Alcester Academy Christmas BULLETIN

19h December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of term, and a conclusion to a wonderful 2025 at Alcester Academy. Thank you all for your continued support and partnership over this time. It's been a busy year for sure!

The week started here very seriously with a fascinating visit from our MP on Monday, Manuela Perteghella came to school in person after her busy schedule meant that she did not make the online connection with the children recently for UK Parliament Week. We were extremely grateful to Manuela for showing the commitment this week to our students. Students in years 7-10 all heard from Manuela and posed really thoughtful questions to her. The session was recorded for our year 11s to hear at a later date.

Thank you to Manuela and her team for taking this time out of a busy schedule for us.

What's inside this week

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Our skiers then went off to the slopes on Monday evening for their first session of the season and made fantastic progress. They are off to the snow in February and so there is plenty of time to keep practicing.

On Tuesday, we held our annual Christmas Concert at school to include our year 7 soloists making their debut for this, Anoushka (Billesley) and Ollie (Oversley). It was such a fabulous evening that really began to get us all in the festive spirit and ready for the big day next week. Thank you to everyone involved in creating this magical evening.

Congratulations to our Young Bakers

SLT were privileged to visit Mr Tuckey's Food Technology groups this week to assess the wonderful array of Yule Logs being designed and made.

Well done to everyone for such hard work and creativity.

House charity donations on the Christmas Concert night came to a total of £131.48 .

As follows:
Billesley—
Teenage Cancer Trust—£26.89

Greville—
WWF—£19.72

Oversley—
Race and Equality Foundation—£66.26

Ragley—
Friends of Alcester Academy PTA—£18.61

Mid week, we had our festive menu being offered to students and staff by Miquill Catering. Mrs Gould and her team deserve a big shout out for their hard work feeding the school again throughout this year! Thank you all.

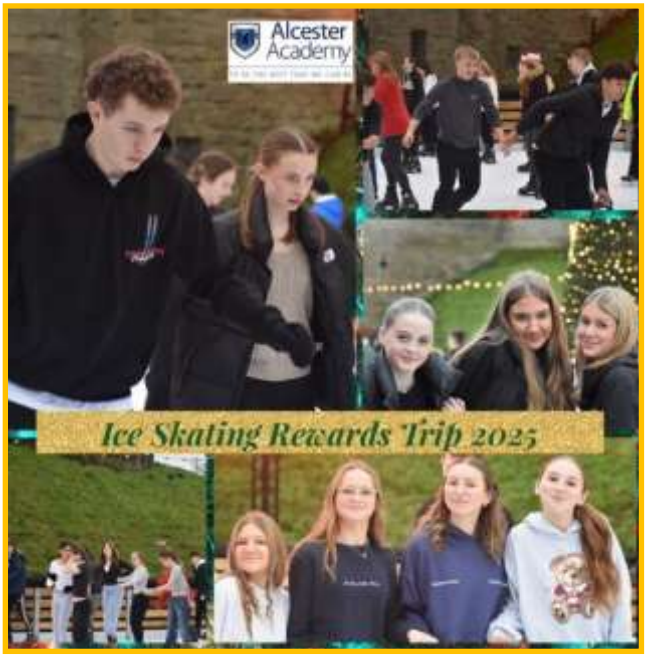
Thank you PTA

We are grateful to all members of 'the Friends of Alcester Academy' for their fund raising this year. On Tuesday evening, they joined the Round Table Santa Run in order to continue this journey. I hope that you caught them around Alcester!

Rewards Trips

The reward trips continued this week in earnest with our older students going to Warwick Castle and our younger students continuing on their bowling trips. After so many accidents on the ice last year with our younger students, we hope that you appreciated a safer bowling option this year!

Mrs Savery and Mrs Weatherley put a great deal of time into the preparations for these trips. We thank them for their hard work, and to the staff for attending with the students. Reports about the conduct of all students on the trips were impeccable.



tenpin
Alcester Academy
Year 8 Rewards Trip Christmas 2023

Award Winners of the Term

Student of the Term—Highest attainment in year group this term

Sophia	7TN
Alina	8RW
Grace	9RO
Naomi	10HR
Harriet	11GO

Progress Award Winners—Best progress across all subjects this term

Thomas	7LX
Abi	7LX
Sophia	8BW
Theo	8SA
Robbie	9RO
Grace	9DA
Daniel	10GA
Lettie	10KI
Lottie	11GO
Arthur	11GO

Just a few of our award winners from the celebration assembly on Friday morning! Congratulations winners!

Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Congratulations Years 8, 9 and 10

We are very proud of the huge number of year 9s and 10s who achieved commendation letters recently for wonderful attitude to learning scores on reports. I was also delighted to read so many positive year 8 reports this week too. This starts the KS4 options process off really well for our year 8s.

Congratulations to you all! This made for a fitting end to term in recognition of such hard work.
I enjoyed having a hot chocolate break time celebration with so many students this week.

Year 9 Super Learning Day

On Wednesday, our year 9s took part in a Super Learning Day designed to continue to stretch their curiosity and knowledge around some of the subjects that they may have chosen not to study at KS4.

The day began for all year 9 students with an assembly entitled; The importance of Performing Arts—creativity, confidence, communication and cultural understanding. Students then split into groups to experience activities around creating melodies and designing choreography and then concluded by drawing all of this together at the end of the day with one final piece of work.

Students said about their day:
Robbie said: I have developed my confidence skills and the dancing part was fun.
Maddie said: singing and dancing in front of people has developed my confidence.
Alexa commented that she was able to work through problems with good teamwork.
Jess commented that has courage and confidence has increased today as she was able to perform her song in front of friends.
Ethan commented that his determination, bravery and confidence improved today as he had to perform in front of people.
Ben said: I am way more confident in my skills at performing- performing has always been a fear of mine.

Thanks so much to the performing arts team for inspiring this and Miss Sacco for leading this first day for our year 9s. We hope for others to follow later in the year.

Albie, our therapy dog, had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas in LSU this week with the team and students!

On Thursday, our year 9 performing arts students treated the year 7s to a pantomime performance, bringing all the fun and festive spirit of this much-loved Christmas tradition.

Where can kids eat free this Christmas?

Where can kids eat free or cheap this Christmas? | CAP UK

Where Kids Can Eat Free or Cheap in the UK (2025 Guide) - MoneyMagpie

Today we held our renowned end of term whole school rewards bingo, and celebrated the Alcester Academy Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Thank you for your kind donations to this charity. I'll update you on the amounts fully raised for this charity in January 2026. Pictures are a few of the stand out jumpers and moments from today.

Thank you staff!

On behalf of the school community, I'd like to convey my sincere thanks to the entire staff for their hard work over this year, and wish everyone a restful Christmas filled with lots of wonderful memories. I'm grateful to the staff team for every opportunity that they present to the students each day.

I extend sincere and compassionate thoughts to staff or families who may find this Christmas hard for different reasons.

Looking forward, we re-open for 2026 on Tuesday 6th January for all students.

In conclusion, thank you once again for working with us this year. It does help tremendously when we all work together in partnership. We are always very grateful for the meetings, emails and phone calls that we share over the year for the benefit of the students. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas time and a very happy new year! We will see you all in 2026.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

Christmas cheer met science this week with light-up card making in year 10, present-delivery system testing in year 11, and crystal growing with year 9.

Year 10 Work Experience Update

Congratulations to the students who have already secured a work experience placement for the week commencing 2 March 2026. This is a fantastic achievement and an important step in their career development.

For students who have not yet arranged a placement, the Christmas holidays provide an excellent opportunity to reach out to local employers, family contacts, or organisations of interest. Many companies are more responsive during this period, and early contact can make a real difference.

A step-by-step guide explaining how to create and submit a work experience placement on Unifrog is available on the Career Zone Google Classroom (class code: a3hdvcr). Students are strongly encouraged to follow this guide carefully to ensure all details are completed correctly and on time.

Work experience plays a vital role when students apply for post-16 courses, apprenticeships, or sixth form. It helps young people:

- develop key employability skills such as communication, teamwork, and responsibility
- gain confidence in professional environments
- demonstrate commitment and initiative on applications and interviews
- make more informed decisions about future study and career pathways

We appreciate parents' continued support in encouraging students to engage positively with this important opportunity.

Miss Bartlett

Key Dates for 2026

Tuesday 6th January	Full student return to school.
Monday 5th January	Staff training day. School closed.
Monday 12th January	Year 8 exams start in classes.
Weekend of 17th January	West End Trip.
Monday 19th January	Year 9 Super Learning Day. 'Trust Me'.
Wednesday 21st January	Year 7 Humanities Super Learning Day.
Thursday 22nd January.	Year 8 and KS4 German Super Learning Day.
Tuesday 27th January	Online Parent Forum on KS4 Reading at 6pm.
29th/30th January	Year 11 Performing Arts Controlled Assessment.
Friday 30th January	Family Bingo Evening. PTA.
Monday 2nd February	Year 7 exams start in classes.
Friday 6th February	Year 11 Poetry Live trip.
Wednesday 11th February	Year 11 Doctors Show trip.
Thursday 12th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening. Online.

This is not an exhaustive list of events. I'm certain there will be others to add or communicate about.

German Christmas Card Design Competition

This week, we completed the German Christmas card design competition.

The winners are: Daisy (Ragley), Lucy (Billesley) and Robyn (Oversley).
Three distinctions were also awarded to Ollie, Amelia, and Anoushka.

Thank you to all students in years 7 and 8 for taking part.
The MFL Department wishes our school community a jolly Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Miss Gruszczynska

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard Autumn Term 1.9.25—17.12.25

Top student in each year group this term:

Year 7

1	Charlotte	7WI	Oversley	125 points
2	Jess	7LX	Billesley	116 points
2	Abi	7LX	Oversley	116 points

Year 8

1	Theo	8SA	Greville	97 points
2	Caitlin	8RW	Oversley	95 points
3	Poppy	8SA	Ragley	87 points

Year 9

1	Erin	9DA	Billesley	101 points
2	Evie	9RO	Greville	97 points
3	Ethan	9SO	Oversley	90 points

Year 10

1	Daniel	10GA	Oversley	113 points
2	Alizee	10YA	Greville	112 points
3	Grace	10HR	Billesley	107 points

Year 11

1	Immy	11GO	Greville	95 points
2	Ashlyn	11HE	Ragley	86 points
3	Lottie	11GO	Billesley	85 points

Top Tutor—this term:

1	7LX	1989 points
2	7WI	1919 points
3	7PA	1832 points
4	7RA	1823 points
5	8SA	1707 points

Top Staff—this term:

1	Mr Yarrington	4832 points
2	Mrs Hirji	4330 points
3	Mr Hall	3617 points

Top House—this term:

1	Oversley	9040 points
2	Billesley	8544 points
3	Ragley	8455 points
4	Greville	8447 points

Top Subject—this term:

1	English	6126 points
2	Maths	5834 points
3	Science	3590 points

Attendance Notice for Parents

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Alcester Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information parents are asked to review the data collection form on MCAS. If you need to make changes, please do so via MCAS or email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Alcester Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

Safeguarding Children During the Festive Season

Staff will be spending time with their own families over the Christmas break. If you have any concerns about any children, please therefore use the following details:

Contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Family Connect immediately by calling 01926 414144. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm.
If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.
If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999.

Safeguarding Children

These details are always posted on the school website home page during every holiday period.

https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/

ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS
Family BINGO Night
Friday 30th January
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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected 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. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken after the a19th August 2024.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

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 – 4 in total).

First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

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

Attendance News

Whole School
Attendance this term: 93.4%

Top Tutors this term:

7RA with 97.2% attendance

8RW with 97.3% attendance

9AN with 96.5% attendance

10GA with 96.4% attendance

11GO with 97% attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance this term. Our students (and parents) have shown amazing resilience and we are delighted to confirm that our attendance for this academic year to date is 93.4%.

I would like to remind you that research shows a clear correlation between attendance and academic achievement, so this all keeps our pupils on the path to success that we pride ourselves on.

Our top year group this term are year 7 with 95% attendance, just pipping our year 8s into first place.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy Christmas and I look forward to supporting you all in the new year.

Best wishes
Ms Hatcher—Attendance Officer

Transition to MCAS for All Absence Reporting

We are continuing to transition to reporting all absence (including illness and appointments) through the MCAS app. It is a simple process and allows you to see the absence has been logged almost immediately.

Below is a guide to how this is done:

Click on the attendance option.

Click Report an absence.

Complete the absence form and press send.

Examination Invigilators

£13.68 per hour, claimed monthly

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 30th January 2026

Interviews: TBC

Start date: As soon as possible for training

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Broad Description

The ability to work in a team, under direction, and to communicate effectively are essential. Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ and the Academy's regulations and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process. Alcester Academy runs a number of examination series during the academic year and would expect flexible availability during these times, dates available on request. Applicants must be available for at least 5 sessions (morning/afternoon) per week during internal and external exam seasons throughout the academic year.

The Application Process

This should be by completed application form emailed to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk - we do not accept CVs.

Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate.
We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.
We do encourage interested candidates to come and visit the school before making an application.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy, please contact head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.

Alcester Academy

Teaching Assistant

Part Time. Working 3 days term time only

(39 weeks including 3 Teacher Training days)

Scale F range 6-11. Actual pro rata £13,781

Immediate Start.

Closing date: Friday 23rd January at 12 noon. Interviews: TBC

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

This is a part time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 3 teacher training days) as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of planning and running intervention sessions with children and monitoring progress within these. Alongside supporting a range of special educational needs specifically neurodivergence, including autism, ADHD and dyslexia. This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form which can be found on our website https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/vacancies. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. Please send your completed application to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 23rd January 2025. Interviews TBC.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application. Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.

Alcester Academy

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2026	
School closed	*Monday 5th January 2026*
	Teacher training day
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026
Back to school	Monday 23rd February 2026
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 27th March at 12.40pm
SUMMER TERM 2026	
Summer Term begins	Monday 13th April 2026
School closed	*Friday 1st May 2026*
	Teacher training day
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026
Back to school	Monday 1st June 2026
Summer Term ends	Friday 17th July 2026 at 12.40pm
School closed	*Monday 20th July 2026*
	Teacher training day

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Spring Term Sport - 2026

The majority of sports clubs and fixtures for Spring term will start in week 2 w/b 12/1/26 with the exception of a year 11 basketball match on Wednesday 7th January.

NEXT WEEK'S SPORT W/B 5/1/26

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Teacher training day	
Wednesday	Year 11 Basketball v AGS– MO/NA	AGS

Year 7 Football Tournament

We fielded two Alcester Academy teams in the South Warwickshire District Football 7 a-side tournament held in Stratford this week. Our teams battled hard in all of their matches achieving 3rd and 5th place finishes overall.

Both teams showed a lot of skill in managing the tight pitch conditions and fast surface for passing and controlling the ball. Our lads certainly taking on each other in the Academy derby in the first match of the tournament in a close fought contest.

Mr Moffatt—Lead PE & Sports

This week's sporting round up

We have brought the Autumn term to a close with a brilliant week for year 7 sport, with both netball and football teams both in action.

Year 7 Netball v AGS

It was brilliant to have two year 7 netball teams compete in fixtures against AGS this week. Our A team (pink) won their match 0-4 and our B team (blue) lost 4-0. Well done to all involved and representing us in this fixture you were all a credit to the Academy.

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Home to School Transport in Warwickshire

Help shape the future of school transport

We'd love to hear from families, carers, and young people about how we can make home-to-school transport better for those that need it.

How to get involved:

- Attend one of our drop-in or online events
- Respond online at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk
- Call us on 01926 410410
- Email: hometoschooltransport@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Post your response to: Transport Delivery (consultation) Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SP.

Consultation closes 4 January 2026.

Scan for more information including online survey, consultation events and Easy Read versions

/WarksLocalOffer

Warwickshire County Council

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FOR UNDER 18s

Calling all nature lovers, photographers and curious explorers!

Join our Nature Photography Challenge to discover, record and celebrate Alcester's amazing wildlife and habitats.

This could be wildlife, plants, trees, insects or landscapes from around Alcester

OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 TO AUGUST 2026

Submit your best photos and the winners will feature in the 2027 Alcester in the Wild Calendar.

info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

ags Alcester Grammar School

Sixth Form Subject Sampling Evening

Thursday 6th February 2026

Join us for an evening where you can sample six different subjects and get a real feel for our school and curriculum

SCAN ME

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

sixthform@alcestergs.com

Birmingham Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5ED

AbilityNet

Free digital skills training
Everyone Welcome
No need to book
Free Tea/Coffee and Biscuits included

Delivered by Matthew Quarless, trainer at AbilityNet
10:00 - 11:30 In the Function Room
Alcester Unionist Club, 46 High St. B49 5AB

Wednesday 25th February 2026 Session 1
Getting to know your Smartphone or Tablet;
Using a computer for documents

Wednesday 4th March 2026 Session 2
How to access Public Services eg Gov.UK;
How to manage your health online

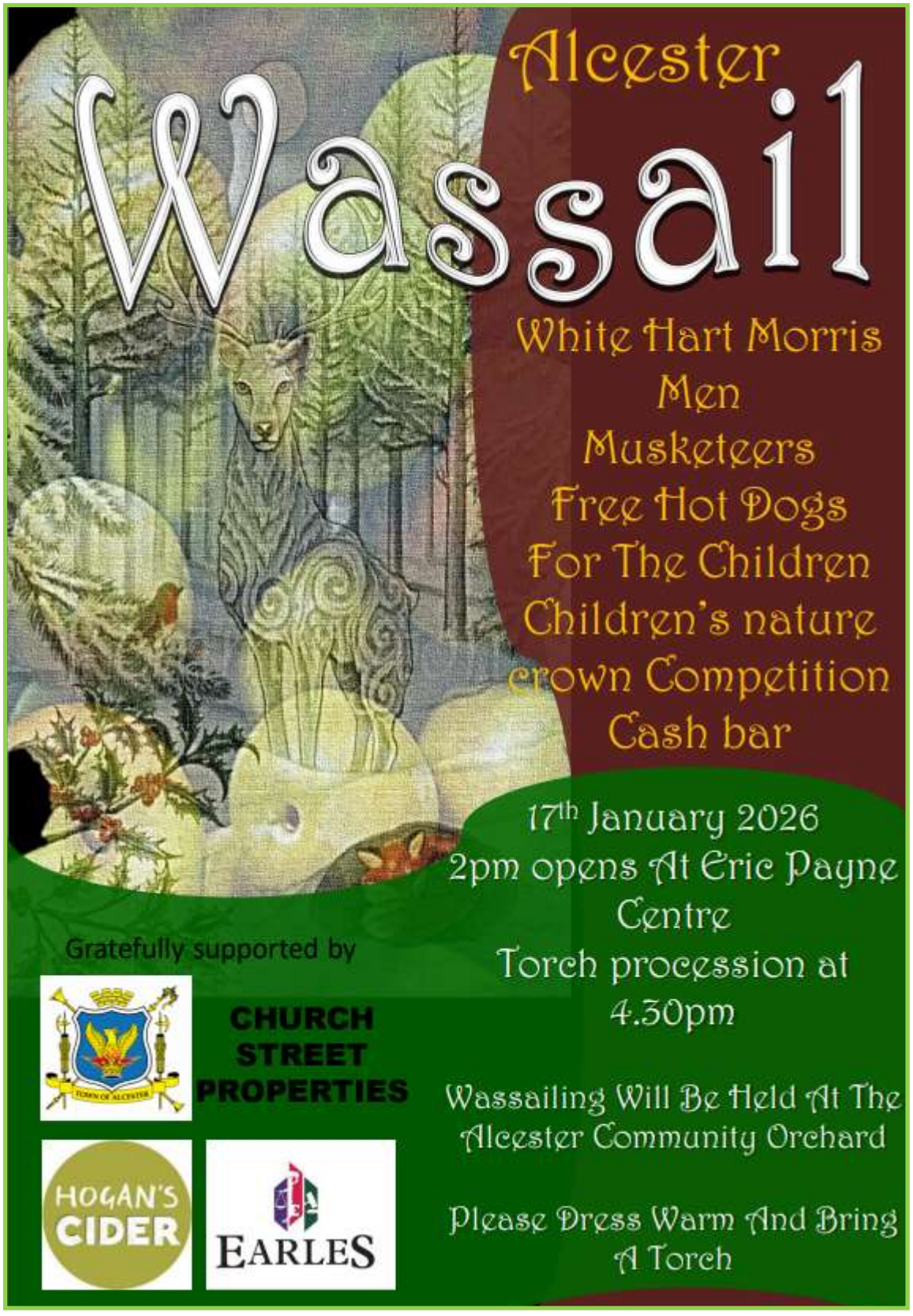
Wednesday 11th March 2026 Session 3
How to shop online;
How to bank online

Session delivered by Jared Anderson
10:00 - 11:30 In the Function Room

Wednesday 18th March 2026 Session 4
Staying safer online

During the AbilityNet Sessions
Well Connected Computer Group drop-in sessions will be taking place in the Lounge as usual
Every Wednesday 09:30 - 11:30

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



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