Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon.

I hope that you have all had a lovely week. There are just a few updates for you this week as follows.

Attendance

You should have received a letter this week specifically addressing the revised guidance around school attendance. Thanks to Mrs Hatcher, Attendance Officer for summarising this for you all.

You can compare Alcester Academy's attendance to national statistics on the DfE website each week: www.explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-attendance-in-schools

We do not grant holidays within term time, and this has not changed now for many years.

You can find all copies of whole school parental communications on the website. www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/news/communications

Adverse weather arrangements—partial school closure

We have further refined the school closure procedures in the event of extreme wet weather and local flooding, or heavy snowfall during the school day.

As advanced notice, Alcester based children who walk to, and from school, will NOT need to be collected in the event of a partial closure because of local flooding. Alcester students will be extremely safe in school with staff until 3.25pm. Historically, parents collecting Alcester children have compounded the traffic issues and local congestion unnecessarily. If I did choose to partially close the school, this would be to aid those families in remote villages and the surrounding areas.

I will try to avoid school closure mid way through the day at all costs however.

Whilst very early to be saying, for new parents, in the event of an overnight heavy winter snowfall, making road or site conditions treacherous, I will consult our site team, and the other Alcester secondary schools as early as possible.

What's inside this week...

Page 4	***KES Academic Conference and School Tour***
Page 7	***Geologise Theatre Workshops on Sustainability and Climate Change***
Page 14	***Sports News***

I will confirm any closure via a school communication to you all, Facebook and X as early as possible in the morning.

If the school is closed because of heavy snowfall, students in year 10 and 11 will have live lessons via Google Meet wherever possible, and year 7, 8 and 9 will have work posted to Google Classroom. We have not had to close because of snowfall for several years thankfully.

Thank you—year 7 parents

It was so lovely to see year 7 parents for *Meet the Tutor* evening last night. Thank you for taking the time for this.

Congratulations to year 7s for their first report from Alcester Academy. There were many exemplary reports.

Mr Cooke continued this theme in assemblies this week that started to address the UN sustainability goals more widely with the school community.

Prince Henry's High School also joined us this morning for an address to year 11 regarding Post-16 options. Thank you to our guests.

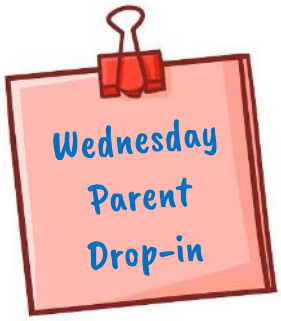
New Personal Development Curriculum

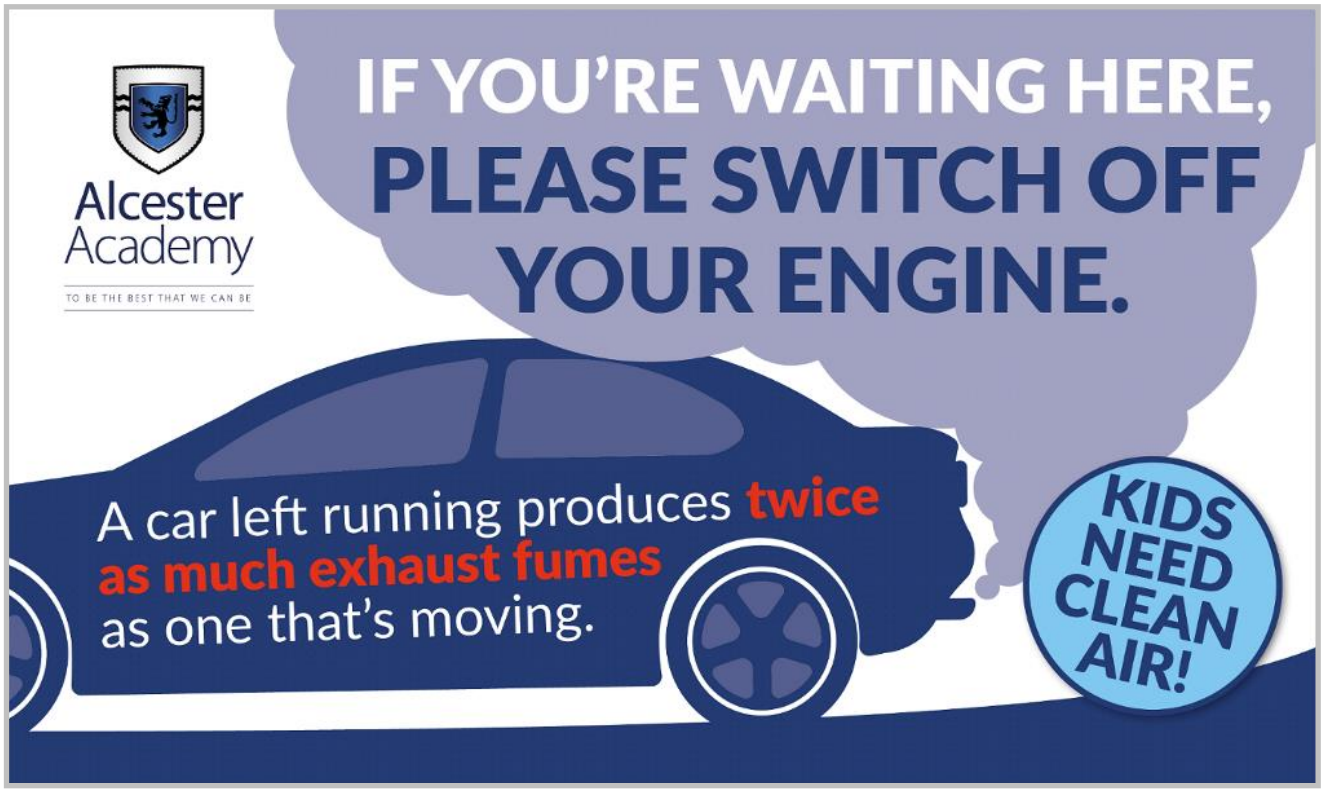
The students are all enjoying aspects of the new PD curriculum. An overview of this can be found on the school website: www.explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-attendance-in-schools

If you have any queries regarding the content covered within this programme, please do reach out to any member of SLT with a query. This week year 7s learnt all about CPR and our year 9s were looking at positive relationships as just two examples. It was a pleasure for SLT to visit tutor times to engage with the students and their work this week.

Wednesday parental drop-in

These sessions continue each week, 3.30-4.30pm. No appointment is needed.





Give a Gift—Alcester Minster

I have been asked to relay this message to you:

Alcester Minster Churches are unable to coordinate the Give a Gift scheme for Christmas 2024. If you or a family you know is experiencing hardship this season, please consider approaching:

Acts435
www.alcesterminster.org/church-life/acts-435

and **Arden Foodbank**
www.arden.foodbank.org.uk
for support.

Looking ahead to next week:

We are starting the week with *Motivational Monday* so a number of student praise emails will be going out after a great half term.

We're holding year 11 parents' evening via School Cloud on Thursday 24th October.

Our year 10s have their Silver planning day for D of E on Friday.

Good luck to year 8s for their speaking competition next Tuesday. I'm excited to hear the finalists.

And, our geographers are getting prepared for their Icelandic trip of a lifetime over half term. We will write a full report for you after the trip. It is our first experience to Iceland to visit the glaciers. Thank you to the staff giving up part of their half term for this.

And, I'm excited to hand the bulletin over to our School Captains. The content next week has been left totally up to our students. Thank you to Darcie, Charlie, Liv and Tom, and surprise guest writers!

Thank you to our cast, crew and staff who are in school tomorrow for the production rehearsals.

This may be my last opportunity to formally thank you for your support this half term, and to wish you a super break once we get there!

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

KES Academic Conference and School Tour

KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL
SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOL

On Wednesday, six of us from year 11 were fortunate enough to be invited to King Edwards VI School, to partake in an academic conference led by the Deputy Headmaster, Mr McCrink and Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Ms Barton. This was also accompanied with a tour of the school, led by Alcester Academy alumni.

We feel incredibly privileged to be able to talk to current students about their experiences at KES and look round the school. This was the first time this opportunity has been offered to the Academy through partnership with the Three Rivers Alliance, and we would like to extend our gratitude to the staff at KES for welcoming us for a brilliant morning.

Prior to our arrival, we were asked to prepare a presentation about a subject we are passionate to study at A-Level. This went alongside the pre-A-level summer work that we had prepared previously. This was a massive opportunity for us, as we really wanted to showcase our abilities to such a prestigious Sixth Form. We presented on psychology and history, but there was an amazing variety of geography, physics and computer science too. We excelled at this as we were able to showcase our knowledge and represent the Academy in an academic setting.

We look forward to re-visiting the school at the open evening in November as we shortly begin to apply for our Post-16 destinations. Sincere thanks for a fantastic morning.

Charlie and Darcie

Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance this week is 94.4%

Top tutors this week:

7KO with 99.2% attendance
8AN and 8DA equal on 98.1% attendance
9GA with 93.7% attendance
10BW with 95% attendance
11LE with 97% attendance

Top House this week:

It's a tightly contested race with Greville trailing just behind the leaders. But once again, the winners are Oversley!

If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Thank you, Mrs Hatcher

Stay up-to-date with the latest from the LRC

Accelerated Reading— correct link to access the AR system

The Accelerated Reading system is now available for all students in years 7 and 8, and English sets 4 and 5 in year 9 to quiz on the books they are reading. Home Connect letters have been sent out to parents.

Please only quiz on new books that you have read since the start of September.

I apologise that the link given in the 4th October bulletin was incorrect. Please be assured that the link below is now the correct one.

To access Accelerated Reader quizzing at home: Make sure are using Google Chrome and this link/URL to access the system: https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1893467

Then type in your username (your school network name) and the password—
abc123 for years 7 and 8, and
abc for year 9.

Online LRC for students

dt6iw3u

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

X and Instagram accounts for parents

The LRC has its own X account, please follow us for all our latest news: **@AA_LRC_Library**

and for Instagram it is: **aa_lrc**

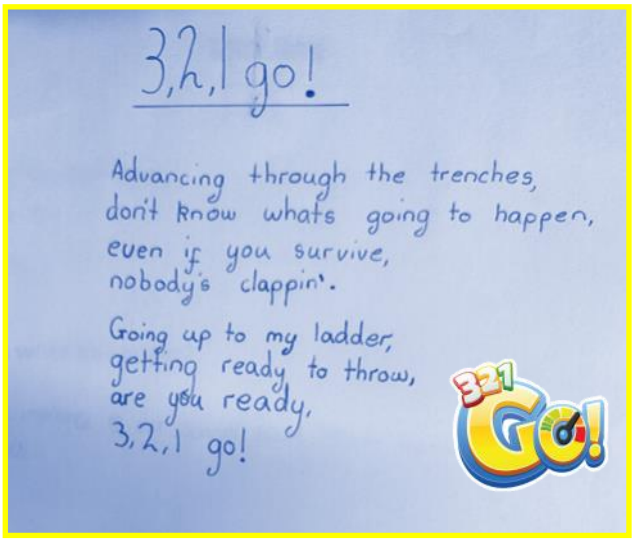
Mrs Hands—LRC Manager

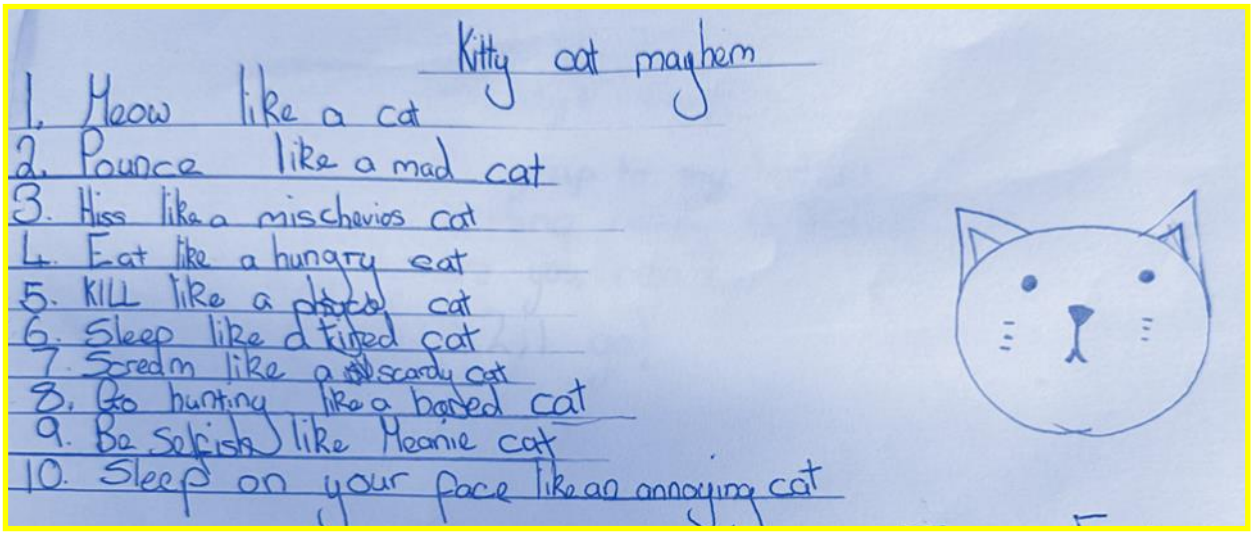
Congratulations to our talented poets!

Thank you all for your wonderful entries in this week's poetry competition—there were so many fantastic submissions!

Here are the results:
3rd place: Erin (Oversley—7TN)
2nd place: Jack, Leo, and Elijah (Ragley—7LX)
1st place: Fliss and Ellie (Greville—7WI)

Congratulations to everyone!
Miss Lewis





Geologise Theatre Workshops on Sustainability and Climate Change for year 8

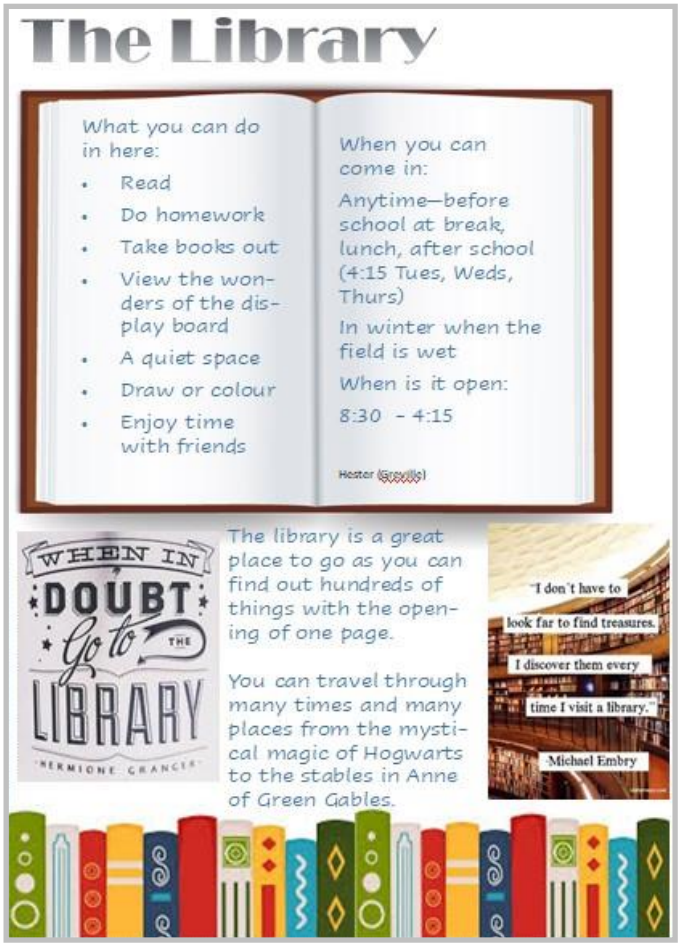
On Monday and Tuesday this week we were very lucky to host the fabulous Geologise Theatre who delivered engaging and informative workshops about Sustainability and Climate Change to the whole of year 8.

Geologise Theatre's workshops combined the arts and sciences to explore climate change. The students met several scientists who worked on various topics relating to climate change—from ecology to oceanography. In the first half of the workshop, students got to interview the scientists to find out more about them and their research.

In the second half of the workshop, the students explored what they have learnt through drama exercises, including coming up with their own short scenes based on their discussions with the scientists. There was also the chance to add music to some of their creations with the help of Geologise Theatre's resident musician.

The workshops were facilitated by Geologise Theatre, who are scientists, writers, and performers, specialising in theatre and songs themed around science, climate change and the environment for young people.

Miss McKenzie



Epraise Leaderboard—past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Isabella	8DA	Greville	33 points
2	Lottie	10MA	Billesley	30 points
3	Eddie	10PL	Greville	29 points
4	Ranveer	8RO	Greville	28 points
4	Darcey	7RA	Billesley	28 points
4	Charlotte	8AN	Billesley	28 points
7	Eshal	10MA	Billesley	27 points
8	Riley	7RA	Ragley	26 points
8	Ollie	10MO	Oversley	26 points
8	Carlee	0MA	Ragley	26 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Greville	2065 points
2	Oversley	2053 points
3	Billesley	2003 points
4	Ragley	1994 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

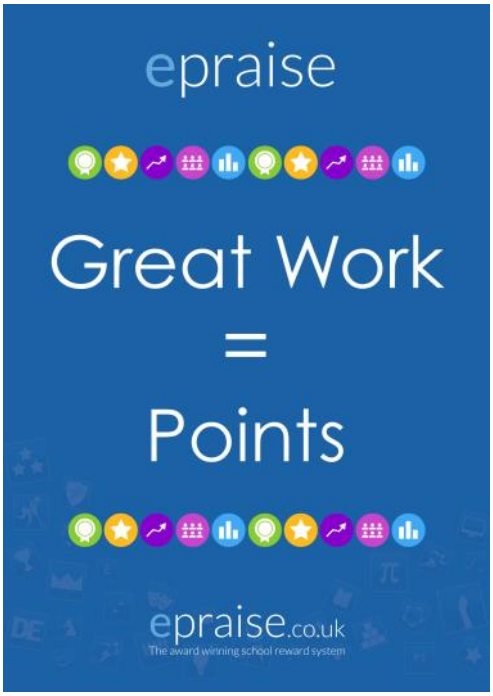
1	English	1182 points
2	Maths	641 points
3	Science	606 points
4	Art	558 points
5	French	421 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mr Yarrington	549 points
2	Mrs Gorner	489 points
3	Miss Lewis	433 points
4	Mr Martin	427 points
5	Ms Hirji	334 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	7RA	498 points
2	7LX	452 points
3	7KO	438 points
4	8AN	389 points
5	7TN	369 points



Tickets are now on sale!

We're excited to share that tickets for our upcoming school production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* are now available to purchase!

Tickets are priced at £10 per person and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure your tickets, please make your purchase through the School Gateway. Once the purchase is complete, your child will receive a physical ticket in tutor time, which will be sent home.

With over 100 students involved, it promises to be a truly spectacular event, so don't miss your chance to support our talented cast and crew!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you to the show.

Would You Like to Sponsor Our School Production?

We're excited to announce that sponsorship opportunities are now available for our upcoming school show, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. With over 100 students involved, we're looking for support from our community to help make this production truly spectacular!

We have a variety of sponsorship packages available. If you or your business are interested in supporting our show, please get in touch for more details; sabrinasacco@alcesteracademny.org.uk.

Miss Sacco

Important Dates to Remember

Thursday 24th October 2024—Year 11 Parents' Evening online 4-7pm

Thursday 7th November 2024—Year 11 Parent Forum online (revision theme) 5.30-7pm
This will be recorded and a link sent to year 11 parents.

Parents' Evenings

Thursday 5th December 2024	Year 10 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud
Thursday 9th January 2025	Year 11 second Parents' Evening. Live in school.
Thursday 6th February 2025	Year 8 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud
Thursday 1st May 2025	Year 8 Options Evening. Live in school
Thursday 12th June 2025	Year 7 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud

SchoolCloud is an online video service

Lifesaving skills are included in the year 7 personal development programme

The whole of year 7 came together this week to learn about essential lifesaving skills as part of their personal development programme.

Pupils were given information and explored through practical application all about what to do in a situation where someone is found unresponsive, the primary survey, CPR and AED skills.

Our personal development programme is about developing the whole person and we are extremely proud of how well the year 7s listened, engaged and participated during this very important session.

We would also like to thank Laura from the West Midlands Ambulance Service for coming into Alcester Academy especially to train our staff about lifesaving skills ahead of our session to the pupils.

Miss McKenzie

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Alcester Academy

Our next pre-loved uniform sale for parents will be held in the school hall on:

Wednesday 23rd October 2024

3.30-4.30pm

CASH ONLY

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming sale!

ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS

Family BINGO Night

Friday 8th November

Doors Open 6.30pm — Eyes down 7.00pm

1 Book (6 Games) - £2

6 Books (6 Games) - £10

Bar
Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available

Pre-booking recommended.
Book now online or via the school office.

https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

ALCESTER ROCK ACADEMY

britpop night!

@thegreig hall

Tuesday 26th Nov

7pm

Tuesday

SPONSORED BY UPSTAGE LTD

Adults £5.00
Concessions £3.00

The Grieg Hall Kinwarton Road Alcester B496AD

Non Uniform Day

"FRIENDS" OF ALCESTER ACADEMY

Friday 25th October

We are collecting Friday 25th October upon entry into school

Donations will be used for prizes for the PTA Friends of Alcester Academy fundraising throughout the year.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
£2 Donation Payable on the Gateway	£2 Donation Payable on the Gateway	Chocolates Examples might include a selection box, chocolate orange or small box of chocolates
Year 10	**Year 11**	**Staff**
£2 Donation Payable on the Gateway	£2 Donation Payable on the Gateway	Chocolates

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES

Calling all students:
science revision guides are now in stock!
Available from the science department, get yours today to help revise for your upcoming exams.

Prices:

Triple award: £10 (3 books)

Combined: £6.50 (1 book)

Please speak to a member of the department to get yours.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Inter-Area Cross Country— Saturday 12th October

Well done to all of our district cross country runners for competing in the inter area event. Many congratulations to Keegan, Marijke and Will who have all been selected to run for Warwickshire.

Minor boys:
Dexter
Keegan
Noah
Hugh

Minor girls:
Sienna

Junior Girls:
Bella

Junior Boys:
Toby
Will

Inter girls:
Marijke

Inter boys:
Will

Year 9 netball tournament

Well done to our year 9 netball team who competed at the South Warwickshire netball tournament held at Kineton High School earlier this week. Fantastic attitudes and effort were displayed by all of the team!

South Warwickshire Indoor Rowing competition

There were two fantastic evenings of indoor rowing competition held at Alcester Academy this week with our boys and girls rowing teams in action on Monday and Tuesday respectively. Well done to all students who represented the Academy so brilliantly at these events.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

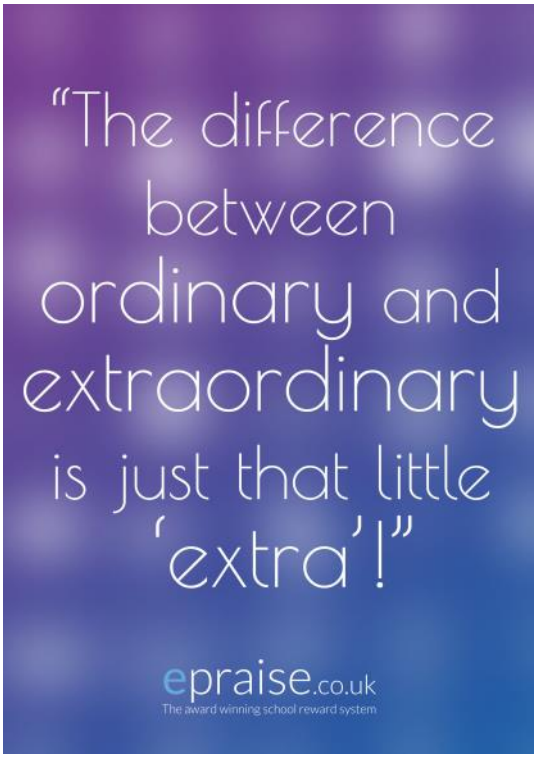
Results:

Year 10 boys—1st place
Year 10 girls—2nd place

Year 8 boys—2nd place
Year 8 girls—2nd place

We are incredibly proud of the efforts of all of our teams and the continued success that we have as a school within the sport of indoor rowing.

Mr Moffatt—Lead PE and Sports



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Next Week's After School Clubs

****THIS WEEKS SPORT**:**
W/B 21/10/24

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 10 Football v Myton – MO Year 8 Girls Football v Studley – NA	Away School field
Tuesday	Archery (Selection only) - MO	Gym
Wednesday	Year 9 Football v North Leamington – MO Year 11 Football v Stoke Park – NA Year 7 and 8 Girls Netball - PE	Away Top Field Courts
Thursday	Year 7,8 and 9 Boys Rugby – Gloucester Rugby Coach	Field

Next Week's Lunchtime Clubs

AUTUMN 1 LUNCHTIME SPORT

- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 16th September on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Lunchtime sport will follow a set timetable each half-term and run from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1)
- PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MON- NA	WED - PE	THURS - MO
16/9	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	Y11 INDOOR FOOTBALL
23/9	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS3)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS3)	Y11 INDOOR FOOTBALL
30/9	INDOOR ROWING TRIAL	INDOOR ROWING TRIAL	INDOOR ROWING (TRIAL)
7/10	INDOOR ROWING (TEAM)	INDOOR ROWING (TEAM)	INDOOR ROWING (TEAM)
14/10	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	Y11 INDOOR FOOTBALL

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Vibrant Village: Walk into the Story of Great Alne

Imagine walking into a time-machine at the heart of our Great Alne community that takes you face to face with stories from Great Alne village in Roman times, throughout the Middle-Ages, into and out of the Industrial Revolution and bang up to the 20th and 21st centuries.

We are raising funds for five giant floor to ceiling murals of life in our wonderful Great Alne village throughout the ages. (photos included here are for illustrative purposes) This will bring to life our well-known books on the village, depicting the key historical local characters and places through popular and long-dormant photos as well as historical testimony. It will also take in previously unseen private donations and exhibits from locals, commemorating a long heartfelt bond with their local community.

These murals will adorn the inside of Great Alne Primary School, meaning all who walk through the door immediately sense their place in the history of our remarkable village.

As Great Alne Primary's new Headteacher, I have long since had an affection for the village, having carried out my first ever teaching practice here over twenty years ago. I passionately believe that history should not be left in books but brought alive for all to see. This is a unique opportunity to create what will surely be a 'wonder' of the village, promoting engagement with our local community. We aim to deliver an appropriately dramatic space for school projects, children's art exhibitions, termly school concerts and much more besides. A wonderful backdrop for a vibrant village school scene -and my gift to enable this project in Great Alne.

Planned installation is Spring 2025, pending the success of our fund-raising efforts. Murals will be accompanied by acknowledgments to the top 4 levels of major donors

1. **GOLD**: Donations of £1000 or more
2. **SILVER**: Donations of £500 or more
3. **BRONZE**: Donations of £250 or more
4. Supporter: Donations of £50 or more
5. Friend: Donations of any amount.

As a top-four tier donor, you will not only have your name recognised according to your donor level on the mural itself, but also receive design and installation updates as they become available via email, an invitation to the grand opening event and a personal acknowledgement of your continued commitment to the village.

Thank you for your generosity and for bringing the history of our amazing village alive.

Scan to donate

Or search **GoFundMe** online
For **'Vibrant Village Great Alne'**

For further information or to discuss contributions for the project, please email Penn.m1@welearn365.com **or call 01789 488247 between 9am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday.**

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