Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the end of another busy week at school. Where did that go then? As if, in a flash this week, we are already at Friday.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the stu-

dents for their involvement in our Open Event last night. So many of our students stepped up to be amazing ambassadors for the school. What a delight to see so many former students supporting us too. Once again, the numbers of visitors through the door was incredible. And, just this morning I sat on yet more appeals for students wanting places with us. We still have a huge waiting list for current year 7 places. As you'll know, I never take any of this for granted and I thank the staff team for supporting such a positive culture within the school, along with the drive for exceptional student outcomes. I only wish that I could satisfy everyone wanting a place for their child.

Thanks Site Team

A huge shout out for our site team for getting the school in great shape this week ready for so many visitors.



I'm looking forward to hearing from our year 11s returning from their field work in Blencathra later this evening. I'm sure that this has been extremely useful towards their GCSE geography studies. Thanks to Mrs Stedman and the staff team for organising this opportunity and keeping the students safe

What's coming up at Alcester Academy?

Next week, we celebrate *European Day of Languages* in school.
This is always a great day! I'm looking forward to judging the cooking entries.



Year 7 and 9 have Super Learning Days to look forward to next week. A separate communication has gone out to parents about this. All communications can be found on the website. www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/news/communications.

Our librarian, Mrs Hands has sent out information on how you can access the Accelerated Reader home connect account for your child.

What's inside this week...

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Next Wednesday, 27th September is our first online Parent Forum about *Homework* on *Google Classroom*. If you are new to Google,



this could prove very useful indeed. 6pm online start. The meeting will last about 30 minutes and Mr Hall and Mr Cooke, Deputy Headteacher will run through how you can access your child's homework using Google.

Next Thursday, 28th September is the year 9 Skern Lodge meeting. 6pm LIVE in the hall. If your child is in year 9 and you still want a place for this, please contact Miss Buckthorp today, by emailing:

KarenBuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

And, our Aladdin rehearsals continue in earnest. Thanks to the cast and staff for giving up last Saturday to be in school for this.

Assemblies this week

Miss Buckthorp has covered the theme of cyber safety this week in assemblies to include the theme of online grooming, for your information.

Youth Mental Health Day 2023 this week

Please don't think that we are not highlighting this important issue in school. We have chosen to adopt *Hello Yellow* as our feature day in school on October 10th in conjunction with Young Minds. #HelloYellow | World Mental Health Day | YoungMinds

Winter Uniform

This is a reminder that students are allowed to wear a school jumper under their blazer for extra warmth as the temperature drops, and then a coat over the top of their blazer. Coats should then be removed in the school building.

Hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted items of uniform. Students in year 8-11 are all aware of this. It may be a useful update for year 7 parents.

Photos

We had a very slick school photo day on Monday for year 7-10 students thanks to Mrs Bennett. Proofs should be with you all very soon. Year 11 photos are booked in for 19th March 2024.

Year 11s

We will be meeting year 11s on Monday to chat through the details around their revision programme for this year. Mr Cooke will send this out to parents then too.

Year 11 have a CV writing workshop on Tuesday 3rd October before their mock interviews, which will take place on Wednesday 11th October. Year 10s will also have this opportunity later on in the term.

Road Safety

I appreciate that the parking outside school is in greater demand than ever. Please can I ask that if you park up on the kerb, you give students enough room to walk past, thank you. We have a regular taxi that picks students up also just outside the school gates. It is very important that



M&S YOUNGMINDS

this is in the students line of sight when they leave school.

Thank you

My most sincere thanks go to Alan Cole for the recent donation of some superb recording and drone equipment. This is received so warmly.

Congratulations to...

Year 7s for their first fantastic French homework.



Skye in year 9 for being so kind to a year 7 on Monday morning when they could not find their tutor group.

Mr Bowater for creating an amazing promotional video for the geography department. Follow Mr Bowater's professional accounts on social media @Mr_BOWATER (twitter) @MrBowater (YouTube)

National Organ Donation Week 2023

NHS Organ Donation

As you may be aware, it is National Organ Donation Week currently. You may wish to use the link to register to donate.

Sad news

I was sad to hear that the former Rector of Alcester had passed away; David Capron. We are sending our thoughts to his family at this difficult time. Some of you may recall that David wrote his memoir in 2012 entitled *The Fiery Canon*.

I'm wishing you a very restful weekend ahead. For those of you on the university drop-offs, I wish you a smooth, stress free couple of days ahead too. I took my youngest daughter down to her new accommodation last weekend. The heat was quite something on Saturday, but we managed with just two trolley loads from the car for the start of her second year! If you are a seasoned uni parent or carer, I know you'll understand this achievement!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes
Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope your child is settling into the new term well. As part of our support for parents, we are running a number of parent forums on TEAMS this year. Our first session will be based around homework where we will explain our processes, but also update parents on how to track their child's setting and completion of homework through Google Classroom.

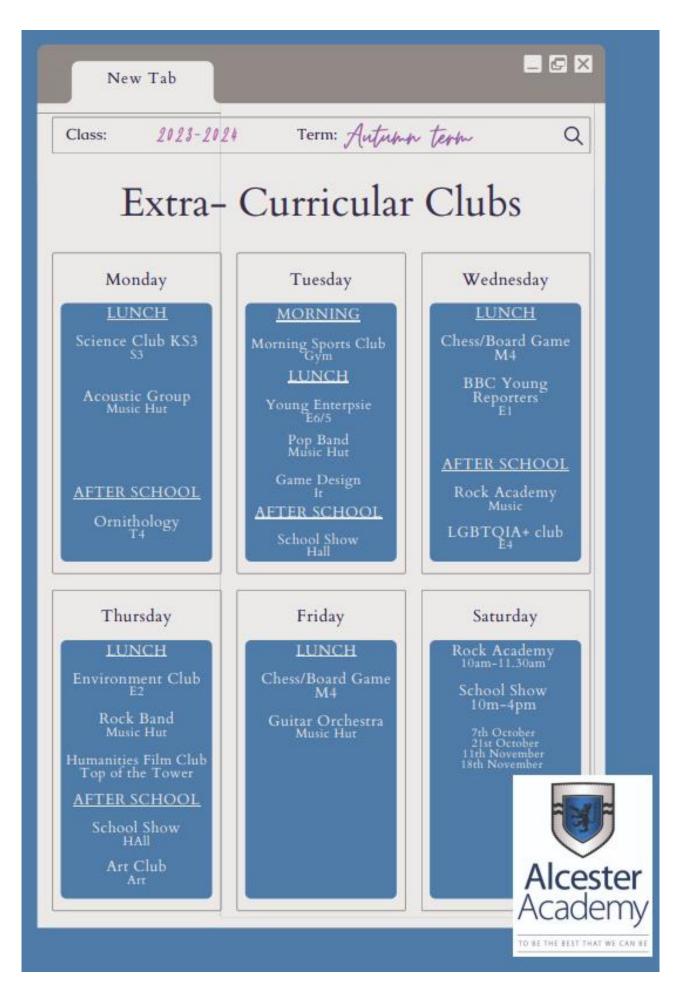
Our homework forum will take place on Wednesday 27th September (6-6.30pm). We do hope you can join us.

Click here to join the Homework Parent Forum

Kind Regards

Mr Cooke and Mr Hall





Year 7 trip to Blackwell Adventure

Last Friday, year 7 embarked on their first rewards trip at Alcester Academy to Blackwell's Adventure. This was a superb opportunity for students to get to know each other whilst participating in a wide range of activities. The focus of the day was 'teamwork', and I'm delighted to say that the students were a credit to us. They threw themselves into challenging situations and worked together to ensure each activity was a huge success.

There were an array of various activities, and only a couple which kept feet firmly on the ground!

Archery has always been a firm favourite and it transpires we have some very skilled archers in year 7. Many 'bullseye' cheers were heard throughout the grounds during the course of the day. Laser Quest was superb and the students had a ball chasing each other around in the glorious sunshine. Mrs Jones had a great time playing too!

For those more adventurous students, there were a number of

activities involving heights. The zip wire and the various climbing walls were great for pushing students to their limits. It was wonderful to see those who were confident supporting those who were a little more apprehensive. With the support from their peers, everyone who tried was successful and should be extremely proud of themselves. My favourite activity to watch was the crate stack. Here students had to support each other and work as a team to reach dizzy heights before the crates were pushed over.

Overall the students had a fantastic time and many new friendships were formed. We sincerely thank staff at Blackwell's for once again helping to create the perfect day.











Epraise Leaderboard—this week

Top Students—this week:

1	Zachery	7KO	26 points
1	Immy	9SA	26 points
3	Noah	7RA	21 points
4	Harry	8TY	20 points
4	Grace	8TY	20 points
6	Ava	8TY	19 points
7	Liv	8TY	18 points
8	Lucy	7LX	17 points
9	Maddie	7KO	16 points
9	Molly	7KO	16 points

Top Staff—this week:

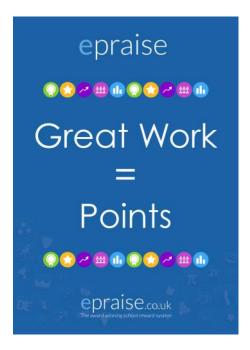
1	Mrs Kowal	347 points
2	Mr Martin	342 points
3	Miss Lewis	335 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	320 points
5	Mr Rossiter	275 points
6	Mrs Gorner	262 points
7	Mr Yarrington	233 points
8	Miss Home	213 points
9	Mrs Marshall	205 points
10	Miss Bishop	159 points

Top Tutor—this week:

1	7KO	304 points
2	8TY	253 points
3	7RA	233 points
4	7LX	229 points
5	9MA	208 points
6	7WI	207 points
7	8TU	191 points
8	8YA	189 points
9	7TN	177 points
10	8SI	176 points

Top Subjects—this week:

	_	
1	English	667 points
2	Maths	547 points
3	History	405 points
4	French	369 points
5	Science	365 points
6	Art	287 points
7	RS	277 points
8	Geography	188 points
9	German	148 points
10	IT	115 points



epraise



Term Dates 2023-24

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

Survey—What is school like for you?

Warwickshire's Young People's Forum—IMPACT want to help schools understand what school is like for children and young people and what could help make this better. This survey is for all Warwickshire children and young people, but with a keen interest in the views of those who have support needs.

Please let children and young people know the opportunity is available and offer to support them to record their views if they would benefit from this. The survey is open until October half term 2023





But what is it like for you? - Let us know: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolexp



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: 95.4%

Top tutors this week:

7RA with 99.3% attendance 8GA with 98.5% attendance 9BI with 98.1% attendance 10SO with 97.6% attendance 11MO with 100% attendance—FABULOUS!

Congratulations on a great start to the year!

Top House this week:

Oversley with 95.7%

Reminder

Hello parents and carers—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.



Year 11 Revision

Please find attached the first part of our revision timetable for the rest of this half term (5 weeks). We have chosen to provide revision opportunities for option subjects this half term, so that pupils have an even coverage of revision support throughout the year. Most sessions run from 1.50-2.20pm at lunch, and 3.30-4.15pm after school. Your support in encouraging your child to attend is crucial in securing good grades in the summer. You will notice that we have included study rooms this year—this is a new strategy designed to promote improved work ethic and focussed time to catch up and consolidate on key work—we expect these will be well attended.

Year 11 will also receive an assembly shortly whereby we will explain the process and provide each student with our 'in house' super six revision booklet, so that good habits can be established at home too.

Saturday school sessions will not run until mock examinations which take place in January, so attending revision, maximising lesson time and completing outstanding work is the focus for the Autumn 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
Friday	Geography	

MFL Bake-Off Challenge

Do you enjoy baking? If yes, then this competition may be for you.

As part of European Day of Languages, we would like to you to
either:

Research cakes, pastries, biscuits and baked goods from another country in the world. Make a cake/cakes/biscuits of your choice OR

Make any cake of your choice and decorate it with a European day of languages theme.

Please provide an information card with your entry to describe what you have made and why. Bring your entries to the conference room during tutor time on Tuesday 26th September.

Entries will be judged by WE/GR and ME.

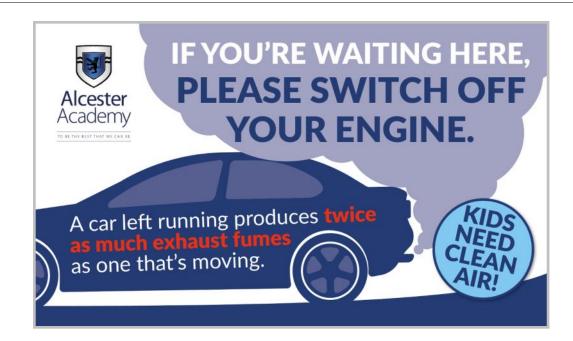
You will be able to take your entries home at the end of the day.











Calling all singers in years 8-11

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a professional singing project performing at Worcester Cathedral, with guest artist Jess Gillam.

There will be a commitment to attend Saturday rehearsals on the dates specified below.

If you are interested, please see Miss McKenzie by Friday 22 September.

MASS IN BLUE

a music project for our times



An exceptional musical opportunity for students in current Years 8–13, and those in higher education to:

- ▶ be part of a 200-strong chorus of students and teachers performing Will Todd's amazing MASS IN BLUE a jazz setting of the Latin mass for SATB chorus, soprano soloist, and 13-piece jazz ensemble in Worcester Cathedral.
- discover the thrill of singing as part of a massed youth choir through a programme of teaching/learning at after-school sessions and at exhilerating massed rehearsals in Worcester.
- work with top choral conductor Neil Ferris (Director, BBC Symphony Chorus), vocal leader Aga Serugo-Lugo, the Will Todd Ensemble, and special Guest Artist Jess Gillam MBE.
- develop vocal and musical skills, boost self-confidence, make new friends, reach a high standard of performance alongside professional musicians and artists.
- enjoy the challenge and rewards of an experience with multiple personal and educational benefits.
- ► PLUS Masterclass with saxophonist Jess Gillam.

 A fantastic opportunity (for up to six students, put forward by schools) to work with one of the country's leading young artists in a special Masterclass session on the afternoon of concert day. (Further details will be advised in due course).



Key Dates:

Autumn Term '23

- ► Saturday 14 October 2023
 - 1st Massed Rehearsal (10–1)

Spring Term '24

- Saturday 27 January 2024
 - 2nd Massed Rehearsal (10-1)
- Saturday 2 March 2024
 - 3rd Massed Rehearsal (10–1)

Summer Term '24

- ► Saturday 20 April 2024
 - Final Massed Rehearsal (10–1)
- Saturday 27 April 2024
 - Concert Day (afternoon rehearsals)

Will Todd MASS IN BLUE Concert in Worcester Cathedral Saturday 27 April 2024





^{*} www.alcesteracademy.org.uk * 01789 762285 * admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk * Twitter @AlcesterAcademy *

Second i/c of English Whole School literacy lead

MPS/UPS + TLR Subject to experience Closing date Friday 13th October at 12 noon Interview date to be set



The School

Alcester Academy is a highly successful 11-16 school with 647 students currently on roll. Alcester is located between Studley and Stratford-Upon-Avon. The school has an excellent reputation based on examination results, a progressive approach to educational development and a strong sense of community. At our last inspection, Ofsted judged us good with a view to returning very soon in order to re-assess this decision towards an outstanding judgement. The school's overall Progress 8 score for 2019 was 0.77, which once again places us as one of the top performing non selective schools in Warwickshire, and in the top 5% nationally. (Last set of formal results before coronavirus). In 2022, the Progress 8 score for the school was +0.46 The school has a new leadership team and we consider that the welfare of staff is of paramount importance.

The Post

This is an exciting opportunity for a strong middle leader with a proven track record of exemplary student outcomes. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate experience of effective leadership and ambition towards future management in a Middle Leadership position, and a willingness to contribute to the whole staff team. Flexibility and the ability to innovate are desirable qualities, along with energy and capacity for hard work. The successful candidate will have a good understanding of what effective Teaching & Learning looks like for children of all abilities and be committed to enable all students to access the curriculum in order to fulfil their academic potential. They will be able to engage and enthuse students of all aptitudes. Resilience and drive are desirable qualities in order to ensure that students at Alcester Academy are provided with the very best life opportunities possible.

The Application Process

To apply for this role, please complete a standard Alcester Academy application form. Please be succinct and concise using Arial 12 font. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs.

The deadline for applications is Friday 13th October at 12 noon Interviews expected to take place WC 16th October 2023 Starting: January 2024

Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact admin@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.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Vacancy—Second i/c of maths



MPS/UPS + TLR Subject to experience

Closing date Friday 13th October at 12 noon Interview date to be set

The School

In 2022, the Progress 8 score for the school was +0.46 The school has a new leadership team and we consider that the welfare of staff is of paramount importance.

GCSE HEADLINES 2022

English and Maths 4+ = 79% (national 70%)

English and Maths 5+ = 61% (national 50%)

English and Maths 7+= 25% (national 15%)

Total Attainment 8 = 53

Average grade: 5.3

Approximate P8: 0.5 (well above average)

Maths 4+ = 82% Maths 5+ = 70% Maths 7+ = 32%

The Post

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ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Alcester Academy Lunchtime Supervisor

We are currently seeking reliable staff to join our team of lunchtime supervisors, working 7.5 hours a week, term time only. Times may vary according to Academy activities throughout the academic year. Post Level Band A £10.60 per hour

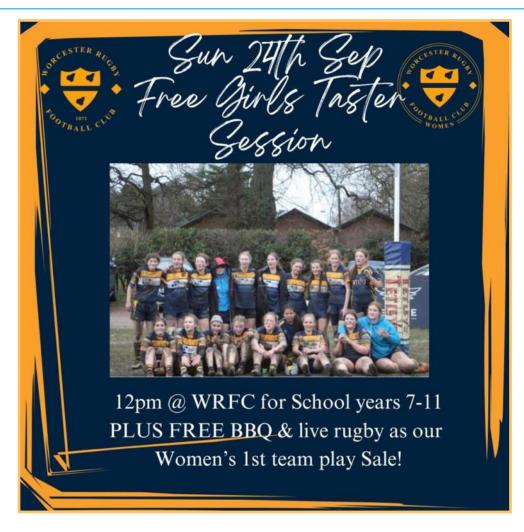


This post is temporary 12 months in the first instance.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 13th October 2023 Interviews provisionally planned for Wednesday 18th October 2023 Starting: 6th November 2023

Alcester Academy Lunchtime Supervisor Advert

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.



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Dylan in year 9 who following several trials has been selected to represent the Warwickshire School's County Football team.

Dylan has attended a number of extremely competitive trials and despite a large pool of talent to pick from across Warwickshire, he has been selected to represent the County in football this school year, which he will combine with representing the school as well as his club side Kidderminster Harriers.

Well done, Dylan, an outstanding achievement.







* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



LUNCHTIME SPORT



- · Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 11th September 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 <u>suitable footwear</u> to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MONDAY - PE	TUESDAY - MO	WEDNESDAY - PW
11/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS ₃ BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
18/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS ₃ BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
25/9/23	GIRLS BASKETBALL	KS ₃ BASKETBALL	KS4 BASKETBALL
2/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL
9/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL
16/10/23	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	KS ₃ VOLLEYBALL	KS4 VOLLEYBALL

After School Sport



THIS WEEKS SPORT: W/B 25/9/23



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	N/A	N/A
Tuesday	Year 9 Football v Myton - MO	Top Field
	Year 7 and 8 Girls Football - External	School Field
	Year 7 Football - PW	School Field
	Girls Rugby at AGS - MR	AGS
Wednesday	Year 8 Football v Kineton - MO/PW	Top Field
	Year 11 Netball Tournament - PE	SS
Thursday	Year 10 Football v St. Benedict's - MO	Top Field
	Year 7 and 8 Girls Netball - PE	Courts