Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to start this week by sincerely thanking our student leadership team for their bulletin 'take over' last week. It was so lovely to read about school from their own perspective. It has been extremely hard for them for to execute their normal duties along with the year 11 prefect team right now.

We continue to be COVID free at school. We have more children self-isolating each week and as always, I'm extremely grateful for the caution that you are applying and for working with us. Our thoughts are with those families currently affected by coronavirus.

We extend this also to the Dunnington Primary School community and we hope that individuals feel better very quickly. Please refer to the bulletin update section for reminders about coronavirus.

It was a relief to hear this week that there are government plans in England for running the 2021 summer GCSE exam series. As we are told more about this, we will update year 11 parents and carers. We are looking forward to seeing year 11 parents and carers next Tuesday evening for our virtual Parent Forum on TEAMS. This will cover our plans for year 11 support and will feature several Subject Leaders informing parents about course changes for next summer. Book a place if needed with our receptionist: rachelbliss@alcesteracademy.org.uk
Please follow our *Examinations* website page for useful materials: https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/examinations

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020
Back to school	Monday 2nd November 2020
School closed	*Monday 14th December – Teacher training day*
Autumn Term ends	Friday 18th December 2020 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2021

School closed	*Monday 4th January 2021 – Teacher training day*
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 5th January 2021
Half Term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Back to school	Monday 22nd February 2021
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Thursday 1st April 2021

We are then looking forward to inviting year 8/9 to another forum after half term to outline the changes that we are making to our reporting system this year. Watch this space for details.

It was an exciting day on Tuesday when we took receipt of the new school minibus.

Miss Buckthorp and the finance team have been working hard for months on this. We're delighted that the students can now travel in style. If only we had somewhere to go in it right now!

Our British Legion Poppy Appeal is growing now at some pace. You have now sponsored 117 poppies at £5 each. Wow! We are hoping to begin the display next week at the front of school. There is still time to make your donation on the School Gateway. I can't thank you enough for supporting this. We have generated some press interest around the project that should feature in a couple of weeks time. Thanks to Mr Kirby for his support with it in school.

Don't forget that Friday 23rd October is a non uniform day. You can also add your contribution for this on to the Gateway;

£2 per student. We are raising monies for MacMillan and Young Minds this time – pictures to follow of those memorable outfits on the day! (Please make sure that clothes are suitable for a school day).

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

YOUNGMiNDS
fighting for young people's mental health

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new school Governor to the team; David Plumb is a former O2 Board Director and is now employed at Warwick University. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the Chair of Governors; Mike Dean mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk. I'd like to thank the Governors for the hours that they give to the academy for us all.

Councillor Mark Cargill has contacted MP Nadhim Zahawi again this week on behalf of the Academy and St Benedict's. I braved the school journey on the 504 route from Claverdon last week and saw for myself the complications that carrying students from many schools creates in light of the pandemic. We are trying to support students and parents with this constantly. I did have a delightful trip with our lovely students on that particular day however!

It's been such a great start to term for all of our students. This week I feature some year 9 comments in particular. Having just started their options subjects, they said the following:

I'm excited to start GCSEs - Jake

I *am enjoying my GCSE subjects a lot* - Nia

I *enjoy looking at my chose subjects in more depth* - Kasia

I'm really enjoying my GCSE subjects, it's a lot of work but fun at the same time - Hannah

I am happy with all my subject choices - Joel

I am enjoying my GCSEs, they are fun! - Cobey

I am nervous but excited for my GCSEs as I like the subjects I have chosen - Katelyn

I am feeling fairly confident in my GCSEs - Rosie

I am working my hardest on my GCSEs - Max

I am enjoying them, but lots of homework! - Will

It is fun but hardwork! - Tom

I am liking my subjects and teachers a lot! - Luca

We are one step closer to our ambition - Romano

Starting my GCSEs is turning out to be easier than I was expecting! - Molly

We love GCSE Art and Photography - they are so different to any other subject and we get to be creative! - Chloe, Alice and Mary

Starting GCSEs has been exciting and being introduced to new subjects has been fun. - Poppy

Isabelle wrote: *The following topics are enjoyable; Conflict in Art, Ancient Medicine in History, Creative Writing in English.*

My favourite subject so far would be Performing Arts. As I love the communication with people that I wouldn't usually talk to. It means that I get to work in different teams with very different, creative people. - Emily

As we continue to develop the Academy, please note at the end of the bulletin, the vacancy advert for a new Business Manager. If you know any suitable candidates, don't hesitate to forward this on. Thank you. It's all about positive networking these days!

In final news this week, we want to all wish Miss Nemeshanyi a wonderful wedding day this Saturday. It's felt like a long time coming I'm sure. We have such empathy for those couples planning weddings in the current climate. We hope that the sun shines on Saturday and the thoughts of 640 families wing their way to Miss Nemeshanyi and her husband to be for a wonderful, wonderful day. Many congratulations!
Wishing you all a superb weekend ahead.

Kind regards
Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

Inaugural trip

Our year 9 netball group secured the inaugural trip out in the new school minibus on Tuesday!

Coronavirus updates

Self-Isolation?

https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19-

For students self-isolating, they should first go in to their normal Google Classrooms for work. Codes for these can be found on the school web-site. See the link above. If work has not been up-loaded in time for the lesson, we have developed NEW 'self-isolation' classrooms. The codes are also on this web page for your reference.

Bubble changes

We've made very minor bubble changes this week again. This has accommodated all year groups in the canteen at lunchtimes. We are able to increase the food selection available gradually by doing this. Cashless cards are required in order to speed up service. Use the School Gateway to upload credit. Please speak to Karen Savery in the main school of-fice if you have trouble with School Gateway.

This is still very much a 'grab and go' offer for all students. The curry and naan is amazing though! 'Ever had it in a takeaway pot?

At break times currently, it is as follows:
Year 7 - Hall. Cards required
Year 8 - Cash for trolley service
Year 9 - Cash for trolley service
Year 10 - Cards at the Snack Shack
Year 11 - Cash for trolley service

In light of the weather changing now, we are making more dramatic changes to bubbles for after half term. Watch this space!

Uniform

Alcester Academy trip hoodies are now acceptable wear on PE days if required. Years 7-10 must wear branded academy bottoms on PE days please. For our year 11s, we do understand that parents might not want to buy branded bottoms for just a few months and so plain black PE bot-toms are acceptable especially as the colder weather creeps in. All students can wear their blazers over PE wear in order to add another layer too.

Coats are beginning to form part of an essential uniform for students. Students regularly complain to me that they are cold outside but have no outer wear at all! It never ceases to amaze me! We will not be opening rooms during autumn in order to protect students from a slight drop in temperature so please ensure that students are prepared for this change. Thank you so much.

Confirmed COVID Cases

I continue to be the out of hours contact for school. Please use this email address: head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Photograph of the Week

This weeks picture is by Tilly—a year 10 photography student

Tilly is exploring long exposure light painting.

Lourdes IT Onsite Team

Friendly. Helpful. Pro-active.

(If this describes you, then we want you on our team)

Onsite IT Technician Vacancies (£19,430 pa) - Full time, full year role

Providing onsite, first line support to our supported schools and trusts.

Making a difference to pupils, staff and parents across over 40 schools with reliable and exciting technology and training that makes a positive impact on education.

To apply visit www.lourdesit.org.uk/vacancies
For more information email hr@lourdesmac.org.uk

Lourdes IT

MFL News!

Congratulations to the Aston University MFL competition winners published in last week's bulletin! *Mrs Mellors*

Language Idiom of the Week

To have a frog in your throat

French: Avoir un chat dans la gorge

Literal meaning: To have a cat in your throat

German: Einen Frosch im Hals haben

Literal meaning: To have a frog in your throat

School Attendance — up to 15.10.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.3%	94.1%	95.3%	92.5%	92.3%	94.2%

Top Tutors per Year Group — well done!

7BW, 8MA, 9SC, 10RO and 11DBR.

LRC News

W9BA 2020

Following on from the shortlisting for the Warwickshire Year 9 Book Award the final shortlist has now been announced. The books are; *Summerland* by Lucy Adlington, *That Asian Kid* by Savita Kalhan, *Bearmouth* by Liz Hyder and *Run, Rebel* by Manjeet Mann. The eleven students taking part were issued with their first books this week and have until the end of November to read the four books chosen.

Accelerated Reading

We have our first Word Millionaire of the year! Congratulations to Jake who is in 7NE – a certificate, badge and a book have been awarded to him.

Accelerated Reader is available to all students in year 7 and in English sets 2 to 5 in year 8, to quiz on the books they are reading.

To access Accelerated Reader quizzing at home:

Make sure are using Google Chrome and this link/URL to access the system: https://ukhosted26.renlearn.co.uk/1893467/ and then type in your username (your school network name) and the password - **abc**

Library accounts and our online catalogue

Library accounts and our online catalogue are now available to students in year 8 upwards. This is part of our *click and deliver* service that is being offered to those year groups that cannot come to the LRC in person. Access through any mainstream web browser with the URL: https://apps.libresoft.co.uk/9374240-hmlpg8jkqb72jyx911bd-aa and then log in with your personal library account number. Year 8 students have been given these during library lessons, other year groups can ask their English teachers to contact Mrs Hands for them. The password is - **Academy1**

Online LRC Google Classroom

For reading ideas, up-to-date news about the LRC, or links to please join the LRC Google Classroom.

dt6iw3u

LRC Twitter account

The LRC has its own twitter account, please follow us for all our latest news: @AA_LRC_Library
Or you can scan the QR codes below with your smart phone:

Mrs Hands

Your Library Account

AR Quizzing

LRC Online Google Classroom

LRC Twitter Account

Vacancy—School Business Manager

Contract type: Full Time
Contract term: Permanent
Closing date: 13 November 2020
Start date: As soon as possible, ideally no later than January 2021.

Alcester Academy is a small, oversubscribed school in South Warwickshire meeting the needs of 640 pupils in year 7-11. The school is a stand-alone academy providing education for children in the local priority area. Alcester Academy has enjoyed securing extremely positive pupil outcomes over the last four years. This has placed the school in the top five percent of schools nationally and in a most favourable position in comparison to selective schools.

This is a very exciting time for the academy. Under new leadership, the school is looking to secure future development opportunities and we are seeking an experienced, dynamic, professional Business Manager to help facilitate these opportunities.

The successful candidate must have strong financial and business management skills and equally impressive leadership ability as Business Manager, to lead a group of support staff and manage the financial, administration and IT functions supporting the academic and non-academic activities. The role will include duties as day-to-day Financial Controller, Fire Officer, Health and Safety Appointed Person and Data Protection Officer.

The successful candidate must be a Graduate or have equivalent education, with a professional qualification ideally financial and should have experience working in general, financial, property and IT/systems management and have undertaken advanced studies and/or have relevant professional qualifications in those areas. Excellent communication, administration and interpersonal skills together with flexibility and a commitment to working proactively and creatively as part of a team are essential qualities for the role.

The standards for school business managers are set out by the Institute of School Business Leaders https://isbl.org.uk The successful candidate will be measured against these standards.

This is a critical school appointment working alongside a passionate and committed senior leadership team. The salary package will be commensurate with the experience of the appointed candidate.

To apply for this role, forward a completed application form, an equal opportunities monitoring form and a covering letter outlining why you feel that your skills and experience would equip you to take on this role, by email to: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk

If you have any queries about the role or would like to discuss it in more detail, please contact Sarah Mellors – head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE ADVERT ON TES

Now is the time to visit open events at sixth forms and colleges

Post-16 Open Events 2020—The time is fast approaching for our year 11 students to start exploring all the post-16 options that are available to them.

Open events at the following are:

Stratford-upon-Avon College's school leaver virtual open event. With open events and campus tours not possible currently, they have collated a range of content to give you an experience as close to a real open event as possible. Visit : https://www.stratford.ac.uk/news-and-events/virtual-open-event/school-leaver-virtual-open-event/ and follow the steps. You can also book a chat if you have any questions.

WCG – A group of colleges. Royal Leamington Spa, Rugby, Moreton Morrell, Pershore, Warwick Trident, Evesham and Malvern Hills.
Virtual (online-only) Open Events in October & November. Book a place. Bookings open end of September.
College Tours – Open October & November. Book a place (first come, first served basis). Bookings open the end of September.
Visit https://wcg.ac.uk/openevents

HOW - visit howcollege.ac.uk /openevents

Hartpury – visit https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/courses/open-days/.
Virtual open days are: Saturday 26th September/Saturday 24th October/Saturday 28th November. Book your place.

AGS – Thursday 12th November. Visit: AGS Applications Process Entry 2021.

St Benedict's – Virtual open evening - Tuesday 17th November. More details to follow.

Stratford High – Virtual tour & online events these will run throughout November/December/January. Visit https://www.stratforduponavonschool.com/ for more details.

Chipping Campden – Virtual open evening – Thursday 5th November. See school website for more details.

Prince Henry's - TBC

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Hale who is based in the Career Zone or email: paulahale@alcesteracademy.org.uk

It's time to start being proactive and plan for your future

Covid-19 related pupil absence

A quick reference guide for parents and staff (September 2020)

What to do if…	Action Needed	Return to school when…
…my child has Covid-19 symptoms.	**- Do not come to school** **- Contact school to inform us** - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a test **- Inform the school immediately about the test result**	…the test comes back negative **or** a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.
…my child tests positive for Covid-19.	- **Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** **- Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days).** - Self-isolate the whole household.	…10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. *(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)* **AND** the child feels well.
…my child tests negative.	- **Contact school to inform us.** - Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day).	…the test comes back negative.
…my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	- **Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** - Ring on each day of illness.	…after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
…someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** - Self-isolate the whole household. - Household member to get a test. **- Inform school immediately about test result.**	…the test comes back negative.
…someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** **- Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).** - Self-isolate the whole household.	…the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
…NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** **- Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).**	…the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
…NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	**- The household member must self-isolate for 14 days.** - Child can continue to attend school.	…child can continue to attend school
… a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school.	**- Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days.** - Alcester Academy child(ren) can continue to attend.	…child can continue to attend school

… my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is NOT on the exempt list of countries.	**If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:** - minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled. - contact school to inform us you are back in the country and we will agree an earliest date for possible return to school. - Self-isolate the whole household. *Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) – for up to date travel information	…the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.
… my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that IS on the exempt list of countries.	**If returning from a destination where quarantine is NOT needed:** - Check the current Exempt countries and territories list to confirm the country you have travelled from or through is on the exempt list. - Ring school to inform us you have returned to the UK and agree a return date to school.	… you have informed the office of your return to the UK *(the office will ask you a few questions about your travel).*
…I have travelled from a country that requires us to quarantine (but my child didn't travel).	- As long as you do not have / have not had symptoms in the last 14 days, your child can continue to attend school. - The person who has travelled MUST NOT leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs *(please contact school if you need support getting your child to school).*	…child can continue to attend school
…we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** - Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.	…school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again. …you receive medical advice that your child may return to school.
…my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.	**- Child must not come to school.** - Support your child at home with remote education provided by your school. - Your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. **- Other siblings may continue to attend school.**	…school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.
… I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms	***If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.***	…the child has completed 14 days of isolation.