Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for supporting another very successful week at the academy. This week saw further evidence of exemplary conduct and behaviour from the students. I continue to be overwhelmed by the mature and calm atmosphere around the school. In an unexpected move, I had to quickly find some shade for our year 9 bubble this week as temperatures soared. This was not something that we anticipated in mid September at all and I certainly did not plan to have to do this as part of our new routines!

During this week, we have been hosting virtual open week tours and presentations. This has been a rather different approach to marketing I have to say! For parents and friends of the academy with children in year 5 or 6, there are various links to useful information on our website homepage. I'm particularly proud of our Head boy/girl presentations and recordings from our Subject Leaders, LSU staff, SENCo and Transition Co-ordinator too. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting prospective parents and students this week and I thank them for taking the time to be interested in the academy as a future school choice.

I have been delighted to welcome our students back safely to Rock Academy this week and to see the beginnings of our year 11 interventions starting at lunchtime and after school. Parents have been sent this offer and I thank the staff for their dedication to this.

In other news, you'll be aware that coronavirus is now beginning to have an impact on more schools locally. We send our thoughts to the staff, students and parents of these schools at

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

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

SPRING TERM 2021

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

this time. It is such a difficult time for our community in Alcester.

We currently continue to have no confirmed cases at Alcester Academy. Please be prepared that when we encounter a case it is likely that this will impact a whole year group at Alcester Academy. We have a strategy in place to communicate with you calmly, quickly and safely when required.

You will be asked to collect your child at a specific entrance and time. If you could ensure that we have up to date contact numbers for you and that someone would be available at short notice to collect your child, this is extremely helpful to us right now. In the meantime please continue to support us by:

- Relaying the importance of wearing face coverings with students. My minimum expectation is that these are worn walking into, and out of school, on school or public transport and in school corridors and the hall. Thank you.
- Encouraging washing hands and sanitising regularly
- Avoiding physical contact with others and respecting distancing where possible.
- Restricting who else children see outside of school.
- Applying caution with regard to illness and not sending children in to school if they are poorly (keep Mrs Hodges, Attendance Officer up to date please).

We are also extremely delighted that children are beginning to return to their extra-curricular interests such as sports, scouts and guides but these areas also need vigilance please as Public Health England have still not quite established how we would be notified as a school if a case of Coronavirus was prevalent in these circumstances. Obviously this develops 'new' bubbles and therefore complicates the in-school logistics more! Lots to think about!

Thank you again for your attention to the standards within school. As reminders, boys should be wearing mid grey trousers and not black. They should also be wearing black socks. Our older girls should be wearing 60 denier (min) black opaque tights in order to protect their dignity (I'll say no more!). Students coming in to school wearing PE kit need to have their blazer on over kit please, or an academy branded top. We are extremely close to providing details of new, improved, unisex leggings for sport to be sold at the NSC. Thanks for your patience with this. Shoes should be plain black, with no logos and polishable in style.

Coronavirus specific updates:

Regarding illness

Thanks for your support over this week with regard to the caution shown 'if' children have been poorly. I can confirm that there are no cases in school still. Only you as parents/carers can make a judgement about the health of your child. We will support you of course but sadly we cannot offer any 'expert' medical guidance on coronavirus. Please contact 111, or other help lines as required.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sharon Matthews for her dedicated work around school each day maintaining hygiene routines for staff and students. We are very grateful indeed for this! Mrs Matthews spends her day currently keeping areas clean and COVID free.

Setting of work if your child is absent

In the event of your child being off school for a short period of time, we would ask you to turn to work that is already on various Google Classrooms; this includes homework tasks and topics or themes. In addition to this, the long term plans for each subject area on our website https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/subjects This information will provide you with further, more specific information for students to research and read more widely around whilst at home. This can be complemented then with activities and lessons from https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize and https://www.thenational.academy/ if students search for similar themes.

If we have to ask a bubble to self-isolate as a result of a confirmed coronavirus case, we will move to a 'Blended Learning' situation; this will be a mixture of staff offering on line and in school teaching remotely. Please ensure that all students know their Google Classroom codes **NOW** in order to make a smooth transition if we have to do this. Equally, we have now a new 'Distance Learning Strategy' in place if we move to a full, or local lockdown required again where all students are not in school.

Visits to school

Could I ask that only essential trips to school reception are made by parents. Thank you. If this is required, please wear a face covering coming in to the building. We are reducing the number of

visitors to the academy and will be pleased to offer parents a telephone call or video meeting first as required.

Buses
Our Chair of Governors, Mike Dean and I met with Ian Budd, Director of Education this week via video. We were delighted to be joined by Councillor Mark Cargill and local authority officers for transport routes also. The meeting was centred around how we could further support you as parents along with the students to safeguard the risk of Coronavirus on the shared transport across Alcester schools.

As a result of this, we will be sending you more information in the near future that I will also relay to the students in school. Failure to adhere to the safety boundaries in place will result in Warwickshire working along-side schools and intervening.

Could I urge parents to contact the Transport Department if you have any concerns about allocated seats not being respected, or poor student behaviour impacting on safety. Please also remind our students that we all expect the highest standard of respect for others on transport at this difficult time. Thank you.

I would like to remind you that where possible, walking or cycling to school is deemed to be safest. The new bike racks are now in place for extra security.

Face Coverings
Children in school are now wearing face coverings as a 'normal routine' when required. If they could pop a spare in bags, this is also very helpful. Staff at Tesco Express commented to me this week at how great our students are at respecting this rule and I was extremely proud to hear this!
(Please can you ensure that face coverings aren't too big! This loses the impact of wearing them).

Bubbles
We will be making minor changes to bubble routines next week in school now that we can see how to better refine things. Children will be briefed in full in order to support this. These changes mean that year 7s will no longer have to sit in classrooms for part of their lunchtime and that year 7 and 8 can have some time in the hall to purchase food. We will also add some lunchtime IT provision where we can. This means that students can carry on with work and home work during this period of time.

Wellbeing
Students have completed questionnaires in tutor time this week regarding their return to school emotional needs. We are keen to support all students as they recover from lock down both academically, and in terms of their own mental health. If you need any support with this, please contact karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Ofsted Parent View

https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/

Please could I ask you to complete the Parent View questionnaire on line. Thank you. If you recall, this collects data every academic year and it is important to us. Thank you.

26th September –
European Day of Languages

We are looking forward to celebrating European Day of Languages on Thursday 24th September in school. Thanks to the MFL team for designing activities during the day led by a virtual year 7-10 assembly first thing from Mrs Weatherley; Head of MFL. Further details of activities will be in next week's bulletin.

Equipment reminder – Please ensure that students attend school with their own set of equipment. Sharing equipment right now is harder than ever under COVID guidance.

Lourdes Device Scheme – arrival of devices
Please see the link regarding an update for parents/carers waiting for these
https://www.lourdesit.org.uk/student-device-scheme-updates/

Uniform
If any parents/carers would like to donate quality, out grown uniform, we would be delighted to receive it at school. Thank you.

Reminder:
We welcome the school photographer Braiswick into school on Tuesday 22nd September for Y7-10.

Once again, I convey my gratitude to you all for working with us at this time. Things are settling in and around school. It is just so amazing to witness. I'm gutted that if Alcester Academy is to follow the national picture however, we will see disruption to this very soon. Let's work together please to keep 'our' children as safe as we can at this time please. My intention continues to be to maintain a happy and safe school for the children.

Wishing you a safe weekend ahead. Please be in touch with me if you have any concerns at this time. I continue to be the out of hours contact as needed. If any cases are confirmed over the weekend, it is imperative that you let me know please; head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Kind regards

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

School Photographs

Braiswick will be taking year 7—10 school photographs on Tuesday 22nd September from 9am.

All students must be in full school uniform on that day. Year 7 + 9 PE lessons will be classroom based on this occasion.

If year 8 - 10 parents wish to change their photo consent, please make sure you have returned the consent forms emailed earlier this week.

Year 7 parents have already given consent on the contact information sheet completed in the summer.

We have a copy of Braiswick's Covid Risk Assessment and confident that they will be working in a safe environment. Photographers are supplied with and will be use:
3 ply face masks
Surgical gloves
Hand sanitiser
They will be working at a distance of 7ft from students and it will be the responsibility of children and parents for uniform and hair (tidy, straight collars etc.)

Students will stand up for their photographs as opposed to the more usual seated pose.

A word on Wellbeing....

Our LSU team have gone mobile and are now established in each of the year group bubbles, they still work with all students across the school dealing with all things pastoral.

This week we have worked with some of our external agencies who have come back in to work with students and next week we will see a return of our counsellor, Clare Gibb who will be supporting students currently under her care. We are also hopeful that our Life Space mentors will also return to us within a few weeks for more face to face contact with their mentees.

This week all our students have completed a return to school questionnaire, this will hopefully enable us to pick up any issues and offer any support that we can.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you are feeling that your child is not coping with all that is going on karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

European Day of Languages – 26 September 2020

In order to recognise the 6000 different languages spoken in Europe, we will be celebrating this year's European Day of Languages through a variety of activities which will take place during the week beginning Monday 21st September. Some of the activities include:

Year 7 and 8 tutor quiz with prizes for the two best tutor groups

Lunchtime activities for year 7 on Thursday 24th September

MFL students in years 7,8 and 9 will enter a regional competition run by Routes into Languages, who are based at Aston University

European themed food will be available in the canteen on Wednesday 23rd September

On Thursday 24th September all staff at Alcester Academy will be promoting languages through their subjects.

Miss Heitmüller and I look forward to seeing students getting involved with these activities.

Mrs Weatherley
Head of MFL

routes into LANGUAGES

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."

- Nelson Mandela

#MFLQuote

OXFORD

Covid-19 related pupil absence

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

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

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

School Attendance — up to 17th September 2020

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.0%	94.1%	96.5%	92.8%	94.7%	94.9%

Top Tutors this week are:

7WI - 97.8% 8MA - 97.5% 9AN - 97.6% 10RO - 96.3% 11DY - 97.9%

Photo of the week

The photo of the week comes from Luke in year 11 - he's currently exploring simplicity within nature where he has captured these vibrant colours.

Language Idiom of the Week

It's raining cats and dogs

French: Pleuvoir des cordes

Literal meaning: To rain ropes.

German: Es gießt wie aus Kübeln

Literal meaning: It is pouring from buckets.