle of motorsport as Chief Mechanic for the Haas Formula 1 team. His story highlighted the dedication, technical skill, and perseverance required to succeed in such a competitive global industry.

During the session, Eliott offered practical advice and support to students interested in pursuing careers in motorsport and engineering, answering questions about education pathways, work experience, and life within Formula 1. Students were particularly excited to hear about his experiences travelling all over the world as part of the F1 calendar.

Eliott is now preparing to travel to Italy on Friday to begin building this season's Formula 1 car, making his visit even more special and timely.

We are extremely grateful to Eliott for taking the time to return to the school and inspire the next generation. Visits like this provide invaluable real-world insight and motivation for our students.

Miss Bartlett

GERMAN WEEK 19TH-24TH JANUARY 2026

The MFL department is delighted to announce that we are one of **only 11 other schools nationally** taking part in German Week 2026, led by the Goethe Institut!

#ShoutOutForGerman

What does it involve?

- A German theatre show on 22nd January for KS4 and some year 8s
- Our 30-day German diary challenge competition
- A new German club starting on Thursdays to help you learn more about life in German's vibrant capital city: Berlin
- Keep your eye on AA's social media!

COMPETITION

Deadline:
Friday 20th February

Your task:
See Mrs Laventine-Lee in MFL2 on Weds /Thurs/Fri to collect a diary!

Fill in a page a day and add colour if you wish.

The three best diaries will win the grand prizes!

All participants will be invited to a German Breakfast.

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	

Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are pleased to share the Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs timetable, which began this week. Students can sign up via MCAS on Bromcom if they haven't already done so. We would encourage parents and carers to support us by encouraging their child to take part in at least one club each term and make the most of the opportunities available. *Miss Sacco*

Key Dates for 2026

Monday 19th January	Year 9 Super Learning Day. 'Trust Me'.
Wednesday 21st January	Year 7 Humanities Super Learning Day.
Thursday 22nd January.	Year 8 and KS4 German Super Learning Day.
Tuesday 27th January	Online Parent Forum on KS4 Reading at 6pm.
29th/30th January	Year 11 Performing Arts Controlled Assessment.
Friday 30th January	Family Bingo Evening. PTA.
Monday 2nd February	Year 7 exams start in classes.
Friday 6th February	Year 11 Poetry Live trip.
Wednesday 11th February	Year 11 Doctors Show trip.
Thursday 12th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening. Online.

This is not an exhaustive list of events. I'm certain there will be others to add or communicate about.

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2026

Half Term	Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026
Back to school	**Monday 23rd February 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*

Lead Invigilators & Exam Invigilators

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Join the Exams Team

Ahead of forthcoming examination periods, we are seeking reliable and committed individuals to join the Exams Team as Lead Invigilators and Exam Invigilators, supporting the smooth running of all internal and external examinations at the academy.

Exam Invigilator rate £13.68 per hour, claimed monthly
Lead Invigilator rate £14.94 per hour, claimed monthly

Previous experience as an exam invigilator is not required, as full training will be provided. For Lead Invigilator roles, some prior experience is desirable but not essential. The ability to work effectively as part of a team, follow direction, and communicate clearly is essential.

Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with JCQ regulations and the Academy's procedures and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process.

Alcester Academy runs several examination series throughout the academic year and expects flexible availability during these times (dates available on request). Applicants must be available for at least five sessions (morning/afternoon) per week during exam seasons.

Further information and an application form are available via the Academy website.

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.

For an informal discussion, please contact the Exams Officer via email: charlotteparr@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Deadline for applications 31st January 2026
Interviews will be held early February

Alcester Academy

Teaching Assistant

Full Time. Working term time only.

(39 weeks including 5 Teacher Training days)

Scale F range 6-11.

Immediate Start.

Closing date: Friday 23rd January at 12 noon. Interviews: TBC

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

This is a term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of planning and running intervention sessions with children and monitoring progress within these. Alongside supporting a range of special educational needs specifically neurodivergence, including autism, ADHD and dyslexia. This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form which can be found on our website https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/vacancies. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. Please send your completed application to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 23rd January 2025. Interviews TBC.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application. Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

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

DT Technician (Design/Workshop/Textiles/Food and Nutrition) & Site Assistant

Full time role including working within the school holidays.
25 days annual leave and public holidays.
Scale D, Scale Point 3
Actual £24,796 Immediate Start
Closing date: Friday 23rd January at 12 noon
Interviews: WB 26th January, provisionally Wednesday 28th January 2026

Broad Description

Works under direction and instruction, liaising closely with teaching and support staff in ensuring safe practices are always observed, to:

- Provide for general care of technology classrooms.
- Prepare materials and equipment for lessons etc.
- Maintain and provide for safe storage of stock (materials and equipment).
- Assist teaching staff with practical lessons.
- Instruct students in the operation of CAD/CAM and workshop practices.
- Provide general clerical support and undertake basic record keeping as required.
- Contribute to the school's statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form which can be found on the school website. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. Please send your completed application to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 23rd January 2025.
Interviews provisionally Wednesday 28th January 2026.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application.
Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline.

Alcester Academy

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week: 93%

Top Tutors this week:

7LX with 100% attendance

8RW with 98.5% attendance

9SO with 96.3% attendance

10GA with 96.6% attendance

11HE with 96.3% attendance

Data from Friday 9.1.26–Thursday 15.1.26

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

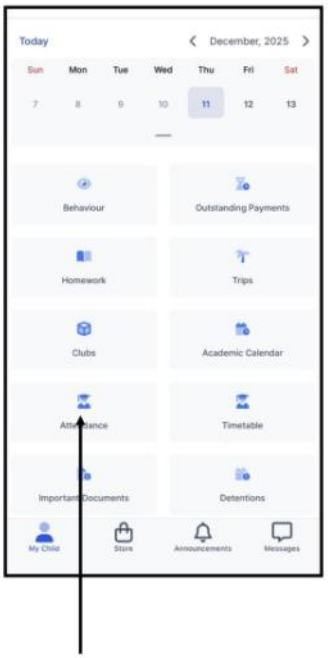
We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students who are leaving for appointments during the school day to come to the office a few minutes early so they can sign out promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms Louise Hatcher—Attendance Officer

Transition to MCAS for All Absence Reporting

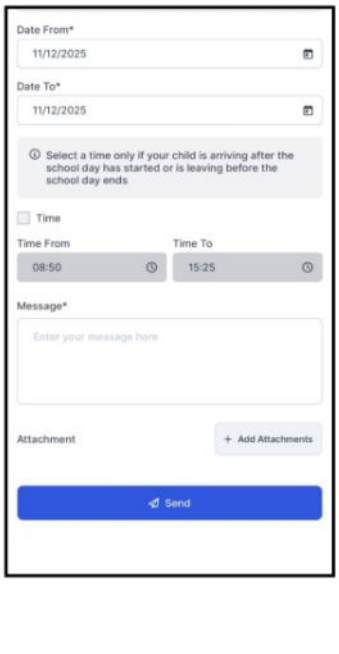
We are continuing to transition to reporting all absence (including illness and appointments) through the MCAS app. It is a simple process and allows you to see the absence has been logged almost immediately.

Below is a guide to how this is done:



Click on the attendance option.

Click Report an absence.



Complete the absence form and press send.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Sport Spotlight
Dylan (Oversley, year 11)

This week the student spotlight focus is on Dylan (Oversley, year 11) who is continuing to show exceptional development within football.

Alongside representing Solihull Moors outside of school Dylan also represents Warwickshire School's and was a part of the team that played out an entertaining 2-2 draw with Derbyshire this week.

The Warwickshire team put in a strong performance, going ahead twice in the game which Dylan started in central midfield. Dylan put in an excellent performance in the middle of the pitch and showed promising leadership qualities. Well done to Dylan on being selected to represent the county in this fixture.

Cross Country County School Championships 2026

This weekend will see the return of the Cross Country Championships held at Princethorpe College. Good luck to all Alcester Academy students who will be attending the event and competing on the day and thank you to Mrs Powell who will be time keeping for all of the events attendees on the day.

Year 7—Poppy, Efa, Harper

Year 9—Isabella,

Year 11—Will, Marijke

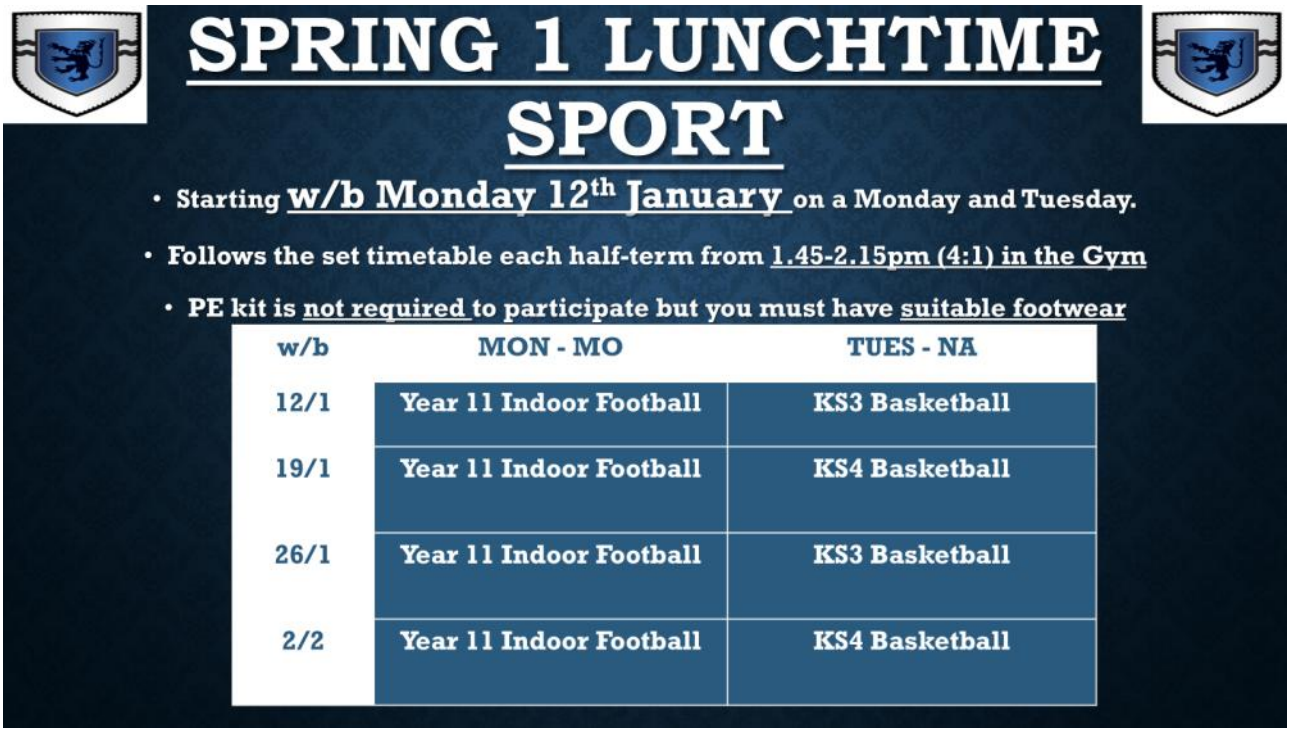
This Week's Sport
Year 7 Basketball v St Benedict's

This week our year 7 basketball team were back out on the court in a basketball fixture versus St Benedict's. Despite not coming away with victory our team showed great resilience and determination to keep the match competitive throughout.

Mr Moffatt—Lead PE & Sports

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



Next Week's After School Clubs and Fixtures

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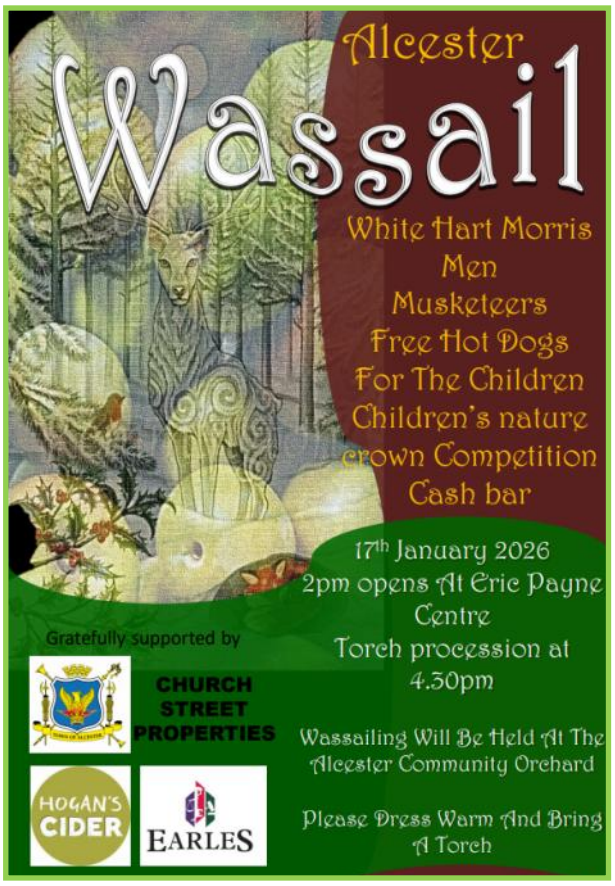

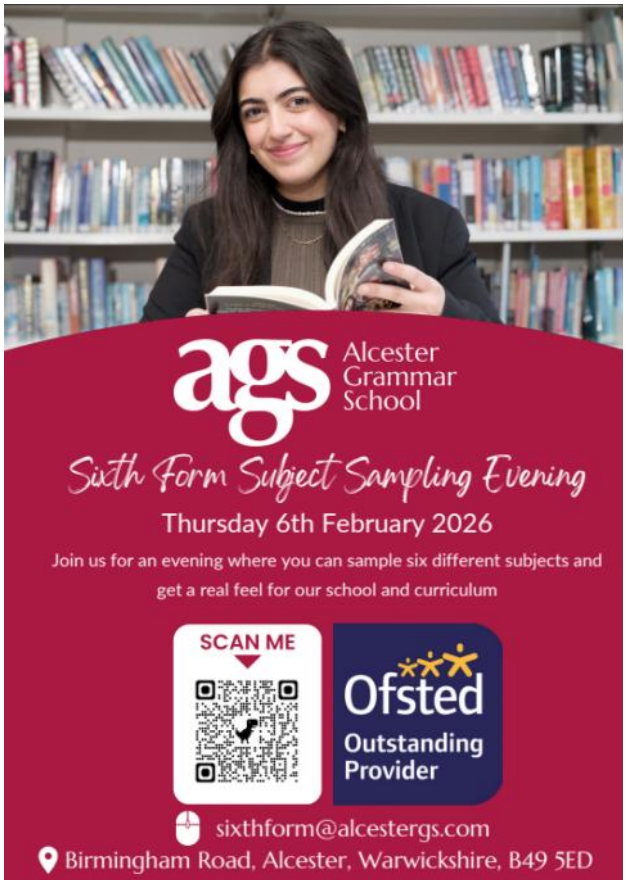

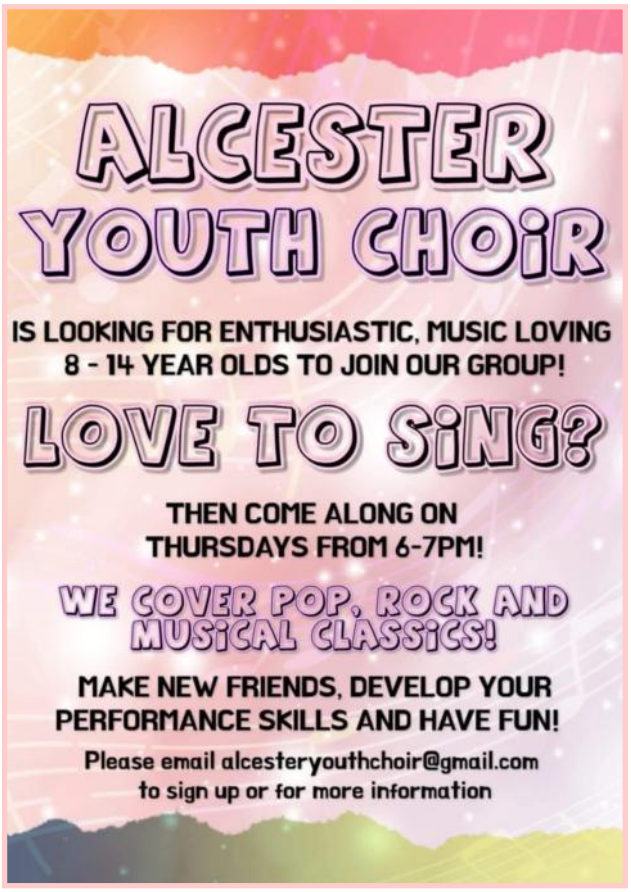

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