

# Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



21st January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon. As you are aware, we had a surprising call this week from Ofsted for our section 5 two day full inspection. This took place on Wednesday and Thursday with Lead Inspector Claire Price. Without any hesitation, yet again, our students rose to the challenge and presented themselves in an incredible light. I am extremely grateful to them all and very proud indeed.

They were granted an extended lunchtime today as a treat for them all. As you may know, I am restricted from commenting upon any aspect of the inspection until the final report is published. I will keep you updated on a timeline for this when I know more. I would like to thank every member of staff for supporting the process with me. And to those of you that completed the parent questionnaire that was requested. I appreciated those of you who dropped us supportive email messages too; this was very kind of you. I truly think that I have most definitely covered all leadership aspects now as Headteacher over the last three years!

Aside from this, we had a very busy week planned here and in other school news the year 10s completed their exams.

They have approached these calmly and with purpose. Some of our year 7s had a STEM Super Learning Day with the remainder scheduled to do this on Monday, and our year 9s went out to complete their D of E Bronze training at Alcester Town Hall.



We secured a year 11 prom date and venue, fingers crossed! Our year 11 maths 'super groups' started in earnest and our Spring Clubs offer continued. Mr Cooke is still searching for more budding motor sport journalists.



## Themes this week

We have been looking at several important themes in assembly and tutor work since returning to school in January. This has included the topic of peer on peer abuse. This vast area has been updated as part of *The Keeping Children Safe in Education* agenda <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2> and we take this very seriously at school.

Miss Buckthorp led an assembly to the whole school on this as our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

To find out more about peer on peer abuse go to: [What is peer-on-peer abuse? - Ofsted: schools, early years, further education and skills \(blog.gov.uk\)](#) and [Peer on peer abuse – Safeguarding Network](#)

This type of behaviour can include:

- Physical and sexual abuse
- Sexual harassment and violence
- Emotional harm
- On and offline bullying
- Teenage relationship abuse
- Gang activity



As difficult as it is to over see at home, a lot of this negative behaviour can happen on phones, and as a school I would sincerely recommend striking a balance of trust with some degree of checks on devices in place. The DfE report on peer on peer abuse last summer suggested that nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. We have spoken to all of our students about what they should do if they are receiving any form of abuse from peers. They should certainly not suffer in silence.

Many of our younger students belong to social media platforms that have a restricted age of 13 associated with them; Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter to name just a few. I would urge parents to respect the age boundary associated with these.

A super parent guide on this matter can be found at: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents-Dec-2021.pdf> and <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



# NSPCC

Equally, if you would like any further support in this area, please reach out to us at school. We talk a lot to the students about their own digital footprint and what will stay with them as an electronic record for life.

## Martin Luther King Day and Holocaust Memorial

Thank you to the History department for providing a thought provoking assembly and some materials around the commemorations this week. Several students have written some accounts for today:



*The Holocaust was when the Jews got killed during World War 2. This happened because the Nazis were anti Semitic and believed that Jews didn't have a place in German society and so they sent them to places such as Auschwitz where there were concentration camps. The Jews got sent to these concentration camps and were often separated from loved ones.*

*This tragedy was so famous that there are even books on the topic of it such as the diary of Anne Frank and also The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. Some books are written by survivors of the Holocaust, but others are written by either research or sometimes even by the descendants of Jews sent to concentration camps.*

*Written by Liv and Faith in year 8*

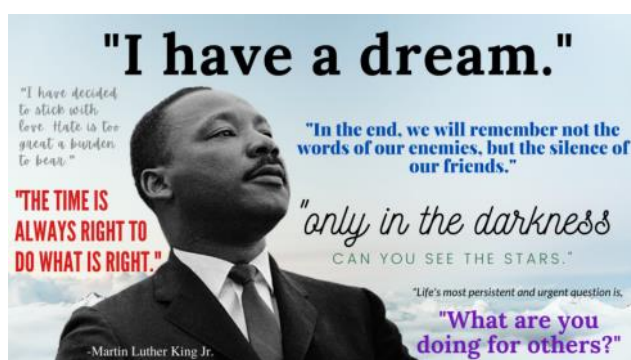
*Martin Luther King Jr. was born on the 15th January 1929. He was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesman and leader in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.*

*Martin Luther King advanced civil rights through non-violence and civil disobedience, inspired by his Christian beliefs and the non violent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.*

*He was the son of early civil rights activist and minister Martin Luther King Sr.*

*Martin delivered his 'I have a dream' speech in Washington DC on 28th August 1963.*

*By Molly 7HT*



## Walk in vaccination clinics for students

I heard from a parent about a super experience at a walk in clinic at Solihull if you are around that area. Situated on the pedestrian high street.

## Covid update

Many apologies for not sending you the statistics on Tuesday. Today's cases stand at:

Year 7—1 case

Year 8—2 cases

Year 9—no cases

Year 10—4 cases

Year 11—5 cases

It was a delight to allow students to remove face coverings in classrooms yesterday and we look forward to further changes positively on 27th January.

## Uniform Standards

We are struggling to reclaim our smart uniform standards presently and I am reaching out for your further support please:

**Year 11 are the only year group to be permitted to wear a simple, plain round necked black sweatshirt under a blazer. This will be for the winter months only and has been allowed to keep uniform costs down for parents with less than a year to go with us. I advise a coat to be worn right now too, outside.**

**Year 10s should now have a school jumper on as an extra layer if they are cold, underneath their blazer. Exams are over and we return to a full, normal school uniform. No trip hoodies or PE tops please. Other hoodies or sweat-shirts are not permitted items of school wear at any time. If students are cold, we do have a school jumper and please urge them to wear a decent coat. Thank you.**

**Shoes should be polishable in style. Canvas trainers are not allowed.**

**Hair should be of natural colour.**

**No rings should be worn and only one stud in each ear (anywhere). No nose piercings. Nails should be short on safety grounds, they can be painted as long as they are natural looking.**

**There is no need to wear false eye lashes**

to school. Discrete makeup however is permitted.

I would also be grateful if the socks being worn by girls over tights are black in colour. I understand that these are for warmth right now.

We do have warm areas for the students to go at break times if they want these.

weekend. I know that we all are for certain. Please continue to stay safe.

I wish you some relaxing family time.

Best wishes

*Sarah Mellors*  
Headteacher

### Nasal Flu Vaccines

Thank you to the NHS and staff team that supported these today. The students were mature in their approach as ever. I am sure that you are looking forward to the

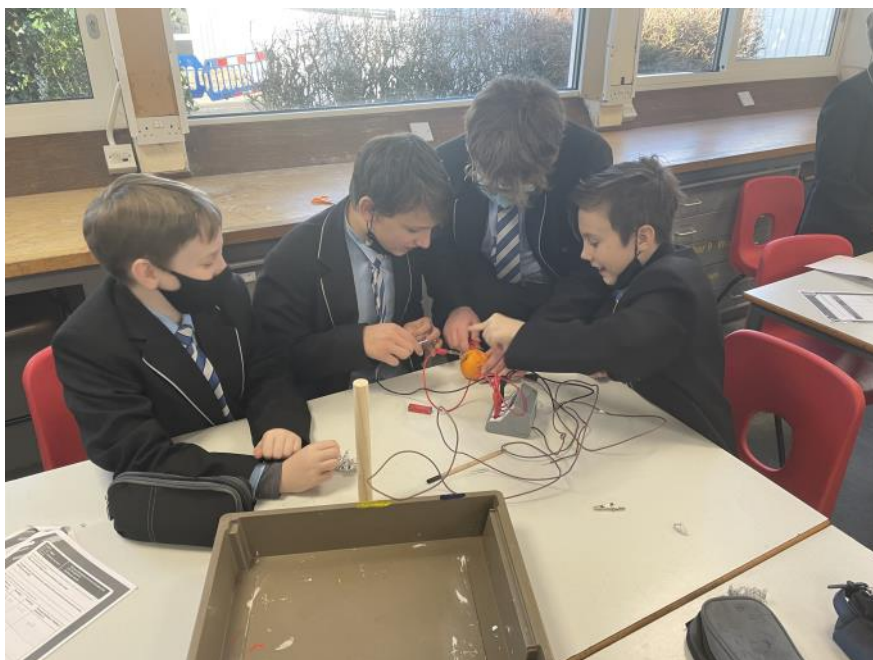
### Year 11 Revision Timetables

WEEK A	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Maths (by invitation only)	
Tuesday	English (by invitation only)	Maths
Wednesday	DT	English
Thursday	Biology triple	Physics triple
Friday	Combined Science	Chemistry triple

WEEK B	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Art/Photography <b>Maths (by invitation only)</b>	
Tuesday	Art/Photography	PTE
Wednesday	German (MFL2) Performing Arts/Music	iMedia and Computer Science Performing Arts/Music
Thursday	French (MFL1)	Art/Photography <b>Chemistry triple</b>
Friday	Geography	

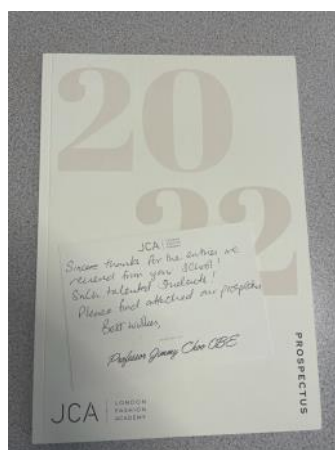
## Design Technology department news

The year 7 STEM day on Thursday was called *How to power a mobile phone using only items from a backpack!* Pupils got to learn about the roles of different engineers in this exciting workshop. They really enjoyed the practical element.



*GCSE textiles students entered a competition run by the Jimmy Choo Academy in London.*

*This week we received a note from the academy saying how well they had done!*



*Maya, a year 8 student, has made a cushion in memory of her grandpa. Maya used his colourful ties to create the cushion. What a lovely idea!*

*Miss Wincup*

## Epraise Updates—Last 7 days



### Top Students—last 7 days:

1	Fleur	7SI	21 points
2	Molly	7HT	20 points
3	Jack	8HL	19 points
4	Tibault	7SI	17 points
5	Zak	8SO	15 points
5	Aidan	7HT	15 points
5	Shannon	7RA	15 points
5	Skye	7TY	15 points
5	Sam	7RA	15 points
10	Fabs	8KA	14 points

### Top Subjects—last 7 days:

1	English	451 points
2	Science	378 points
3	Maths	355 points
4	Geography	317 points
5	Art	289 points
6	IT	246 points
7	German	137 points
8	History	84 points
9	Music	29 points
10	Computing	26 points

### Top Tutor Groups—last 7 days:

1	7SI	195 points
2	7HT	191 points
3	7TY	188 points
4	7RA	177 points
5	7WI	139 points
6	8SO	136 points
7	8HL	134 points
8	11BR	131 points
9	8KA	129 points
10	8PW	114 points

### Top Staff—last 7 days:

1	Mr Martin	478 points
2	Miss Lewis	429 points
3	Mr Bowater	297 points
4	Mr Yarrington	211 points
4	Miss Burgess	211 points
6	Mr Bastock	175 points
7	Miss Heitmuller	95 points
8	Miss Simpson	86 points
9	Mr Rossiter	60 points
10	Mrs Mellors	59 points



DRAFT Relationships and Sex Education Policy  
Consultation with parents and carers

Along with the bulletin this week is a DRAFT RSE Policy.  
This is your opportunity to ask any questions and provide comment to  
Miss Buckthorp.

Please email her on: [karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk)  
Thank you.

## Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable

### Year 11

GCSE Mock Exams 2 — weeks beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February & 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 GCSE Examinations — Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May — Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
*(these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently)*  
 GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - all students must be available

### Year 10

Exam Results Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
 Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Year 9

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 4-6.30pm  
 Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March & 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Year 8

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 - 4-6.30pm  
 In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 Options Evening — Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 — time tbc  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Year 7

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – 4-6.30pm  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Term Dates 2022

### SPRING TERM 2022

Half Term Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
 Back to school Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

May Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Half Term Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022  
 Back to school Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Summer Term ends Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 12.40pm

**[2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)**

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. 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.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless 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. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

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

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.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

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 each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each 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 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.**





ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA COLLEGE



RUGBY COLLEGE



MORETON MORRELL COLLEGE



WARWICK TRIDENT COLLEGE



EVESHAM COLLEGE



PERSHORE COLLEGE



MALVERN HILLS CENTRE FOR DIGITAL & CYBER TECHNOLOGY

# Discover your future at our Online Open Events

Royal Leamington Spa College | Tuesday 11 January | 5.30 – 8pm

Warwick Trident College | Thursday 13 January | 5.30pm – 8pm

Malvern Hills Centre for Digital & Cyber Technology  
Thursday 13 January | 5.30 - 6.30pm

Rugby College | Tuesday 18 January | 5.30 – 8pm

Moreton Morrell College | Thursday 20 January | 5.30pm – 8pm

Evesham College | Tuesday 25 January | 5.30 – 8pm

Pershore College | Tuesday 25 January | 5.30 – 8pm

- School leaver courses
- Apprenticeships

*Booking is required for these events  
- book your place at [wcg.ac.uk/openevents](http://wcg.ac.uk/openevents)*

Powered by



BE CHALLENGED

BE INSPIRED

BE EXTRAORDINARY

## School Attendance — up to 20.1.22

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
91.6%	92.8%	92.5%	90.7%	89.9%	91.6%

## This week's top tutor groups

7WI – 95.3%, 8PW – 96.3%, 9ST – 96.4%, 10LE – 96.3% and 11HO – 93.0%.

*Well done! Mrs Hodges*

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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

### Practices and Fixtures

We have several fixtures coming up, so it is important that students attend in order to be considered for teams.

Monday 24th January:

Year 9 Basketball @ Studley (selection letters issued)

Year 10 Netball @ AGS (selection letters issued)

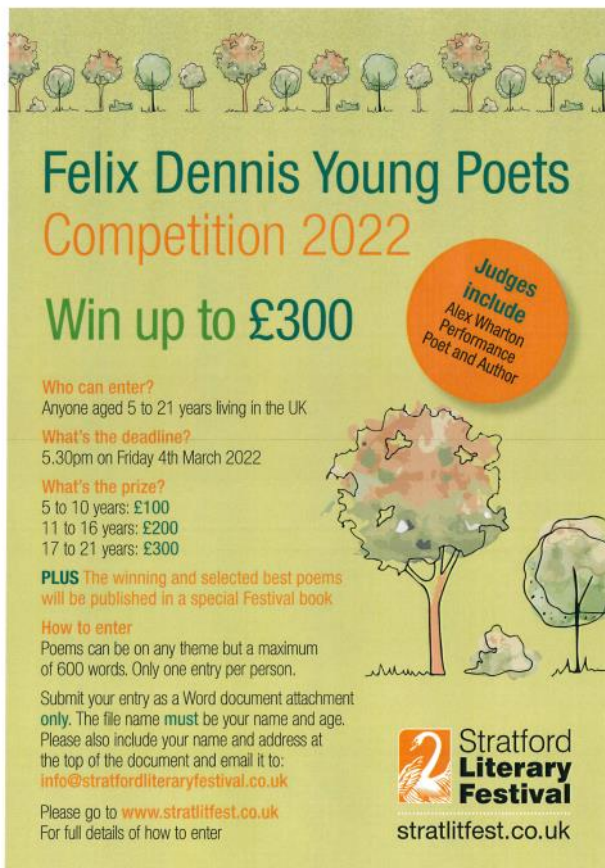
Tuesday 25th January:

Year 8 Archery (Invitation letters issued)

Wednesday 26th January:

Year 7&8 Sports Hall Athletics Practice

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible. Normal school PE kit is required. All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups. For Fixtures a separate team sheet including all the necessary details will be sent out via parentmail.



**Felix Dennis Young Poets Competition 2022**

**Win up to £300**

**Judges include**  
Alex Wharton  
Performance Poet and Author

**Who can enter?**  
Anyone aged 5 to 21 years living in the UK

**What's the deadline?**  
5.30pm on Friday 4th March 2022

**What's the prize?**  
5 to 10 years: £100  
11 to 16 years: £200  
17 to 21 years: £300

**PLUS** The winning and selected best poems will be published in a special Festival book

**How to enter**  
Poems can be on any theme but a maximum of 600 words. Only one entry per person.  
Submit your entry as a Word document attachment only. The file name must be your name and age. Please also include your name and address at the top of the document and email it to: [info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk)  
Please go to [www.stratlitfest.co.uk](http://www.stratlitfest.co.uk)  
For full details of how to enter

**Stratford Literary Festival**  
[stratlitfest.co.uk](http://stratlitfest.co.uk)



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