

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to start the bulletin this week by thanking the students for their mature attitude this week and the calm manner in which they have adapted in school as we have faced a higher amount of staff absence than usual. I hope that the half term holiday brings a timely and much needed break to all of us, and I send our best wishes to any member of the school community that is currently feeling a bit under the weather. Without doubt, the support of parents has been tremendous this half term yet again and I am very grateful indeed; thank you all.

Having said that, I am very much looking forward to spending next Tuesday in school with some of our year 10 students in maths and English as they continue to work hard to bridge some of the gaps in learning that coronavirus has left. I'm so proud of them all for snapping up this opportunity and I thank the staff who are supporting them with this too. If parents could ensure that lateral flow tests are completed in the run up to these sessions, I'd be very grateful indeed. I have been persuaded to buy lunch for our studious groups on that day! I'm sure they will have earned it!

Mr Powell led assembly this week around *Black History Month*. Next half term, we cover themes such as *Making A Difference*, *Our Environment* and *Remembrance*.



Year 11 Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to seeing many of you later on this evening for parents' evening on School Cloud; thank you for joining us. The second year 11 Parents' Evening will be live in our hall all being well on Thursday 6th January 2022.



Myton Hospices

Thank you all for supporting our non-uniform day today for Myton Hospice. We will update you with the amount raised after half term.



Our next charity drive will be for the Royal British Legion (Alcester Division) and our Poppy Appeal – now on the School Gateway.



This will be followed by charity drives that were very dear to our own beautiful Olivia Worrallo as we creep closer to the first anniversary of her tragic death in December. For year 7 parents and carers, Liv was a popular student who would have been in our year 8 now. Liv experienced a fatal asthma attack on Christmas Eve 2020.

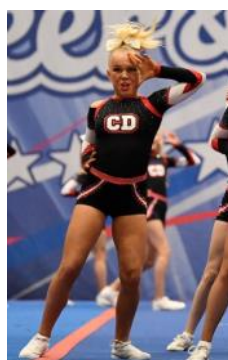


Thank a staff member!

Students now have the opportunity to thank a staff member for anything specific via a postcard. This can be completed in tutor time and dropped off to M1 or Mr Dyer for distribution. Such a nice idea. Thanks Mr Dyer for launching this. Thank you cards can be collected from the students' tutors.

Year 9 achievement outside school

Many congratulations to Lola-Mai in year 9 for being selected for the England Junior Cheer Leading Squad last weekend. We can't wait to watch Lola's progress in this area over the coming months.



Congratulations to Jun in year 9 also who participated in the 1st day of 4 of the National Junior League in Table Tennis held at Nishkam School in Birmingham. A total of 16 teams from around the country entered to be played out in 3 divisions.



Jun represents Lillington Freechurch in Leamington Spa where he is a member. In a team of three, Jun played solidly against 3 other teams from around the region. He came away winning 6 of his 9 games over the course of a long day.

Now he awaits Day 2 (27th Nov) of this tough and demanding competition where his team would play another three teams to sort out the final division groupings for day 3 and 4. Good luck Jun. We are so proud of you

Also, we offer our congratulations to Mr Bastock for running 60 miles in September for Cancer Research raising £265 currently. This was completed straight after having coronavirus very recently in just 8 hours 21 minutes and 20 seconds. Wow!



CANCER RESEARCH UK

Coronavirus Updates

Please maintain safe routines over half term with LFTs, and seek a full PCR tests for your child if you are concerned. Mrs Hodges, our Attendance Officer will be having a well-deserved break over half term. You can email me if you need to regarding covid head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. If your child tests positive by a full PCR over half term however, there is no urgency to let us know until Monday 1st November 2021, when we return to school. Thank you for your support in this area.

Save the date

*Tuesday 2nd November at 5.30pm
year 11 Parent Forum
on TEAMS starting with MFL updates
followed by maths and English at 6pm.*

*Tuesday 9th November at 6pm
KS3 (year 7/8) Parent Forum entitled
'What is my child learning'
looking into the English, maths and
science curriculum*

Autumn / 2

As the winter weather crawls ever closer, we have no choice no but to close the field for student break and lunch times. I know that the students miss having this space so much during these coming months. We do provide areas for the students to go to keep them warm in school and this has been planned carefully for after half term. I will be doing an assembly with all students virtually

on the first day back to include this information.

Please ensure that students have coats as an extra layer and that hoodies are not worn to school. I will be addressing anything further around coronavirus as we need to, in view of keeping a good level of ventilation around school. I suggest that a plain t-shirt under a school shirt might be a wise move initially, in order to begin layering up. I think that you'll agree, the school shorts need putting away now please until after Easter. Long trousers should replace these. Thank you.

How the world was created—

I was lucky enough to cover a year 8 Philosophy lesson this week where I listened to the students' accounts of how the world was created. This piece particularly struck a chord with me. Congratulations Daragh!

In the abyss there was nothing. No signs of life. Just darkness; never ending darkness. Then one day out of the void, there was a faint glimmer of light, nearly blinding and out of the light emerged a dark silhouette. This silhouette instantly began work and he first made a giant piece of rock. This rose from the depths and he called it Land. Surrounding this land, he put deep water and he called this the Ocean. And then he made light that shone on his world, and he called this day. He called the darkness Night.

On the land he put lots and lots of plants and trees that produced seeds. He also filled the oceans with fish and other kinds of creatures. He painted the night sky with stars and the moon, and he blessed the day with eternal light that he called the Sun. And he made creatures on the land and called them Animals and finally he made humans and he told them that they had everything that they needed and to use what they had wisely.

On the seventh and final day he rested proud of the world that he had created.

Equipment

Just a reminder for students to re-stock at half term as needed!

And finally...

We have thoroughly enjoyed trying to get back to a sense of calm and purpose this half term with the students. The highlights for me have certainly been facilitating the vaccinations, seeing the students enjoying the specialist rooms around school once more and the array of clubs and extra-curricular opportunities that we have all been enjoying. There is no doubt that I think our year 7s especially are shattered now and in need of a well-deserved break after starting secondary school. They have been an absolute credit.

For the rest of school, I'm sure by now you all know that I am equally as proud of them too. When the chips are down, Alcester Academy always shows resilience and determination. I was sure that we would return to a less serious coronavirus situation in September but that was not meant to be sadly! Despite numerous cases, the students continue to bounce back and excel.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the staff for the flexible way in which they have approached this half term. It is their care and time that has ensured that the students have felt safe back in school and able to learn.

Wishing you all a well deserved and restful half term break.

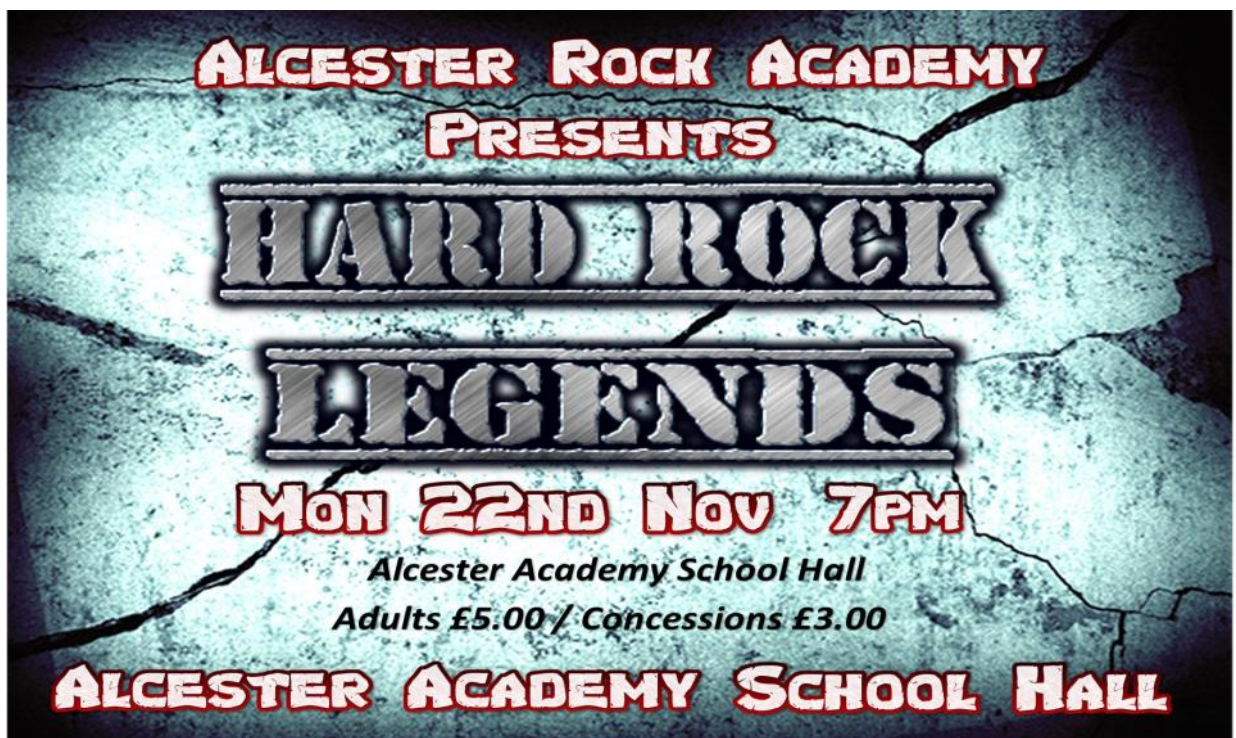
Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher



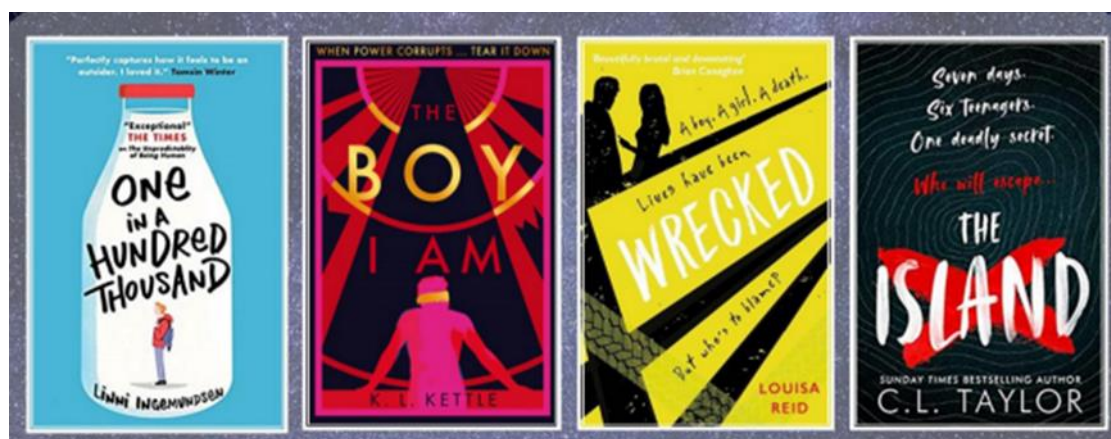
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Sophia, Carlee, Natasha, Marijke, William, Paige, Archie and Maya for all achieving their bronze epraise badge for extra curricular activities.



W9BA 2021

A few weeks ago, some students from year 9 took part in a shortlisting event for the Warwickshire Year 9 Book Award. They voted for their favourite books from a long list of ten - the final shortlist has now been announced and the books they will be reading are *The Island* by C L Taylor, *The Boy I Am* by K L Kettle, *Wrecked* by Louisa Reid and *One in A Hundred Thousand* by Linni Ingemundsen. Abi, Hannah, Jess, Sam, Archie and Adam were issued with their first books this week and have until the beginning of December to read the four books chosen.





ALCESTER RUGBY CLUB



*Amusements
& Bar*



*Stalls &
BBQ*

Friday 5th November

Gates open - 6.30 p.m. Bonfire - 7.30 p.m. Fireworks- 8.00 p.m.

Adults £8 Under 16 £5

Cash ONLY on The Gate

Advanced tickets available from the
Clubhouse (Under 5s free)

Ample Free Parking




Epraise Updates—past 7 days

Top Scorers—past 7 days:

1	Lottie	7WI	22 points
2	Paige	8SO	21 points
3	Maya	8SO	20 points
4	Callum	8KA	19 points
4	Dylan	7WI	19 points
4	Sophia	7HT	19 points
7	Jack	8HL	18 points
7	Archie	8SO	18 points
9	Fleur	7SI	17 points
9	Mia	8SO	17 points

Top Tutor Groups—past 7 days:

1	8SO	286 points
2	7HT	272 points
3	8HL	243 points
4	8KA	222 points
5	7RA	217 points
5	7WI	217 points
7	7SI	215 points
8	8PW	205 points
9	7TY	203 points
10	8RO	182 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mr Martin	748 points
2	Mr Bastock	515 points
3	Mr Bowater	358 points
4	Mr Anderson	351 points
5	Mrs Stedman	348 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	Maths	747 points
2	Geography	704 points
3	IT	696 points
4	Science	457 points
5	English	171 points



Revision Timetable for year 11

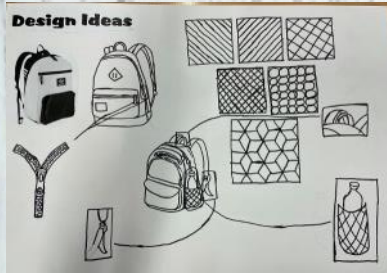
WEEK A	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Informal Maths revision	
Tuesday	Informal Maths revision	Maths
Wednesday	DT	English
Thursday	Chemistry (Br) or Biology for Triple Alternate weeks - see dept lists	Biology (Cp) or Chemistry (Br) for Triple alternate weeks - see dept lists
Friday	Combined Science	

WEEK B	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Art/Photography	
Tuesday	Art/Photography	PTE
Wednesday	German (MFL2) Performing Arts/Music	iMedia and Computer Science Performing Arts/Music
Thursday	French (MFL1)	Art/Photography
Friday	Geography	

Textiles work of the half term

The DT department has seen fantastic work from the year 11 textiles group this half term. The group are looking forward to starting their final piece on their return in November.

Miss Wincup



Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable September 2021 – July 2022

Year 11

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 21st October 2021 - 4-6.30pm
Virtual Parents' Forum — Tuesday 2nd November 2021 - time tbc
MFL Mock Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 22nd November 2021
GCSE Mock Exams 1 — weeks commencing Monday 29th November & 6th December 2021
Mock Results & Parents' Evening — Thursday 6th January 2022 - 4-6.30pm
GCSE Mock Exams 2 — weeks beginning Monday 28th February & 7th March 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
GCSE Examinations — Monday 16th May — Tuesday 28th June 2022
(these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently)
GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29th June 2022 - all students must be available

Year 10

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 1st December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 2nd December 2021 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 10th & 17th January 2022
Exam Results Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17th February 2022
Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 9

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 24th March 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28th March & 4th April 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20th May 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18th July 2022

Year 8

Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 3rd March 2022 - 4-6.30pm
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 14th March 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
Options Evening — Wednesday 4th May 2022 — time tbc
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 7

Attitude to Learning Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 17th February 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20th July 2022

Term Dates 2021—2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021

School closed

Friday 22nd October 2021

Teacher training day

Half term

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021

Back to school

Monday 1st November 2021

Autumn Term ends

Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2022

School closed

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half Term

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February 2022

Back to school

Monday 28th February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter)

Friday 8th April 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins

Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday

Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022

Back to school

Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Term ends

Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 12.40pm

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

School Attendance — up to 20.10.21

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
92.2%	92.8%	90.7%	89.4%	89.4%	90.6%

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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.

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

District Cross-Country Update



Many congratulations to Marijke, Dylan, Tibault, William (year 7), Jessica (year 8), Jake and Tom (year 9) who have all been selected for the South Warwickshire team following their outstanding performances at the South trials last month.

The District race will take place at Stratford School on November 6th and we wish all our runners the very best of luck as they strive for selection to the County team.

Mr Powell



PE Practices/Fixtures: week beginning 1/11/21:

Wednesday 3rd November: Year 8 Netball (H) v St.Benedicts
 Wednesday 3rd November: Year 8 Basketball

Thursday 4th November: Year 7/8 Football Tournament @ Kineton.
 Thursday 4th November: Year 7 Basketball

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.

Forest School Games 2021



Last week we were fortunate to be invited to take part in the first CSW Sport Forest games event held at the Rough Close Scout centre in Coventry. Fourteen year 8s experienced four activities designed to build confidence and teamwork and all of them grabbed this opportunity with both hands!



We started with fire building, foraging for kindling and larger branches to build a fire. Having built and lit a small scale fire, a larger version was set and the students toasted marshmallows to their great delight.



We then moved on to Orienteering. Initially the students practiced their map reading and orientation skills with some fun activities. They were then sent out around the camp to find a number of stations using their map skills with aplomb to successfully find the right code numbers.

Team building was up next and anyone who is familiar with the Royal Tournament field gun race will understand the nature of the challenge facing the students

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lhx6Q3WuvU>

Tasked with moving a wooden gun carriage across a number of obstacles the students had to work together to take it apart, rebuild it and move it to the checkpoints as quickly as possible. Much fun ensued and, after the third run and some excellent teamwork they were exhausted but should be proud of the way they came together in their groups.



The final activity was the, slightly, more sedate den building. Tasked with building a structure to shelter all of their group they headed off into the woods to collect the necessary materials and set to work. Their efforts were rewarded with some very impressive constructions as you can see.



All in all it was an excellent day, enjoyed by all and, as always, the students were a credit to themselves and the Academy. Well done everybody!

Mr Powell