

# Alcester Academy Christmas BULLETIN



22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Good afternoon. We made it! We've had a wonderful week celebrating here with the students and I thank them all for providing such smiles and joyous memories in many ways this week. We went from reward trips at Warwick Castle, to wonderful Christmas dinners served by Mrs Gould and her team, to exciting classroom activities, the fantastic Panto led by our year 9s, and our annual, traditional SLT Christmas bingo across the school.



I am so sorry that the year 7 and 8s missed out on skating at the castle on Tuesday. In many years of organising this trip, we have never had to break that news to them. Rain certainly stopped play on this occasion! I am pleased, however, that Warwick Castle were particular about health and safety, and you should have received your free return visit code to try and make up for this in some way. Please enjoy your experience in the new year. On Wednesday, the weather lifted a little and we did see some super skating.

Here are just a few photos of the end of term for you all.

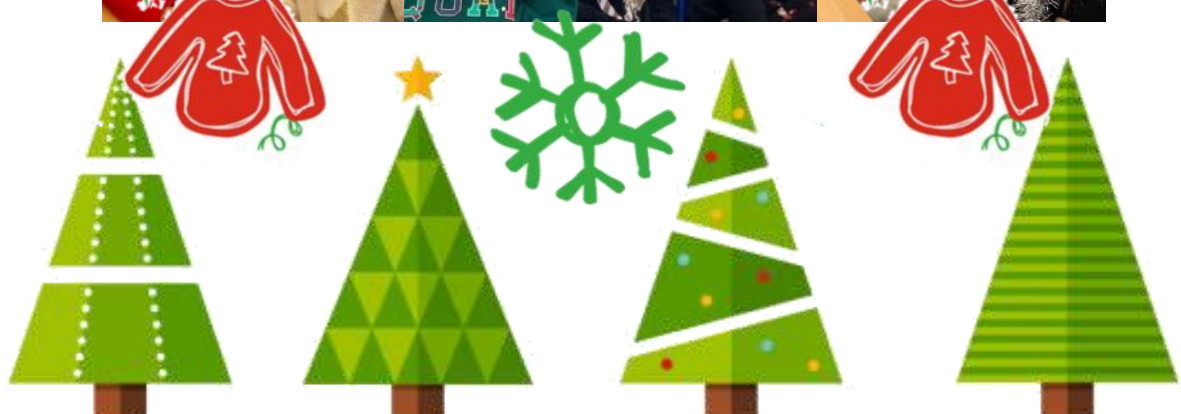




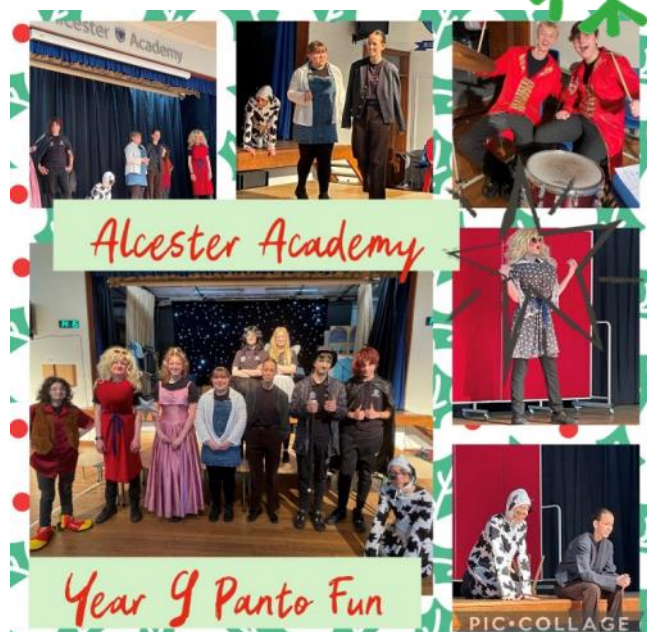














## Annual trip to Warwick Castle

It was my absolute pleasure to have organised the skating reward trips which went out on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December.

Due to the rain on Monday night the ice rink was deemed unsafe for skating on the Tuesday so years 7 and 8 spent some time at Warwick Castle exploring, climbing the towers and enjoying the maze. Students have all received tickets to return on another day. We were more successful on the Wednesday with all students being able to skate against the beautiful backdrop of Warwick Castle. A fun time was had by all.

*Mrs Weatherley*





## Save The Children

The amount currently raised from today is £850. It is not too late if you still wish to contribute via the School Gateway.



**Save the Children**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**JUMPER DAY**

It wouldn't be an end of year bulletin without me wanting to thank various people for supporting the exceptional work at the Academy for our students.

## Farewells

Thank you to Miss O'Sullivan in the maths team for a short, but exceptional time with us since September. We have valued getting to know Miss O'Sullivan and wish her all the very best for her new adventures in America. Thank you and good luck! I will introduce new staff to the Academy to you all in the new year.

## DfE Updates

There is a new consultation out that you may be interested to look at with regard to gender within schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gender-questioning-children-draft-schools-and-colleges-guidance>



**UK Government**

In summary, the guidance sets out how schools should handle requests for "social transitioning".

The DfE defines this as "actions such as changing



**UK Government**

## Parents and teachers:

Have your say on new guidance to support schools and colleges when children are questioning their gender







names, uniforms, or using different facilities to help a child appear more like the opposite sex, with the expectation that they will be treated as if they are". The guidance sets out five "overarching principles" for schools to frame responses to requests for social transitioning.

These are as follows:

- Schools and colleges have statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children
- Schools and colleges should be respectful and tolerant places where bullying is never tolerated
- Parents should not be excluded from decisions taken by a school or college relating to requests for a child to 'socially transition'
- Schools and colleges have specific legal duties that are framed by a child's biological sex
- There is no general duty to allow a child to 'social transition'

### Good news stories

Congratulations to Harry in year 8 who will be a contestant on *Junior Bake Off* on Channel 4 in January! We are SO proud of you Harry and cannot wait to hear how you get on.



Good news also from Zoe in year 11, who rode Rem over the weekend and won her show jumping classes.



Well done to Skye in year 9 who has helped to raise £646 for Shelter. Skye has done some amazing work for charity this year. Thank you!







Thank you Lydia in year 7 for helping out at a special Myton Hospice Christmas event recently.

The event was for all the children who have experienced bereavement this year. Lydia did an amazing job on the biscuit decorating table and her happy, supportive empathy was so beneficial for the children and their families.



Miss Lewis' extra English group were outstanding this week as they hosted the first ever episode of *Good Morning the Gothics*—our Gothic Fiction breakfast show!

We had Annabelle and Mattie as our excellent hosts, and had features from the weather, celebrity gossip, sport and our chefs even shared their recipe for brain soup and eyeball ragu! A special well done to our cameraman John as well. Year 8 have worked incredibly hard this half term, and this was a brilliant way to end the term.

Please always feel able to send me good news stories throughout the year by emailing: [head@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:head@alcesteracademy.org.uk).



## Congratulations Luke, year 11

I was delighted to receive a letter to commend one of our year 11 scouts on his conduct within the Alcester division. To hear directly from a Scout Leader about the positive qualities being displayed by one of our students is quite something to be proud of as a Headteacher.

Congratulations to Luke for this specific accolade, and to all of our students representing the numerous Alcester area organisations with such strong and admirable values.

## Well done year 8s

I had the privilege of reading some outstanding reports yesterday. Congratulations to year 8s for some outstanding achievements this year so far. Options are not too far away now.

### Key year 8 dates are:

**Thursday 8th February 2024 –**

**Year 8 Parents' Evening online.**

**Thursday 2nd May 2024 –**

**Options Evening. Live in school, all teachers available.**

## New technology— Clever Touch screens

We have been excited to receive several Clever Touch screens over the last week. The students should find these an exciting new piece of equipment within classrooms.



[Clevertouch Technologies // Interactive Screens, smart screens whiteboards and displays - Clevertouch Technologies](#)

## Year 9 Super Learning Day

Year 9s enjoyed a Super Learning Day on Monday with Medical Mavericks. We have been trying to secure this company for a while in school. The students learnt how to suture, conduct ultra sound scans, operate, take blood pressure and many other inciteful skills from the medical world.



## Year 10 Mock Interviews

We hosted a number of guest interviewers in school last week alongside our year 10 students. I know that Miss Bartlett has already featured this and I wanted to convey my personal thanks also. If you ever think that you can help in this area, or by hosting a talk on a specific career, please do contact [careers@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:careers@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

In the excitement of this week, year 10s worked hard yesterday to log in to the new work experience portal. Thank you all for doing this for us. It won't be long now until your week is here!

## Alcester Minster

We are very grateful to Alcester Minster for donating some Christmas gifts for some students this year. These were received with much joy.





## Thank you Governors

On behalf of the entire school community, I thank the Governors for their tireless work and dedication to the school over the last calendar year. We wish them all a superb Christmas break with their families.

## Thank you staff

Again, on behalf of us all, I particularly want to thank all of the staff at school as we end term. I appreciate everything that they do for the students in so many ways and it is important that this is conveyed to the entire team and not just to the teachers. We pride ourselves on offering some wonderful opportunities throughout each year and I never take the staff contribution for granted. I wish the team a restful Christmas break with chance to recuperate after a long and arduous term with their families and loved ones.



I am very aware that the students have made it through one of the longest terms that I can remember. They have behaved exceptionally this week and shown a brilliant level of control in



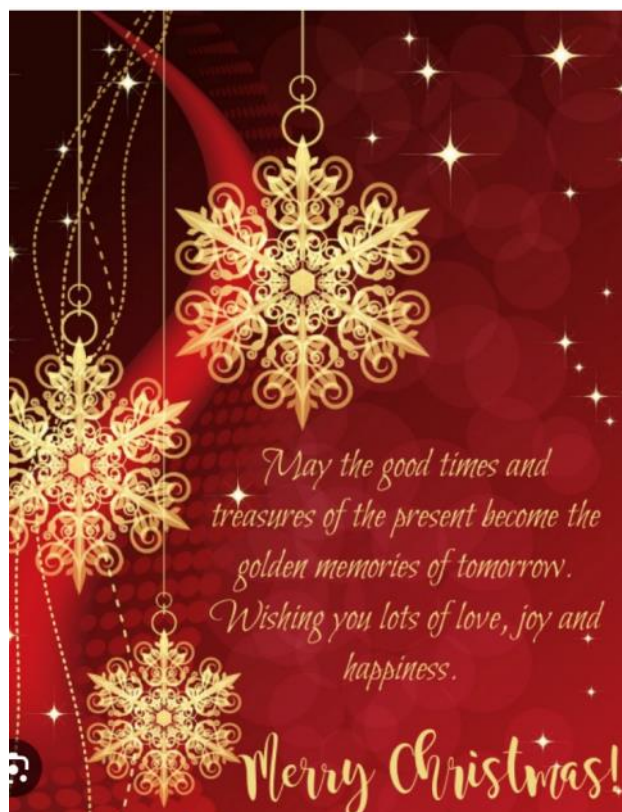
spite of their growing excitement for the few celebratory days ahead of us all now. I sincerely hope that you can enjoy a Christmas time of quality family experiences and wonderful memory making this year. At aged 24 and 21 now, I note from my own experience with my daughters that these years fly by far too quickly. My best advice is to savour every moment together.

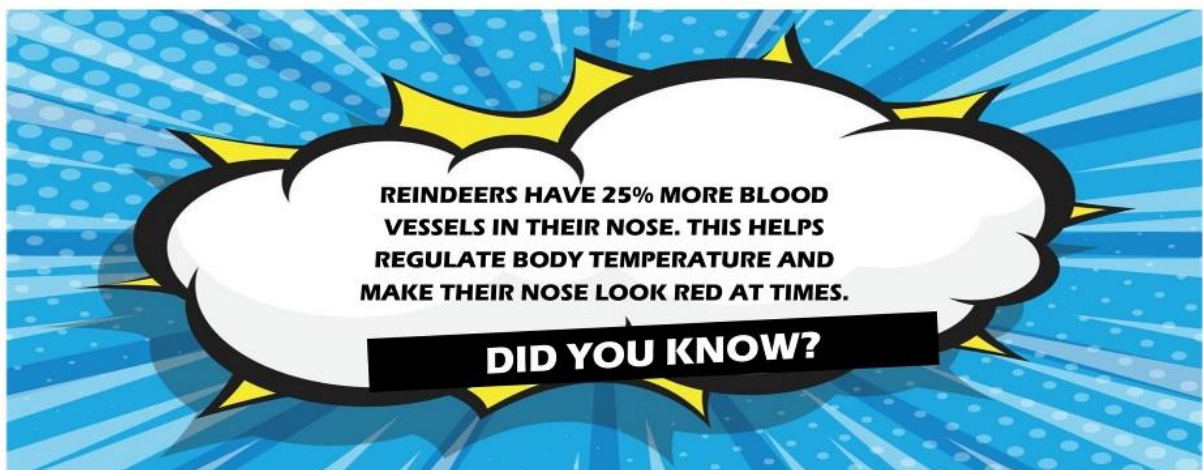
As a team, we will all be taking some personal time out over this holiday. Any queries will be responded to once the staff return on Monday 8th January 2024. Our safeguarding guidance can be found on the website should you need this information. [Welcome to Alcester Academy](#)

It remains for me to thank the students for everything that they have contributed to this year at school, and to extend this to you all. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a most wonderful step into 2024.

With festive wishes

*Sarah Mellors*  
Headteacher







## Alcester Academy Term Dates

### AUTUMN TERM 2023

Autumn Term ends Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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



## Teacher of Science (Maternity Cover)

**Salary: TMS**

**Contract Type: Full Time**

**Contract Term: Temporary (maternity cover)**

**Required: From February 2024 (start date negotiable)**

### [ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding science department within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally as a result of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and supportive science team as maternity cover. 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 science department is proud of the progress that students make. As a team, we have an established record of excellent results; in 2022 results far exceeded National Averages: P8 for the whole school was +0.46 and science achieved a VA of +0.55. In 2023 86% achieved a minimum of 2 grade 4s in science with 71% achieving at least 2 grade 5s. Applicants will be considered from all points of experience, including early career teachers. In Key Stage 3, teachers would have sole responsibility for a class and are expected to deliver all content. At Key Stage 4, teachers are given more opportunity to teach within their specialist area. As a small department, flexibility and teamwork is particularly important. An ability to teach physics at Key Stage 4 would be desirable, however not essential. At KS4 both combined and triple science is offered. We currently work with AQA.

If you feel that Alcester Academy could be for you, please feel free to arrange a conversation or a school tour with our Head of Science, Debbie Marshall or simply complete the application form. Email address—[admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

*Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post.*





## Medical Mavericks

All of year 9 took part in a Super Learning Day on Monday with Medical Mavericks.

The students experienced hands-on workshops, where they learnt how to take blood and each others blood pressure. They recorded and printed an ECG. They attempted keyhole surgery and were also able to see inside their bodies with an ultrasound machine! Amazing!

It was a very inciteful day into the medical world.

*Miss Elliott*





**Want to chat about your mental health?**

**Our helpline is available for Coventry and Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.**

0800 616171

Wellbeing for Warwickshire

an open door to supporting your mental health



New Tab

Class: *2023-2024* Term: *Spring term* 

## Extra- Curricular Clubs

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Monday</b></p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Science Club KS3<br/>S3</p> <p>Acoustic Group<br/>Music Hut</p> <p>Art rooms<br/>Available for all art students</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Ornithology<br/>T4</p>   | <p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Young Enterpsie<br/>E6/5</p> <p>Pop Band<br/>Music Hut</p> <p>Mock Trial<br/>E2</p> <p>Art rooms<br/>Available for all art students</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Choir<br/>Hall 4.15 finsih</p> | <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Chess/Board Game<br/>M4</p> <p>BBC Young Reporters<br/>E1 ( KS3 only)</p> <p>Digital Fashion<br/>T4</p> <p>POKEMON club<br/>PE1</p> <p>Art rooms<br/>Available for all art students</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Rock Academy<br/>Music</p> |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Environment Club<br/>E2</p> <p>LGQTQ+IA<br/>E4</p> <p>Rock Band</p> <p>Humanities Film Club<br/>Top of the Tower</p> <p>Art rooms<br/>Available for all art students</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Art Club<br/>KS4 only</p> | <p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Chess/Board Game<br/>M4</p> <p>Dance club<br/>Drama Studio</p> <p>Guitar Orchestra<br/>Music Hut</p> <p>Art rooms<br/>Available for all art students</p>  | <p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p>Rock Academy<br/>10am-11.30am</p>   |



**Alcester Academy**

TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE



## Attendance News

**Whole school attendance this term: 94%**

**Top Tutor groups this term:**

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 7RA  | 97.1%  |
| 8GA  | 98.0%  |
| 9SA  | 93.0%  |
| 10SO | 97.1%  |
| 11MO | 97.4 % |



Thank you for your continued support with attendance this term.

We have achieved a fabulous 94% whole school attendance.

**Top House—Greville 94.9%**

**Top Year Group—Year 7 with 96.4%**

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

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



## Panto & Rock Academy Performances

*We are thrilled to release a recording of these performances for your enjoyment.*

<https://youtu.be/eICb4W1OSQw>



## TEXT 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

## Examination Invigilator

### ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE



**Deadline for applications—Friday 12th January 2024**  
**Interviews will be held on Monday 15th January 2024**

We are currently seeking a reliable person to join our team of invigilators to assist in the conduct of all internal and external examinations at the academy. Experience is not necessary as full training will be given. £11.97 per hour, claimed monthly.

The ability to work in a team, under direction, and to communicate effectively are essential. Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ and the academy's regulations and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process. Alcester Academy runs a number of examination series during the academic year and would expect flexible availability during these times, dates available on request.

*Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

*A DBS check is required for appointment to this post.*

*\* Strictly no agencies \**



### Safeguarding over Christmas

We will be taking a break over the Christmas period. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please use the following guidance:

*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.*

Home | Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board  
([safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk](http://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk))



Warwickshire  
Safeguarding

### *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>



## Teaching Assistant Level 3

### Full Time

**Working term time only (39 weeks to include 5 Teacher Training days)**

**Scale H range 14. FTE £27,334 starting salary. Actual pro rata £23,511.**

**Starting: As soon as possible**

**Closing date: Friday 19th January 2024 at 12 noon**

**Interviews: Week commencing 22nd January 2024**

### [ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

#### **Learning Support at Alcester Academy**

Working under the supervision of the SENCO and teachers, assist and support teaching and learning, working with individuals or groups, and assist in providing general care, safety and welfare for pupils.

#### **The Post**

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) for an experienced teaching assistant ideally with an NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent). You will be working predominantly with a student with an EHCP but also other students with a variety of SEND needs.

We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

If you have any queries or concerns, please get in touch with

[carihaynes@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:carihaynes@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

We look forward to receiving your application. Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding, equality of opportunity, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be required.





## Epraise Leaderboard—for the Autumn term

### Top 3 students in each year group this term:

#### Year 7

|   |        |     |            |
|---|--------|-----|------------|
| 1 | Noah   | 7RA | 201 points |
| 2 | Maddie | 7KO | 199 points |
| 3 | Chloe  | 7KO | 198 points |

#### Year 8

|   |         |     |            |
|---|---------|-----|------------|
| 1 | Alex    | 8SI | 165 points |
| 2 | Anthony | 8GA | 162 points |
| 2 | Harry   | 8TY | 162 points |

#### Year 9

|   |        |     |            |
|---|--------|-----|------------|
| 1 | Immy   | 9SA | 171 points |
| 2 | Ashlyn | 9BW | 160 points |
| 3 | Dylan  | 9SA | 157 points |

#### Year 10

|   |        |      |            |
|---|--------|------|------------|
| 1 | Hannah | 10AN | 140 points |
| 2 | Liv    | 10AN | 135 points |
| 3 | Jamie  | 10PW | 127 points |

#### Year 11

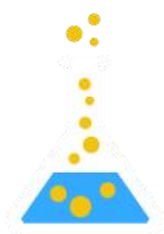
|   |        |      |            |
|---|--------|------|------------|
| 1 | Rachel | 11MR | 146 points |
| 1 | Luca   | 11MR | 146 points |
| 3 | Kyra   | 11HE | 144 points |

### Top Tutor—this term:

|   |     |             |
|---|-----|-------------|
| 1 | 7LX | 3822 points |
| 2 | 7KO | 3761 points |
| 3 | 7RA | 3748 points |
| 4 | 7TN | 3434 points |
| 5 | 7WI | 3340 points |

### Top Staff—this term:

|   |                |             |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Mr Yarrington  | 4669 points |
| 2 | Mrs Gorner     | 4514 points |
| 3 | Mr Rossiter    | 4208 points |
| 4 | Miss Lewis     | 3748 points |
| 5 | Mrs Weatherley | 3452 points |

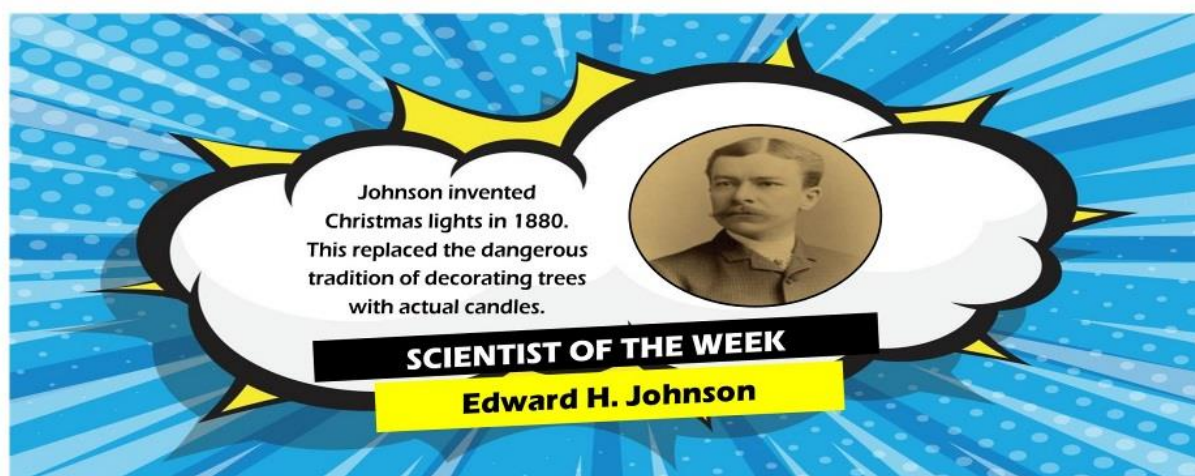
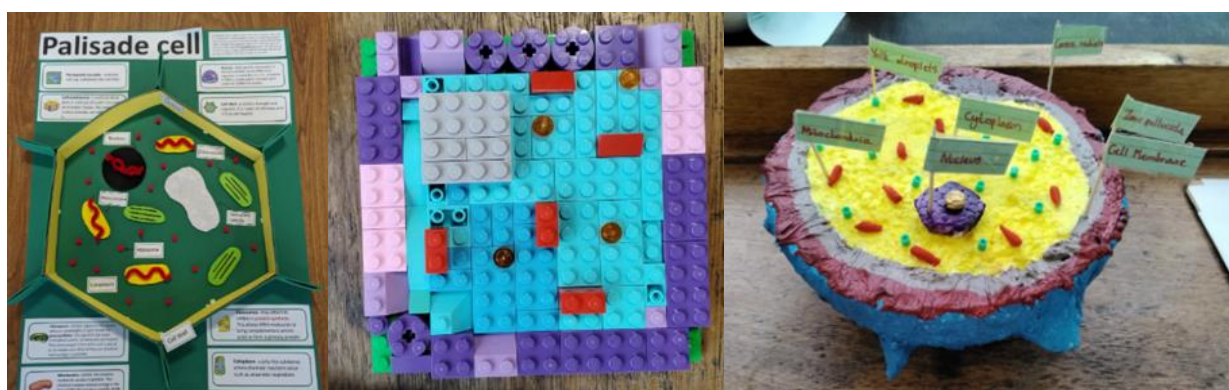


## Year 7 Cell Models

Cells are the basic building blocks of all living things. Having recently learnt about the different types of cells in science lessons, year 7 were asked to complete a project making their own model of a cell. The science department were impressed by the work that was brought back. The time, care, and attention to detail that went into these models was outstanding. There was a real mix of ma-

terials used including recycled materials, Lego, Hama beads and even cake! There was also a real variety of cells chosen: plant cells, root hair cells and nerve cells to name but a few.

Well done year 7 – you have certainly given Mrs Passantino a tough job of organizing where they can be displayed! *Mrs Marshall*





# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) CHRISTMAS HALF TERM 2023

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



### MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

### BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

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

### ASDA

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

### SIZZLING PUBS

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

### THE REAL GREEK

Free Kids Meal for every £10 spent by an adult from Friday 22nd December 2023 until Sunday 7th January 2024.

### TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

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

### TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' buy any adult meal (Via App)

### HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### SAINSBURYS CAFES

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

### GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

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

### BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

### WHITBREAD INNS

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

### PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day on weekends and from 4pm weekdays with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

### PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

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

### TABLE TABLE

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

### FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

### NOT ANNOUNCED...

M&S, Tesco, YO! Sushi & Bills

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

## SPEND

Support for Parents of children with Educational needs, Neurodiversity and Difficulties.

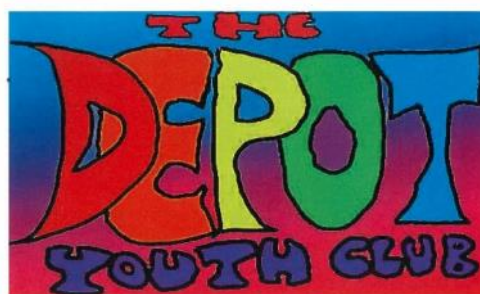
*SPEND is a monthly parent/carer support group for people caring for children with additional needs who feel isolated or overwhelmed in Alcester, Bidford, Studley and surrounding villages.*



*Come and spend time with people who understand.*

**FIRST MEETING: FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2024 - 9.45-11.15AM**

The Depot, Eric Payne Community Centre  
off St Faith's Road, Alcester, B496AG



*Volunteer Youth Club Assistants needed at  
The Depot Youth Club in Alcester*

*Are you passionate about helping young people?*

*Interested in sport, mentoring, music or games?*

*Would you like to make a difference to young people's  
lives?*

*Are you available on Tuesdays or/and Thursdays  
between 6:30 - 8pm?*

*No experience necessary, just enthusiasm*

*For more information, either pop along one Tuesday  
evening and ask for Becky or Phil, or email Wendy  
at the Town Council: [info@alcester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@alcester-tc.gov.uk) Tel:*

*01789 766084*

**FREE ENTRY**

**TENNIS KIDS**

**Indoor tennis sessions & matches every week!**

- ✓ Beginners welcome
- ✓ Pay as you play
- ✓ Warm indoor courts
- ✓ Learn quicker with more match play
- ✓ Fun interactive player cards

**ONLY £8 per week**

**WEEKEND MORNINGS ONLY**

Register online @ [TENNISKIDS.CO.UK](http://TENNISKIDS.CO.UK)



# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



*Kids lunch club celebrates*  
**NEW YEAR 2024**

**WEDNESDAY 3RD JAN**  
**11AM - 3PM**  
**AT THE DEPOT, ERIC PAYNE**  
**CENTRE, ALCESTER B49 6AG**

11am - 12:30 crafts  
12:30 - 1pm hot lunch  
1pm - 2pm LEGO workshop  
2pm - 3pm Disco

Drinks, snacks & goodies available through  
the day.

*Take home hampers for parents!*

**FREE!**