

# Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of our proper first week back! I'm so proud of the students and the way that they have continued to adapt to their return. Immediately I want to thank the lateral flow testing teams within school; Mrs Jones, Mr Parker, the other staff members, our parent and community volunteers too. Getting through 1800 tests over the last few days has been a huge achievement. The students have worked with maturity and commitment to do these in a sensible and efficient way. We have had no positive results at all. Further on in the bulletin, I do refer to the need to home test from now on.

Sadly, coronavirus has not gone away. We all know that. I have been concerned about cases in many nearby schools. Our thoughts are with those students, staff and parents right now. Please do not become complacent, and in a calm and supportive way, we must convey this to the students. Despite being able to be in school, we are still in a national lockdown and in order to protect the school community, we must continue to adhere to the guidance in



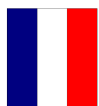
place. I really feel passionately that this is one of the most important times for relaying this message. We have come so far together with very few cases that I would hate to see our community rocked by an unexpected surge at this point.

## Positive Covid Cases

If we have positive coronavirus cases in school and your child is deemed to be a 'close contact', I will

alert you to as to whether this has been indicated by a lateral flow home test or a full PCR test. Where there has been a positive from a lateral flow, the isolation may be temporary until the PCR result is confirmed. If the PCR is negative, the children are permitted to return to school as soon as possible. We are getting used to these new guidelines yet again. All isolations as a result of a positive PCR must be for the full ten day period. Work for students will be uploaded to their Google Classrooms. Details of this are on the website: <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19->

If required, all of this will be communicated to you at the appropriate time. Please take care to read any communication thoroughly.



## MFL Idiom of the Week



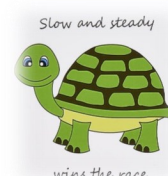
*English:* Slow and steady wins the race

*French:* Qui veut voyager loin ménage sa monture

*Literal meaning:* He who wishes to travel far must take care of his mount

*German:* Langsam und stetig gewinnt das Rennen

*Literal meaning:* Slow and steady wins the race



## Lateral flow testing

The home test kits have been distributed to students. As we get more of these delivered, we will send boxes home to replenish them for you. Please refer to Tuesday's separate school communication regarding home testing specifically. That provided details of the regularity required and how to obtain more kits for other family members as needed. I also outlined what to do if there was a positive result; you must then book for a full PCR covid test. For any queries regarding home testing, please contact us.

It is important that families realise that we **MUST ACT** on a positive lateral flow result. This is until the full PCR result is returned and it will involve isolating close contacts whilst we wait for a full result.

Contrary to my school communication on Tuesday, I've since been advised by PHE that testing first thing in the morning is best so that you can then access a PCR on the same day if needed. This makes sense. For those parents without a car, the walk through sites are now only open for PCR testing during mornings. In the afternoon, they are deep cleaned and turned around for lateral flow test kit collection 1pm-8pm. I believe the nearest one is at the theatre in Stratford. <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

If you are struggling to collect lateral flow kits for other family members, there is a 24 hour delivery service from Royal Mail <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## Easter school holiday

Don't forget that we break up for Easter on Thursday 1st April. This will be a normal school day with us finishing between 3.15-3.25pm depending on the staggered year group exit from school. We are not finishing at lunchtime.



## Free School Meals over Easter

The Warwickshire 'Winter Grant Scheme' will continue in to the Easter holidays for parents' eligible for benefits related free school meals. This covers 17 days at £51 per child with an additional automatic £25 pay point energy voucher included this time too. Vouchers will be posted out in the same way to the last round.



## EU Settlement Scheme

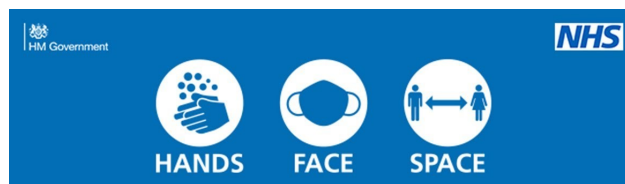
In a recent Headteacher's briefing, I was asked to bring to your attention the need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. This applies if you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, and includes the need for children to also apply. This must be completed before 30th June 2021. It is free to apply. More detail can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families> or call 0300 123 7379.

## Claire Gibb School Counsellor

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many professionals who work with us and have continued to do so at this time but especially Claire Gibb who I know many students value a lot.

## Site Safety

Thank you to our site team and midday supervisors for their support right now too. Our Housekeeper, Sharon Matthews continues to do an amazing job of cleaning the touch points and toilets throughout the day. I know that the rest of the staff and students appreciate this a lot. There is no doubt that this detail has helped us such a lot in reducing the possibilities of transferring the virus.



**Dr Alex George, young mental health ambassador**

If parents are looking for some sound advice right now around mental health, Dr Alex George has been posting some useful tips:



- Get outside
- Exercise
- Call a friend
- Eat well
- Look after your sleep routine

Follow him on twitter [@DrAlexGeorge](#)

## Year 10 parents' evening

We are looking forward to seeing parents on 25th March for year 10 parents' evening via Schoolcloud.

## Clubs are re-emerging

Year 7 Netball and Football Practice has started on a Thursday after school until 4.25pm.

Year 9 Music group has begun on a Friday lunch time too. More to follow.



And so to the weekend. I'm sure that we're all battling now with the need for a good haircut and a nice meal out! It won't be long. Next week we can hopefully begin to get back to some uninterrupted classroom time and the continued restoration of some more familiar routines.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Thank you so much for the on-going support.

Best wishes

*Sarah Mellors*  
Headteacher



## Term Dates

**SPRING TERM 2021**

Spring Term ends (Easter)      Thursday 1st April 2021

## SUMMER TERM 2021

Summer Term begins                      Monday 19th April 2021

May Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021

Half Term Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021

Back to school

Monday 7th June 2021

Summer Term ends                      Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm

*School closed* *Wednesday 21st July 2021 Teacher training day*

***2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE***



## Year 11 Careers Information

LOOK  
AT  
THIS



National Citizen Service (NCS) is now open for summer registration. The 2 or 3 week personal development programme will support students to; Meet new people, Try new things, Support their local community, Interact with businesses and develop the skills and confidence to take on

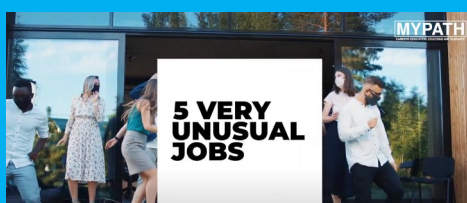
life after school. The programme is also shaping to be one of the first opportunities for students to safely gather with friends, whilst still developing key life skills for future employment. Places will be limited but year 11 & 12 students can grab their place at [weareNCS.com](https://weareNCS.com).



[JOB OF THE WEEK -  
EPISODE #01 - ACTUARY](#)



[JOB OF THE WEEK -  
EPISODE #02 - BARBER](#)



[5 VERY UNUSUAL JOBS \(YOU'VE  
PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF\)](#)

## epraise updates - week ending 16.3.21

### Congratulations to the Top Students this year:

1st - Jack - Year 7 EIGHTH WEEK  
 2nd - Maya - Year 7 EIGHTH WEEK  
 3rd - Kaitlyn - Year 9 SECOND WEEK  
 3rd - Isabelle - Year 9 FIRST WEEK

### Top Scorers this week:

1	Harvey	7NE	13 points
2	Luke	8CA	12 points
3	Charlie	7TY	11 points
4	Isabelle	9WA	10 points
4	Romano	9WA	10 points
4	Evin	7TY	10 points
4	Jess	7HT	10 points
4	Ewan	7TY	10 points
9	Ollie	9BI	9 points
9	Holly	8CA	9 points

### Top Staff this week:

1	Mr Rowberry	405 points
2	Mr Bowater	289 points
3	Miss Heitmuller	275 points

### Top Tutor Groups this week:

1	7TY	194 points
2	7HT	148 points
3	7BW	136 points
4	7WI	131 points
5	7NE	129 points
6	9WA	125 points
7	8CA	123 points
8	8YA	107 points
9	8ST	100 points
10	9TN	96 points

### Top Subjects:

1	Science
2	Maths
3	English



## Careers Information



### **Virtual Work Experience Programmes for year 10 & 11 students between 6th and 16th April 2021**

**The programmes are all completely free for students,  
they involve around 10 hours of activity.  
The deadline for applications is 29th March  
and applicants will hear if they have a place on the  
programme on the evening of 31st March.**

Click [HERE](#) to register

#### **ELEVATE PARENT WEBINAR**

*The webinar series is completely free  
for parents at Alcester Academy.*

*Tuesday 23rd March: Managing  
Technology and Distractions*

*Parents will also be sent the replay  
link if they have registered so if they  
miss it live, they can still access it.*

*Registration link:*

*[https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/  
register](https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register)*

## LRC News

### Accelerated Reading Chocolate Challenge

I gave a challenge to year 7 and 8 to read and significantly improve their AR quizzing between 15th January and the 12th March 2021.

Eight of our students stepped-up to the challenge and will be receiving chocolate from me because they either improved their word-count significantly, or read and quizzed on lots of books!

Congratulations to Thomas, Frances, Maya, Lucas, Abi, Faith, Oliver and Jack.

Chocolate will be delivered to them over the next couple of days! Well done to all of you.



### Warwickshire Year 9 Book Award 2020

The group of year 9 students that took part in this year's WY9BA entered some stunning pieces of work to the competition that was being run for this award by Warwickshire Schools' Library Service and we were delighted to be told, just before lockdown, that Isabelle had won a prize.

This week she was finally awarded with her certificate and prize.

Congratulations Isabelle!

*Mrs Hands*



### Y7 - Exchange your World Book Day Tokens in the LRC



Choose from these books, while stocks last:



### Alcester Schools Book Award 2021

Anyone in **Year 8 English Set 1 or Set 2** with Mrs Farnell or Mrs Scott who would be interested in taking part in this award after Easter please add yourselves to Google Classroom - oxx22hh.





# Every video call is making a difference

By meeting friends virtually we're helping stop the spread of Covid-19, because the less we go out, the less likely we'll come into contact with the virus.

Let's keep going





## Photography of the Week



**Water with Lens Ball by Will, year 11**

**Exploring reflections and experimenting with aperture (setting for this shot was f1.4) Will was able to capture this crisp reflection photograph which shows the beauty of nature.**



## Stratford Town Football Club - **ACADEMY**

### FOOTBALL & EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Boys aged 16–18 years old.



#### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport
- FA Level 1 & 2 Certificate in Coaching
- First Aid and Safeguarding Certificates
- GCSE English & Maths (If required)
- Year 3 HND Degree Course option
- Coaching by UEFA 'A' Licenced Coach
- Four days a week training with competitive league match every Wednesday.
- Strength & Conditioning sessions held at Stratford Leisure Centre – Everyone Active.

#### OPEN TRIAL DAYS

WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 – 6:00pm – 8:00pm

WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 – 11:00am – 1:00pm

WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 – 6:00pm – 8:00pm

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2021 – 11:00am – 1:00pm

#### VENUE

STRATFORD TOWN FC  
ARDEN GARAGES STADIUM  
KNIGHTS LANE, TIDDINGTON,  
STRATFORD UPON AVON. CV37 7BZ

*The sessions will be taking place on the main stadium pitch.*

To book a place or for further information please contact:

Head of Academy: Ryan Simmonds – 07540 476934  
stratfordtownfc.academymanager@gmail.com

## JUNIOR BAKE OFF

...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S  
BEST YOUNG BAKERS  
AGED 9 - 15

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
SUNDAY 28TH MARCH 2021

Enquiries:  
[applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk](mailto:applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk)



## SPORTS NEWS \*\* SPORTS NEWS \*\* SPORTS NEWS

## Search for a New Club Nickname

Dear School,

Throughout the club's history, Stratford Town Football Club has been simply known as 'The Town'. The club for the past two years has been under new ownership and has embarked on creating a bigger presence within the local community. In 2020, Stratford District Council awarded the Club 'Sport Community Club of the Year'. At the start of the 2020/21 Season the club adopted a vibrant orange and navy-blue colour combination to represent our brand and give us a singular identity. We are now looking for a new nickname for the club to be associated too.



As part of the club's initiative to build a better connection with the schools in our local community, we would like you to invite your pupils to enter into our search for a new club nickname. This could be as individuals, year groups or as an overall school choice.

This initiative is run in conjunction with the Stratford Herald newspaper, the search begins on Thursday 4th March. **All entries will have to be submitted by Tuesday 23rd March**, with the chosen nickname and individual or group being announced on Thursday 25th March in the Herald and across the club's social media.

In the event of a nickname being selected by multiple entries, the club will hold a draw to choose an individual winner. A commemorative gift will be presented to the individual or group. All duplicate entries will receive recognition for also selecting the club's new nickname.

Entries can be sent to [competition@stratfordtownfc.co.uk](mailto:competition@stratfordtownfc.co.uk) If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at [commercial@stratfordtownfc.co.uk](mailto:commercial@stratfordtownfc.co.uk) I look forward to seeing your entries and would like to thank you in advance for your schools participation.

Kind regards

Steven Burge—Commercial Manager  
Stratford Town Football Club

## School Attendance — up to 18.3.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
95.6%	93.1%	92.1%	90.4%	91.6%	92.7%

## Top Tutors per Year Group — well done!

7BW, 8MA, 9WA, 10RO and 11BR



# Are you facing financial hardship because of the pandemic?

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme can help you if you are struggling to access food and energy.

The scheme helps people in crisis by offering emergency support and putting them in touch with services who can offer longer term help.



You are not alone, call today on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182 to discuss your circumstances with a friendly advisor.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship)



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold a informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



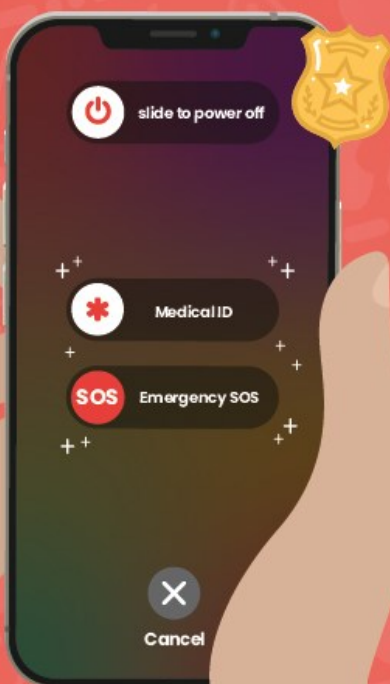
# How to Make an EMERGENCY SOS CALL on an iPhone



The iPhone's emergency SOS feature lets you call for help quickly and easily, should you need to. When you activate the SOS, your iPhone immediately calls the local emergency number. Hopefully, your children will never have to use the emergency SOS call. However, it's crucial that they know how to do it in case they ever need to. Teach your children how to use the SOS call and how to make your emergency contact with our easy-to-follow steps.

## Making an Emergency Call iPhone 8 or later

- 1 Press and hold the side button and one of the volume buttons
- 2 Swipe the Emergency SOS slider to open
- 3 Alternatively, continue holding down the buttons. An alert will sound and a countdown will begin. Keep the buttons pressed until the end of the countdown
- 4 Your iPhone will call the local emergency services
- 5 You can also send an Emergency SOS by quickly pressing the side or top button five times. You'll hear the alert sound, and when the countdown ends you'll be connected to the emergency services



## How to Add Emergency Contacts

- 1 Open the Health app
- 2 Tap your profile picture
- 3 Tap 'Medical ID'
- 4 Tap 'Edit' and scroll to 'Emergency Contacts'
- 5 Tap a contact and select their relationship to you
- 6 Tap 'Done' to save your changes

## Location Services

After you make an emergency call, your iPhone will send your current location to your nominated emergency contacts via text message (you can cancel this option if you wish). This temporarily activates your location services if they were disabled. Your emergency contacts will receive an update if your location changes.

## Making an Emergency Call iPhone 7 or earlier

- 1 Press the side or top button five times quickly
- 2 Swipe the Emergency SOS slider
- 3 Your iPhone will call the local emergency services



**NOS** National  
Online  
Safety®  
[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Source: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208078>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.03.2021

## Vacancy Teacher of Mathematics

**Required for September 2021**

**Full time or part time considered**

**Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 26th March 2021**

**Interviews: Week of 29th March 2021**

At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes. The Mathematics Department is friendly, hardworking and committed to making learning maths an interesting and enjoyable experience for all our students. The department is comprised of experienced teachers and a dedicated HLTA.

The maths department is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; results in 2019 far exceeded National Averages: 93% at grades 9-4, 75% at grades 9-5; with a progress 8 score of +0.9.

Maths is taught across both KS3 and KS4 in groups that are set by mathematical ability. Students have four 60-minute maths lessons during each week. They follow the Pearson second edition scheme of work for KS3. During KS4 students follow a tailored scheme of work adapted from the Edexcel syllabus.

The successful applicant will be an outstanding classroom practitioner. The role is suited to either experienced teacher looking for a new challenge or an NQT.

We are looking for a colleague who:

- is passionate about developing independent, confident learners
- revels in promoting a real interest in mathematical processes and skills.
- is committed to inclusive education
- can sustain high quality teaching and learning
- demonstrates energy, creativity and commitment
- is willing to actively contribute to all aspects of school life

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk). We look forward to receiving your application.

[ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)