

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you have had a positive and productive week. In news this week, I'm pleased to report much more of a 'back to business' approach here at the academy. Things are settling down nicely with new students beginning to find their way around the building better and showing a greater degree of confidence in the routines being established in their new school. A number of wet breaks (sadly), helped us to refine these routines now that the school is much fuller again. And, as I said last week, we have now made very slight adjustments in order to ensure that the students are all kept safe and dry at break times whilst also getting time to be fed, if required! Thank you to our older students for modelling exemplary behaviour and conduct. It makes me feel extremely proud indeed.

Several areas of the school are known to be very busy at specific times during the working week. We are encouraging the students to travel down corridors on the left-hand side, and we have provided new routes across areas of the school to aid the student traffic more safely. Once bags are removed from the scenario as student lockers are provided, this will help even further. I am very aware that carrying rucksacks and PE kit on certain days is extremely onerous.

Year 7 had their first experience of a Super Learning Day this week as we welcomed



Loudmouth to perform *My Mate Fancies You*. Year 8s also enjoyed this along side them. And rehearsals for the production of *Beauty and the Beast* began in earnest. It is our biggest cast ever! I'm so excited to see this later on in term.

Our new club offer began this week with over 300 children already getting involved. Wow! Activities ranged from chess and ornithology, to reading and culture club. Please follow our new twitter account @ClubsAcademy for further updates. We really hope that the time investment that staff are making will help our students to begin to recover from life in lockdown.

I must thank Governors this week for taking the time to complete some additional training with one of our school advisors around Ofsted. This was a really interesting session and we were delighted to share this with the senior teams and governing bodies from Shipston High School and Shotton Girls' Grammar.

Student news!

Thank you to those parents who have started to send in good news features as follows:

Congratulations for David in year 9 who is renovating his cycle right now. Such a super project.



And to Morgan in year 7 who achieved a silver medal for backstroke in the Wolverhampton swimming gala and personal best times in all four of her races. She wants to swim in the Olympics! Watch this space.

Over the weekend, Courtney took part in an external swimming competition with Evesham. She also did exceptionally well coming home with 1 gold medal for 100m backstroke and 1 silver medal for 50m backstroke.



Thank you to Maisie this week in year 10 for her very kind deed with a year 7 student. True academy values at their best!

Later on in the bulletin, Miss Buckthorp has provided key information as a reminder, or indeed if you are new parents, on how you can access further support in school from our LSU (Learning Support Unit). This is a real strength of the school and the staff in there see numerous students each day for reassurance.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you all so much for supporting Jeans for Genes day today. It was so lovely to see the school community come together for this amazing cause. So far we have raised £ £1076 and we will keep you updated as this amount changes.

Open Week

We are looking forward to opening our doors to prospective parents next week for Open Week. If you are a year 7 or 8 parent/carer and finally want to see the school, we look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday evening 6.30-8.30pm. Thank you in advance to the huge numbers of students supporting this event. It'll be so lovely to be live after so many months of virtual activities under covid. Daily morning school tours are ringfenced to prospective parents I'm afraid.

Finally, wasn't it superb to read that Alcester had hit the headlines this week for being one of *The Times* top 23 towns to live in? Did you see that! I felt so lucky to be part of this special area. Equally, with our own MP now in the highest position to govern education, I hope that we might soon be able to welcome the new Education Minister, Nadhim Zahawi into school soon. We offer our congratulations to him on behalf of Alcester Academy!

Wishing you a super weekend ahead.
Kind regards

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher



10BI supporting the non-uniform day.

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2021

School closed

Friday 22nd October 2021

Teacher training day

Half term

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021

Back to school

Monday 1st November 2021

Autumn Term ends

Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

[2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

Homework at Alcester Academy

Homework forms an important part of the learning process and encourages students to be independent. Students have been given a homework timetable which outlines the days when subjects are set and the time that should be allocated to the work. Year 7 will not receive their full allocation during the first half term.

Homework may come in various forms depending on the individual subject and the teacher. It is the responsibility of the students to accurately write down the details of their homework in their planner. Homework may be checked by staff using the following codes and epraise points will be awarded for good work and effort

- 1 - Homework is of an exceptional standard.**
- 2 - Homework is of a good standard.**
- 3 - Homework is handed in but is incomplete and lacks effort required.**
- 4 - Homework is not completed or is very poor in quality.**

If work is not completed then a series of sanctions will be applied in line with the behaviour policy which may includes detentions


Further details can be found on the website



<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/homework>

Alcester Academy

Open Evening 2021

Tuesday 21st September - 6.30pm to 8.30pm



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

Open Evening
Tuesday 21st September - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Guided Open Mornings
Monday 20th September to Friday 24th September 2021
9.30am to include a SLT Q&A session

Alcester Academy is happy to open its doors to prospective parents for Open Week 2021. Respectfully we ask families to book just one guided open morning at their convenience during this week. Please call the main office on 01789 762285 in September or alternatively email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk anytime.

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

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

The LSU @ Alcester Academy

The LSU is the pastoral area within the school that provides support to all students when they need it.

It provides a safe place for all students to access support whether this is when they need some extra support, or someone to sit and listen and just check in with them. It's tough being a teenager these days with all the challenges. The LSU also supports any students who are struggling with friendships or bullying, anxiety and stress or those who are just going through a difficult time. We are open for students before and after school and also provide a place to go at lunch and breaktimes for some students.

If students need to get in touch with LSU out of school hours, they can contact 24/7 through TEXT ACADEMY. This is a confidential way for students to send messages if they are struggling themselves or who are worried about a friend or peer. Students can also use this if they want to report something they see on the bus or around school.

Based in the LSU are:
Miss Buckthorp—Assistant Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Quirke
Mrs Jones
Mrs Bennett




Above: Mrs Hodges, Miss Buckthorp, Mrs Quirke Mrs Jones and Mrs Bennett.




Counsellors Jess and Claire, and Albi the dog.





TEXT ACADEMY

Report incidents of bullying, theft, cyber issues, crime or anti-social behaviour



Text your message to 07563130478 and one of the team will be in touch

I'm being bullied - I don't know what to do -
text your message to: 07563130478
or
email your message to:
textacademy@alcesteracademy.org.uk

07563130478

All staff in the LSU are safeguarding trained and will deal with any safeguarding concerns that come in. Also part of the team are Miss Hammond (Transition co-ordinator), Mrs Hodges (Attendance officer) and Miss Bartlett (Careers Advisor). Throughout the week in LSU you will meet Rob our Lifespace mentor along with counsellors Jess and Claire and Albi the dog—who you will often sleeping on the beanbags! They specialise in

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and person - centered approaches.

If you would like any more information please email Miss Buckthorp at: karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

We work with many different agencies in LSU, all of whom are a vital part of the support that we offer:



Epraise Updates—week ending 16.9.21

Top Scorers this week:

1	Joshua	9BL	16 points
1	Madison	9BW	16 points
3	Devan	7HT	14 points
3	Paige	9ST	14 points
3	Aidan	7WI	14 points
3	Owen	11HK	14 points
7	Callum	8KA	13 points
7	Jack	8HL	13 points
7	Amelia	11HK	13 points
10	Mia	8SO	12 points

Top Staff this week:

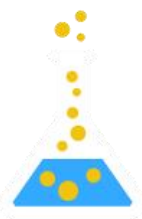
1	Mr Bastock	386 points
2	Mr Yarrington	329 points
3	Mr Bowater	284 points
4	Miss Burgess	237 points
5	Miss Heitmuller	223 points
6	Mr Anderson	218 points
7	Miss Bishop	205 points
8	Mr Martin	174 points
9	Mrs Stedman	152 points
10	Mrs Weatherley	137 points

Top Tutor Groups this week:

1	7WI	198 points
2	7HT	189 points
3	8SO	170 points
4	8KA	158 points
5	8RO	146 points
6	8HL	141 points
7	8PW	139 points
8	11BR	134 points
9	11HK	133 points
10	9YA	130 points

Top Subjects this week:

1	Science	637 points
2	Maths	512 points
3	Geography	414 points
4	Art	242 points
5	IT	237 points



School Attendance — up to 16.9.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
97.6%	94.2%	94.2%	94.4%	90.3%	94.3%

This week's top tutor groups

7HT– 99.3%, 8BW – 94.4%, 9AN – 96.2%, 10LE – 97.6% and 11HK – 97.8%.

Super Learning Day - My Mate Fancies You

On Wednesday, the year 7s took part in their first SLD. They were joined in the hall by year 8 to watch the play performed by Loudmouth - judging by the reactions and laughter it was enjoyed by all. The year 7s then went on to complete a series of workshops that dealt with the themes of transition from primary to secondary, puberty, friendships, emotions and feelings. The students engaged very well with what can be sensitive subject matter.



HARTPURY
UNIVERSITY
AND COLLEGE

Hartpury Campus Tours
Tour bookings can be made
through this link:
[Campus Tours | About Us |
Hartpury University and
Hartpury College](#)



Do you know a young person aged 8-16 living
in Warwickshire who has experienced
self harm or is at risk of self harming
and who would benefit from a
FREE 32 week music programme?

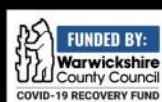
Limited Places Available



Wednesdays 5-7 or 7-9pm in Term Time
Foundation House, Mason's Rd, Stratford

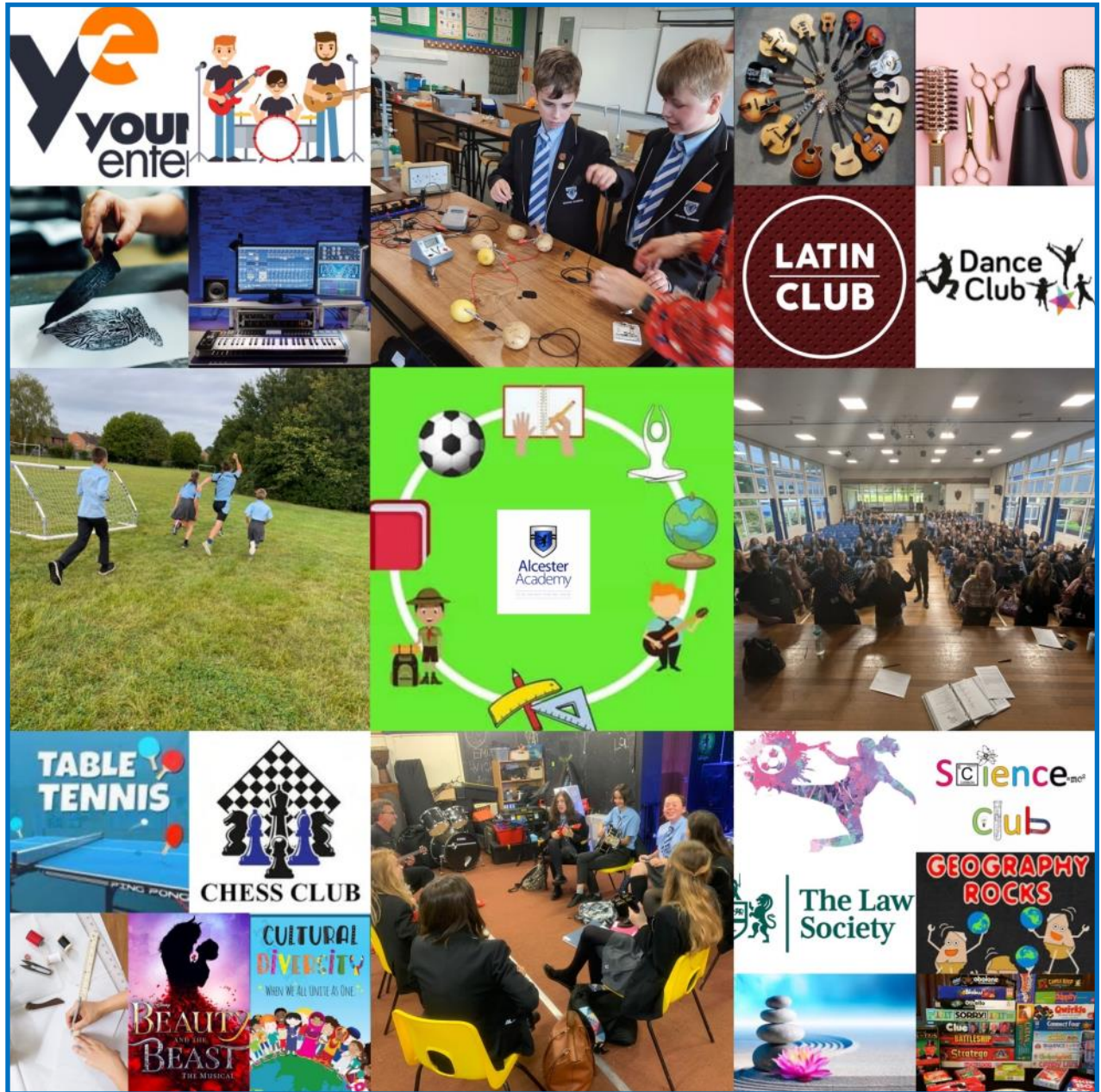
LEARN HOW TO PLAY IN A BAND - INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED
TUITION & MENTORING FROM A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN
WRITE ORIGINAL MUSIC AND RECORD IN A RECORDING STUDIO
PLAY IN A PROFESSIONAL GIG
TAKE PART IN OFFSTAGE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS
BAND PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY, LOGO AND T SHIRT DESIGN
NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK:
sparkmusicuk@gmail.com 07711 372538



@sparkyouthmusic

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



We've had our first great week of extra curricular activities.

Sixty clubs with over 350 students taking part.

It's not too late to take part.

Please contact MissSacco if you wish to still take part in one.

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

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

PE Practices: week beginning 20/9/21:

Tuesday 21st September: South Warwickshire X-Country @AGS

Wednesday 22nd September: Year 9 &10 Netball and Football

Thursday 23rd September: Year 7 Netball & Football

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible. Normal school PE kit is required. All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.



STRATFORD TOWN FC
ACADEMY
DAUNTLESS

ACADEMY TRIAL DAY

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Aimed towards Year 11 Leavers



On the new 4G Training Pitch!

WEDNESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
11AM - 1PM

VENUE:
STRATFORD TOWN FC
ARDEN GARAGES STADIUM
KNIGHTS LANE, TIDDINGTON
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
CV37 7BZ

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

- NCFE LEVEL 3 EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN SPORT (EQUIVALENT TO 3 A LEVELS)
- FA PLAYMAKER & INTRODUCTION TO FOOTBALL COACHING (LEVEL 1)
- FIRST AID AND SAFEGUARDING CERTIFICATES
- GCSE ENGLISH & MATHS (IF REQUIRED)
- HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDES HNC, HND COURSE OPTIONS
- COACHING BY UEFA 'A' LICENCED COACH
- FOUR DAYS A WEEK TRAINING WITH COMPETITIVE LEAGUE MATCH EVERY WEDNESDAY

EXIT ROUTES:

- UNIVERSITY (SPORT AND OTHER SUBJECT AREAS)
- HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS
- PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL OPPORTUNITIES
- SPORTS COACHING
- COACHING IN USA
- SPORT AND LEISURE INDUSTRY JOBS

REGISTER YOUR PLACE NOW
BY USING THE LINK OR BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE:

SHORTURL.
AT/OBFJX



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY, RYAN SIMMONDS, AT:
EMAIL: ACADEMY@STRATFORDTOWNFC.CO.UK
TELEPHONE: 07540 476934

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.