Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



20th October 2023

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope that you have had a positive week since we were last in touch.

It was another slightly quieter week here, although life at the Academy never slows down really. Miss Buckthorp has written about the Skern Lodge trip later on for your enjoyment. It was great to have the year 9s back with us this week and full of stories about their adventures.

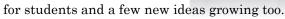
Our headline news today is the release of the latest school performance data:

Find and check the performance of schools and colleges in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Our Progress 8 score for the summer 2023 outcomes remains as one of the highest ever +0.76. It might interest you to see the DfE published data in terms of where this places us nationally against other schools. At present we sit ranked as 218th out of 6951 schools. We are thinking that we must therefore sit within the top 5% of schools nationally. This can only be achieved with the hard work between staff, governors, students, and you as parents too. We are naturally, delighted!

Mrs Farnell led assemblies this week about in starting D of E Bronze. the environmental initiatives we have in place this space for more detail.

at school. There are a group of students who work with her on that if your child is interested in supporting this important cause. The group have concentrated on reducing engine emissions, the *Bag To School* initiative, our paper recycling campaign in school, the return of used revision guides



Many of our year 11 were at MFL Saturday School last week. It was super to see them and see the extra commitment that they were making. Good luck to them all for their MFL speaking exams next week. They have had a busy couple of weeks with core subject assessments going on also. We look forward to seeing year 11 parents to provide critical progress updates via SchoolCloud for parents' evening next Thursday 26th October.



Next week, Miss Buckthorp will be seeing those year 9s interested in starting D of E Bronze. Watch this space for more detail.



What's inside this week...

Page 2 Court Leet Service

Page 3 Vaping—the FACTS

Pages 8 & 9 Skern Lodge

On Wednesday, our year 8s enjoyed a trip to the West End to see Matilda as part of their KS3 Performing Arts work. Sadly, the staff and students had to spend more time on the M25 than anticipated, but everyone got home safely. I'm very grateful to the team involved.





Mr Moffatt has written about our week in sport later on. I was thrilled to attend the year 10 rugby away game on Wednesday against AGS. Despite the pouring rain, the boys were awesome. I thoroughly enjoyed spectating, and I thank those parents who attended too. This included our parent linesman drafted in at very short notice! A big shout out to Ollie, former student for our great catch up on the side lines. Enjoy the match this weekend!

Reminders

Just a reminder that fizzy drinks are not allowed in school; cola, fanta etc.

Equally, if our girls could refrain from having fixed eyelash extensions over half term, this would save a whole lot of un necessary time. False eye lashes are also not permitted. Thank you all so much. They are just not appropriate for school.

Year 7 parents and carers

It was lovely to see so many year 7 parents and carers last night at the meet the tutor event. If you were unable to attend, we did give out an EPRAISE parent user guide and there is a

transition questionnaire to complete. Please let Miss Bartlett, Head of Year 7 know if you need copies of these.

SaschaBartlett@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Congratulations Year 8

It was an absolute privilege to be in the audience to watch the year 8 Public Speaking competition unfold this afternoon. Congratulations to all of the competitors for their superb preparation and execution. So proud!

Court Leet Service – Sunday 15th October 2023

Thank you to those students who represented the school and other key organisations on Sunday in Alcester to celebrate the new High Bailiff; Martin Burden. I was extremely proud of all of the students involved.







Vaping

There is a new information pack for parents on vaping from Warwickshire

<u>Vaping and E-Cigarettes—the Facts</u> <u>WCCC-1350011118-3253</u> (warwickshire.gov.uk)

VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES: THE FACTS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



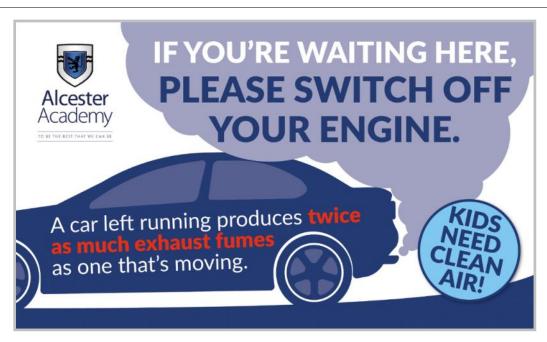
Please be vigilant at home regarding the new vape designs being developed. These include vapes looking like phones, highlighters, inhalers, smart watches and pens to name just few. I don't often express a strong personal opinion but the quicker a law is designed around these to protect our children, the better.

Remembrance

If you wish to, you are now able to sponsor a perspex poppy for Remembrance. All proceeds go to the Alcester division of the British Legion. Your donations can be made on the School Gateway for £5. For new parents, we add your family name to your poppy and make a display outside the front of school.







This year, you can choose to sponsor a purple poppy in remembrance of animals who lost lives in wars. Thanks to Miss McKenzie for bringing this idea to Alcester Academy.

We will be selling traditional poppies for students around school after half term.

MURPHY'S ARMY PURPLE POPPY CAMPAIGN
PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANIMALS LOST IN SERVICE, AND
TO THOSE WHO SERVE US TODAY



Murphy's Army Registered Charity No. 1167823 https://theyalsoserved.org

A few special updates:

At the end of this half term, we say a temporary farewell to Miss Coombs who is leaving to take her maternity leave. We wish Miss Coombs all the best for the exciting time ahead.

Congratulations to Mrs Stedman who marries over half term. We'll be welcoming back Mrs Sandells as our Head of Geography.

And finally, our canteen manager, Mrs Gould celebrated a very special birthday this week. The students know her best as Marie, and many of them worked with me to write her some lovely messages that we then put all around the school kitchen to surprise her! She was very touched indeed. As she served the students then, they were all conveying their best wishes. We had such a lovely day.

Coming up

Don't forget that it is the show rehearsal tomorrow in school. Separate details have been sent out to parents.

Some of our year 11s are heading to Worcester University on Monday for their trip around future aspirations. Full uniform needs to be worn.

Next week, there are Super Learning Days for year 8 and year 11. A separate communication will be sent out.

We have our first non uniform day of the year on Thursday 26th October. Students can wear their own clothes in lieu of bringing, or donating an allocated item. Please see the separate poster regarding this.

And, a reminder that school is closed for students on Friday 27th October as we head into half term. We all return on Monday 6th November.

In news this week, I heard that Blue Peter was celebrating it's 65th anniversary!

BBC iPlayer - Blue Peter - Blue Peters 65th Birthday Party



I noted that the Prince of Wales was given an honorary green environment badge to signify this. Where has that time gone! (Not that I am quite 65 yet!).



Equally, as technology moves on, I was interested to hear how our deliveries might get delivered by drone very soon: Amazon pledges parcels in an hour using drone deliveries - BBC News

I was flabbergasted to know that this was already operating in parts of the USA.

Poor weather today

Thank you to parents and carers for getting students to school in such terrible conditions today. I appreciate this very much. I have sent a separate communication to you about the collection of children early today.

On these notes, I wish you a relaxing and peaceful weekend ahead.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023

School closed Friday 27th October 2023

Teacher training day

Half term Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November 2023

Back to school Monday 6th November 2023

Autumn Term ends Friday 22nd December 2023 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2024

School closed Monday 8th January 2024

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024

Back to school Monday 19th February 2024

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2024

Summer Term begins Monday 8th April 2024

May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2024

Back to school Monday 3rd June 2024

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2024 at 12.40pm

Epraise Leaderboard—this week

Top Students—this week:

1	Maya	10SO	20 points
2	Phoebe	7KO	19 points
2	Sienna	7LX	19 points
2	Maddie	7KO	19 points
5	Brandon	$10 \mathrm{HL}$	16 points
5	George	11MR	16 points
5	Zachery	7KO	16 points
5	Freddie	7RA	16 points
9	Michael	7LX	15 points
9	Traviss	7LX	15 points

Student Leaderboard:

1	Zachery	7KO	105 points
2	Harry	8TY	103 points
3	Noah	7RA	102 points
4	Chloe	7KO	92 points
5	Maddie	7KO	89 points
5	Scarlett	7WI	89 points
7	Amber	7WI	88 points
8	Ethan	7KO	86 points
9	Phoebe	7KO	85 points
9	Anna	7KO	85 points

Top Tutor—this week:

1	7LX	279 points
2	7RA	270 points
3	7KO	257 points
4	7TN	241 points
5	7WI	228 points

Top Staff—this week:

1	Mrs Gorner	397 points
2	Mr Bowater	332 points
3	Mr Yarrington	322 points
4	Miss Wincup	296 points
5	Miss Lewis	254 points

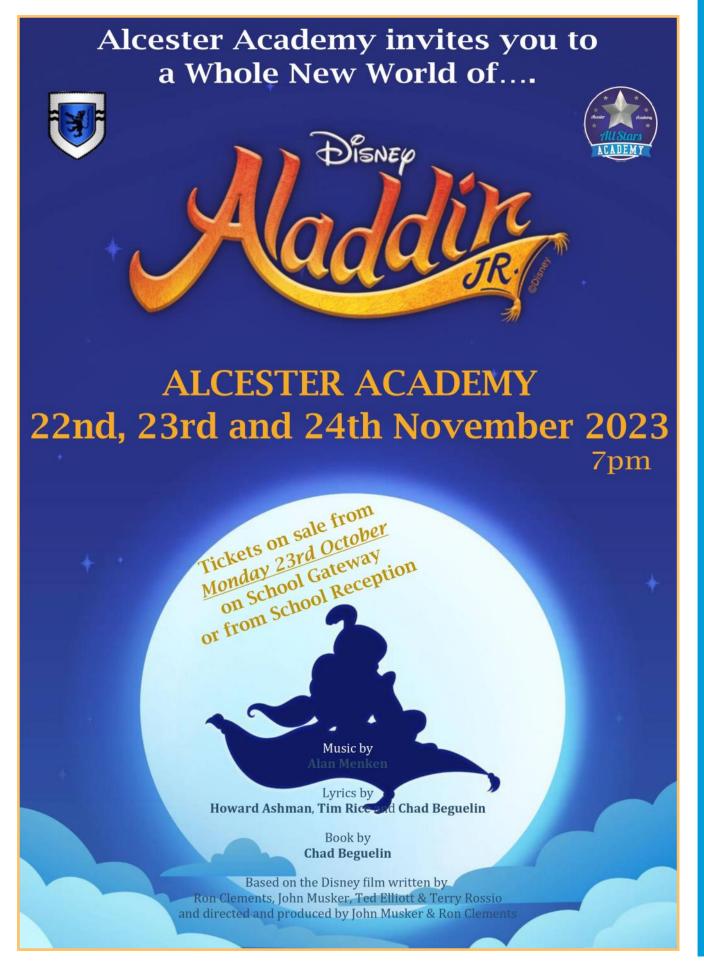
Top Subjects—this week:

1	English	743 points
2	Maths	440 points
3	Geography	403 points
4	Art	358 points
5	History	343 points



epraise





SKERN

Year 9 Skern Lodge * 9th - 13th October 2023

Last week 82 year 9 students along with Miss Buckthorp, Mr Hall, Mr Badham, Mrs Clarke, and Mrs Evason all set off to North Devon for a week of activities based around the beach, river, rocks and the beautiful Devon countryside. For the first few days we had some great sunny weather.

As soon as we arrived, we were out on activities. The Skern tunnels challenged most but were great fun as students set about mapping out the underground tunnels and finding lots of items such as half a canoe as they made their way through the











unknown! The high ropes are always a favourite as students trapezed and balanced high up in the air, while showing great support and encouragement to each other.

Over the next few days, we found ourselves learning to surf and catching waves on the beach with some standing up and looking like pros in the surf at Westward Ho! We cycled along the Tarka trail and the coastal traversing took us back to the beach, as we enjoyed climbing and traversing the rocks, and searching the rock pools finding starfish, crabs and other seaside creatures.

One of the favourite activities of the week was the high-speed rib ride. Totally exhilarating...if not a bit scary, as we bumped over the waves in the estuary of Appledore Quay and all finished off with an ice cream on the quayside. We went rafting down the Torridge Estuary in Bideford where there was great teamwork shown, as well as lots



of jumping off and battles against the different boats which was just great fun.

Our evenings were spent swimming in the outdoor pool, getting very wet on night walks and making campfires.

It was an amazing week made possible by the fantastic group of young people that we took. It was a real pleasure to see how the students all got on, supported each other, grew in confidence and learnt how to live alongside each other. The students were a real credit to the school, and they were complimented by the Skern Lodge staff who really enjoyed working with them, and loved their spirit, this made us very proud!

Thanks to all the students, staff and parents who supported the trip.

Miss Buckthorp















* www.alcesteracademy.org.uk * 01789 762285 * admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk * X @AlcesterAcademy *

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight County Football

Congratulations to Dylan in year 9 who this week represented the Warwickshire County Boys U14 team in their first match of the season against Coventry City Development. Dylan contributed to an extremely positive performance from the Warwickshire U14s in their first match together, with them coming back from 2 goals down to draw the match 2-2! Well done Dylan and we all wish the Warwickshire county team the best of luck for the season ahead.



This week's sport roundup:

A busy end to half term with fixtures coming through thick and fast whilst we still have the light. Well done to every student who has attended a practise and represented the school with such commitment this half term.

Year 9 Football v Myton (Cup)

Our year 9 footballers were handed a tough cup draw against Division 1 school Myton in the District Cup. With a number of players from the usual team missing due to illness, a number of last minute replacements and year 8s stepping up to play, we knew it was set to be a tough task to progress into the next round of the cup.

Some excellent organisation in defence and work rate from the front epitomised the great spirit displayed from the U14 players. The match remained competitive throughout and saw greater spells of position for the Alcester players as the match wore on. An injury to goalkeeper Jake after showing great bravery in making a save

midway through the first half meant that Aidan had to go in goal from outfield. He put in a great performance showing fantastic kicking ability and even managed to save a penalty kick from Myton. Despite the loss, the team showed further improvement from their first match against Studley. With a reduced squad of players it was a positive performance and outstanding to see the three year 8 lads – Toby, Ethan and Harry having putting in fantastic performances despite playing with the year group above.

Our year 9s look forward to resuming their league season after the break.



U15 Girls ESFA Cup v Kingstone Academy

Smashing effort in defeat today by our U15 footballers. The squad acquitted themselves well and fought back hard after a sticky start. Well done to Emmy for her goal and congratulations and good luck in the next round to Kingstone School (Hereford).





* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Year 7 Football v Aylesford (Cup)

Even Storm Babette couldn't stop our year 7s from showing some great progress in our cup fixture at Aylesford tonight. Unfortunately, we came out on the wrong side of a close one 1-2 but a very pleasing performance.

Year 9 Netball Tournament

This Tuesday saw our U14 Netball team represent the Academy in the South Warwickshire tournament. It was a fabulous evening of netball with eight teams taking part. Despite some great play we were on the wrong side of a couple of very close games, just one goal in it. We eventually finished in sixth place overall, congratulations to AGS who went on to win a thrilling final.



Year 10 Netball Tournament

Our U15 Netball Team represented the Academy in their South Warwickshire tournament on Thursday last week. It was a lovely evening and there was some fabulous netball played. The girls improved so much from last year and finished in an amazing fourth place overall.



Year 10 Rugby v AGS

Following much excitement and anticipation from our year 10 lads, this Wednesday was time to take to the field against AGS in their first friendly rugby match for a couple of years. Despite a tough fixture in proposition against our local Grammar School, our year 10s went into the match full of confidence with many of the school team now playing regular club rugby for either Alcester or Stratford.

In incredibly tough conditions, both sets of players showed exceptional handling skills in what was a close contest throughout. The teams were tied on points with 3 tries each going into the final minutes. Academy kept pushing for the winning try, applying pressure to the defensive line of AGS within their 22 metre-line. Following a penalty kick being awarded with seconds left, Finlay kept his composure to kick the goal, giving the U15s a narrow, but well-deserved victory.

Well done to all who represented the badge and doing the Academy proud!





* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



LUNCHTIME SPORT



- · Lunchtime sports clubs to start <u>w/b Monday 11th September</u> on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- · 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	MONDAY - PE	TUESDAY- MO	WEDNESDAY - PW
11/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS3 BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
18/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS3 BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
25/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS3 BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
2/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL
9/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS3 VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL
16/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS3 VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL

After School Sport



THIS WEEK'S SPORT: W/B 23/10/23



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 9, 10 + 11 Netball- PE	Courts
Tuesday	KS4 Girls Football-External Coach	School Field
	Year 10 Football v Studley PW	Top Field
Wednesday	Year 8 Football v Shipston- PW	Away
	Year 7 + 8 Netball- PE	Courts
Thursday No Clubs—Y11 Parents Evening		ing

Breakfast of Champions!

On Wednesday, twelve students enjoyed a French breakfast with the MFL faculty in recognition of their winning entries in the MFL Bake Off competition. Congratulations to all of you. *Mrs Weatherley*



THE GREAT BRITISH BAKEOFF



ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS



Family



Friday 10th 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.

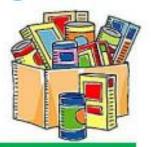
https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

Non Uniform Day



Thursday 26th October

Supporting both:



PTA - FRIENDS OF ALCESTER ACADEMY



We are collecting Thursday 26th October upon entry into school

Donations will be used for prizes for the PTA Friends of Alcester Academy Fund Raiser happening on Friday 10th November. And to support the Arden Food Bank.

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Small chocolate boxes

Examples might include a box of maltesers, matchmakers or se-







£2 Donation
Payable on the Gateway

£2 Donation
Payable on the Gateway

Year 10

Tuna or Rice





Year 11

Coffee or Tinned





Staff

Small Chocolate Boxes / Tuna / Rice / Tinned Soup or Coffee

Help support your PTA and local food bank—thank you!

Extra Curricular Clubs

Monday

LUNCH

Science Club KS3

Acoustic Group Music Hut

AFTER SCHOOL

Ornithology T4

Tuesday

MORNING

Morning Sports Club Gym

LUNCH

Young Enterpsie E6/5

> Pop Band Music Hut

Game Design

AFTER SCHOOL

School Show Hall

Wednesday

LUNCH

Chess/Board Game M4

> BBC Young Reporters

AFTER SCHOOL

Rock Academy Music

LGBTQIA+ club

Thursday

LUNCH

Environment Club

Rock Band Music Hut

Humanities Film Club Top of the Tower

AFTER SCHOOL

School Show HAll

Art Club

Friday

LUNCH

Chess/Board Game M4

Guitar Orchestra Music Hut

Saturday

Rock Academy 10am-11.30am

School Show 10m-4pm

7th October 21st October 11th November 18th November











LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court clarified 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 regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

Head teachers shall not grant any Leave of Absence during term time unless they consider there
are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

If the leave is granted, Head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance 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. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their 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 will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

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 and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case-by-case basis and on its own merits.

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'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council.

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

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

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance: 93.7%

Top tutors this week:

7RA with 99.3% attendance 8GA with 97.8% attendance 9NE with 94.8% attendance 10PW with 97.3% attendance 10RO with 97.3% attendance 11MO with 100% attendance—fab!

Well done! 11MO have achieved 100% every single week since we came back in September.

Top House this week:

Greville with 95.2%

Reminder

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!



Year 11 Revision

Please find attached our revision timetable for the last week of this half term. $Mr\ Cooke$

Day	Option lunch	Option after school
Monday	French, Sport PE1/ Study room M5	
Tuesday	Study room S5	
Wednesday	ICT Creative iMedia/ Media Studies/Study room E2	Computer Science Hospitality and Catering DT coursework catch up
Thursday	German/Study room E2	Art & Photography

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Texan Peacocks will be playing a special gig
to celebrate their 20th year
on Friday 27th October from 7pm
at the Greig Hall in Alcester!
Tickets are £10 each!
Original member Mr Badham will be playing!
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/47014



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



