Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, where did that half term go? I'm aware that is not the first time I've said that! It has been a delight to be back in school with students this half term and watch them settle back in to our community life surprisingly quickly. I'm in awe of the mature way that students have approached these trying times. They have adapted really quickly to our new routines and are absolutely intent to work with us in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. I'd like to take this opportunity to let them know that we are all very grateful for their co-operation this half term in difficult circumstances. The atmosphere around the school is just delightful each day; students thirsty to learn if just a little bit tired out right now! I think the break is timely! I have been extremely proud of all students.

My gratitude extends to you as parents/carers also. I appreciate you trusting us with your children back in school and having continued faith in the decisions that we are making on a daily basis here. Situations are often new to us right now and it helps massively to know that you are supporting behind the scenes.

Specific thanks must be made to all year 9 parents/carers especially for working with us this week in order to refine the bubble affected by our first confirmed covid case. In picking up the news late on Sunday evening, it seemed most sensible to ask year 9s to work from home on Monday whilst we established those students affected by 'close contact'. There were 58 students in total. We define close contacts through class seating plans, bus travel and friendship groups. On Monday, the year 9

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

Half term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020
Back to school	Monday 2nd November 2020
School closed	*Monday 14th December – Teacher training day*
Autumn Term ends	Friday 18th December 2020 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2021

School closed	*Monday 4th January 2021 – Teacher training day*
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 5th January 2021
Half Term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Back to school	Monday 22nd February 2021
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Thursday 1st April 2021

school area had a deep clean as per our protocol so that we could welcome back as many students as safe to do so on Tuesday. As an extra precaution now, we are inviting all students to wear face coverings in lessons. I was part of a whole Warwickshire meeting this week, where we could quite clearly see cases increases rapidly in our area.

I do reach out to our year 9 case and the family affected and also those others involved. We are thinking about you all a lot.

Lessons continued for the year 9 bubble self-isolating on google classroom very effectively. As a reminder, unless children are poorly, it is our expectation that all students working from home log in at the expected lesson time. We simply cannot afford to lose any more time with them than absolutely necessary.

Year 11 news

Thanks to those year 11 parents and student who joined us on Tuesday evening for Parent Forum via TEAMS. We enjoyed the presentations from MFL, English and maths. The recording of this and presentations are available under the *Examinations* section of the website.
For those parents asking us, we can now confirm that the August results day will be Friday 27th August 2021.

Poppy display

Thanks to the Art team; Mr Yarrington and Miss Nemeshanyi for supporting Mr Kirby with the artistic element of our display. Please drive by school to have a look over the next few weeks. We have currently 218 poppies in the display raising a staggering £1090 for the Alcester contribution to the British Legion. Thank you all for doing this. What a team effort! Look out for the students in The Standard very soon. There are still poppies left to sponsor if you'd like to. We are selling traditional paper poppies around school as usual if students or staff want these also.

IMPORTANT

During half term, you must contact the school if your child tests positive by emailing: head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Mrs Hodges will not be able to reply to messages over half term.
Be ready to inform us of:

- The last day your child was in school
- Whether they travel on any bus, the number of this and who they sit by
- Who their close friendship circle is

I have access to all of your contact details securely from home and the seating plans for all classes. Communication will be made with parents over half term *if* we feel that your child has been in close contact with any affected student.
Please support us in ensuring that social media is not used to convey any situation in school. Often this can become misleading to others. This includes students making 'guesses' at who an affected child might be.
Thank you. *Mrs Mellors*

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pictured here are Alcester Academy students representing the various community groups. We are so proud of every student who represents these across the area.

Naturally, and very sadly we will miss the Remembrance Parade with you all this year.

FROM THE ALCESTER ACADEMY FAMILY

Lest We Forget

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU

YOUNGMiNDS
fighting for young people's mental health

On top of that, sincere thanks to students for their non uniform contributions today to Young Minds and MacMillan. We were delighted to see such effort again this time.

We will be supporting the local food bank again next half term (specific products) and looking forward to the annual Christmas Jumper Day! That should be plenty of warning for new parents! We have a lovely last day of term.

X BOX (and similar platforms)

We are dealing with more incidents of negative communication from students towards each other on X BOX; especially Y10/11s. Please can I ask parents to be vigilant in monitoring dialogue after school hours when students are playing. Thank you. We'll happily try and support parents with this however the hours that this takes up removes staff from supporting the immediate issues happening in the school day. If parents can keep watch over this, it would help us a lot.

Coronavirus updates

Year 9 Bubble Self-Isolating

For the 58 children self-isolating from Monday 19th October, this must last for 14 days from the last contact with the confirmed case. This takes us to Friday 30th October safely when children can continue as normal again as long as they are symptom free.

Lourdes Device Scheme

It was a great day on Tuesday when finally the Lourdes Device Scheme was rolled out after weeks of planning. Callum, Year 11 is pictured here in receipt of the first device of 36 in wave 1 of this scheme for current year 9 and 11. These devices will be used by students personally in school lessons. We hope to open this opportunity to other students very soon.

Coronavirus Catch Up

Miss Sacco and Mrs Farnell will be working more closely this academic year with those children that may not be recovering as quickly from the time out of school over the summer as we had hoped. Miss Sacco will work across years 7/8 and Mrs Farnell will look at years 9/10. As ever, year 11 are being monitored by SLT weekly but will be included in any appropriate initiatives as required.

Work during isolation or illness

We are confident that students can log in to their normal subject google classrooms during absence. If work is delayed getting uploaded, please look at the 'self-isolation' classrooms in the interim.
All codes are on the website:
https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19-

Buses

We were delighted to receive copies of recent letters written by Nadhim Zahawi to Matt Hancock and Gavin Williamson regarding our concerns around shared transport. I will update you as we hear more on this.

241 Bus

We have had concerns raised that some students are still not wearing face coverings on the 241. Please can parents remind students that this is compulsory. Students will lose the right to travel if they don't do this. They are jeopardising the safety of others.

Updated symptom list

Please note the updated PHE symptom list below. There has been a rise in positive cases linked to fatigue and sore throats. I have been advised to encourage you to seek tests if you experience any of these. I appreciate that isn't always as simple to organise as it seems!

Travel

If you are travelling to a foreign country over half term, please let us know urgently head@alcesteracademy.org.uk Naturally quarantine regulations must be honoured please.

Deep Clean

All areas of the school will have a thorough deep clean over the half term period.

Public Health England

PH Management of contacts of confirmed and possible cases of COVID-19 (1)

Symptomatic cases are considered as infectious and so able to infect other people from 2 days before to 10 days after the onset of symptoms. The onset of symptoms is defined as acute/sudden onset of any of the symptoms listed below:

- Fever
- New continuous cough
- Loss or change to smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Extreme tiredness
- Headaches
- Joint pain
- Muscle ache
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Altered consciousness
- Seizures

For asymptomatic cases the exposure period is defined as 2 days before to 10 days after the date of the test.

Dropping off forgotten belongings

Very sadly, we cannot accommodate visitors for non-essential matters in school reception. There has been a dramatic increase in parents dropping off 'forgotten' items for students. For safety purposes now we are saying that this can no longer happen. With essential items such as lunch money, we will ensure that staff here sort that internally in order to support as much as we can.

Calls to LSU

Many parents are calling LSU during the day expecting to get a fairly swift response back. In light of LSU staff being mobilised now for each year group bubble, we can't always return calls in the same time line as pre coronavirus. The daily contact and support for students has increased massively with the LSU team. We will endeavour to call parents back at the end of the school day. Thank you.

Bubble Updates for after half term

Year	7	8	9	10	11
Break time	Snack Shack (card)	Trolley (cash)	Hall (card)	Hall (card)	Hall (card)
Lunchtime	Hall (card needed)	Hall (card)	Hall (card)	Hall (card)	Hall (card)

And finally, I'd like parents to appreciate that our return simply would not have been possible without the hard work of all staff. There is no coincidence that we remained COVID free for so long; their drive to keep children safe has been a priority since we knew that we were returning to school in the summer. I continue to feel extremely proud of the whole school community; each individual valued in their own way. Students, parents, staff and Governors. Mrs Woodman and Miss Buckthorp have continued to support me without any hesitation over these weeks and this is appreciated very much indeed.

Please stay as safe as possible over the half term break. I have been reminded by the local authority that following the guidance now around coronavirus is more important than ever as we take a break for a week.

I look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 2nd November.

Kind regards

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

LRC QR codes

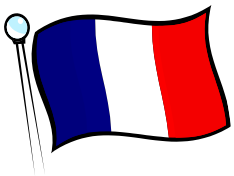
Your Library Account

AR Quizzing

LRC Online Google Classroom

LRC Twitter Account

MFL News!



Bien fait

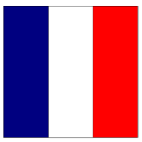
Congratulations!

Gute Arbeit

Linguists of the Month

Year	French	German
7	Xanthe	Imogen
8	Zac	Matthew
9	Harriet	Will
10	Harvey	Jess
11	Jemima	Alexandra

Language Idiom of the Week



English: To have a lie in

French: Faire la grasse matinée

Literal meaning: To do the fat morning

German: Sich ausschlafen

Literal meaning: To lie in

School Attendance — up to 22.10.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.4%	94.2%	95.3%	92.6%	92.4%	94.2%

Top Tutors per Year Group — well done!

7TY, 8CA, 9WA, 10RO and 11BR.

Photograph of the Week

This weeks picture is by Tilly—
a year 10 photography student.

Tilly is experimenting with manual function on her Nikon D7200. Settings - shutter speed on 1/3000, the ISO on 6400 and the aperture on 5.3. Producing a brilliant macro photo that captures the texture and colours of rust.

Vacancy—Teacher of science

Salary: TMS
Location: Alcester, Warwickshire
Contract Type: Full Time
Contract Term: Temporary in the first instance
Required: From January 2021

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. 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.

Teacher of Science Application Pack

More details regarding this post and an application pack is available by emailing: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk or by visiting the Alcester Academy website.

Vacancy—School Business Manager

Contract type: Full Time
Contract term: Permanent
Closing date: 13.11.20

Start date: As soon as possible, ideally no later than January 2021

The successful candidate must have strong financial and business management skills and equally impressive leadership ability as Business Manager, to lead a group of support staff and manage the financial, administration and IT functions supporting the academic and non-academic activities. The role will include duties as day-to-day Financial Controller, Fire Officer, Health and Safety Appointed Person and Data Protection Officer.
The successful candidate must be a Graduate or have equivalent education, with a professional qualification ideally financial and should have experience working in general, financial, property and IT/systems management and have undertaken advanced studies and/or have relevant professional qualifications in those areas. Excellent communication, administration and interpersonal skills together with flexibility and a commitment to working proactively and creatively as part of a team are essential qualities for the role.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE ADVERT ON TES

Alcester Academy has become a start school

⇒ Start is an online careers platform, designed to connect 11-18 year olds with their future career potential

⇒ Start is a comprehensive source of careers information personalised to every student from year 7 to 13

A structured programme of activities—tailored to each year group - to inform student decisions about study choices and future careers options

Year 7-9
(GCSE Choices)

- ✓ Students **explore and establish their suitability to careers** and understand the KS4 subjects that are important to them
- ✓ Students **understand the factors important to making informed decisions** including learning style and career aspirations
- ✓ Students **build a picture of their career aspirations and subject choices** as well as start to **evidence understanding of key employability skills**

Year 10-11
(Post 16 Options)

- ✓ Students **explore their post-16 options** and their intended choices relate to preferred learning style and future career aspirations
- ✓ Students and parents **understand the application process and entry requirements** for their intended choices
- ✓ Students **capture the experiences and achievements that will help them to stand out** on paper and in person

Year 12-13
(Post 18 Options)

- ✓ Students explore post 18 options and **develop a deeper understanding of their progression and career preferences**
- ✓ Students **research and compare options**, and make decisions based on personal suitability and the availability of options
- ✓ Students **prepare for future employment, refine their personal profile** and start to demonstrate the application of their skills

Visit: www.startprofile.com and click to register

The student registration code is: 75913

This has been launched with our year 7 students this week.
We hope they enjoy using Start!

Mrs Hale

Year 11 Revision Timetable

WEEK A wb-19/10, 9/11, 23/11.	Lunchtime	Afterschool
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	**Chemistry (sets 1 and 2) (M1)** English (M2-5)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	**Music&PA (Music rooms)** Science combined if not Music&PA (M1)	Music &PA (Music rooms)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2)	Maths (M rooms)
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1) Textiles	Independent study at home

WEEK B wb-2/11, 16/11, 30/11.	Lunchtime	Afterschool
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	English (M rooms)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	**Music&PA (Music rooms)** Science combined if not Music/PA (M1)	Geography (M1)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2)	**Biology sets 1 and 2 (M4 and M5)** Maths (M1-4**)**
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1) Textiles	Independent study at home

Covid-19 related pupil absence

A quick reference guide for parents and staff (September 2020)

What to do if…	Action Needed	Return to school when…
…my child has Covid-19 symptoms.	**- Do not come to school** **- Contact school to inform us** - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a test **- Inform the school immediately about the test result**	…the test comes back negative **or** a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.
…my child tests positive for Covid-19.	- **Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** **- Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days).** - Self-isolate the whole household.	…10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. *(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)* **AND** the child feels well.
…my child tests negative.	- **Contact school to inform us.** - Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day).	…the test comes back negative.
…my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	- **Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** - Ring on each day of illness.	…after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
…someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** - Self-isolate the whole household. - Household member to get a test. **- Inform school immediately about test result.**	…the test comes back negative.
…someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** **- Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).** - Self-isolate the whole household.	…the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
…NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** **- Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).**	…the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
…NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	**- The household member must self-isolate for 14 days.** - Child can continue to attend school.	…child can continue to attend school
… a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school.	**- Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days.** - Alcester Academy child(ren) can continue to attend.	…child can continue to attend school

… my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is NOT on the exempt list of countries.	**If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:** - minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled. - contact school to inform us you are back in the country and we will agree an earliest date for possible return to school. - Self-isolate the whole household. *Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) – for up to date travel information	…the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.
… my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that IS on the exempt list of countries.	**If returning from a destination where quarantine is NOT needed:** - Check the current Exempt countries and territories list to confirm the country you have travelled from or through is on the exempt list. - Ring school to inform us you have returned to the UK and agree a return date to school.	… you have informed the office of your return to the UK *(the office will ask you a few questions about your travel).*
…I have travelled from a country that requires us to quarantine (but my child didn't travel).	- As long as you do not have / have not had symptoms in the last 14 days, your child can continue to attend school. - The person who has travelled MUST NOT leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs *(please contact school if you need support getting your child to school).*	…child can continue to attend school
…we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	**- Do not come to school.** **- Contact school to inform us.** - Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.	…school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again. …you receive medical advice that your child may return to school.
…my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.	**- Child must not come to school.** - Support your child at home with remote education provided by your school. - Your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. **- Other siblings may continue to attend school.**	…school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.
… I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms	***If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.***	…the child has completed 14 days of isolation.