

Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN



24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you have had a fantastic week.

In the bulletin this week, we are covering the fantastic trip to the West End that took place with our performing artists last weekend. The students were lucky enough to participate in a visit to The Globe and National Theatre, they then went to see *Moulin Rouge* at the Piccadilly Theatre, in London's West End and then participated in a bespoke, musical dance workshop. What a fantastic experience!



The staff team have written about this in more detail later on for you all. It was wonderful to hear about the positive feedback that our students received from the people that they encountered during their weekend.

Here is just one comment from @RichGittins on X:



What's inside this week...

Page 3	STEM Leaders
Page 6	A Weekend to Remember: Performing Arts Students Visit London's West End
Page 9	Computer Science Students Visit the New SAE Institute in Leamington Spa
Page 17	Sports News

Whilst our students were immersed in life in London, we had more students than ever before competing at Princethorpe in the Warwickshire Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Powell who accompanied these students. There is a full report within the sports section for your interest. We are all so very proud of the students who qualified for the heats on the day.

Good Luck to...

Marijke (Oversley) in year 10 as she participates in the Midlands Cross Country Championships tomorrow. We're right behind you!

Visit by Coughton Primary School

The DT department hosted a visit from Coughton Primary School on Monday. It was a delight to share some time with the students.



Year 9s

Year 9 exams continue into next week. I have been impressed by the maturity shown by year 9.

Year 10 Work Experience Week

Good luck to year 10 students who are out on their Work Experience next week. One hundred of the cohort have secured placements. This is a record number of students. We are looking forward to visiting as many students as we can. Thank you to industry, community and education partners for supporting such an important week. Mrs Carole Hodgetts is joining the visiting staff, team again this year; one of our esteemed governors.



I enjoyed a praise break time this week with our year 10s who scored fantastic attitudes to learning in recent reports. Other year groups will follow soon.



Rotary Youth Speaks

Congratulations to our year 7 and year 10 teams led by Mrs Gorner who competed at the Greig Hall on Tuesday evening. So many weeks of preparation goes into this. Mrs Gorner has written a full report for you later in this edition to include some very exciting news! I was so proud of all of the students.



Congratulations to...

The Mayor's Award winners from last Friday's event; Jacob in year 10 and to parent Zoe New, as Citizen of the Year.

Don't forget, it is the Friends Bingo event next Friday. Doors open at 6.30pm for eyes down at 7pm. See you there!

Wishing you all a really lovely weekend ahead. Thank you for continued support.

Sarah Mellors—*Headteacher*

STEM Leaders—Charity Drive

The STEM Leaders have all been awarded their badges and have begun their first whole school project. They have worked hard as a team to produce badges and cards that will be sold in the run up to Valentine's Day. The money raised will go towards new defibrillators in the community.



Our STEM Leaders: Teddy, Alina, Riley, Poppy, Paige, Fliss, Hester and Lily!





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

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES

Calling all students:
science revision guides are now
in stock!

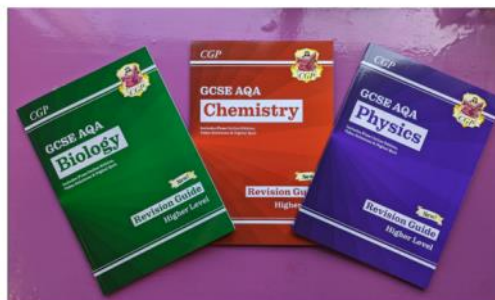
Available from the science
department, get yours
today to help revise for your
upcoming exams.

Prices:

Triple award: £10 (3 books)

Combined: £6.50 (1 book)

*Please speak to a member of the
department to get yours.*





ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS



Family **BINGO** Night

Friday 31st January

Doors Open 6.30pm – Eyes down 7.00pm

1 Book (6 Games) - £2

6 Books (6 Games) - £10



Bar

Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available

Pre-booking recommended.

Book now online or via the
school office.



<https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com>

A Weekend to Remember: Performing Arts Students Visit London's West End



As soon as we arrived, we had the golden opportunity to take a step into distinguished playwright William Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the only building in London permitted to have a thatched roof, courtesy of the Great Fire of London.

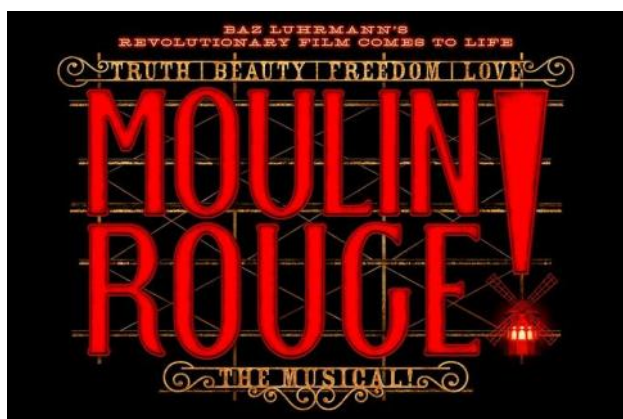
“What a trip!”

Last weekend, fourteen performing arts students from years 10 and 11 had the privilege to head off to London's West End, the home of musical theatre, big lights, and entertainment; also accompanying some of the biggest shows in London's history of theatrical entertainment, such as *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and a popular, well known watch at the moment, *Wicked*.

Many of us learnt plenty of interesting facts that day; for example, did you know that during a singular showing of 'Titus Andronicus', more than forty people passed out?

After the exciting look around The Globe—with thanks to our brilliant tour guide—we then travelled to the National Theatre, a location widely known for being a non-profitable company, meaning that all of the money spent by customers is converted and used to create even more





productions to share with the people, no matter their race, ethnicity or background. They believe theatre brings people together, and as performing arts students, we believe that too.

Once all of our bags were unpacked and dinner was had at the Royal National Hotel, it was time for the big event; a trip to see one of London's most favoured shows by the public, Moulin Rouge. Personally, this show was an absolute hit, and would recommend it to anyone considering watching—it's worth it!

After a comfortable night's sleep after a long day, it was an early start for everyone; we had a stage combat workshop to get to! And to say it was an absolutely wonderful experience would be an understatement. And it wouldn't be possible without help from Danceworks Dance School, let alone our instructor for the session, actor and stage combat professional, Rich Gittins.

And to follow up the workshop, we were given the opportunity to take part in a Q&A with standby Moulin Rouge performer, Dean Read, a walking cover for Harold Zidler and The Duke.

As the trip came to an end, the group did a little bit of sightseeing, visiting iconic landmarks around London such as Buckingham Palace and Covent Gardens, before heading back to school, bringing the experience to a close. But all in all, what an amazing opportunity it was to visit the West End; not only that, to meet cast members and watch a fan-favourite musical on the stage. So with that, a massive thanks to Miss Sacco, Mr Hall and Mrs Austin for accompanying us and providing us with this incredible opportunity.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Natasha (Greville), year 10.



Youth Speaks—Alcester Academy Success!



I am delighted to share the outstanding results from the recent *Youth Speaks* competition, held on Tuesday evening at the Greig Hall, organised by the Alcester, Bidford and Stratford Rotary Clubs.

In the intermediate heat, three of our year 7 students—Archie (Billesley), Elliot (Ragley), and Noah (Greville)—competed against students from Alcester Grammar School, King Edward VI School, St. Benedict's High School, and Stratford upon Avon High School.

Their compelling speech addressing the impact of changes to winter fuel payments prompted significant reflection among the audience members. Despite the formidable challenge posed by King Edward VI School, I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to Archie, Elliot, and Noah. Their ability to engage an audience is no small feat, and I am incredibly proud of their efforts.

Later that evening, two teams from Alcester Academy represented us in the senior heat. Their performances were nothing short of exceptional, especially considering the calibre of competitor teams from King Edward VI School and Alcester Grammar School, which included sixth form

students. One of our teams comprising of Lottie (Billesley), Harriet (Billesley), and Sophia (Greville) delivered a thoughtful and respectful analysis of attitudes towards transgender athletes participating in the Olympics.

I am particularly pleased to announce that Harriet received the award for best individual performance, a testament to her remarkable oratory skills.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the triumph of our year 10 team, consisting of Faith (Oversley), Eshal (Billesley), and Molly (Ragley), who emerged victorious in the senior heat with their insightful speech on Britain's dependency on the royal family. This is a significant achievement and one that is very well-deserved, reflecting their diligent preparation and hard work over the past few weeks.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our students involved in the competition. Each student conducted themselves with utmost professionalism, serving as a credit to our school. It is rewarding to see their commitment acknowledged in such a positive outcome.

Onto the District heat of the competition!

Mrs Gorner



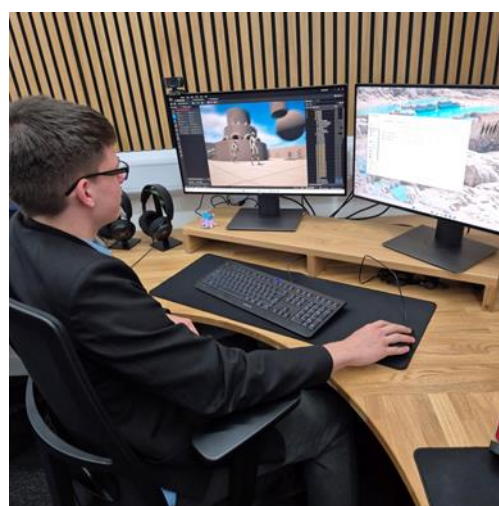
Computer Science Students Visit the New SAE Institute in Leamington Spa

Last Friday our year 11 computer science students visited the new SAE Institute at Leamington Spa.

SAE will be offering two-year degrees in a wide range of growth creative industries, including audio, content creation and online marketing film, game animation, games programming and visual effects. SAE joins a global network of more than forty campuses, including three existing UK campuses located in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow.

Alcester Academy students were invited to learn more about how to make games in *Unreal Engine*, during a workshop carried out by Nathan, one of the teaching staff. Nathan was incredibly impressed with the mazes created by students, and three of them won a limited-edition water bottle for their imaginative programmes! We are extremely grateful to SAE for the opportunity.

Miss Bartlett—Careers Co-ordinator



Careers Fair Reviews by our KS3 Young Reporters

Review by Riley (Ragley), in year 7

At the Careers Fair, there were lots of different jobs to learn about, these jobs included: dental opportunities, children's nurseries, Studley Castle, Royal Air Force, Specsavers, The Eden Hotel, Fire and Rescue, Police and many more.



I really enjoyed the Careers Fair because it helped to make decisions about my future that I may not have made before the event.

I also liked that the teachers made it a mission to get two facts about every job that was there in a little booklet for a prize.

This was very smartly done by the teachers because it motivates the students to have a look at all of the stalls and ask questions about them. It also makes it really fun and exciting.

universities, and the salaries available in the Royal Air Force. I even learnt I need glasses!

It was fantastic to have a once on a lifetime opportunity to see what career we might want!



My Experience at the Careers Fair by Amelia (Billesley)

The Careers Fair gave us an insight into what we could achieve within certain industries. There were a range of different companies, each with colourful stalls, banners and pictures. There were a few universities that attended, such as the Warwickshire University and the SAE Institute.



Each stall was happy to answer our questions in detail and explain how to apply through their websites.

The Careers Fair introduced us to what we can achieve in the world after school!

My perspective on the Careers Fair by Hester (Greville)

This is my second Careers Fair in our three years of being here. Miss Bartlett did an amazing job of organizing this wondrous affair. It was a great adventure to find out what, where and who we could be working with in our future years.



There was everything ranging from fire fighters to dentists, to Specsavers to Rooftop Housing Group. We learnt loads from the



Extra Curricular Timetable

Spring 2025



Alcester
Academy

Monday

Lunchtime

Mathematics Matters (Yr11)- PE1
Acoustic Group- Hut
Y8 Book Club - LRC
ART- A1 & A2

Tuesday

Lunchtime

Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
Y10/Y11- M1
Learn to Crochet -
Textiles (Student and teachers)
After School
European languages club -L2
(From Spring 2)

Wednesday

Lunchtime

Orchestra - Hut
BBC Young Reporter- E1
ART- A1 & A2
Chess club- M3
Y8/9 Scrabble Club - LRC
After school
Detective Fiction club- E6
Cooking Club -
Alternate weeks

Thursday

Lunchtime

Young Enterprise- IT3
Pride Group- E4
Rock Band- Hut
Photography Club - A1
Year 7 Book Club - LRC
ART- A1 & A2

After School

Art Club (GCSE only)- A1 & A2
Dance Club - Drama

Friday

Lunchtime

Youth Speaking- E4
STEM/Science- T2
Year 11 Year book-H4
ART- A1 & A2

Make Do & Mend Textiles Project



Pupils from Coughton C of E Primary School came to Alcester Academy on Monday, to work on an interesting textiles project in the DT department. The pupils brought in old clothes and school uniform to use, as they were focusing on a *Make Do & Mend* theme. They gained an understanding of how fabric was rationed during WWII and how fashion had to change because of this.



The pupils used a pattern to cut out the individual pieces and stitched these together using the sewing machines. Our year 10 pupils Jack, Molly and Faith were all on hand to help throughout the day.

The year 6 pupils were absolutely fantastic during the day working incredibly hard on their individual bears. It was lovely to see how enthusiastic they were to use the sewing machines and how their confidence grew throughout the day.



Miss Wincup



Epraise Leaderboard—for the past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Natasha	10BI	Greville	31 points
1	Emily	11LE	Ragley	31 points
3	Ollie	8RO	Billesley	28 points
3	Finn	10BW	Billesley	28 points
5	Kian	10BI	Billesley	25 points
5	Arturo	10SA	Billesley	25 points
5	Fleur	10PL	Greville	25 points
5	Fin	11MR	Greville	25 points
9	Immy	10PL	Greville	24 points
9	Ella	10MO	Greville	24 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Greville	1693 points
2	Billesley	1663 points
3	Ragley	1636 points
4	Oversley	1617 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1=1	English	798 points
2	Art	731 points
3	Maths	590 points
4	History	413 points
5	French	285 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mr Yarrington	650 points
2	Mr Rossiter	409 points
3	Mrs Gorner	362 points
4	Miss Home	282 points
5	Mrs Hirji	280 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	11MR	381 points
2	7TN	342 points
3	11GO	322 points
3	7KO	322 points
5	7LX	318 points



Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week is 91.5%

Top tutors this week:

7RA with 98% attendance

8AN with 98.3% attendance

9GA with 100% attendance—congratulations!

10PL with 90.4% attendance

11LE with 97.1% attendance



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. Thank you, Mrs Hatcher

Attendance Competition!

Keep an eye out for our upcoming attendance competition!

Every pupil who completes a week with no absences will be entered into a draw to win amazing prizes. Stay tuned for more details!



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

Parents' Evenings 2024-25

Thursday 6th February 2025

Year 8 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud

Thursday 3rd April 2025

Year 9 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud

Thursday 1st May 2025

Year 8 Options Evening. Live in school

Thursday 12th June 2025

Year 7 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud

SchoolCloud is the online video service

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2025

Half Term	Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025
Back to school	Monday 24th February 2025
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 11th April 2025 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2025

Summer Term begins	Monday 28th April 2025
<i>School closed</i>	<i>Friday 2nd May 2025—Teacher training day</i>
May Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025
Back to school	Monday 2nd June 2025
<i>School closed</i>	<i>Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day</i>
Summer Term ends	Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm

STEM AMBASSADOR

Alcester Academy

Valentine's Day Badges

Write a special note in secret, and buy a badge/card for your Valentine!

- delivered during Tutor time on the 14th of February.
- Sold at Break and Lunch in the canteen

All money raised goes to charity.

Badge: £2
Card: £1

Year 11 Revision Timetables—Week A and Week B



WEEK A	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Biology Clinic in S6 <i>Study space - PE1</i>	
Tuesday	Media Studies Catch Up <i>Study space - English department rooms</i> History	English
Wednesday	Science - sets 3 and 4 <i>Science rooms</i>	French DT Computer Science
Thursday	ICT (iMedia) <i>Study space - English department</i> Religious Studies	Maths German (Higher)
Friday	Geography intervention <i>Study space - maths department (M3)</i>	Physics triple award sets 1 and 2

WEEK B	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	<i>Study space - PE1</i>	
Tuesday	Media Studies Catch Up Chemistry clinic in S1 <i>Study space - English department rooms</i> History	Art/photography for exam prep
Wednesday	Science - sets 1 and 2	French DT Computer Science
Thursday	ICT (iMedia) <i>Study space - English department</i> Religious Studies	German (Foundation) Art/photography for exam prep
Friday	Geography intervention <i>Study space - maths department (M3)</i>	Physics triple award sets 1 and 2

These timetables may be subject to change.

Saturday School dates

Saturday 1st March and Saturday 8th March—with subject sessions to be confirmed.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Cross Country Round up

Congratulations to all athletes who represented Alcester Academy at the Warwickshire County Cross Country Championships held at Princethorpe College last weekend.

The event was a great experience for many to compete against some of the best runners in the county on a tough course—well done all!

Will (year 10, Oversley)

Will managed a top ten finish in a highly competitive race. Congratulations!

Marijke (year 10, Oversley)

Marijke put in an outstanding performance in her race and finished 2nd place competing against runners across year 10, 11, 12 and 13. An outstanding achievement Marijke, congratulations! *Mr Moffatt*



Poppy (year 7, Ragley)



Dexter
(year 7, Billesley)



Isabella (year 8, Greville)



Toby
(year 9, Greville)



Will
(year 9, Billesley)



Marijke
(year 10, Oversley)



Will
(year 10,
Oversley)

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

U16 Girls Football— District tournament



Our U16 girls team put in some brilliant performances in the district football tournament which took place at Stratford School this week.

Our girls finished the tournament undefeated and lost out on winning by the narrowest of margins to AGS who took victory by a single goal on goal difference. A brilliant performance all, well done!



THIS WEEKS SPORT: W/B 27/1/25



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 7 and 8 Girls Sportshall Athletics – PE/NA	AGS
Tuesday	Year 7 and 8 Boys Sportshall Athletics – MO/NA	AGS
Wednesday		
Thursday	Year 8 Rugby v Shipston – MO/NA Year 7 Girls Football - PE	Shipston RFC Courts/Gym (Trainers + Shinpads)



SPRING 1 LUNCHTIME SPORT



- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 13th January on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- 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 suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MON- NA	THURS - MO
13/1	KS4 Basketball	Y11 Indoor Football
20/1	KS3 Basketball	Y11 Indoor Football
27/1	KS4 Basketball	Y11 Indoor Football
3/2	KS3 Basketball	Y11 Indoor Football

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Purple Spider, The Learning Bus

Craft Fair

22nd March 2025

The Greig Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

Where: The Grieg Hall
When: 22nd March 2025
Time: 10am till 1:30pm



After School Drama Clubs

Come and join us for a free taster session.
We run weekly Drama Clubs for young people
In Stratford-upon-Avon.

ENROLLING NOW

Stratford Youth Theatre

07591 346080

www.stratfordyouththeatre.com



CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Warwickshire Police Cadets

We are a scheme for young people aged 13-18 who want to make a positive contribution to their local communities through Social Actions and other Police led activities. We have two Schemes in Warwickshire, the Juniors for those aged 13-16 and the Senior Scheme for those age 16+

- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people
- Encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering
- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities

We meet one night a week (term time)

What do I do next?

Our recruitment process opens in January 2025

Visit Facebook, X or our website for more information about the cadets!



www.warwickshire.police.uk/cadets

You need live or school in Warwickshire and be aged 13-16 on
1st September 2025

Please register your interest with us at the email address below, we will
then contact you when our recruitment process opens again on
1st January 2025

Email : cadets@warwickshire.police.uk