Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

25th October 2024

Welcome to the Friday bulletin. Now, this week's bulletin is slightly different as Mrs Mellors has handed the baton over to us, the School Captains, to write about some of the student experiences and opportunities available to us at the Academy, along with highlighting a few of the individuals that have excelled in and outside of school. So let's take it away with this week's bulletin takeover.

We have so many student leadership positions here at the Academy as we nurture these key skills in the students. Below we hear from Jess in year 11 about her role as a student librarian and from Tom, our Deputy School Captain, who will talk about the roles prefects are taking on in the coming weeks as well as their role so far:

Jess

I became a student librarian because I really love reading outside of school. My favourite part about being a librarian is fixing damaged and broken books and

STUDENT TAKEOVER

Charlie Darcie

Tom Liv

What's inside this week...

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helping Mrs Hands. We believe the library should be well looked after, as it is an essential tool alongside our English learning. Other things we do is organise the shelves with the returned books and check out new books. At the moment in my role I have been most proud of my ability to help anyone in the library if they need and this half term that has been our younger year 7s. It has been a pleasure introducing them to the library. I really enjoy being a student librarian and if anyone else wants to become one please do speak to Mrs Hands and fill in the form. After that we will be happy to give you your induction to the Student Librarian team.

Tom

I am a Prefect alongside my duties as a School Captain and I am extremely proud of this. Among the student body, the role is highly respected due to the responsibilities it carries. This week, we have been involved in lots of responsibility as we have conducted our first Tutor Rep meetings to provide student feedback from all across the school, about issues or improvements the students would like to see. This is crucial as we also use this information as School Captains to streamline our conversations when meeting with Mrs Mellors. As a Prefect, we have certain duties to carry out, such as monitoring the corridors, or manning the new school slushie machine at lunchtimes (my personal favourite job) and I like to think of it as playing a key part within the school.

Now coming up next term is our annual school production so we invited Co-Director Osian to give us an update.

Osian

This week we are glad to announce we have completed our first official run-through of the show Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and now comes the crucial refinement stage after half term to iron out all of the smaller errors and start to integrate costumes and some of Mrs Lewis' fabulous props.

We are working on emphasising the themes carried throughout the play and are at a point now in which we want to highlight the fatal flaws of each of the children within the story. So the directing team is working closely with the actors to develop their

characterisation by contrasting the purity of Charlie with the greed and flaws of the other children.

We are also having discussions about how we now use lighting and music to heighten these moments. The set this year will be colourful, bold and larger-than-life to reflect the magical, whimsical nature of the factory. We'll be using bright colours and bold designs, especially for scenes inside the factory, to create a sense of wonder. The contrast between the drab, poor environment of Charlie's home and the vibrant factory will highlight the theme of opportunity and reward. The most challenging scenes at the moment are the ones where the children face their consequences, like Augustus Gloop's fall into the river and Violet's transformation to a blueberry. Ms. Lee's choreography is really helping to make these moments stand out as both fun and entertaining for the audience and we can't wait for you to see them.

This year, the School Show will be performed on the 20th, 21st and 22nd of November. Tickets for all three nights are available for purchase on the School Gateway.
See you there!

Year 7 transition thoughts

In this week's bulletin takeover, we thought it apt that, given the year 7s have had some time to settle in for a few weeks, it was the perfect time to see how their transition has gone. Below are a few responses we received from the students when asked.

"We are really enjoying year 7. Our favourite subjects are art, performing arts and DT because they are much more practical and fun than what we experienced at our primary school. It is very different from our primary school but we are really loving all our new experiences.

When we went on Blackwell Adventure, it was a great day to settle in and make loads of new friends.

Having loads of teachers is really nice as when we were in primary school, we just had one for the whole day so moving around school is really fun." **Jessica + Matilda**

"I really enjoyed my Summer School experience. I really like caving and climbing all the way through all the different pathways. I have made loads of new friends from primary schools that I didn't go to so that has been really nice. Art is my favourite lesson so far because Mr Yarrington is really nice and helps me with all my work.

I think I have settled in really well and I haven't even got lost round the corridors.

My favourite Blackwell Adventure activity was climbing because I am really good at it."
Darcy

"I am really enjoying year 7 so far. My favourite subject is PE because I love all sports! When I did Summer School, I met loads of new people that would be in my year and made new friends too.

The food in the canteen is delicious and I love the Radnor Fizz too. I haven't got lost around school, to be honest it's just a big square so if you keep going round you'll eventually find where you need to be. Overall, year 7 has been really fun so far and I can't wait to experience the rest of the year" **Josh**

We have many clubs and extracurricular activities here at Alcester Academy, but, this week, we would like to take the time to focus on Mrs Gorner who runs both our PRIDE club and is leading our Youth Speaks debate team.

In my weekly extracurricular clubs, I have tried to create inclusive spaces where students can express themselves and develop key skills. PRIDE Club meets every Thursday at lunchtime, serving as a safe space for LGBT+ students and allies. We've had the pleasure of hosting virtual guest speakers who share their experiences and insights, and we collaborate closely with the charity Just Like Us to further support our community.

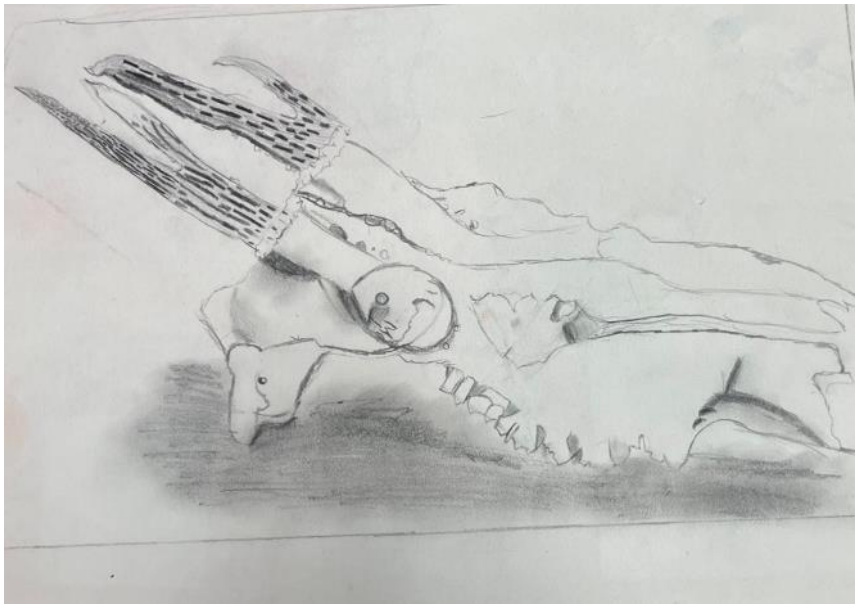
On Fridays, I oversee the Youth Speaks competition, where students form groups of three to craft engaging speeches on topics they're passionate about. This competition not only hones their public speaking skills, but also encourages teamwork and creativity. Last year, we achieved remarkable success in local competitions, and I'm optimistic that we can continue this trend this year!

Rotary YOUTH SPEAKS A Debate COMPETITION

Both clubs are a fantastic opportunity for students to connect, grow, and make their voices heard in a supportive environment.
Mrs Gorner—teacher of English

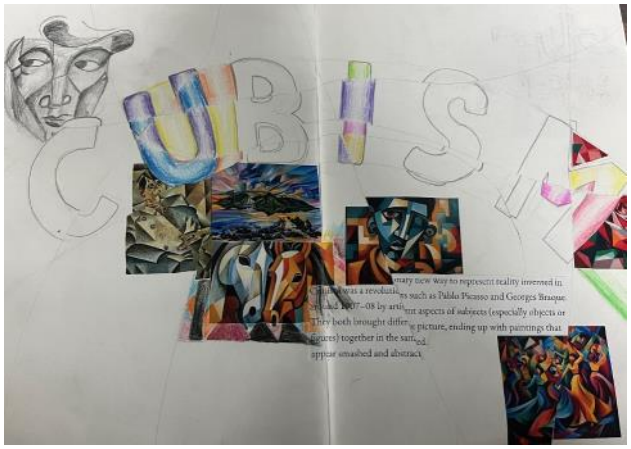
We would like to include some of this week's talented artists and display their work. Below you will see work from years 7 to 11 and, as you can see, some of the pieces are incredible.

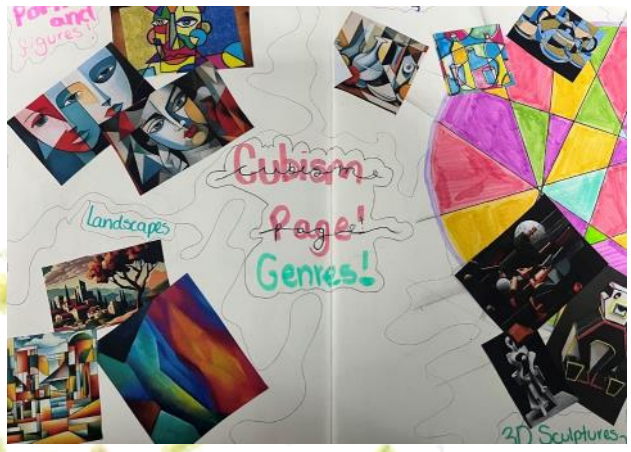
The skull images were created by Jacob and Connor, year 7, while the cubism artwork is the work of year 8 students Bella, Lottie and Olivia.



We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Mellors for allowing us to compile the end of half-term bulletin. We also want to thank all of the teachers and students for their effort over the last seven weeks allowing us to have a really productive and successful start to the school year.

Have a great week off everybody!
Charlie, Darcie, Tom and Liv





Artwork of the half term

STUDENT TAKEOVER

Top left, artwork in the style of David Olere by Lettie, year 9.

Top right, artwork by Ashlyn, year 10.

Bottom, artwork by Alex, a year 11 student.

Safeguarding Children

Emergency contact details for Warwickshire Safeguarding:
www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children

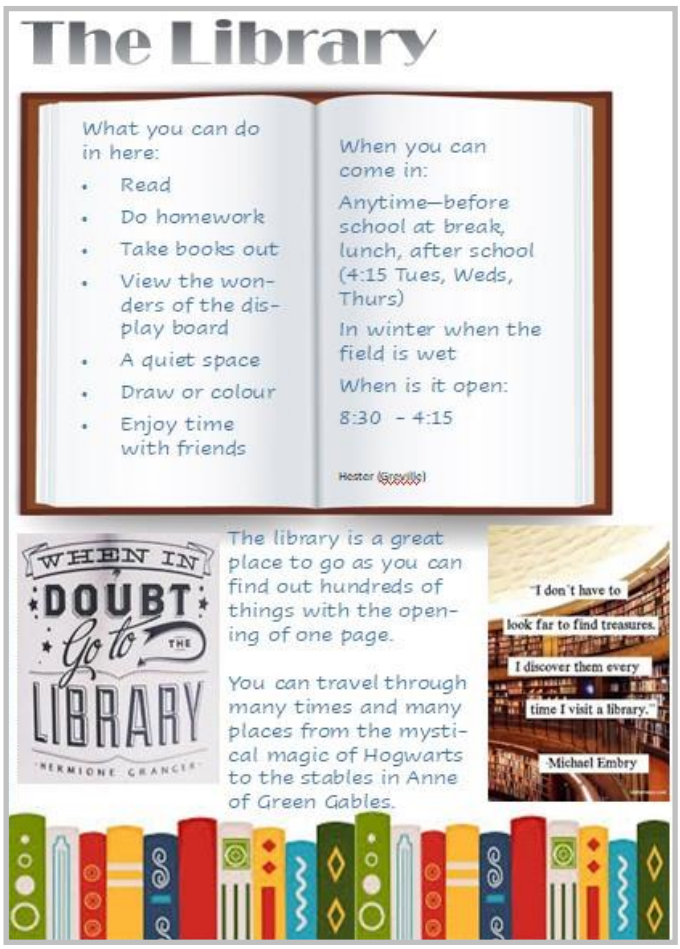
If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door) immediately by calling 01926 414144.

Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately by calling 01926 886922.

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the Police immediately by calling 999.

Warwickshire Safeguarding



Year 8 Speaking Competition

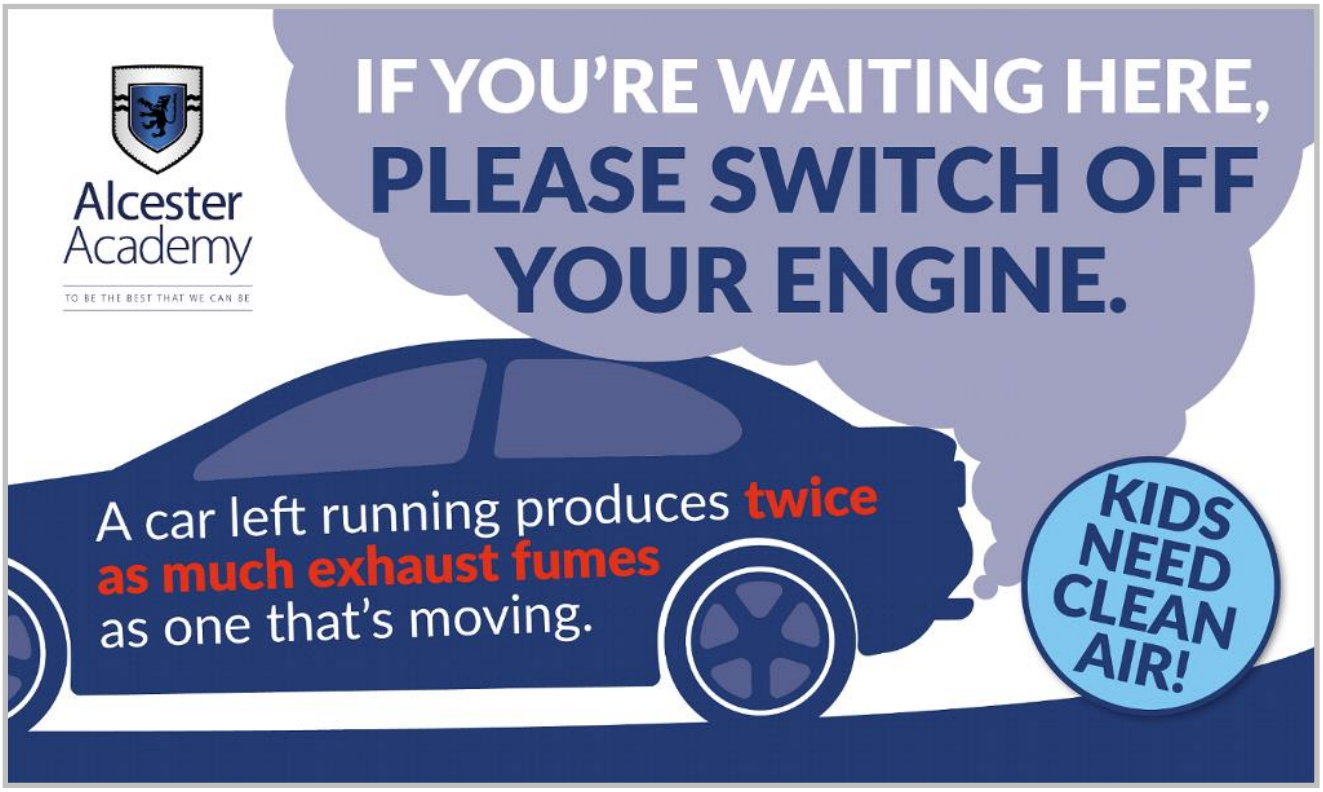
On Tuesday afternoon the year 8 Speaking Competition took place, with 18 students bravely standing up in front of their peers in the hall. They tackled a wide range of topics, showcasing their creativity and public speaking skills.

Among the participants, Tom emerged as the winner of the student vote with a compelling speech on why homework should be banned—certainly a hot topic among students!

Meanwhile, Charlotte clinched the teacher vote, presenting a persuasive argument on whether chocolate should be kept in the fridge.

Both students were exemplary in their performances, demonstrating that they had put in considerable time and effort in preparation. Their speeches not only engaged the audience but also highlighted their confidence and eloquence, making the competition a memorable event for all involved.

Mrs Gorner



Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance this week is 94.4%

Top tutors this week:

7TN with 99.6% attendance
8AN with 98.4% attendance
9TU with 94.6% attendance
10SA with 97.8% attendance
11MR with 100% attendance

Top House this week:

Once again, the winners are Oversley! Congratulations!

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

Stay up-to-date with the latest from the LRC

Accelerated Reading— correct link to access the AR system

The Accelerated Reading system is now available for all students in years 7 and 8, and English sets 4 and 5 in year 9 to quiz on the books they are reading. Home Connect letters have been sent out to parents.

Please only quiz on new books that you have read since the start of September.

I apologise that the link given in the 4th October bulletin was incorrect. Please be assured that the link below is now the correct one.

To access Accelerated Reader quizzing at home: Make sure are using Google Chrome and this link/URL to access the system: https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1893467

Then type in your username (your school network name) and the password—
abc123 for years 7 and 8, and
abc for year 9.

Online LRC for students

dt6iw3u

For reading ideas and up-to-date news about the LRC, please join the LRC Google Classroom.

X and Instagram accounts for parents

The LRC has its own X account, please follow us for all our latest news: **@AA_LRC_Library**

and for Instagram it is: **aa_lrc**

Mrs Hands—LRC Manager

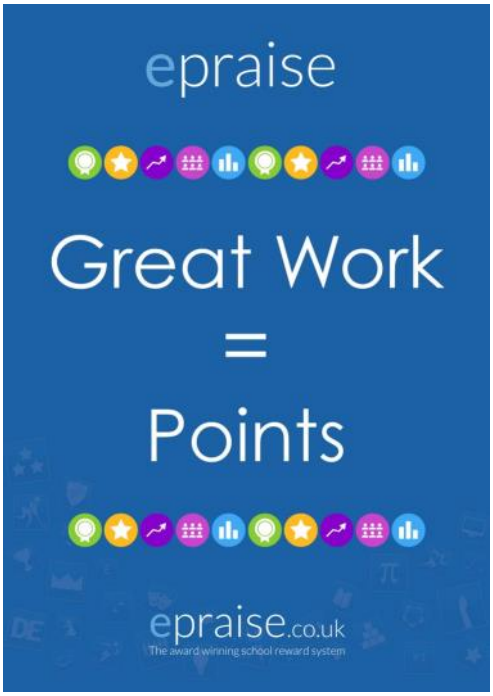
Epraise Leaderboard—past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Ranveer	8RO	Greville	32 points
2	Min-Seo	9GA	Oversley	27 points
3	Oscar	9YA	Ragley	25 points
4	Nora	7LX	Oversley	23 points
5	Tom	9YA	Billesley	21 points
5	Scarlett	8AN	Greville	21 points
7	Daniel	9GA	Oversley	20 points
7	Phoebe	8SO	Oversley	20 points
7	Ollie	8RO	Billesley	20 points
10	Grace	8DA	Greville	19 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Oversley	1446 points
2	Billesley	1392 points
3	Ragley	1361 points
4	Greville	1344 points



Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	English	1013 points
2	Maths	699 points
3	Science	586 points
4	Art	545 points
5	History	527 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mr Yarrington	537 points
2	Mr Martin	505 points
3	Mr Rossiter	495 points
4	Miss Lewis	434 points
5	Mrs Weatherley	392 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	8DA	289 points
1	8AN	289 points
3	7TN	287 points
4	7LX	284 points
5	8RO	273 points

Tickets are now on sale!

We're excited to share that tickets for our upcoming school production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* are now available to purchase!

Tickets are priced at £10 per person and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure your tickets, please make your purchase through the School Gateway. Once the purchase is complete, your child will receive a physical ticket in tutor time, which will be sent home.

With over 100 students involved, it promises to be a truly spectacular event, so don't miss your chance to support our talented cast and crew!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you to the show.

Would You Like to Sponsor Our School Production?

We're excited to announce that sponsorship opportunities are now available for our upcoming school show, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. With over 100 students involved, we're looking for support from our community to help make this production truly spectacular!

We have a variety of sponsorship packages available. If you or your business are interested in supporting our show, please get in touch for more details; sabrinasacco@alcesteracademny.org.uk.

Miss Sacco

Did You Win? 200 Club Results Revealed!

Science department news

As the academic year progresses, Alcester Academy takes a moment to thank Lucy Goddard, our maternity cover science teacher. Lucy has been an inspiring presence in the classroom, fostering a love for science among her students. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Kate Harvey to our teaching staff. Kate brings a wealth of experience to the maternity cover post. We are confident that she will make a positive impact at Alcester Academy.

Please join us in thanking Lucy for her contributions and in giving a warm welcome to Kate as she joins our community. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Mrs Marshall

The Endangerlings:
Alcester Academy's Newest Hope in the 2025 Young Enterprise Competition

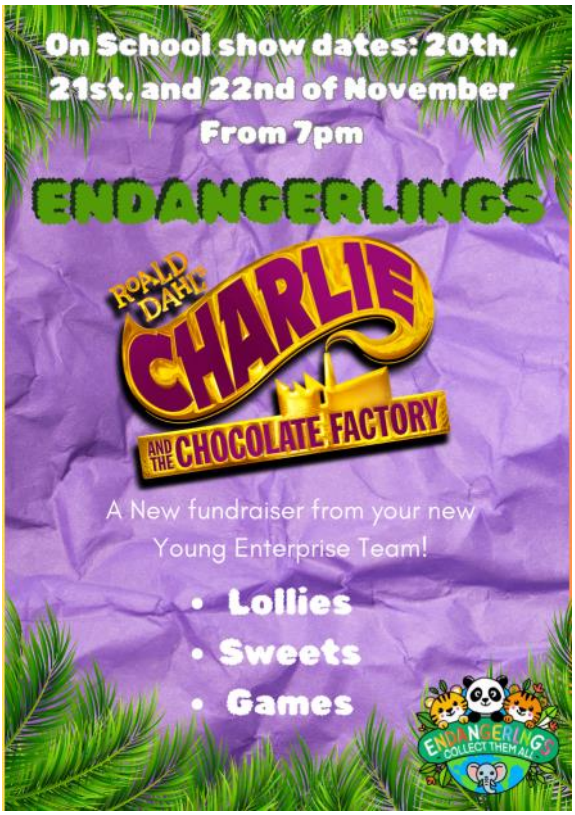
The Endangerlings are the latest Alcester Academy team to be taking part in the 2025 Young Enterprise Competition.

Our brand is focused on making sustainable and eco-friendly products to sell, which are themed around Endangered Animals. Our various products are designed to appeal to children of various ages and for animal enthusiasts alike. We aim to also educate people on the dangers these animals face, and therefore teach why they are so endangered.

At the upcoming school shows in late November, we will be selling sweet treats, and running *Guess the number of sweets in the Jar* games, in order to compliment the theme of the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory show whilst raising money that will fund the Endangerlings products.

Please support us!

The Endangerling Team



ACADEMIC TERMS AND HOLIDAYS
September 2024 - July 2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

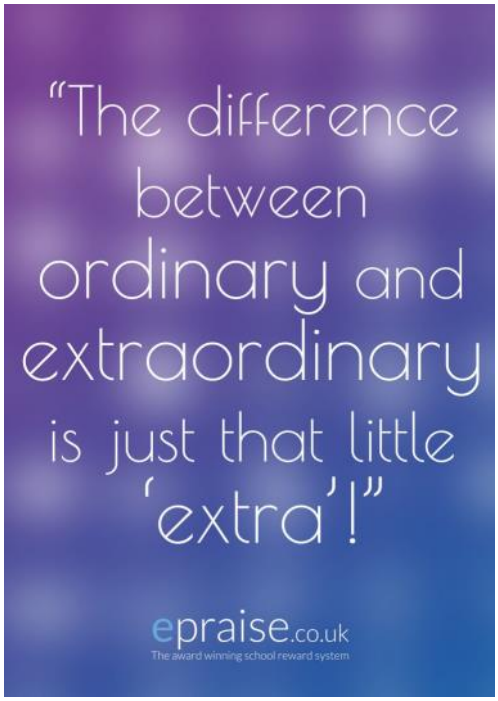
Half term	Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024
Back to school	Monday 4th November 2024
Autumn Term ends	Friday 20th December 2024 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2025

School closed	*Monday 6th January 2025 - Teacher training day*
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 7th January 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

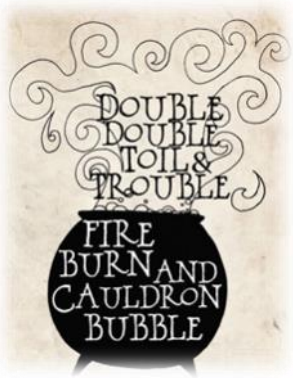
SUMMER TERM 2025

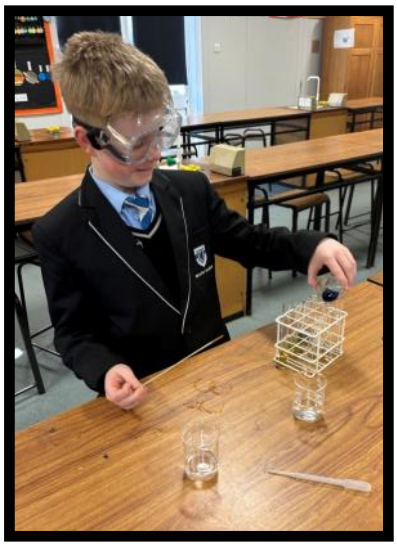
Summer Term begins	Monday 28th April 2025
School closed	*Friday 2nd May 2025 - Teacher training day*
May Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025
Back to school	Monday 2nd June 2025
School closed	*Friday 27th June 2025 - Teacher training day*
Summer Term ends	Friday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

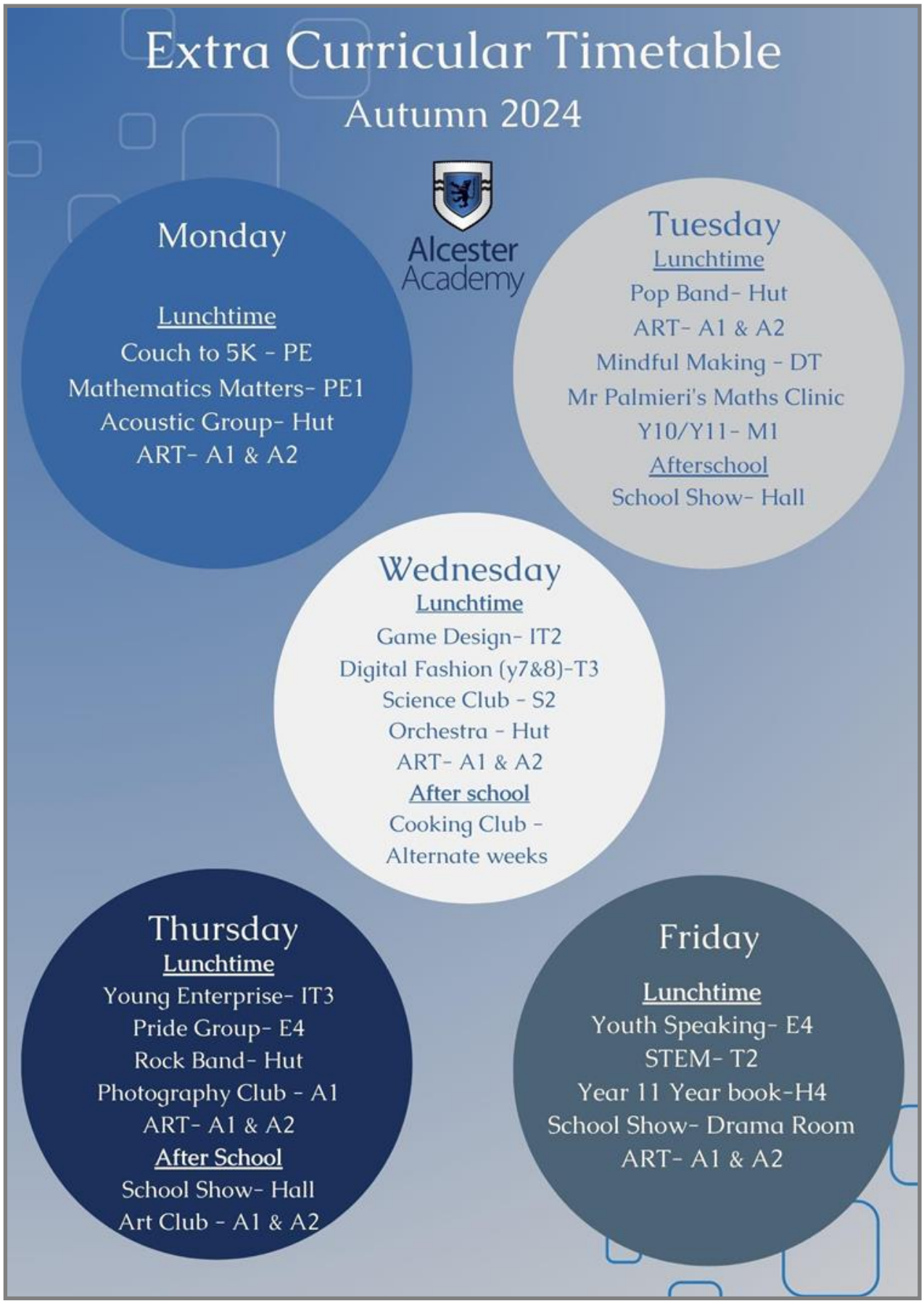


STEM-tastic Halloween: Exploring Science through Spooky Experiments!

October's STEM club has been amazing, students have been coming to science to complete experiments around the theme of Halloween.






Extra Curricular Timetable
Autumn 2024
Alcester Academy
Monday
Lunchtime
Couch to 5K - PE
Mathematics Matters- PE1
Acoustic Group- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Tuesday
Lunchtime
Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mindful Making - DT
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
Y10/Y11- M1
Afterschool
School Show- Hall
Wednesday
Lunchtime
Game Design- IT2
Digital Fashion (y7&8)-T3
Science Club - S2
Orchestra - Hut
ART- A1 & A2
After school
Cooking Club -
Alternate weeks
Thursday
Lunchtime
Young Enterprise- IT3
Pride Group- E4
Rock Band- Hut
Photography Club - A1
ART- A1 & A2
After School
School Show- Hall
Art Club - A1 & A2
Friday
Lunchtime
Youth Speaking- E4
STEM- T2
Year 11 Year book-H4
School Show- Drama Room
ART- A1 & A2

Year 7 House Maths Competition

Last Friday, Year 7 students took part in a fantastic house competition that put their problem-solving skills to the test! Students competed in groups with their housemates in an exciting maths relay race, featuring challenging questions sourced from NRICH and UKMT past papers. One of the highlights was a problem involving the famous Fibonacci sequence, where students had to spot the pattern and continue it. The level of enthusiasm and competitiveness was incredible, with every student getting involved and having fun with maths to wrap up the week.

A special mention goes to our incredible student numeracy leads, who played a vital role in planning, delivering, and supporting year 7 throughout the competition. Their dedication and guidance helped ensure that year 7s had the best chance to succeed and enjoy the experience. A particular shout-out goes to Harriet, Carlee, Arturo, and Sam, all in year 10, who led the event by presenting the competition to year 7, explaining the tasks, and announcing the results at the end.

We'd also like to give a big thank you to Mia, year 10, who isn't a numeracy lead but volunteered to help and support the event, as well as Austin, year 7, for being a huge help in running the relay race!

Thank you to all our numeracy leads for their hard work:
Charlie, 9CR
Jasmine, 9CR
Georgia, 9YA
James, 9TU
Harriet, 10MO
Marijke, 10MA
Georgia, 10MO
Oliver, 10MO
Carlee, 10MA
Natasha, 10BI
Arturo, 10SA
Sam, 10BI
Milo, 10MA
Em, 11HE

It was wonderful to see our year 7s having fun, and with the support of their older peers, the event was a great success!
Miss Home

Year 11 Revision Timetable

Day	Lunch 1.50-2.20pm	After school 3.30-4.15pm
Monday	**Sport Studies** *Study space - PE1*	
Tuesday	**Science** *Chemistry Clinic - S1* **Media Studies Catch Up** *Study space - English department rooms*	**English**
Wednesday	**Science** *Science rooms*	**French** **DT** **Computer Science**
Thursday	**ICT (iMedia)** *Study space - English department*	**Maths**
Friday	**Geography, German** *Study space - maths department* (M3)	**Science triple award**

Saturday School dates:

- 9th November - French (H) 9-10.30am
- 10th November - Geography virtual 1-3pm
- 16th November - English 9-10.30am and maths 10.45-12.15pm
- 23rd November - History 9-10.30am and religious studies 10.45-12.15pm

Subject Lead for English

Member of the Extended Leadership Team
Salary scale: Leadership Group 2 (6-10)
Easter 2025 start or earlier
Closing date Friday 29th November 2024 at 12 noon
Interview date to be set

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

This is an exciting opportunity for a strong middle leader with a proven track record of personal, exemplary student outcomes. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate experience of effective leadership and 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 and 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 school currently offers numerous extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, and for year 11s, numerous lunchtime, after school and key Saturday sessions.

The additional role within the extended leadership team will be determined around the successful candidates' strengths and the needs of the school at the time of appointment. Responsibilities will include the ability to contribute to the design and planning of interventions to promote outstanding progress at GCSE.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form which can be found on our website www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/vacancies. A written statement in support of your application is also essential. We do not consider CVs. Please email your completed application and any supporting documents to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 29th November 2024. An earlier shortlist may be created if there is an overwhelming number of applications.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your application.

Alcester Academy

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Warwickshire Cross Country Selection

Congratulations to Alcester Academy students Keegan (year 7), Marijke (year 10) and Will (year 10) who have all been selected on the Warwickshire team to run at an Inter-County event in Dudley next month. We are very proud of all of you for reaching the County standard within cross country this academic year and wish you the best of luck in future events.

This week's Sport Round Up

Year 9 Football v North Leam

A tough cup draw saw our year 9s travel to North Leamington to take on last year's league and cup winners. Two outstanding teams played out an incredibly close fought match, finishing 3-2 to North Leamington. A brilliant effort from all of the Academy squad who were narrowly beaten in this fixture.

Year 10 Football v Myton

Our U15s travelled to Warwick to take on Myton School this week in the District cup. Despite not progressing to the next round some great progress is being made on the pitch, with the team returning with three goals scored by Dylan, Will and Toby. It was fantastic to see five year 9 students representing the age group above and perform so brilliantly.

Year 8 Girls Football v Studley

Our year 8 girls took on Studley in a friendly this week. The girls made a positive start to the match and took the lead early on. The match was competitive throughout however Studley grew in confidence as the match progressed. The match finished 4-2 to Studley in an entertaining game. Well done to all of our year 8 girls who were selected to represent the school.

Year 11 Football v Stoke Park

A fantastic team performance saw our year 11s progress to round 2 of the Coventry Telegraph Cup this week, beating Stoke Park this afternoon. Well done to all on a brilliant performance!

Mr Moffatt

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

After Half Term—After School Clubs

****THIS WEEKS SPORT**:**
W/B 4/11/24

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	No clubs – Staff meeting	N/A
Tuesday	Year 8 and 9 Boys Basketball	Gym
Wednesday	Year 9 Boys Basketball tournament Year 7 and 8 Netball	AGS Courts
Thursday	Year 7,8 and 9 Boys Rugby – Gloucester Rugby Coach Year 10 SW Girls 7 a-side Football tournament Year 9, 10 + 11 Netball	Field Stratford School Courts

After Half Term—Lunchtime Clubs

AUTUMN 2 LUNCHTIME SPORT + INTERVENTION

- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 4th November on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Lunchtime sport and intervention 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	MON - MO	WED - PE	FRI - TU
4/11	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	SPORT STUDIES INTERVENTION – ICT3	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS
11/11	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS3)	SPORT STUDIES INTERVENTION – ICT3	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS3)	YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS
18/11	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	SPORT STUDIES INTERVENTION – ICT3	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS
25/11	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS3)	SPORT STUDIES INTERVENTION – ICT3	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS3)	YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS
2/12	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	SPORT STUDIES INTERVENTION – ICT3	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS
9/12	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS3)	SPORT STUDIES INTERVENTION – ICT3	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS3)	YEAR 8 TABLE TENNIS

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Bikeability—
Improve your riding skills

These courses are free for students to attend and make for a great half term activity for students to undertake valuable Bikeability training.

The Level 1 & 2 course is Tuesday 29th - Wednesday 30th, 10.00am - 2.30pm each day, and the Level 3 is planned for Thursday 31st, 9.00am - 12.00pm.

The Bikeability Level 1 & 2 course is for children in year 5 and above who can ride independently without stabilisers. All courses are run by first aid and safeguarding trained, National Standard Instructors. The course runs over two consecutive days from 10.00am – 2.30pm, including a 30-minute supervised lunch break each day.

Children receive a realistic cycling experience equipping them with the skills to cycle short journeys, e.g. to school. We educate riders on effective observations, understanding road priorities, communicating with other road users and effective road positioning.

The Bikeability Level 3 course is for children in Years 6 and up who have previously completed Level 2 training, and is a more intensive training focusing on larger, busier roads and more complex infrastructure.

Participants need a roadworthy bicycle, a helmet and suitable clothing for the weather conditions. Children will also need to bring lunch, a drink and a snack for each day.

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