

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



24th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you all for tremendous support last weekend and over this week as we encountered a rise in positive covid cases especially with our year 11s. I do appreciate that the continuation of cases in school is not ideal and I'm thankful for your understanding as we liaise with Public Health when required, in order to seek advice related to our own context here. I'm very grateful to staff for the efficient and speedy turn around of blended learning again for our 11s working at home this week. As an example, our year 11 performing artists really stepped up by rehearsing live in school with partners and group members awaiting PCR results at home. The power of Google Classroom is fantastic! If you are new to the academy, details of what to do if your child is isolating can be found on the website: <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19->

All positive cases should be reported to me head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

The students have shown a great deal of maturity during the week as we returned to wearing face coverings. Again, this has been very new for our year 7s especially and I've been impressed with how well they have adapted to these measures being put in place. At this point, we will continue to expect face coverings to be worn for the short term.



I was disappointed to have to postpone Open Week as a result of cases rising. We have re-established this for 11th-15th October 2021, all being well. Open Evening will be on Tuesday 12th October 6.30-8.30pm. I have prepared new invitations for our primary feeder schools that will be delivered in the very near future. We have populated the website with some preliminary marketing literature if you are at the point of deciding which secondary school to select for September 2022

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/open-week>

Regarding some recent news, I was pleased to receive a response from our Minister for Education this week after offering our congratulations on his new appointment recently as follows:

'I look forward to following through on this Government's commitment to level up schools across the country, ensuring that every child receives the education they need to fulfil their potential' *Nadhim Zahawi*

Back to Learning - How to support your child

Staff have worked extremely hard here over the summer to redesign the learning pathway for students in light of the recent disruptions because of coronavirus. Our long term plans for each subject area are available for you to see, and support at home. If you are keen to access these, please look on the website under <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/subjects>

By scrolling to the bottom of each subject page, you can see the plans for each year group term by term. This has been a huge development area as a result of past parent feedback.

Coronavirus PCR testing

We have been informed that there is currently high demand for PCR tests and we have been advised that extending your search for these if you can, might help you to access tests quicker.

Vaccination Update

We have heard that our school vaccination date is Friday 8th October in school. Our school office has sent out separate information on this for you. A government circular for you and students has also been published:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

You may find some of your queries answered here for now. We will be covering this topic in tutor work with students very soon.

Feel Good Friday!

Today, all staff have spent time communicating with those students that have worked very hard this week in our new 'feel good' end to the week. We will action this at least once a half term as well as epraise points in order to give these key students a lovely start to their weekend (and you). Congratulations!

Grieg Hall Re-opening

Thanks to our students pictured here for giving up their time to support the Mayor as the Greig Hall event was set up last weekend. It was lovely to see true academy values at work.

I'm looking forward to attending the Mayor's Civic Service on Sunday.



Communication – Reminders

This is just a reminder that all parent communication should go through the form tutor first, unless parents have been liaising directly with SLT, SENCo or a Subject Leader. We will endeavour to reply to you to acknowledge any email or call within 24 hours. A full, detailed reply might take

longer. I don't expect staff to reply to emails during their evening. Please could you allow us a reasonable amount of time to get back to you. On several recent occasions, this has not been the case and your patience would be appreciated. Please use drop-in on a Wednesday for any brief discussions. If a longer meeting is required, this can be arranged.

PE Bags

Please can PE bags and kit be labelled with names. We can only help with lost kit if this is the case. For our newest students, we recommend organising a locker for the safest way to keep personal belongings. Thank you. With any lost equipment or kit, we do expect students to have a good search around school please before expecting our LSU staff team to.

Warwickshire Local Area SEND Inspection – Summer 2021

Please find the link to the Ofsted Inspection completed in the summer for SEND provision in Warwickshire.

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-555761535-406>

Outside School News

Congratulations to Danny in year 7 for achieving his green belt with a blue tag recently. We're extremely proud of this. Excellent news!



I'm looking forward to updating you next week after our European Day of Languages and October sees the start of Black History Month celebrations here in school too. I know that our year 8 students are excited to participate in the Alcester Town Faith Walk next Thursday morning so keep an eye out for our ambassadors if you are out and about! Thanks in advance to our local clergy and churches for supporting this.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely weekend. I extend my best wishes to our families who are dealing with coronavirus right now and I hope that this has not impacted too seriously on the health of individuals. If we can support at school in any way, please contact us.

Best wishes
Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

Homework at Alcester Academy

Homework forms an important part of the learning process and encourages students to be independent. Students have been given a homework timetable which outlines the days when subjects are set and the time that should be allocated to the work. Year 7 will not receive their full allocation during the first half term.

Homework may come in various forms depending on the individual subject and the teacher. It is the responsibility of the students to accurately write down the details of their homework in their planner. Homework may be checked by staff using the following codes and epraise points will be awarded for good work and effort

- 1 - Homework is of an exceptional standard.**
- 2 - Homework is of a good standard.**
- 3 - Homework is handed in but is incomplete and lacks effort required.**
- 4 - Homework is not completed or is very poor in quality.**

If work is not completed then a series of sanctions will be applied in line with the behaviour policy which may includes detentions

Further details can be found on the website

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/homework>

Young Enterprise Update



This week has seen an exciting development with our Young Enterprise team. After having to design and create an environmentally friendly, sustainable product in which to start a business, four teams had to present their ideas to a panel of staff, including SLT and a parent governor. After much deliberation the final two teams were selected and congratulated on their success. Grace Perks, Alcester Academy's Young Enterprise advisor also popped in virtually to wish both teams luck moving forward. Let the battle begin as we compete in the regional competition!



Alcester Academy

Open Evening 2021

Tuesday 12th October - 6.30pm to 8.30pm



Alcester Academy



The Staff and Governors of Alcester Academy warmly invite you to our:

Open Evening

Tuesday 12th October - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Guided Open Mornings

Monday 11th October to Friday 15th October 2021

9.30am to include a SLT Q&A session

Alcester Academy is happy to open its doors to prospective parents for Open Week 2021. Respectfully we ask families to book just one guided open morning at their convenience during this week. Please call the main office on 01789 762285 or alternatively email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Alcester Academy will run the Open Week events virtually, if required. Please visit the school website to get the latest up-to-date information.

'There is a culture of high expectation in lessons. Pupils are encouraged to aim high and teachers do not accept mediocre answers.' *Ofsted 2019*

View our 360° tour at: <http://tours.lourdesit.org.uk/Alcester/>

Alcester Academy, Gerard Road, Alcester, B49 6QQ * Tel: 01789 762285 * Email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk * Website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk

COOK AND EAT YOUR TEA

'IMPRESS DON'T STRESS'

A course for Teenagers at The Depot, Eric Payne Community Centre, Alcester.

Course runs between 4:30pm - 6:30pm on Wednesday 10th November, 17th November, 24th November and 1st December

NO CHARGE FOR ATTENDANCE AND YOU CAN COME WITH A MATE!!

HAPPY EATING!

For more information and to book the course, please contact: Wendy Sherwood, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator at Alcester Town Council
Tel: 01789 766084
Email: info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Supported by Hillers

Talking Teen's Parent Course

A 5 week course for parents and carers in Warwickshire

Understanding teenagers can be difficult, not least because there are so many stereotypes, many of which are negative, unhelpful and quite unfair. This often makes the teenage years seem a daunting period for parents.

Talking Teens is a 5 week course for parents based on the most recent research on adolescence and based upon the principles of The Nurturing Programme. The group will offer a positive view of teenage development and focus on relationships within the family. The weekly sessions are intended to increase parents understanding of teenagers feelings and behaviour and deliver key strategies for maintaining and improving relationships.

Each week will have a specific focus:
Being a parent of a teenager, understanding your teenager, communicating and managing conflict and provides an opportunity for parents to share their experience with others

To check availability and book a FREE place, please follow the link below <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-teens-online-parenting-course-for-families-in-warwickshire-tickets-167854783175>

For more information please email: ehparenttrainers@warwickshire.gov.uk

European Day of Languages - 26 September

Throughout next week, from Monday 27 September until Friday 1 October, the MFL Faculty will be celebrating European Day of Languages. This day is celebrated throughout Europe to recognise the 600 languages that are spoken in our continent. As part of this week, we will be offering the following activities:

- A tutor time cultural quiz in order to win a French breakfast
- A teacher bingo activity - find out cultural

facts about our staff members

- On Thursday, experience some European food in the canteen
- Complete language competition entries in MFL lessons
- On Thursday, listen to all staff speaking different languages throughout the school

We hope you enjoy the week!

Mrs Weatherley and Miss Heitmüller



Learning a language

Learning a language

Is like doing a jigsaw puzzle

Of a million pieces

With a picture that keeps changing.

It's like getting lost in a foreign city without a map.

It's like playing tennis without a ball,

like being an ant in a field of grasshoppers.

It's like being an acrobat with a broken leg,

An actor without a script,

A carpenter without a saw,

A storyteller without a middle or an end.

But then gradually...

It's like being out in the early morning

with the mists lifting.

It's like a chink of light under a door,

like finding the glove you were looking for,

Catching the train you thought you were going to miss,

Getting an unlooked-for present,

Exchanging a smile.

And then one day it's like riding a bicycle

Very fast downhill.

Olivia McMahan

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2021

School closed

Friday 22nd October 2021

Teacher training day

Half term

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October 2021

Back to school

Monday 1st November 2021

Autumn Term ends

Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

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



Stratford Town Trust
at the heart of our community

YOU'RE INVITED!

FUN PALACEs

Sharing skills, connecting communities,
creating tiny revolutions

Sat 2nd Oct '21
10am – 2pm
Foundation House

Free refreshments

Arts & Crafts Woodturning
Live radio Fire engine
Drumming circle Tudor music & dance
Potting plants Painting
And more..!!

All the INFO



SCAN ME

www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk
@ourtowntrust
@Foundationhouse

In partnership with:



RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY



Shakespeare
birthplace trust

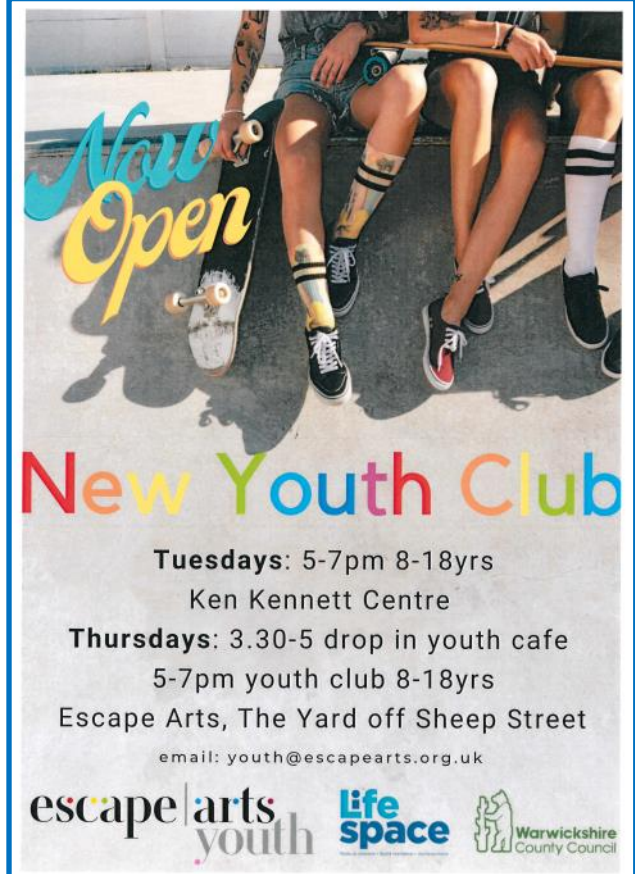


COMMUNITY FUND



@ f # FunPalaces

funpalaces.co.uk




New Open

New Youth Club


Tuesdays: 5-7pm 8-18yrs
Ken Kennett Centre

Thursdays: 3.30-5 drop in youth cafe
5-7pm youth club 8-18yrs
Escape Arts, The Yard off Sheep Street


email: youth@escapearts.org.uk



escape|arts youth



Life Space



Warwickshire
County Council

Le Projet Monsieur Madame

Congratulations to all of our prize winners at the end of last term. Your French Mr Men books were amazing. The books were judged for originality, creativity, presentation and use of French. Prizes and certificates were issued in July. Books will be displayed in the MFL corridor. Our next event will be European Day of Languages. Please look out for our activities being advertised.

The winners and their books:



Katherine

Daragh

Chloe

Liv

Emily

Isla

Jess

Zoe

Diana

Jasmine

Onny

Layla + Jessie

Dylan

Jess

Frances

Archie

Xanthe

Emily

Ed

Evin

Tom

Mlle Heureuse

M. Covid

Mlle Sale

Mlle Artistique

Mme Petite

M. Artiste

Mme Fièrè

M. Foot

M.Malchance

Mlle Pomme de terre

Mlle Gentille

Mlle Soleil

M. Agressif

Mlle Folle

M.Chic

M. Fort

M.Plastique

M. Grand-cerveau

M. La cale

Mlle Sirène

M.sportif

Epraise Updates—past 7 days

Top Scorers—past 7 days:

1	Sam	9BL	15 points
2	Dylan	7WI	14 points
2	Joshua	9BL	14 points
2	Marijke	7WI	14 points
5	William	7RA	13 points
5	Finn	7HT	13 points
5	Xanthe	8KA	13 points
8	Carlee	7WI	12 points
8	Alex	7HT	12 points
8	Ed	8KA	12 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

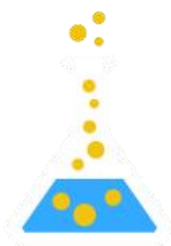
1	Mr Anderson	329 points
2	Mr Bowater	327 points
3	Mr Yarrington	277 points
4	Mrs Stedman	226 points
5	Miss Heitmuller	223 points
6	Miss Tandy	181 points
7	Mrs Weatherley	177 points
8	Miss Burgess	156 points
9	Miss Sacco	89 points
10	Miss Bayliss	78 points

Top Tutor Groups—past 7 days:

1	7HT	199 points
2	7WI	168 points
3	8SO	163 points
4	9BL	153 points
5	7RA	145 points
6	8PW	140 points
7	8RO	139 points
8	10BI	132 points
8	8HL	132 points
10	7TY	126 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	Geography	567 points
2	Science	456 points
3	Art	329 points
4	IT	283 points
5	German	177 points



epraise

CILIP SLG extreme reading photo competition

At the end of the summer I tweeted about a national competition that was being run by the CILIP School Libraries Group.

Sam in year 7 entered a photo of himself reading at the top of Snowdon, and from all the entries nationwide was picked by CILIP as the winner!

He has won a stack of books for our library, which we were pleased to receive this week.

Thank you very much for entering Sam.

Mrs Hands, LRC Manager





WARRIORS

RUGBY CAMPS

OCTOBER HALF-TERM

FROM
£35
PER PLAYER



WARRIORS CAMPS

DATE	VENUE	DURATION	TIMINGS*	SCHOOL YRS	PRICE
26 - 27 Oct	Bredon Star RFC	2 Days	9:30am-3pm	B&G 2-6YRS BOYS 7-10YRS	Early Bird £65
27 - 28 Oct	Wolverhampton RFC	2 Days	9:30am-3pm	B&G 2-6YRS BOYS 7-10YRS	Early Bird £65
28 - 29 Oct	RGS Worcester	2 Days	9:30am-3pm	B&G 2-6YRS BOYS 7-10YRS	Early Bird £65

WARRIORS WOMEN CAMPS

DATE	VENUE	DURATION	TIMINGS*	SCHOOL YRS	PRICE
25 - 26 Oct	Hereford Sixth Form College	2 Days	9:30am-3pm	GIRLS 7-13YRS	Early Bird £35
28 - 29 Oct	RGS Worcester	2 Days	9:30am-3pm	GIRLS 7-13YRS	Early Bird £35

01905 459309
WARRIORS.CO.UK/RUGBYCAMPS
CAMPS@WARRIORS.CO.UK



extra CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Our newest extra curricular activity is Hairdressing.

Headed by Mrs Woodman herself, our future stylists are gaining some excellent hands-on experience.



30
Minute
Trial Session

Love to swim?

Come to **Stratford Sharks** Open Evening

Friday 8th October
Between 6:30pm and 8:30pm

@ Stratford Leisure Centre CV37 6YX

Fancy a go at competitive swimming?
30 min trial session - No appointment needed
Eligibility: ✓ ASA Level 7 + ✓ Aged 7 +

Or contact Kathy:
membership@teamsharks.com

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

PE Practices: week beginning 27/9/21:

Tuesday 28th September:	Year 11	Football
Wednesday 29th September:	Year 8	Netball and Football
Thursday 30th September:	Year 7	Netball & Football

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible. Normal school PE kit is required.

All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.

Tuesday 21st September

South Warwickshire Cross-Country Championships

On a wonderfully sunny evening this week we made our way to AGS fields for this year's competition. As the races unfolded there were some fantastic individual performances, and every single runner was a credit to the Academy with their enthusiasm and effort. In unusually hot conditions for cross-country, it was great to see our athletes push themselves to the limit and battle for every place.

The top 10/12 in each race traditionally go through to represent South Warwickshire at the Warwickshire District Championships and, based on Tuesday's results, the Academy will have a number of athletes going forward to this competition.

Well done to every runner and thank you for giving up your time to compete.

Minor Girls (Yr 7):

Marijke - 1st

Minor Boys (Yr 7):

Dylan - 6th
William - 7th
Tibault - 13th
Arthur - 14th
Lester - 18th
Freddie - 20th
Aidan - 23rd
Jake - 26th

Junior Girls (Year 8-9)

Jessica - 7th
Zoe - 21st

Junior Boys (Year 8-9)

Jake - 10th
Tom - 11th
Ed - 15th
Mike - 20th
Aaron - 21st
Tom - 24th
Fin - 26th
Ewan - 27th



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.