

Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



18th June 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for your support this week. I've found it one of the hardest weeks hearing that we have had to extend the covid restrictions now until term ends. The staff were devastated to hear this after hoping that we might resume some former routines again before July 20th. Relaying disappointing news about school events having to be cancelled is never easy at all and I'm very grateful to those of you who replied to me with uplifting and understanding messages. The changes that we heard about in the Prime Minister's update on Monday have had an impact on our year 6 day in July now also, and as an authority, we have been asked to move to a virtual induction day again. I have written to new parents about this. We have seen a very small increase in the number of our own students having to PCR test again this week, so I ask that you remain vigilant with regard to conducting the lateral flow testing regularly at this time. Keep a close eye on students joining outside school clubs and mixing with new bubbles this way; this presents us with additional complications. We are thinking of local schools who have been affected by covid on a wider scale. This cannot be an easy situation at all. One nearby school has had to close entirely because of covid until the end of June and move back to online learning.

Staff have been extremely busy this week in school as we finalise the teacher assessed grades for year 11s. These were submitted today to the awarding bodies and we look forward to results day on 12th August for them as a next step.



The year 10 exams continued in earnest this week after a two day break whilst our geography students visited Blencathra in the Lakes for their field work. Thanks to Mrs Stedman and the staff team for organising this opportunity. She has written about this in more detail later on in this week's bulletin for you. I understand that this has already been booked for current year 9s for next year too!

The year 10 campaigns for head boy and head girl begin very soon as well starting with the staff vote where we will shortlist the candidates further. I will update you as parents regarding the candidates then.

Our year 9's had a Super Learning Day called *Trust Me* looking at safe relationships on Wednesday. Again, our own staff went the extra mile to deliver sessions for the students and I thank the staff for facilitating this, and the students especially for the mature way in which this was approached.



JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE
#16 - PARAMEDIC

Year 8s are gaining momentum now also with their options returns. These must be in to tutors by 23rd June please. We had an evening for parents to post final questions to subject and course leaders and I thank those of you who attended via School Cloud.

We relaxed the uniform during this week in order to help make the day more reasonable for the students. The heatwave is very welcome but I'm very aware that it doesn't suit everyone and learning in such temperatures can be a challenge. I will keep doing this as needed now until the end of term.

In other news:

July 4th 2021 – National Thank You Day

<https://thankyouday.org.uk/>



Starting from just 13 individuals proposing a Thank You Day, the idea is now supported by hundreds of organisations across the country, ranging from the Scouts and Guides to Rotary and the Royal Voluntary Service, NHS, the Mirror and the Sun, the Football Association and the Church of England.

It's got the backing of celebrities, religious leaders and sports stars, local councils and schools, businesses and communities throughout the UK.

Our aim is for as many people as possible to be involved, however they would like, so everyone who deserves it gets a thank you – and the whole of the UK gets together.

There isn't a strict plan for the day (the idea is to say thank you however you want!) but people are already organising lots of activities which we can all join in with and support. Events include Park Runs, a Power Hour Litter Pick, A 'Big Lunch' and a BB-ThankQ. See the website link above for more details.

MENCAP Learning disability week

Mencap have posted some really lovely resources for their national learning disability week if this is of interest to you.

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/learning-disability-week-2021>



Uniform help

If you might help us to ensure that nails are short and of natural colours, I'd be very grateful. Understandably on health and safety grounds, we get concerned to see inappropriate nails worn by students. Equally, we are asking for the latest trend regarding false eye lashes to disappear; these are for going out and not school. We have always allowed one stud in each ear only; I don't mind where this is pierced in the ear but multiple earrings are not allowed. I'm grateful for your help with these things. I've been in schools for about 27 years now and occasionally reflect on how the fashions have changed and how we have adapted. If students work with us on these expectations, it makes for a far easier situation in school for them, and frankly us too.

Attendance

We are working hard to recover attendance with some students following lockdown. If your child shows any of the main covid symptoms, I would still ask you to be cautious with regard to analysing their activity who have they been with and where have they gone. If a PCR test might be required, please arrange this ASAP.

Mrs Hodges our Attendance Officer is now sending letters and making calls regarding student attendance if it has dipped recently so that you are aware and can carefully consider the situation with a view to improving lost learning as much as we can.

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome to our new midday supervisor Mrs K Spicer. I hope that you'll join with me in making Mrs Spicer feel welcome at the academy.



Year 7 Cheerleading

We are excited that our four week pilot for the new Cheerleading Club starts on Monday for those year 7s who are interested. If your son or daughter still wishes to join, there are places still available 3.30-

4.30pm. This is free of charge currently. Michelle Hughes from Strongfeet Dance will lead on this for us; thank you!



In final updates, we have said a temporary farewell to Miss Nemeshanyi today as she starts her maternity leave. I look forward to updating you on some exciting news very soon. We wish her a restful few weeks now before the baby arrives although something tells me it might be sooner than we all think! Miss Simpson will start in Art and Photography on 28th June and I'll be introducing her and a number of other new staff in future bulletins before term ends.

I'm reluctant to say due to the negative impact it usually has on the weather, but our D of E Bronze group go on their expedition this weekend to Shipston. I wish them a glorious weather weekend and a great time. I'll update you more on this next week!

Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead. I hope that you are enjoying the return of some national sport.

Very best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

Congratulations to our Chair of Governors



Last night the Alcester & District CFR team presented Mike Dean with a retirement gift to thank him for his exceptional level of commitment as a First Responder for the past 13 years! 🍷

On average Mike has been on-call 280hrs per month, has responded to 2750 emergency calls, dealt with 39 cardiac arrests and helped to successfully achieve a 'ROSC' (Return of Spontaneous Circulation) on 4 occasions. ❤️

A huge congratulations on so many years service assisting WMAS colleagues and of course the patients within your community Mike!



Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2021

Seven of our year 7 students have been reading and completing activities around books from the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award, which is run by the School Library Service (SLS). On Tuesday morning, Angela Edwards from SLS visited Alcester Academy for a lively, enthusiastic chat about all the books that the students have been reading.

Afterwards Tom, Liv, Evie, Charlie, Jake, Alex and Maya voted for their favourite books. The results have been counted and passed on to SLS, to be added to the votes from all the other Warwickshire schools that have been taking part.

Sadly, there will be no live final event this year. Instead we will be attending a live virtual event with all the authors on Thursday 1st July in the LRC here at school.

Mrs Hands



School Attendance — up to 17.6.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Whole School
95.8%	94.0%	93.1%	91.5%	92.1%

This week's top Tutor Groups

7BW— 98.5%, 8CA — 98.4%, 9WA — 98.2% and 10RO — 98.2%

Geography Field Trip to Blencathra



What a fantastic few days the year 10 geographers had on the field trip to Blencathra in the North Lakes. It was exhausting, fun, surprising, interesting and inspiring. I was astounded by our students' willingness and enthusiasm for getting stuck in (and not just in to the cooked breakfast!).

On arrival we had a wonderful walk around the area, taking in the beautiful landscape to see the glacial landforms we have recently studied in class and had a delicious home cooked meal afterwards. The students were really engaged in the activity and all students completed the walk despite some grumbles about how "uphill the Lake District is!". I was so impressed that the students spotted corries, pyramidal peaks, U shaped valleys and aretes.

Day 2 was the rivers study. It was the most physically challenging day with a 45 minute trek uphill to the source of the Glendaterra Beck. It was brilliant seeing the students enjoy their rivers study and participate wholeheartedly - we had a few slips and trips in the water. Poor Jess fell in and got a real dunking but thankfully no bumps or bruises.



On day 3, our last day, we undertook the rural settlement study, looking at the impacts of second homes, tourism and rural depopulation in the little village of Threlkeld. It was very shocking to the students that residents could live here without a hair salon, nail bar, coffee bar and other essential services! .. but perhaps more shocking that they would have to travel an hour to get to the nearest hospital (in Carlisle!). It wasn't long before the village coffee shop had been discovered. Apparently the cheese scones were to die for! A massive thank you to all the students on the trip for their engagement, focus and motivation but also the sense of fun and enjoyment they brought. Certificates of Participation are going out to the students who really "went the extra mile" on the trip and showed an additional level of enthusiasm.





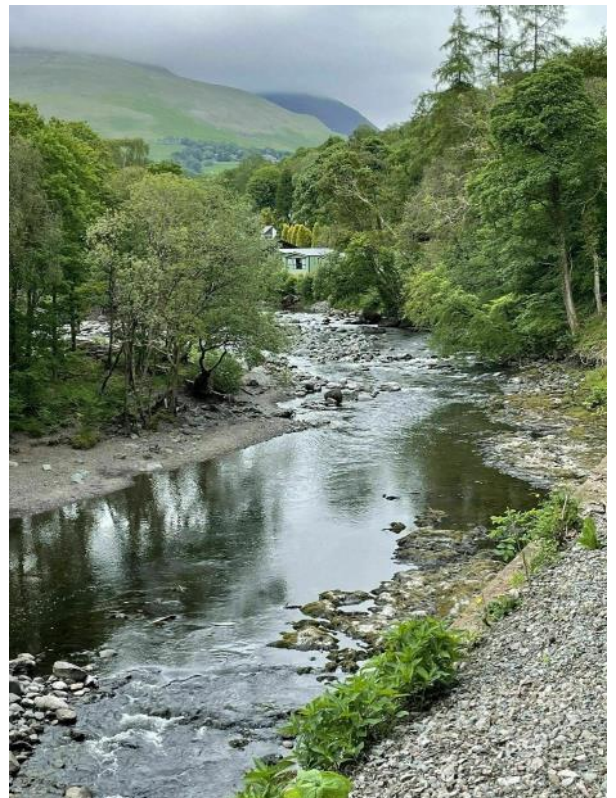
Also a huge thank you to Miss Taylor, Mr Bowater and Mr Rowberry for accompanying the trip and giving up their Sundays to support the trip. An extra thank you and good bye to Mr Rowberry who has supported the geography department whilst doing maternity cover for Miss Bishop; he will be missed by staff and students alike. I think we have even converted this History teacher in to a budding geographer!

Mrs H Stedman

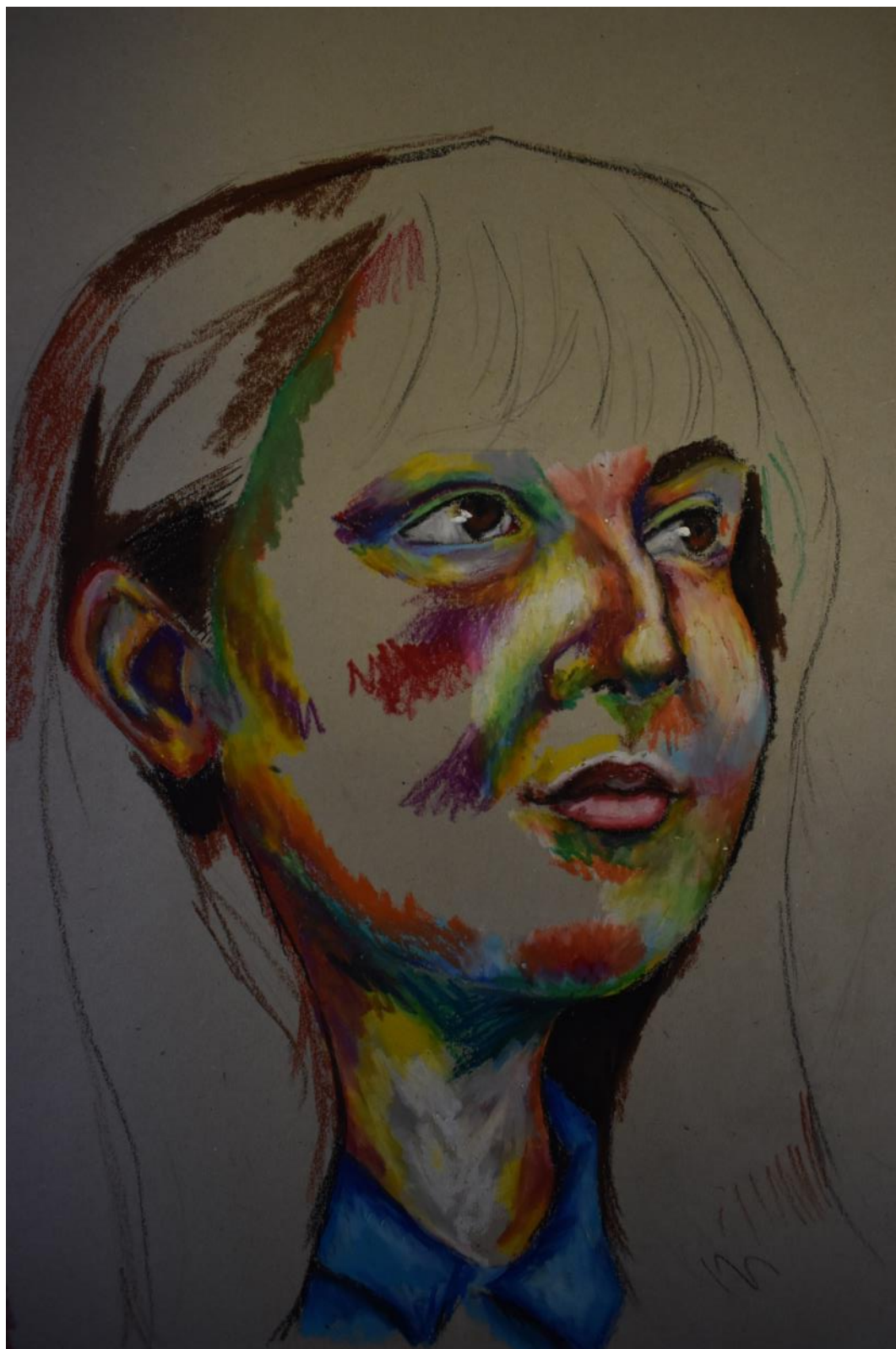
Lead Teacher for geography

This week we went on a memorable trip to the Lake District where we explored rivers, climbed mountains and trekked the glorious landscape. One of the best moments was our river fieldwork where we had an opportunity to get up close and research and investigate downstream change in a river. This whole trip was a challenging yet exhilarating experience.

Emma year 10



Artwork of the Week



This is a piece by Thalia in year 9 based on the work of Fred Hatt.
Outstanding work. *Mr Yarrington*

Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2021

Summer Term ends Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm

AUTUMN TERM 2021

*School closed Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021
Teacher training days*

Autumn Term begins
Years 7 and 9 Monday 6th September 2021
Years 8, 10 and 11 Tuesday 7th September 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](#)

Dates for your diary

<i>Bronze D of E Expedition</i>	<i>Saturday 19th—Sunday 20th June</i>
<i>Year 6 New Parents' Evening</i>	<i>Wednesday 30th June</i>
<i>Year 9 Romeo and Juliet</i>	<i>Thursday 1st July</i>
<i>Mop up immunisations</i>	<i>Monday 5th July</i>
<i>Year 6 Virtual Induction Day</i>	<i>Friday 9th July</i>
<i>Year 7-10 End of term trips (Covid permitting)</i>	<i>Tuesday 13th July</i>
<i>Sports Day (students only)</i>	<i>Thursday 15th July</i>
<i>Break up 12.40pm</i>	<i>Tuesday 20th July</i>



Alcester Schools Book Award 2021

This year some of our year 8 pupils are taking part in Alcester Schools' Book Award with students from Alcester Grammar School. Four titles have been shortlisted for the award and it was launched, later than usual this year, in May. The students will take part in various activities around the shortlisted titles over the coming weeks and one of the authors, Thomas Taylor, has agreed to record a Q & A session for us in lieu of the usual live author event that we would hold. They are also busy creating book-faces for the competition.

Voting for the books and the final event will take place at the end of June.

Mrs Hands



Alcester Library has now reopened. The current opening hours are 9.30am – 5.30pm Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 10am – 1pm on Saturdays.

It is easy and free to join the library and to borrow books and access lots of other resources - you can sign up online before you visit, just go to warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries.

The library has a wide range of children's books available for loan, including books by bestselling authors, fiction books, funny books, and Information books full of fascinating facts and true stories. We also have a Beginner Reads collection for those just starting their reading journey and a dedicated collection for Young Adults.

As well as borrowing books you can use BorrowBox which is our eBook and eAudio platform, it has a huge collection of children's and young people's audio books and eBooks to choose from and new titles are added every month.

Visit warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries to find out more.



Trust Me—PSHE Workshop

On Wednesday year 9 took part in another virtual Super Learning Day. We missed having Loudmouth actually in school with us, but students were able to take part in virtual hot seating with the actors and watched the film version of *Trust Me*.

Students took part in a carousel of activities all based around healthy relationships and looked at topics such as consent and contraception as part of our delivery of the Relationships and Sex Education agenda in school.

Miss Buckthorp



loudmouth
education & training through theatre

**WMS Medicine
Virtual Summer
School**

Interested in studying Medicine at University?
Are you from an under-represented background?
Unsure if Medicine is right for you?

Join us for our virtual Medicine Summer School with opportunities to talk to medical students, hear from a range of different doctors, experience a university lecture and lots of workshops!

**Saturday 3rd July 2021
Sunday 4th July 2021**

WARWICK
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Amazon Donates

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Sleep Tight Programme for Parents and Carers

Sleep is a crucial building block for our physical and mental health. However, when a child is experiencing sleep challenges, the whole family is affected. We understand how hard life can be when you and your child are sleep deprived. But you are not alone!



We offer you a 5-week sleep programme delivered by Parent Trainers who have been trained by The Sleep Charity.

The workshop will cover:

- The importance of sleep and understanding sleep cycles
- Causes of sleep issues
- Strategies to overcome sleep problems
- Establishing appropriate bedtime routines
- The importance of bedroom environment and positive parenting

Additionally, we are offering pre-arranged support via telephone alongside the sleep programme.

This 5-week programme is available for parents and carers in Warwickshire and is delivered virtually on Microsoft Teams, two hours each week.

Weekly session dates:

- 22/06/2021
- 29/06/2021
- 06/07/2021
- 13/07/2021
- 20/07/2021

Time: 12:45- 14:45

Registration on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sleep-tight-programme-for-parents-carers-tickets-148908694915?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

For more parenting events please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-children-and-families-17595309993>

We are looking forward to supporting you, so you can achieve peaceful nights and days full of vitality!



Summertime for Art

www.recoveryandwellbeing.co.uk www.arty-folks.org.uk



Art for Relaxation
Mon 21st June, 1pm-3pm
<https://tinyurl.com/2wb3n3rr>

Art After Work
Wed 30th June, 5pm-6pm
<https://tinyurl.com/53b8yma5>

Fine Art to Wellbeing
Thurs 1st July, 1pm-3pm
<https://tinyurl.com/4y2c5t6w>

Meet a local Artist
Sun 11th July, 7pm-8.30pm
<https://tinyurl.com/53mwjm3m>

Creative Arts on Referral
a programme of free online courses and workshops supporting the mental wellbeing of adults in Warwickshire

Recovery & Wellbeing ACADEMY
Warwickshire County Council
ARTY FOLKS
CREATE. ENJOY. DISCOVER.



MFL Idiom of the Week

English: Don't jump to conclusions

French: Il y a plus d'un âne à la foire qui s'appelle Martin

Literal meaning: There is more than one donkey called Martin in the market place.

German: Ziehe keine voreiligen Schlüsse

Literal meaning: Don't be too hasty to draw conclusions



Epraise Updates—week ending 17.6.21

Congratulations to the Top Students this year:

1st	Harvey	7NE	Fourth week	270 points
2nd	Maya	7BW	Fourth week	269 points
3rd	Jack	7HT	Fifth week	244 points

Top Scorers this week:

1	Sam	8BL	10 points
2	Kacper	7TY	8 points
2	Max	7TY	8 points
2	Dylan	8BL	8 points
2	Rudy	8BL	8 points
2	Brandon	7TY	8 points
7	Evie	7NE	7 points
7	Tom	7TY	7 points
7	Sophie	8BL	7 points
7	Oli	8BL	7 points

Top Staff this week:

1	Miss Bayliss	207 points
2	Mr Yarrington	147 points
3	Mr Bastock	88 points
4	Miss Watson	83 points
5	Mr Bowater	81 points

Top Subjects this week:

1	English	181 points
2	Art	147 points
3	Maths	96 points
4	Science	69 points
5	Geography	53 points

Top Tutor Groups this week:

1	8BL	115 points
2	7TY	78 points
3	7WI	70 points
4	7BW	68 points
5	7NE	67 points



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Job details

BUSINESS ANALYST APPRENTICE

Region: Midlands
 Location: Stratford-upon-Avon
 Contract type: Fixed Term Contract
 Reference number: HRDI00754

Closing date: 16th July 2021

APPLY NOW

<https://careers.nfumutual.co.uk/jobs/Business-Analyst-Apprentice-217396>

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

PE Practices: week beginning 21.6.21

Monday 21.6.21:

Alcester Schools' Athletics Championships Day 1 (selection letters sent out already). 5.30pm finish.
Pick up at AGS field.

Tuesday 22.6.21:

Year 9/10 Tennis Practice

Wednesday 23.6.21:

Year 7/8 Alcester Schools' Boys Tennis Tournament @AA. 5.30pm finish. Pick up at AA.
Year 7/8. Warwickshire Rounders Tournament @AGS. 5.45-6.00pm finish. Pick up at AGS field.

Thursday 24.6.21:


Year 7/8 Tennis Practice (Girls)

If your practice/fixture night is on a day when you don't have PE come to school in your PE kit and wait in your bubble areas for the PE staff to collect you at the end of the school day.

All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.

Mr Powell




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Job details

ASSISTANT ANALYST APPRENTICE

Region: Midlands
 Location: Stratford-upon-Avon
 Contract type: Fixed Term Contract
 Reference number: HRDI00750

Closing date: 4th July 2021

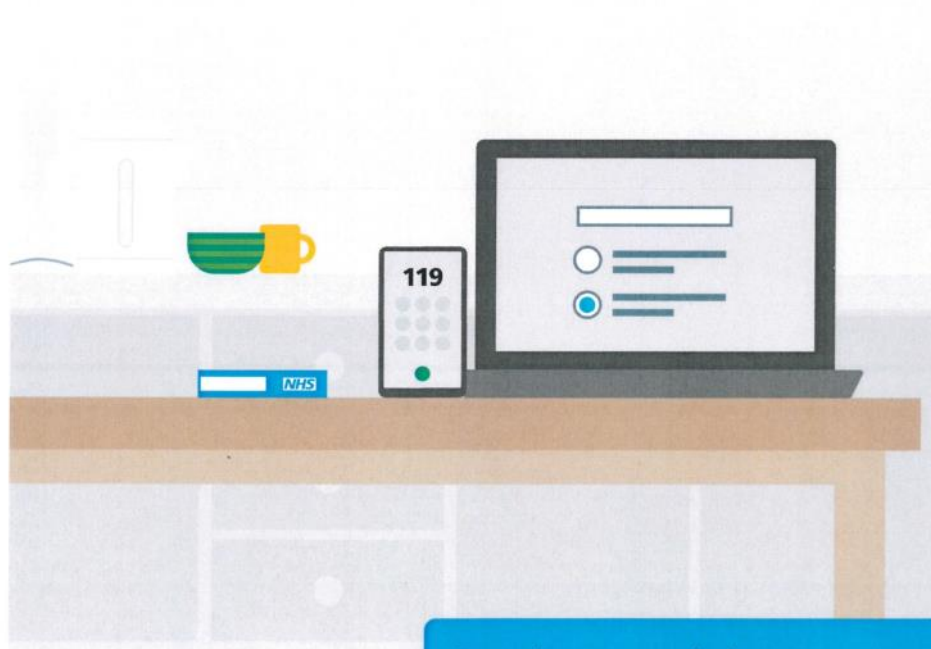
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<https://careers.nfumutual.co.uk/jobs/Assistant-Analyst-Apprentice-216156>

Whatever your rapid Covid-19 test result, let us know right away

If people only report their positive results, virus case levels look higher than they really are.

So if yours are negative or void, make sure you still tell us. You could even help stop another lockdown.



Reporting your results is easy

Go to: gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Or call: **119** free from your mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. We offer support in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language.

Remember: you've only completed your test when you've told us the result.