

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



Friday 17th July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

And so we come to the final bulletin of this academic year. I'm obviously writing this today with mixed emotion. As a community, we have been very lucky that COV-ID has avoided us in the same numbers as other geographical areas. I look forward to the summer period continuing to see a decrease in cases and the further easing of restrictions. If you are able to get away for a while, please stay safe. Otherwise, encourage students to follow the guidance more locally whilst also enjoying some well-deserved time off. I've tried for this bulletin to be a 'keep sake' edition for the students. Take that in good spirits; there will be some who wish to forget the last terrible few months but equally, in years to come, I hope that this edition helps the students to recall a very historic time with some



fondness regarding the things that we were able to achieve together; students, parents and the school.

In a quick round up of this week, we all enjoyed the Humanities Super Learning Day on Monday. Thank you to the staff involved for the creativity shown.

We all either flew around the world as travel reporters, or we immersed ourselves in the local history of the area. Just fabulous! We welcomed in a few additional children to the academy for a last key worker session, and further year 10 students for some GCSE option time. On Wednesday, the staff were back in force in the building just as it should be! It was so lovely to see us all back together again if only for one, very distanced day before the summer!



Word of the Week

vacances d'été (Fr) Sommerferien (Gm)

Meaning: summer holiday

Context:

Nous vous souhaitons de bonnes vacances d'été!

Wir wünschen Ihnen schöne Sommerferien!

We wish you a lovely summer holiday!



We hope that you enjoyed the Virtual Celebration Event that was published this week as well. Staff worked incredibly hard to get this organised for you. Congratulations to the winners this year! We are very proud of you. In fact, we are very proud of all of you; every single Academy student for showing such resilience and tenacity at this difficult time. Two of our school values put into practice for real.

Staff eased in to the summer with their classes on Thursday and Friday this week with the support of our Google Classroom. Code: **3p67ry6**. This contains numerous activities for students to choose from. These will also be available over the summer period (without the teacher feedback option).



In my round up of the year, I must offer my thanks of course to the support that we received as a school in the autumn term from Paul Wright. He continues to be invested in the school as an advisor and can't wait to visit us again as soon as it is safe to do so. Mr Wright and I have become very good friends over this last year. Twelve months ago I was reciting a leaving speech for the former headteacher wondering where the school would possibly be in the summer of 2020! How time can change everything! I wasn't the head...oh, then I was the headteacher when I realised that I had to continue the great work that we had all started together. Numerous staff accepted more responsibility in the interim that I shall be eternally grateful for! Thank you. We smashed the local league tables, we formed a new senior leadership team and we kept open the vast number of opportunities available to the students in my promise to you as parents to keep their well-being and progress a priority every step of the way. Our video

round up of the year - 'Best of...' - gives a flavour of quite how fabulous the students have been this year, and how dedicated the Alcester Academy staff team have been. I hope that you enjoyed this as part of the Celebration video this week.



I consider that we are all extremely lucky. COVID has helped to remind us not to take things for granted; education, family, friends and health. It has highlighted the exceptional work that the staff team do every day and, in partnership together, I'm excited about the future of the school. Despite how tired we all are, I have no doubt in my mind that we will be back in September with renewed energy and drive, ready for the challenges of the new academic year. I can't wait! You have had the best insight into the exceptional teaching and support offered to the students and without hesitation, I can guarantee that this will continue in to the future. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you as parents, the Governors and especially the staff sincerely for the last few months. We have all highlighted a few memorable thoughts and recent pieces of work for you further on in this bulletin.



Head Boy - Tom



Head Girl - Louisa

Deputy Head Boy -
SamDeputy Head Girl -
Sophia

Before I sign off for the academic year, many congratulations need to go to our recently appointed student leadership team.

Head Boy - Tom

Head Girl - Louisa

Deputy Head Boy - Sam

Deputy Head Girl - Sophia

We can't wait to work alongside you in the new term. These positions are well deserved after years of commitment shown to the school and hard work. Very well done! Thank you to all of the students who applied.

As it should be, Mrs Woodman and Miss Buckthorp have also contributed their thoughts on this year. We have literally stood together every single day since 20th March and I just could not have done this without their friendship, laughter in difficult times and sheer hard work. I wish to thank them both very much indeed.

Alcester Academy

Virtual Open Week 2020

Monday 14th September to Friday 18th September



The Staff and Governors of Alcester Academy warmly invite you to our:

Virtual Open Evening Presentation & Virtual Open Mornings

Alcester Academy is happy to virtually open its doors to prospective parents for Open Week 2020.

The Virtual Open Evening Presentation will be posted on the school website week beginning 14th September 2020.

Alcester Academy will host Virtual Open Mornings from Monday 14th September to Friday 18th September, at 9.30am and 11.30am, via TEAMS. Respectfully we ask families to book one meeting at their convenience during this week. Please call the main office on 01789 762285.

'There is a culture of high expectation in lessons. Pupils are encouraged to aim high and teachers do not accept mediocre answers.' *Ofsted 2019*



Winner
Maths teacher
or team of the year

View our 360° tour at: <http://tours.lourdesit.org.uk/Alcester/>

Alcester Academy, Gerard Road, Alcester, B49 6QQ * Tel: 01789 762285 * Email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk * Website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk

I'm off to Cornwall very soon; some sea views and sunsets hopefully! If you need us, we are still here for you though. My e mail address is open to you if required for emergencies over the summer: head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Miss Buckthorp has also issued her details if required on safeguarding grounds later on in the bulletin.



Return dates are:

Thursday 3rd September 2020—
year 7 and 11 return

Friday 4th September 2020—
years 8, 9 and 10 return (no year 7 and 11)

All students return on **Monday 7th September.**

I will write to you towards the end of August with the latest updates on re-opening.

I want you all to know that in very extreme circumstances, it has been an absolute privilege working together as a team; students, parents, Governors and staff. I wish you all a well deserved break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors, Mr Mike Dean

On behalf of the Governors I must pay tribute to a most astonishing summer term for Alcester Academy, given the unusual and unprecedented circumstances within which it was necessary to continue the life and work of the school. The Academy has continued to provide education opportunities for every student, and whilst not all have accepted this chance, the vast majority have benefitted. This has not been achieved without an immense planning and logistical challenge which was accepted by staff headed up by the extraordinary professional leadership of Headteacher, Mrs Sarah Mellors and the senior team, Mrs Wendy Woodman and Miss Karen Buckthorp. Against a background of constantly changing, and at times unclear guidance they have steered a route through to deliver a package of education which is unprecedented in simi-



lar schools in the area. All staff have followed the leadership of the SLT in order to fulfil the plans laid down by Mrs Mellors and the senior team.

As Governors we must recognise the behaviour and application of our students who have displayed a dedicated wish to benefit from the opportunities laid before them. We are sure this will be amply displayed in future exam outcomes.

Please all have a calm and safe summer break to return in September to yet another new set of challenges which we are confident you will all accept and deliver with your usual enthusiasm and application.

Your Governors could not have more pride than we do in what you have all achieved and it makes us feel even more privileged to be associated with Alcester Academy.

A message from Mrs Woodman

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my admiration and thanks to students, parents and all school personnel for the amazing efforts over the past few months.

When I joined the school at the beginning of January, like everyone else, I had no idea of how the remainder of the academic year would play out! We knew that sticking to a routine and remaining as close to the school day as we could was crucial in helping students to not be disadvantaged, and to provide structure and support to parents in their new roles as teachers and parents. As a parent of grown up children, I have a total respect and empathy in what a difficult and exhausting job this potentially was. However, in the short time that I have been at Alcester Academy I have come to appreciate a few things.

Alcester Academy has a dedicated and incredibly conscientious team of support and teaching staff, but what makes their job easier is some of the most receptive and motivated students I have



ever had the pleasure of working with. This is in no small way down to the excellent parental involvement that exists in our community. Our weekly communication home through praise and concern emails was intended to maintain good levels of communication and give parents a clear understanding of where their children were coping and the areas that they were finding difficult.

On a regular basis I am blown away by the engagement and the quality of work submitted through lessons and super learning days, and I am confident that whatever transpires over the next few months, we are in a very good place, and our students will have the tools and the resilience to excel in their studies. I look forward to meeting in person many of the parents that I have communicated with during this period and finally wish you all a well deserved and restful summer break.

Mrs Woodman
Deputy Headteacher

Farewells

Today we say farewell to Mr Groom. Mr Groom is leaving us to take up a post at Shipston High School after twelve years at Alcester Academy starting with his own teacher training here as a GTP. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Groom for his years of service and to wish him the very best of luck from us all.

We also wish Mr Hyett the best of luck as he takes up a maths promotion at Tudor Grange School in Solihull. I know that we will hear about Mr Hyett running his own school one day and we wish him every future success. Thank you for all you have done for us! *Mrs Mellors*



SUMMER SAFEGUARDING CONTACT

If you have any worries or concerns over the summer holidays
please do not hesitate to contact

Miss K Buckthorp—Designated Safeguarding Lead

karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

**Safeguarding
and promoting the
welfare of children
is everyone's
responsibility**



**Child abuse happens
in Warwickshire**



NOTICE THINGS!

If you are worried about a child speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead
as soon as possible or speak to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

01926 414144

**This school is committed
to safeguarding and
promoting the welfare of
children and young people
and expects all staff,
volunteers and parents
to share this commitment**



HM Government

NHS

**DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION
CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE**

0800 046 8687

8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

Celebration Event 2020

This week we held our annual Celebration Event which went virtual for the first time where we created an Alcester Academy movie! The event saw over 200 students receive awards based on their achievements over the last academic year. Awards were given out for subject attainment, effort, progress, distance learning achievements, tutor time and students of the year. There were brilliant performances from the Alcester Allstars who sang and danced (all socially distanced). We also premiered films of Best of AA Part 1 which showed all the activities and trips / events up until lockdown and then the Best of AA Part 2 showcased all the amazing activities and work done during lockdown.

Well done to all the award winners! Miss Buckthorp

Student of the Year Award Winners



Year 7—Jess



Year 8—Emmeline



Year 9—Abi



Year 10—Tom

Effort Award Winners

Hannah	Year 7
Chris	Year 7
Thalia	Year 8
Romano	Year 8
Alice	Year 9
Tiago	Year 9
Abbie	Year 10
Ryan	Year 10

Best Progress Winners

Carys	Year 7
Oliver	Year 7
Cara	Year 8
Ashley	Year 8
Harvey	Year 9
Hannah	Year 9
Max	Year 10
Alexandra	Year 10

Star Winners

Riley	Year 7
Alfie	Year 8
Holly	Year 9
Ollie	Year 10



Super Learning Day—RE/Geography

Monday 13th July

Please see attached the best work from the RE/Geography Super Learning Day from this week.

The winners of the day were:

Session 1: Norway

1st: Leila

2nd: Oscar

Session 2: Kenya

1st: Hannah

2nd: Cobey

Session 3: Japan

1st: Bea

2nd: Kyra

Session 4: Brazil

1st: Jacob

2nd: Mia

Winner over the whole day for all sessions

Callum



Session 1: Norway



The Award for the most informative and stylish Norwegian National Day:

1st Place: Layla



The Award for the most informative and stylish Norwegian National Day:

Runner-up: Oscar

Session 2: Kenya



The Kenya Award for the most informative sheet:

1st Place: Hannah

Session 3: Japan



The Award for the most creative
Japanese Blossom Artwork

1st Place: Bea

Visiting Natives: Maasai



The Kenya Award for the most
informative sheet:

Runner-up: Cobey

The Award for the most creative Japanese Blossom Artwork

Runner-up: Kyra

Session 4: Brazil



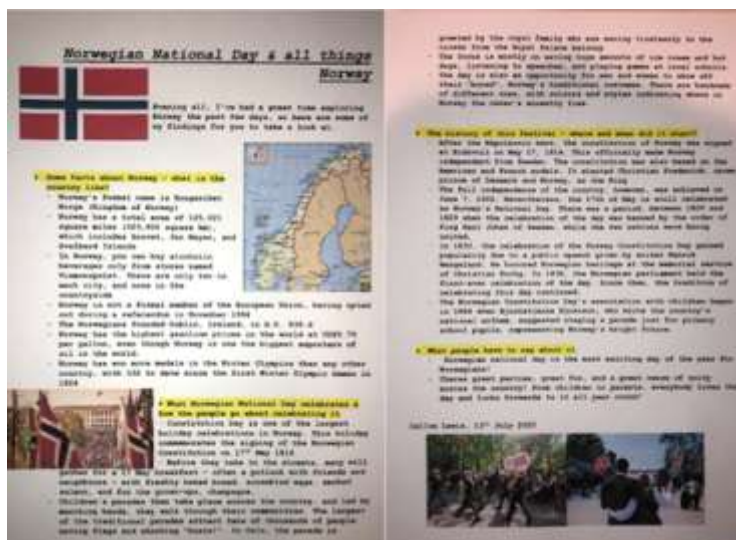
The Award for the most informative sheet:

1st Place: Jacob



A write up from the journalist Hannah

Winner



Rio Interview

What is the Rio Carnival? Why does it happen?

The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, is a festival held every year before Lent and is one of the biggest carnivals in the world, over two million people per day take to the streets to celebrate. The first Carnival festival in Rio occurred in 1723 and has begun every year on the Friday before Lent and ends on Ash Wednesday. As the parade takes place in the Sambadrome, many carnival partiers are at other locations. Street festivals are very common during carnival season, music and dancing are very common activities that take place there. Anyone is allowed to participate in the street festivals, so many tourists come to join in and see different culture.

Whereabouts in Rio is it held?

The main Carnival parades take place in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo - these are celebrated near to their Sambódromas, close to their city centre. (In the Rio Sambódromo.) The main event happens here but there are lots of small street parties that take place near people's homes too.

Who takes part and who goes?

The Carnival, is a Christian festival celebrated by Christians all around the world. Although the festival is Christian based, this Rio festival incorporates all of Brazil's cultures and traditions. Also many other people not just Christians celebrate this festival as it is part of Brazil's Culture.

Does everyone take part or is it just for the rich?

As this festival is Christian, it includes all people, one thing that Christians are taught in their faith is to be welcoming and inclusive. Also because of this not all Christians are rich so therefore it can't just be for rich people because, it has to include everyone who follows that religion.

What is the significance/ importance of the costumes?

The costumes are one of the key elements in the parades, they are designed to reflect and show the theme of their school and they are also to catch the eye of the audience. Different samba schools within Rio will show off their routines during the carnival.

Why is the carnival important to its people and to Rio?

The Carnival is celebrated in Brazil every year, 46 days before the Easter festival and the origins of the festival are believed to be in the tradition of Roman Catholics when they stopped eating meat and alcohol on certain days of the week as a method to drive away bad things from their life. This is important because it is part of their culture and is also a big part of their religion as the main faith in Rio is Christian.

The Award for the most informative sheet: Runner-up: Mia



The Award for outstanding contribution across all destinations: Callum

Super Learning Day—English

Shakespeare across the ages



Very often pupils question the English teachers as to why we still study Shakespeare and whether he is relevant today. The English department SLD on Wednesday 8th July allowed pupils to understand more fully, the impact Shakespeare and his ideas have on their own view and experiences of contemporary society. For KS4 students, this meant linking plays to topical matters such as Othello, racism and the Black Lives Matter movement to allow students to think about what has or has not changed over the intervening centuries. Further studies of women in Shakespeare's plays and gang culture in Romeo and Juliet allowed students to make clear and topical links between Shakespeare's presentation of his society and the modern society our pupils live within. The work produced during these sessions demonstrated mature and insightful work that really allowed the students to engage in current affairs and understand how relevant Shakespeare remains today.

KS3 students also had the opportunity of actively involving themselves in Shakespeare's influence throughout the ages, taking part in a reimagining of the crime scene in Macbeth, utilising modern day forensics to conclude their own crime report. In another session, some magnificent specimens of food using recipes from the Elizabethan era were produced, as were some excellent examples of set productions from The Tempest. A thoroughly interesting and insightful day, represented by a small selection of work produced by students.

Mrs Hoskin



A selection of KS3 work. Well done everyone!



Super Learning Day—History

Local History

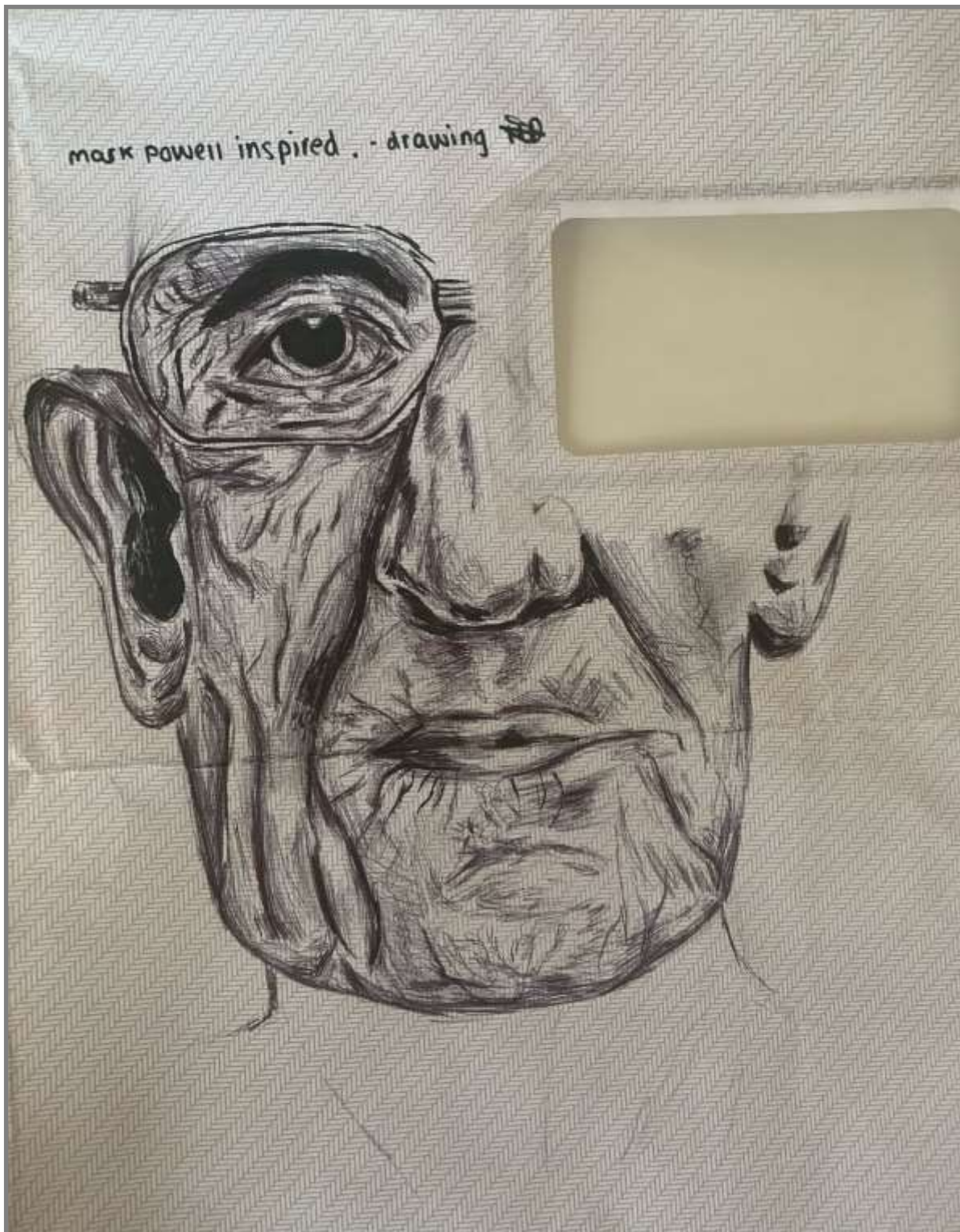
Our SLD was pure local history, and although we were hesitant that students would possibly see it as 'boring' we were very much mistaken! The students looked at local girl Mary Allen's unfortunate apprenticeship and then looked at what that told us as historians about the wider 18th century. The students then also looked at areas local to them, before finally exploring their own families and the connections they could find. Students found out information from their Great Grandparents

singing to the troops during WWII to some even managing to go back hundreds of years and finding out fascinating facts! A lot of students are carrying on their research over the Summer period, and this is the first step into introducing more local history into our curriculum!

Mr Rossiter and Miss Bishop



Artwork of the Week



Artwork of the Week is by Hannah in year 9.
Hannah's piece is an incredible response to the artist Mark Powell.

IN BRIEF

Catering services from September

Thank you for your queries about the return for students in September.

As a reminder, we are working a restricted food choice initially. This will grow as the students get used to the new break and lunchtime routines.

We will work with **CASH ONLY** to begin with.

A 'meal deal' bag will be £2.35 to include sandwich, drink, sweet treat/fruit.



FIS Newsletter

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies>

Please ensure that you sign up for the FIS newsletter over the summer holidays for updates on transport and summer activities.



Thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of professionals for their support during this academic year. This includes those at SEND Supported and Educational Psychology, as well as Claire Gibb and Lifespace amongst other providers. We wish you a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new term.

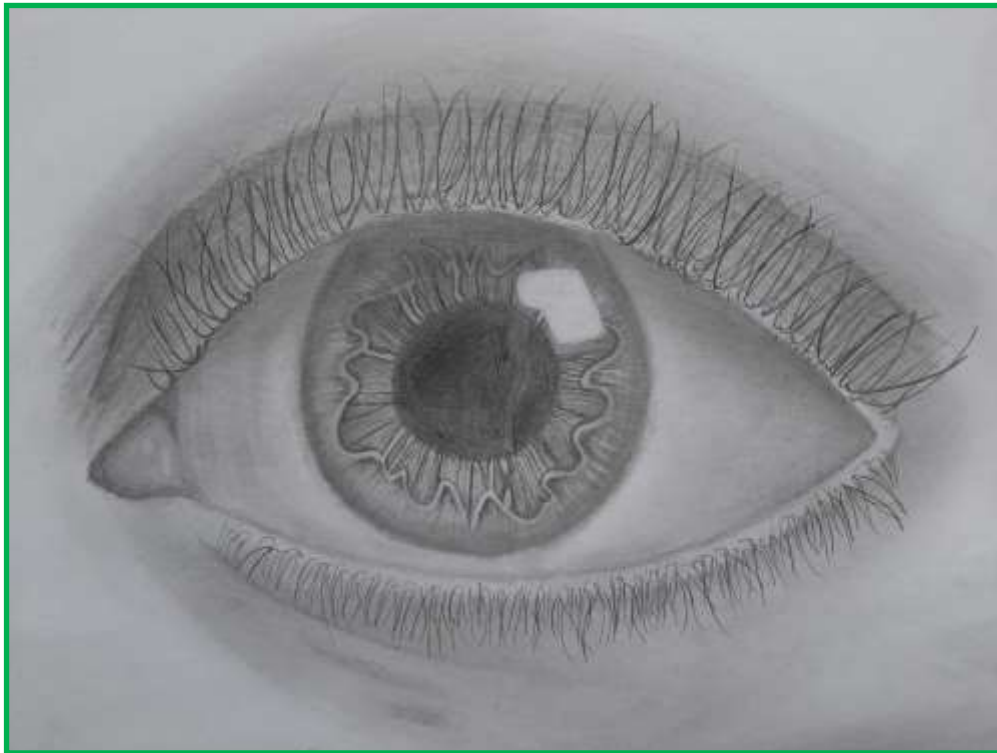
<https://sendsupported.com/>

Mrs Mellors



A poster for 'Holiday Lunch Club' with a yellow and orange gradient background. At the top right is the Warwickshire County Council crest. The text reads: 'Holiday Lunch Club', 'FREE lunches for kids!!!', and 'First Come First Served! Don't miss out!'. Below the text are icons of a hot dog and an ice cream cone. At the bottom, it says '@The Depot - Eric Payne Community Centre', '12:30 - 2:00 PM - Wednesdays and Fridays', 'Starting 22nd July', and '@AlcesterTownCouncil' with an Instagram icon.

Art Stars of the Week



Elia, in year 9, has been exploring eyes. She has captured the glossy reflections of the eyeball using just pencil and varied tone.



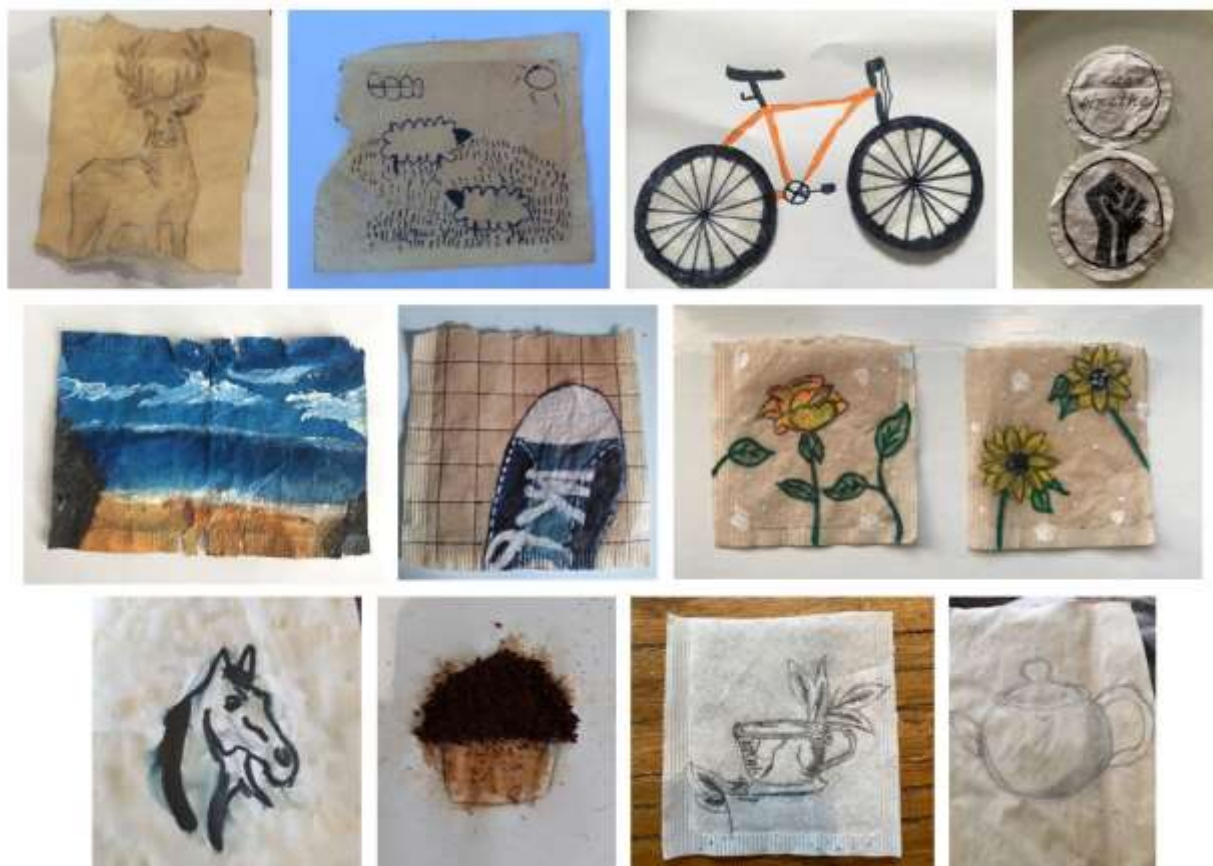
A fabulous line drawing by Mia. Mia has continued to explore portraiture through outstanding use of line and tone.



Art Stars of the Week

Our KS3 students have produced some fabulous artwork this week. Students were asked to create a research page on Ruby Silvius - Tea Bag Art followed by creating a piece of artwork using an old teabag. The students excelled themselves recording an event that had happened over a weekend. such as a bike ride and going on a countryside walk.

Create a piece of artwork using an old teabag



Students were also asked to watch a video and gather resources ready to start making a structure. The students produced some excellent 3D structures adding detail using biro, pencil and paint.

Cardboard Structures Based On Architecture





LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

My best lockdown moments - Miss Buckthorp

It would have to be spending 100 days with our Key Worker Group 1, getting to know them all and having the time to talk to them and find out about their likes, dislikes and their lives.

The group was in school for all different reasons with students from years 7 to 10. None of them really knew each other but there were three sets of brothers within the group which helped. Very quickly it was so heart-warming to see how they bonded together, created new friendships and accepted new students as they joined. They have had their ups and downs with each other at times, but they always have been so open & accepted each other's differences and personalities and learnt a lot about tolerance, trust and friendship. We have watched them grow in confidence and independence.

They worked hard on their distance learning, but they also set to work, painting benches, weeding, planting and painting around the site. The field became a bike track which they built as a team and they were lucky for many weeks to be the only students on site enjoying the best game of hide & seek ever apparently! They even went on a visit to the secret cave under the school. Despite no football on the TV during lockdown we did often feel like we were at a football match in LSU as they discovered the school PS4 & many FIFA 19 matches took place. Mrs Bennett's Dog Bingo was also a big hit ... lots of excitement to win Lynx deodorant & chocolate as prizes!

So, to Aaron, Ryan, Mason, Ed, David, Luke, Ashley, Kyle, Henry, Jake, Ollie and Flo thank you for your brilliant company over the past 17 weeks.





LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

My Lockdown Teaching & Learning Highlights by Mr Yarrington

My highlights have been on-going. I have been overwhelmed by the response of so many students to the set projects in totally unnatural conditions for a practical subject. So many of our young people have been resourceful, brave and resilient. Students have created pieces on reclaimed surfaces, bought new materials and taken risks with new ways of working; often outside their comfort zone.

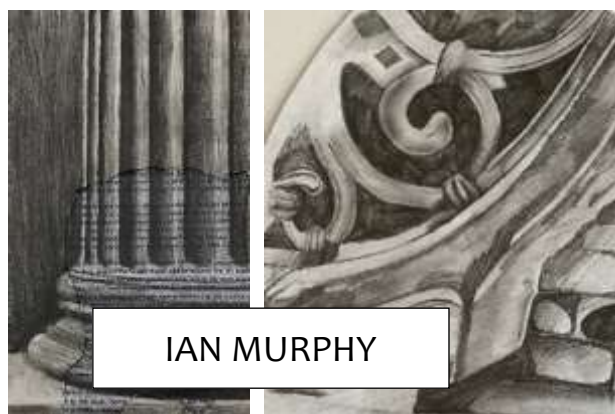
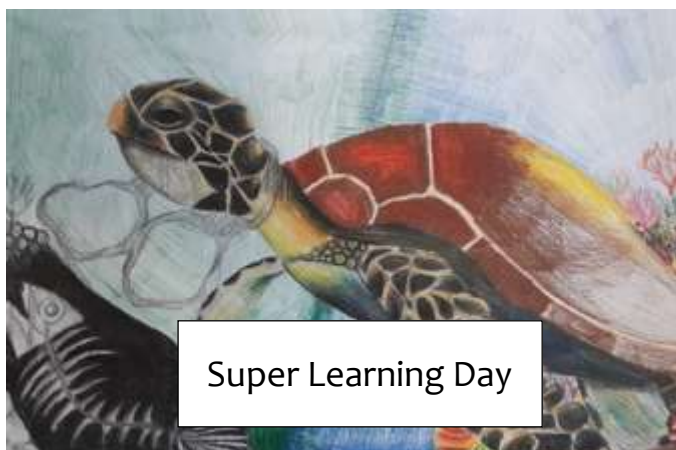
Thank you to all those who have engaged so well and to all the parents who have had to put up with mess and a house taken over with art materials.

Here are SOME of the many truly outstanding pieces created during distance learning.



Mark Powell





LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Mrs Mellors



Without fail, my favourite lockdown moment was all of the Super Learning Days. We all just saw different sides of the children coming out and the participation was exceptional.

I enjoyed 'popping in' to live lessons and tutor times as a surprise. The students' reactions were superb.

I've relished seeing the students that we've had in school each day and doing different things with them.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the virtual practical work; cooking, playing instruments, art work...and more. All just amazing.

Oh, my birthday! Thanks everyone!

This week, I've enjoyed seeing all of the staff back in school so much, just without students yet. It won't be long though!

Miss Elliott



Holding the first live lesson and then other teachers having a go. Having feedback from parents and students about this always brightens your day.

I have to mention the first live lesson that Kobi joined wearing his coat, gloves and face mask! I did remind him that he couldn't catch Covid through a live lesson! It made me laugh so much.

Mr Hollis

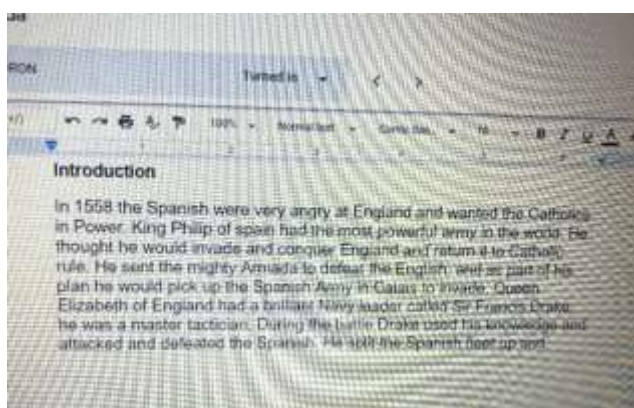


Not watching Boris on his late announcement about being out of hospital, because I was still working.

Being watched by the dog awaiting her walk, whilst working late!



Mr Rossiter



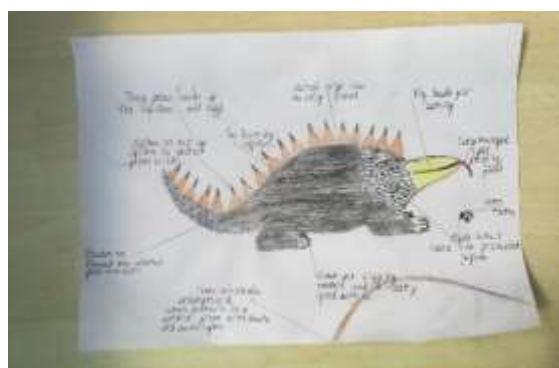
A lockdown highlight has been the incredible work produced by the pupils. From the likes of Riley and Euan (year 7), who regularly choose to spend extra time on tasks. There has been Incredible detailed work from Bella and Georgia (year 8)

and excellent distance learning from Jude and Bea in year 9. And finally superb work from Matt, Tom and Ethan in year 10.

The tutorials with year 10 pupils that really showed how much they appreciated the work we have done for them, but also how they missed seeing us face to face.

The final highlight is hearing (not seeing as they won't put the camera on!) from my tutor group and finding out what they have been up to!

Mrs Stedman



Work highlights - I've had so many that made me say "wow" but I've picked out a few treasures. The thing that's impressed the most is how students improve their work and re-submit it without being asked to do so. They want to do well!

Jacob's video of himself being interviewed at the Rio carnival today for SLD was also a highlight.

Miss Bishop



LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS



with my ks4 students on Google Meets. It was nice to see them still being able to speak so confidently in the target language.

Miss Burgess



Tutor Google Meet with all the pets appearing.

Miss Taylor

Lockdown highlights - 8Y1 recently, all their lessons have been live and more recently the level of discussion and debate they have been having has been nothing short of fantastic.

Some relationships with certain students I think have actually improved in lockdown, having more one on one conversations, I think has actually improved and enhanced some which moving back into school will be good.

Finally, the never-ending enthusiasm of 7Y2 on live lessons, they are just brilliant, enthusiastic even at the end of a Thursday!

Miss Heitmuller



My lockdown highlight is when I was able to practise the German and French conversations



My lockdown highlight has been receiving some amazing models made by students particularly one that was a floating house was made out of Lego. You could see all the inside rooms, there was even solar panels and a big barrel of water that has a pipe to go to the nearest country for water and the water was even made realistic with water colour paints.

Miss Cooper



Miss Cooper has entered some amazing work from her year 7/8 science groups. Maddie, Wiil, Matt and Mary. Well done everyone:



Miss Tandy



My lockdown highlight was definitely the Science SLD - seeing the pupils create such innovative board games and constructing conveyor belts from scratch was just fantastic (Ollie). Also I loved watching pupils make sedimentary rock out of chocolate (Chloe).

I'm proud of Alfie's (year 8) creative writing task about the formation of sedimentary rock. He got the description and key processes of the formation spot on as well as making it creative and descriptive - it made me smile!



LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

You are a piece of sediment (rock):

Write a creative piece about your journey from being part of a cliff to becoming part of a sedimentary rock

Tumbling down from land, I started to chip myself away, I rolled crashing down. The violent, wiping wind pushed me down. PLUSHH! I hit the sea with a crash, I started sinking no way out. I couldn't move. I slowly fell when I hit the sand. It was like a bed for me, but then it started caving in on me slowly I was submerged till I hit something.... it was sedimentary.... Over time I became stiff and hard and I couldn't do anything. I was stuck in the sedimentary. Even more time passed and I started to sink more, and more before I became part of a rock. I was a huge rock now... but, that was that... Game Over! For me.

Miss Wincup



My favourite lockdown memory has to be seeing how much effort and enthusiasm the students

put into the DT and Art Super Learning Day. It was nice to see students who hadn't opted for DT at key stage 4 taking part in the Edgar Artis fashion task. I was amazed at how creative students got in the comfort of their own homes, despite not necessarily having access to everything they would in a classroom. The standard of work was amazing!

It has also been nice hosting live lessons, being able to see and speak to students.

Mr Powell



Best lockdown bits for me so far are, obviously, Virtual Sports Day but also watching Mrs. Powell struggling to do a sit up for our circuit video with the neighbours on both sides in hysterics.

Miss Watson

My lockdown moment would be a year 8 'live' lesson I did where we had some really excellent discussions about stereotyping and stigmas in our society - their ideas were incredibly mature. They then produced some fantastic work on the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mrs Scott

I asked my year 9 Media group, who have been studying Fortnite for their Video Games component, to create their own lockdown 'skin' to represent these strange times - either a funny version of the person they have become or a skin to show current social issues.

I thought Isabelle and Oscar's were particularly fantastic!

Pictured below: work from Oscar, Milly and Isabelle.

Mrs Woodman

I loved seeing my year 9s enthusiastically gather costume items for their live reading of the play An Inspector Calls, although I'm not sure where the fireman helmet, the floppy ears and the T Rex suit fitted in!



Student Lockdown Highlights

Year 7s

Jessie

My favourite lock down memory was waking up at 4 am and seeing the sunrise. I am most looking forward to seeing my friends and the teachers when we return in September.

Kyra

My favourite lock down memory was the art SLD. I'm most looking forward to seeing friends and getting taught lessons in a classroom.

Jess

My favourite lockdown moment was when we did the performing arts super learning

day on Monday. When we go back to school, i am most looking forward to seeing my friends, teachers and being taught in a classroom.

And many others....

I really enjoyed the Maths and IT SLD day, as there were some really interesting and fun games based on finance.

I have really enjoyed the google meets with teachers, as it has allowed me to ask questions and get help from them like I would back at school.

Year 8s

Sports SLD was good because we got to be active instead of sitting down all day - Molly and George

I enjoyed assembly because we got to have some updates and it was nice to see Mrs Mellors - Kaitlyn

I liked Art SLD because I got to spend longer on my piece - Izzy

I liked Art SLD because I made a poster for plastics which was really cool - Ash

I like the lessons on Meet with Miss Bishop for History - Maisie

Maths SLD was my favourite because we got to do lots of planning with money and it was interesting - Emily

My lockdown birthday! - Mary

English lessons on Meet because we can discuss things together - Ollie

And they are looking forward to:

- Seeing friends again
- Getting back to a school environment
- Not being stuck at home
- Getting back to normality
- Starting options
- Being able to do things outside of the house again.

Seeing everyone again and meeting up with my friends everyday.

I am really looking forward to lessons again and being able to get help from my teachers face to face.

I am looking forward to the canteen food, particularly the chocolate muffins.

I am looking forward to getting back into the school routine.

During lockdown I have experienced several good moments regarding school.

My favourite subject during lockdown has got to be History, I particularly enjoy the live meets with Miss Bishop and I also really like discussing all of the topics, it seems to be getting more interesting as the lessons go by.

It was extremely rewarding and motivational to receive a number of stars every Friday, this was definitely something to look forward to!

I am looking forward to coming back to school soon. By Cameron



PARENT LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Being with Kurt every day, good and bad! I can keep my eye on him and be there for him every second! *Ms Mumford*



It is English super learning day. One of my meetings has just finished. Another is starting in 20 minutes. My client needs some information before it. Martha comes in to the study - 'I need to make an island cake from The Tempest'. Cue dashing into the kitchen and sorting ingredients out in a split second! And a trip to Waitrose later in the day so Martha could decorate it. The cake was delicious by the way! *Mrs Blann*



I have to say one of my favourite things I have from lockdown is spending the extra time with Mia and learning about the things she is enjoying at school. I never realised her favourite subject was history. I feel I have learnt so much about both her and the staff at the academy too.

When I asked Mia what hers were she replied the family game nights and learning to cook!

Mrs Parker

This isn't so much a memory, but it is an amazing photograph Struan took of a sunrise. We had been watching the summer solstice sunrise, which was not at all memorable, but two days or so later Struan took this picture of the far more impressive sunrise from his bedroom window. I think it sums up lockdown for me because:

1. He took up photography during these weeks and seems he's quite good at it and
2. it gives me a sense that everything will be ok and the world recovers.

I don't know how to write this as a memory, I'd just say something like ... during our lockdown we found our whole family's sleeping patterns were significantly altered which could be exhausting but the silver lining to this was we were sometimes able to witness amazing sunrises. *Mrs Carew Cox*



Are you worried about a child, young person or their family?

Here are some useful numbers and links for services that can provide support.

Please be advised that the 24/7 Crisis Number for children and young people has changed. This information replaces previously circulated details.

For urgent calls for children and young people who are experiencing a mental health crisis contact the Rise Crisis team between 8am-8pm on 02476 641799 or call 0300 200 0011 outside of these hours.

During the COVID response, this service is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, with an advice-only service outside the core hours of 8am-8pm.

EARLY HELP

All children, young people and families in Warwickshire are entitled to receive Early Help. This means offering information, advice, guidance, and support to families as soon as a concern emerges, or seems likely to emerge.

For more information about Early Help in Warwickshire including documentation and contact details please visit the following web pages:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/early-help-warwickshire/>

SPECIALIST TEACHING SERVICE

STS builds capacity in your school, to help you meet the needs of your vulnerable pupils and gives you a completely tailored service that supports you to raise standards for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). We also offer SENCo Network Meetings, Twilight Training, Specialist Clinics, Parent workshops and a range of training courses.

<https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/Wes/services/5523>

For more information please contact:

North/East Area Manager: Paul Fellows 01926 413777
paulfellows@warwickshire.gov.uk

Centre/South Area Manager: Tammy Mason
01926 476600, tammymason@warwickshire.gov.uk

FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

We provide information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including family relationships, finance, housing, parenting support, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), childcare and health and wellbeing.

Phone: 01926 742274

Email: fts@warwickshire.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fts>

FAMILY SUPPORT LINE

Family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, support and offer advice and guidance to families and professionals about all aspects of parenting and family life.

To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 412412, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm.

ICT DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Our experienced team of advisers provide strategic advice, support and a range of continuing professional development opportunities which focus on the development and safe use of ICT. We can support pupils, teachers and parents with the Computing Curriculum, Online Safety, Home and Blended Learning solutions.

For more information, please contact our Service Desk at:

ictservicesdesk@warwickshire.gov.uk, via telephone on 01926 738484 or visit our website:

ICTDS Home Learning Site - <https://sites.google.com/welearn365.com/wl365hl/home>

WCC Blended Learning Site - <https://sites.google.com/welearn365.com/wccblendedlearning/home>



WARWICKSHIRE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE (EPS)

The EPS continues to offer support to schools through their link EP. This includes work with families, children and young people; this support is usually agreed through the school SENCo or other members of the leadership team.

In the event of 'critical incidents' including sudden or unexpected deaths members of the school leadership team can contact the EPS to seek advice and support - please ring 01926 742921 and an EP will get back to you as soon as possible and where possible on the same day.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Is the child a Child Looked After (CLA) or Child Previously Looked After (CPLA)? The Virtual School can offer support and advice to schools, nurseries and colleges.

Designated Teacher training and network meetings are running via Teams in autumn 2020.

Contact - 01926 742018
virtualschool@warwickshire.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

If you would like to speak to us about a child or young person you would like to refer to Rise, please contact the Rise Navigation Hub on 0300 200 2021. We can arrange for you to have a consultation with a mental health clinician within the Navigation Hub. Please note you are also able to get in touch with the Primary Mental Health Team, who can provide wider training for professionals around identifying and supporting mental health needs in children and young people.

You can get in touch with them either through the Navigation Hub or directly to the Primary Mental Health Team on 07917 504682 and risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk

SCHOOL HEALTH & WELLBEING SERVICE

To speak to a school nurse, please contact the School Health & Wellbeing Service:

Phone: 03300 245 204

Email: warwickshireschoolhealth@compass-uk.org

Website: <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/warwickshire-school-health-wellbeing-service/>

Parents/carers can call the service on 03300 245 204 or text Parentline on 07520 619 376. Young people aged 11-19 can text ChatHealth on 07507 331 525.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

To help you cope during this period, the Wellbeing for Warwickshire Hubs will be offering telephone support to anyone who feels they are in need of contact.

To talk to a member of staff or book an appointment, call the Hubs Team on 024 7771 2288. Or you can email wbw@cwmind.org.uk for more information.

IAPT - IAPT services are available for people experiencing mild to severe anxiety and depression. They can provide advice, information and therapy. Please note this service involves an initial assessment which then determines the support you will be offered.

Call 02476 671099 to self-refer.

For further information on mental health support and services available, please go to <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth>





Summer READING



Alcester Academy

If you are wondering what to read over the summer, here are some great ideas that I got from <https://www.waterstones.com/> website. Don't forget you may be able to borrow some of these as eBooks for free from <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries> or keep it local and buy from independent shops using <https://www.hive.co.uk/>



Wonderscape

Jennifer Bell



One True King

Soman Chainani



The Boy At the Back of the Class

Onjali Q. Rauf



Wrecking Ball

Jeff Kinney



The Strangeworlds Travel Agency

L.D. Lapinski



Seasons of War

Derek Landy



The Vanishing Trick

Jenni Spangler



A Kind of Spark

Elle McNicoll



When the Mountains Roared

Jess Butterworth



Ghost Boys

Jewell Parker Rhodes



The Hate U Give

Angie Thomas



The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

Suzanne Collins



"I Will Not Be Erased": Our stories

gal-dem



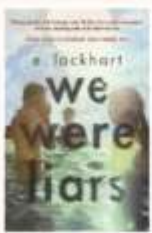
Good Girl, Bad Blood - The Sunday

Holly Jackson



One Of Us Is Lying

Karen McManus



We Were Liars

E. Lockhart



Children of Blood and Bone

Tomi Adeyemi



Dear Martin

Nic Stone



The Black Flamingo

Dean Atta



A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

Holly Jackson



Students - Supporting your well-being

If you need support or advice - Please contact us:

Isusupport@alcesteracademy.

We hope you find the following resources helpful

ADVICE & GUIDANCE - ANXIETY, COPING WITH STRESS

Staying calm: This daily update is brilliant for updates on brain info and guidance for staying calm and thinking clearly:

<https://youtu.be/w4NwsyXRbNw>



Mental health & wellbeing at home:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>

The Child Mind Institute: Amazing resource for helping children and teens with everything. Great for parents.

<https://childmind.orgWeb>

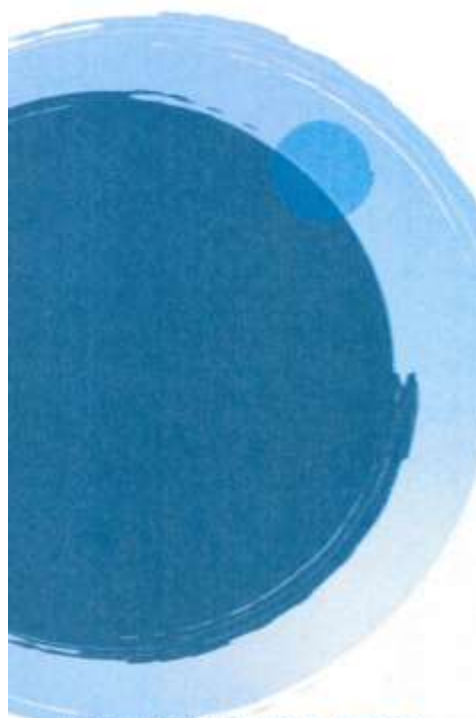
The Frank Bruno Foundation: Aims to provide well-being programmes for adults and young people facing or recovering from mental ill- heath. Tyson Fury is the charity's ambassador.

<https://www.thefrankbrunofoundation.co.uk>

MIND - Resources for well-being

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

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



ONLINE COUNSELLING / ADVICE - ALL TOPICS

Feagans Online counselling for teenagers (Year 7 upwards)

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

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

See @THINKNINJA

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

Text SHOUT to 8528

<https://www.giveusashout.org>

Kooth – Free confidential support for young people

www.kooth.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Young Carers - 02476 217740
- Samaritans Helpline 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org
- Childline - 0800 1111

RELAXATION:



Why not try something different that you've never done before

These apps & websites offer audio relaxation:

Headspace: This is really a great recommended resource that we have used with lots of young people at the academy, you can download the App or go on the website

<https://www.headspace.com>

Staying calm: This daily update is brilliant for updates on brain info and guidance for staying calm and thinking clearly: <https://youtu.be/w4NwsyXRbNw>

Breeth: Meditation

Teen Breathe (magazine)

Teen talk

House Scores

Here are the overall house scores for our lockdown competitions including the virtual sports day and the google classroom challenges, Thank you to everybody who took part and huge congratulations to Greville who claim the trophy this year. Enjoy your summer break and we'll see you in September for some more closely fought competition!

Mr Powell

ALCESTER ACADEMY LOCKDOWN HOUSE SCORES – FINAL		
HOUSE	TOTAL	POSITION
BILLESLEY	517	3rd
GREVILLE	568	1st
OVERSLEY	467	4th
RAGLEY	529	2nd



Mrs Mellors Lockdown Favourites



Hospitality and Catering work by year 9



Mrs Mellors Lockdown Favourites

A poem written by one of my year 7s is definitely the definition of lockdown:

**With school nowhere in sight
We should be glad it's been so bright**

**Although lives have been lost
And tears have been shared
We just had to realise
That everybody's scared.**

**Then Boris in number 10
Put us into lockdown
But still soldiers lost men
And hospitals lose nurses
So we relied on the government's purses.**

**Then we started clapping
With scientists still mapping
Businesses and sport teams go bust
So stopping this disease is a must.**

**Captain Tom doing his laps
Villages still doing claps
To the ones putting their lives at risk**

**We drew rainbows on the floor
Staying at home was now the law
After a while it started to ease
This was a chance we had to cease.**

**But still no vaccine
We will ask our friends where have you been**

**These have been tough times
But there is always light at the end of the tunnel
However far away it may be
However old we may be
In my eyes hope is the key.**

Written by Henry