Alcester Academy Christmas BULLETIN

20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of term. Thank you to all parents and extended family members for the support offered to us at school this year in numerous ways. This is always appreciated very much.

Today, we held an online whole school assembly where the students paid tribute to the work of Mr Millen over many years at the school, and we said farewell to Mrs Farnell, Head of English. A tough day indeed! We wish both staff members all the very best for the future.

End of term round up

Miss McKenzie has written about the year 7 trip to Parliament that took place on Friday last week for you later on. The students who took part in this were exemplary.

After a gruelling season of mocks for year 11s, the school returned to some sort of normality this week. The year 11s have approached these exams with maturity, commitment and a great deal of hard work. I look forward to sharing their results at parents' evening on Thursday 9th January 2025.

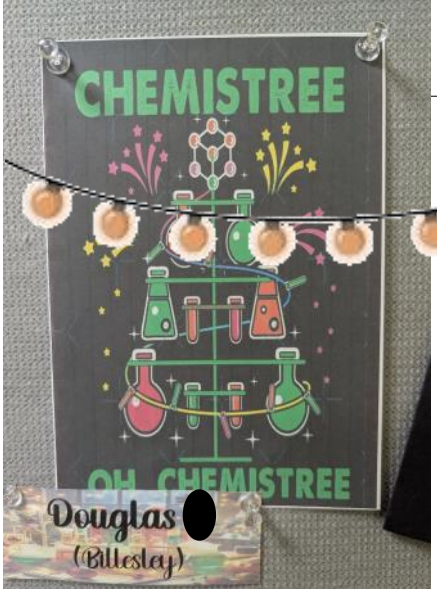
This week, the students have enjoyed their rewards trips, Christmas activities and the fabulous lunches from Miquill. Today we celebrated effort and performance in subject areas with certificates and enjoyed our infamous end of term bingo together as a school.

Here are just a few photos from the week. Lots of positive memories have been made:

Mike Dean, Chair of Governors wishing Mr Millen all the best for his retirement!

Our Christmas Concert, in the school hall, featured our Acoustic Group, the year 10 Band, the year 9 Ballet Group, Pop Band, Alcester Allstars Choir and Alcester Rock Band.

Spreading Christmas cheer with these science-inspired bath bombs and light up cards!



Our German and science departments ran Christmas card competitions this year.

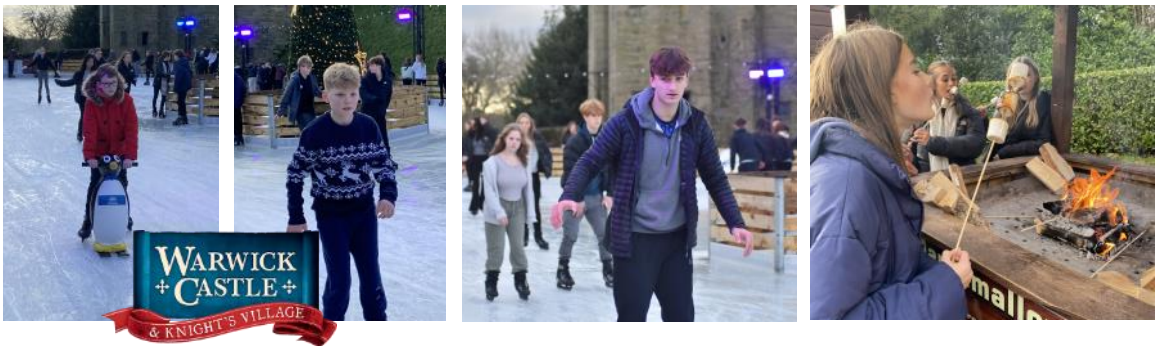
Delicious Christmas Dinners from our wonderful caterers.

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

Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our year 10s making Christmas Bath Bombs in science!

Mr Millen's last student bingo!



Fabulous Christmas Yule Logs were baked in Food Technology for the annual competition!

On Tuesday, we held our Christmas service here in school. It was a joy to see so many of you here with us. Thank you for attending and to staff and students for their work towards this. It was such a privilege to be part of the audience for this event. We all left feeling a bit more Christmas cheer.

Year 8 Congratulations

This week, I have signed numerous letters to congratulate year 8s on their end of term reports. I am extremely proud indeed. What a fabulous end to term for this year group!

Thank you Governors

Huge thanks to Mike Dean, Chair of Governors and the other members of FGB for the time that they have dedicated to school this year.

Support over Christmas

Safeguarding

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door) 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.

Samaritans—Telephone 116 123 (free from any phone)
Kooth—Counselling for young people Kooth.com
Childline—Telephone 0800 1111
Warwickshire Refuge—www.refuge.org.uk. Telephone 0800 408 1552
Wellbeing for Warwickshire—Support for mental health https://wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk/

As a staff, we have those families in mind for whom Christmas might not be a joyous time, and we send our strength and thoughts for the season ahead.

Kids eat free at Christmas

I have found some useful links to help out with the Christmas period where children can eat free: https://capuk.org/news-and-blog/where-can-kids-eat-free-or-cheap-this-christmas

PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING CHRISTMAS 2024

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

MORRISONS
Spend £5 from the hot menu and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS
Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

SAINSBURYS CAFES
Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

ASDA
Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

WHITBREAD INNS
Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN
Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS
Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS
Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

PRETO
Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

EMBER INNS
Kids eat for £1 from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024 (excludes weekends)

COCONUT TREE
One child (under 10) eats free every day Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025.

LAS IGUANAS
Download the app and join 'My Las Iguanas' for free meals for mini Iguanas. Niños get a main, two sides and a dessert with every adult main (or three tapas dishes) purchased.

BELLA ITALIA
Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays

TABLE TABLE
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

THE REAL GREEK
Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM
Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

IKEA
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

Thank you Friends of Alcester Academy

We appreciate the recent resources that the school PTA have started to fund for departments.

Service of Nine Lessons– Sunday 22nd December

The Student Captains will be at the service on Sunday 22nd December at St Nicholas Church with Miss Buckthorp. The team are reading the fifth lesson between them all.

Remembering Liv

Please join with me over the Christmas period in a quiet moment to remember Liv Worrallo.

Liv sadly passed away on Christmas Eve 2021 when she was just in year 7. This was very unexpected and tragic. Our thoughts are always with mum and dad, Sharon and Matt; particularly so at this time of year.

Many of Liv's friends, now in year 11 have spent the week raising money for Asthma and Lung UK and Redwings Horse Sanctuary on behalf of Liv. We have raised £225 by selling the most wonderful crystal Christmas angels.

Thank you to the Friends of Alcester Academy and contributing to this cause by paying for the initial cost of buying the angels. We are really grateful.

I am personally very grateful for the dedicated group of year 11s who have helped with the angel project. Here are just a few of them packing the recent orders.

REDWINGS HORSE SANCTUARY

ASTHMA+ LUNG UK

And finally, a huge thank you to the staff for everything that they have done for our students this year. I am constantly amazed at the opportunities that the students get at the academy because of the drive and energy from the staff. I wish the staff team a wonderful rest over the Christmas period, alongside some quality family time.

Our students continue to be the heart beat at the school and I wish them all a superb Christmas time also. Today, they helped to raise £590 for *Save The Children*. What an achievement!

Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Students return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

On behalf of staff and governors, we all wish you all a fantastic Christmas time and a very happy new year. I look forward to contacting you again in 2025.

Regards
Sarah Mellors

Ice-Staking trip to Warwick Castle

It was my absolute pleasure to have organised the ice skating trips again this year, which went out on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December.

We have many fabulous photographs of the students and staff enjoying their sessions!

It was lovely for students in two of the sessions to have a little extra time to enjoy the hot chocolate, marshmallows and various food items at the Christmas market afterwards, as the coach drivers had their scheduled break!

Happy Christmas!—*Mrs Weatherley*

Year 7 Trip to Parliament & Paddington Bear Experience

As part of the Personal Development programme, year 7 pupils have been learning all about British Values and what it's like to be 'Iconically British.'

On Friday 13th December a group of 30 year 7 pupils had the opportunity to travel down to London and have a tour of Parliament and enter The House of Commons. It was truly breathtaking for the pupils (and staff) to be in the room where our democracy takes place. The pupils were a credit to the school and were inquisitive and curious, asking some amazing questions. The staff were equally as lovely and engaging, even the armed guards having their photos taken with our pupils.

The next stop after Parliament was the 'Iconically British' Paddington Bear Experience and an opportunity for pupils to walk across London Tower Bridge, see Big Ben and the London Eye on the way.

The Paddington Experience was absolutely magical, and the pupils even got to have photos with Paddington himself. There was lots of fun, laughter and snow!

This was the perfect trip to consolidate pupils learning and have an understanding of the importance of democracy and British Values.

Miss McKenzie

Staff Christmas Wellbeing Workshop

We had the pleasure of welcoming Jo from White Ivy Flowers once again to deliver a festive Christmas Crafts workshop to our staff. This was a wonderful way to get fully into the Christmas spirit, enjoy some quality time together and sing along to some festive favourite tunes.

A huge thank you to White Ivy Flowers and all of the staff who came along to enjoy this time together.

Miss McKenzie

WHITE IVY flowers

NHS
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust

Are you feeling down or in mental health crisis?

Help is available to you.

SCAN ME

If you are in a mental health crisis,
call 08081 966798

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Helpline
24/7 365 days/year
Call 0800 616171

Samaritans
24/7 365 days/year
Call 116 123

NHS
Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull Talking Therapies

NHS Talking Therapies
talking therapy for people with anxiety and low mood.
To refer yourself: call 024 7667 1090 or visit:
www.talkingtherapies.covwarkpt.nhs.uk

Recovery & Wellbeing ACADEMY

Recovery and Wellbeing Academy
free courses and workshops for to empower your mental health and wellbeing.
Visit: www.recoveryandwellbeing.co.uk

mind Coventry and Warwickshire

Coventry and Warwickshire Wellbeing Hubs.
Visit: www.cwmind.org.uk/drop-in-hubs to find your local hub.

Dear Life
Life is dear, keep hold of it, you are not alone

Dear Life
local and national resources for people feeling suicidal, worried about someone who may be, or have lost someone to suicide.
Visit: www.dearlife.org.uk

Dimensions of Health and Wellbeing
self-care information to support adults, children and young people. Visit:
www.dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk

kooth

Kooth
online mental wellbeing community for 11-25 year olds, offering free, safe and anonymous support.
Visit: www.kooth.com

Qwell

Qwell
free digital mental wellbeing support for adults.
Visit: www.qwell.io

If you feel there is an immediate risk to life: call 999 or go straight to A&E

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2025

School closed	*Monday 6th January 2025—Teacher training day*
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Half Term	Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025
Back to school	Monday 24th February 2025
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 11th April 2025 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2025

Summer Term begins	Monday 28th April 2025
School closed	*Friday 2nd May 2025—Teacher training day*
May Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025
Back to school	Monday 2nd June 2025
School closed	*Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day*
Summer Term ends	Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm

Safeguarding Children During the Festive Season

Emergency contact details for Warwickshire Safeguarding:
www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door) immediately by calling 01926 414144.

Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

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If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999.

Warwickshire Safeguarding

Attendance News

Whole school attendance this term: 94.2%

Thank you for your continued support with attendance this term. It's been a tough couple of weeks with various illnesses lingering around, but our students (and parents) have shown amazing resilience and we are delighted to confirm that our attendance for this academic year to date is 94.2%, which is significantly above the national average.

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.

"Attending school every day can help your child to achieve their aspirations, and the aspirations you have for them."

Our top year group this term are year 8 with 95.8% attendance, just pipping our year 11s into first place.

Well done to every student who has worked so hard to come into school this term, working through barriers and building their resilience.

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

Best wishes
Mrs Hatcher—Attendance Officer

Message from Alcester Town Court Leet

Following on from the success of last year's event, the Court Leet and White Hart Morris Men will be holding a traditional Wassail at Alcester Community Orchard on Saturday 18th January 2025.

There will be a torch lit procession from the Eric Payne Centre. We will gather there at 4.00pm where you will have an opportunity to make your own nature crown, sing some traditional Wassail songs, watch Morris dancing and meet the Winter Queen and Holly King. The procession will begin at 5pm led by the Morris Men.

The ancient tradition of the apple wassail is to awaken the trees from their Winter sleep and to bless them in song and rhyme so that they will bear a good crop for us later in the year. This year we are pleased to say we had a bumper harvest! We will adorn the old apple tree with ribbons and hang cider-soaked toast in the branches and make lots of noise with pots and pans.
Please come to this joyful event for families with your homemade nature crowns. There will be a prize for the best children's crown.

Hot dogs will be on sale for the adults. Alcester Town Council have kindly agreed to sponsor us so that we can provide a free hot dog for the children. There will also be cider, beers and juices. It is essential that you dress in warm clothes and wear wellies. Please bring a torch for the walk back from the orchard. The orchard will be lit with festoon lights.

Bring a pot or saucepan to bang with a spoon to make some noise. Wassail! (Good health!)

Best wishes
Rosa Burden
Court Leet Wassail Committee

TEXT ACADEMY

Alcester Academy

Report incidents of bullying, theft, cyber issues, crime or anti-social behaviour

I'm being bullied - I don't know what to do -

text your message to: 07563130478

or

email your message to:

textacademy@alcesteracademy.org.uk

07563130478

A message for children and parents about risks of ice and never to go onto ice from the RoSPA

The link below offers useful safety advice:

https://www.rospa.com/leisure-water-safety/water/advice/ice

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ROSPA accidents don't have to happen

Beware - thin ice

Extra Curricular Timetable
Spring 2025
Alcester Academy
Monday
Lunchtime
Mathematics Matters (Yr11)- PE1
Acoustic Group- Hut
Y8 Book Club - LRC
ART- A1 & A2
Tuesday
Lunchtime
Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
Y10/Y11- M1
Learn to Crochet -
Textiles (Student and teachers)
After School
European languages club -L2
(From Spring 2)
Wednesday
Lunchtime
Orchestra - Hut
BBC Young Reporter- E1
ART- A1 & A2
Chess club- M3
Y8/9 Scrabble CLub - LRC
After school
Detective Fiction club- E6
Cooking Club -
Alternate weeks
Thursday
Lunchtime
Young Enterprise- IT3
Pride Group- E4
Rock Band- Hut
Photography Club - A1
Year 7 Book Club - LRC
ART- A1 & A2
After School
Art Club (GCSE only)- A1 & A2
Dance Club - Drama
Friday
Lunchtime
Youth Speaking- E4
STEM/Science- T2
Year 11 Year book-H4
ART- A1 & A2

Epraise Leaderboard—for the Autumn term

Top student in each year group this term:

Year 7
1st Place Leo—7LX with 271 points

Year 8
1st Place Ranveer—8RO with 356 points

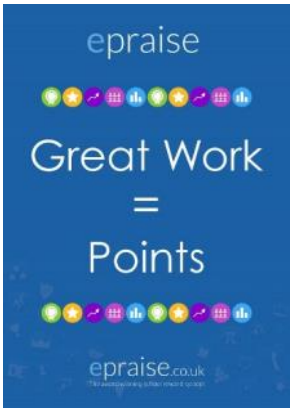
Year 9
1st Place Min-Seo—9GA with 308 points

Year 10
1st Place Immy—10PL with 333 points

Year 11
1st Place Darcie—11MR with 225 points

Top Tutor—this term:

1	7KO	4980 points
2	7TN	4781 points
3	7RA	4674 points
4	8AN	4492 points
5	7LX	4455 points

Top Staff—this term:

1	Mr Martin	6293 points
2	Mr Yarrington	6119 points
3	Mrs Gorner	4943 points
4	Mr Rossiter	4899 points
5	Ms Hirji	4743 points