## Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



#### 25th March 2022

Good afternoon,

We have had a bumper week at school to share with you in this edition of the bulletin. This, alongside the gorgeous weather has made for an excellent week at school. It was a delight to see our students back on the field at lunchtimes enjoying some more space and freedom.

Their behaviour has been impecca-

ble, and it has been an absolute pleasure to listen to their tales of Skern Lodge, Work Experience, the Mock Trial success, Young Enterprise and many outside school stories this week.

Assemblies this week were held with year 9s about exam preparation, Year 7-10 about extra curricular opportunities, and finally today with year 11s about the final days now until their GCSEs start; 29 school days to be precise!

Year 8s and 9s were exceptional during their super learning days this week. Some year 8s experienced a Smallpiece Trust STEM day and year 9s experienced *Working For Marcus* with Loudmouth, around the hard hitting theme of child exploitation.

Thank you to the students for their compassion and understanding this week during a period of high staff absence. Monday was a particularly tough day for cover in class and the students all responded valiantly.

Huge congratulations to the year 9/10 Mock Trial team for their superb win on Saturday in Worcester. Mrs Hoskin has written about this later in the bulletin. I shared some treats with the team on Tuesday at break time and their passion for this project came across in such a determined manner. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hoskin for leading this over the last several months in her own time.

#### **Year 9 Exams**

Thank you to year 9 parents who attended parents' evening last night. We hope that you found it of use. Good luck to year 9 next week for

their exams. Please remember that students will be required to wear a face covering in the hall.



#### Year 10 Work Experience

It has been a pleasure hearing the year 10s talk about their experiences last week. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing students for representing the Academy so well. We are extremely grateful to the employers who supported our students so generously. If you could support with a placement next year, please contact Miss Bartlett, Careers Advisor CareerZone@alcesteracademy.org.uk

#### Year 10 Young Enterprise

Congratulations to Alcester Bee Collective for winning 'Best Stand' at the recent Trade Fair in Leamington. If you are interested in buying a product, or two from them, please DM them @AlcesterBeeCo.





#### Silver D of E

Congratulations to the Silver teams who completed their practise on Thursday afternoon.



#### Year 11 photos

After two years of Covid-19, we finally returned to the infamous year 11 group photo on Tuesday. This is a timely reminder that they have just a few months left with us.

I also had my first staff photo as Headteacher finally too, although several staff were missing sadly because of our high absence rates. It was lovely to be joined by Chair of Governors, Mike Dean.



#### **Contact details**

If your details change, please be sure to update the school office.

#### **Covid-19 Statistics**

Today's positive case numbers are as follows:

Year 7—9 cases

Year 8—2 cases

Year 9—0 cases

Year 10—13 cases

Year 11—0 cases

I have updated the Covid-19 page on the website with the arrangements for children testing positive. <a href="https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19-">https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19-</a>

We have noted an increase in cases this week. To be safest, if children want to revert back to wearing a face covering in school, this is absolutely fine. Can I urge you to continue to order, or pick up lateral flow test kits for your family when you can. We are now unable to do a mass order as a school and provide these for you.

#### **Sports Awards Evening**

We are looking forward to seeing the invited nominees and parents next Thursday 31st March, for the first Annual Sports Awards evening in a while. Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm with a formal start at 6pm. Our special guest for the evening is GB Paralympian Darren Harris.



Darren Harris, born 20 June 1973, is a dual Paralympian, and England's most capped and most decorated blind footballer. Outside of sports he is a number one bestselling author, motivational speaker and transformational coach.

#### End of term

Just a reminder that we break up on Friday 8th April at 12.40pm. We will dismiss students gradually. The one way road system will operate for the few minutes needed please; in to Gerard Road via Throckmorton and out via Gerard Road and Captain's Hill please. This helps with the flow of traffic and safety massively. Thank you in advance.

It will be a non-uniform day in aid of *Young Minds* and our local churches after they generously opened their doors to all of our



year 8 students in the Autumn term on the *Faith Walk*. Young Minds serves the needs of many of our students in school and we are extremely grateful for their support. We are suggesting a £2 donation. This will be available from today on the School Gateway. Please could you ensure that non-uniform is appropriate for school.

Year 11 Easter School will be running on 12th April 10am-1.30pm.

Other subjects will be running revision sessions over the Easter break. Details to follow.

#### **Red Wings Horse Sanctuary**

I have attached a lovely thank you letter from Red Wings Horse sanctuary after our Christmas donation on behalf of the late Liv Warrollo, year 8.





#### Summer weather

For girls choosing to wear ankle socks in the good weather, these must be black, grey or white and not of the 'fluffy' variety. Trainer socks are not permitted and if socks are worn, skirt lengths should be of an acceptable length please. Otherwise, tights should continue to be worn. Thank you. Shorts can be worn after Easter. These are for boys and girls. They must be mid grey in colour, tailored, knee length and should not have cargo pockets on the side.

#### This weekend

We are sending our best wishes this weekend to our mums, step-mums, grandmas, greatgrandmas, aunties and mum figures in the lives of our children. I include my own mum in this too who always gives me strength.

We are thinking of families who may not find this weekend easy and we send you our best wishes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for continuing to pull out all of the stops for the students in terms of



there's to the Mums
The stepMums
The not-exet Mums
The should be Mums
The Should be Mums
The foster Mums
The foster Mums
The fur-baby Mums
...And those without
their Mums
Happy mothersday

the opportunities that are available to them. As I sit each week to write to you, I reflect on how lucky the students are to have such a willing staff team. Equally, when our students respond so positively to these opportunities, I think it is fair to say that we all enjoy seeing their immense success as a staff team.

Wishing you a really lovely weekend ahead. Best wishes

Sarah Mellors Headteacher

## Help to pay your household bills

Are you, or is anyone you know, struggling to pay energy bills?

If you or someone you know are struggling financially and unable to afford to pay their gas or electricity bill, please call the Local Welfare Scheme in confidence.

Call 0800 408 1448 between 4 and 22 April 2022.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme



The Household
Support Fund
can help
households in
need of support



larwickshire

# Do you need help to access food and manage your money?

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship

#### **Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme**

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme helps the most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help.

It also administers the Household Support Fund, which provides one-off financial support for people in need as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic. It can help families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals facing hardship this winter, to ensure that they have the support they need to afford food, energy, water bills and associated costs. To enquire or apply call the Local Welfare Scheme.

Visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ localwelfarescheme

Call: 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182









































WOW, what a week! Last week saw over half of our year 10 cohort leave the comfort of the Academy to take place in our work experience scheme. This is a voluntary scheme which offers students the opportunity to look closely at potential career choices for the future. It allows them to make informed decisions post 16 and is a valuable support to the careers advice we offer in school. Nothing can compare to a lived experience and thankfully, post pandemic, we can now start the annual process of encouraging our students out into the wider community.

This has only been possible thanks to the overwhelming support from families, friends and businesses within not only Alcester, but also much further afield. One student ventured as far as

WOW, what a week! Last week saw over half of our year 10 cohort leave the comfort of the Academy to take place in our work experience scheme. This is a voluntary scheme which offers students the opportunity to look closely at potential career

RAF Waddington and stayed away from home for the duration! We have been incredibly humbled at the lengths our support network has gone to in order to offer exciting, motivational and inspirational experiences.

Four students have potential weekend job offers following the week, and every student has said it's been invaluable so far as them making career choices moving forward. I think you'll agree it has been a very special week after such turbulent times. I hope you enjoy looking at some of the memories that have been created and I cannot wait to begin the process again with the current year 9s in the Autumn.

Miss Bartlett

















#### Epraise—Results this week



#### **Top Scorers this week:**

| _  |           |      |           |
|----|-----------|------|-----------|
| 1  | Ollie     | 10MA | 29 points |
| 2  | Ted       | 10AN | 28 points |
| 3  | Emmeline  | 10AN | 27 points |
| 3  | Charlotte | 10MA | 27 points |
| 3  | Hannah    | 10MA | 27 points |
| 6  | Adelena   | 9BW  | 24 points |
| 6  | Abi       | 9YA  | 24 points |
| 8  | Maisie    | 10KA | 23 points |
| 8  | Martha    | 9BW  | 23 points |
| 10 | Megan     | 9BW  | 22 points |
|    |           |      |           |

#### Top Staff this week:

|    | • |                 |            |
|----|---|-----------------|------------|
| 1  |   | Mr Bastock      | 570 points |
| 2  |   | Mr Yarrington   | 428 points |
| 3  |   | Mrs Mellors     | 300 points |
| 4  |   | Miss Lewis      | 219 points |
| 5  |   | Mr Bowater      | 137 points |
| 6  |   | Miss Burgess    | 129 points |
| 7  |   | Mrs Weatherley  | 86 points  |
| 8  |   | Miss Heitmuller | 72 points  |
| 9  |   | Miss Hope       | 70 points  |
| 10 | ) | Mr Rossiter     | 52 points  |
|    |   |                 |            |

#### Top Tutor Groups this week:

| •  |                | •          |
|----|----------------|------------|
| 1  | 10MA           | 173 points |
| 2  | 10AN           | 168 points |
| 3  | 9BW            | 161 points |
| 4  | 11BR           | 126 points |
| 5  | 9YA            | 118 points |
| 6  | 7SI            | 117 points |
| 7  | 11BA           | 115 points |
| 8  | 7WI            | 103 points |
| 9  | $7\mathrm{HT}$ | 97 points  |
| 10 | 10KA           | 93 points  |

#### **Top Subjects:**

| 1 | Maths                | 521 points |
|---|----------------------|------------|
| 2 | $\operatorname{Art}$ | 367 points |
| 3 | English              | 332 points |
| 4 | Science              | 286 points |
| 5 | Geography            | 143 points |
| 6 | History              | 86 points  |
| 6 | French               | 86 points  |
| 7 | German               | 72 points  |
| 8 | PE                   | 30 points  |
| 9 | Music                | 27 points  |
|   |                      |            |











#### School Attendance — up to 24.3.22

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Whole School |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------------|
| 90.6%  | 91.9%  | 92.6%  | 90.3%   | 89.2%   | 91.0%        |

#### This week's top tutor groups

7WI, 8PW, 9BW, 10KA and 11HK!

Well done! Mrs Hodges

#### **Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable**

#### Year 11

Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022 GCSE Examinations — Monday 16th May — Tuesday 28th June 2022 (these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently) GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29th June 2022 — all students must be available

#### Year 10

Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

#### Year 9

Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28th March & 4th April 2022 Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20th May 2022 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18th July 2022

#### Year 8

Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Options Evening — Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 — time tbc Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

#### Year 7

Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Full Report published to parents/carers — Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

#### Term Dates 2022

SPRING TERM 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 8th April 2022 at 12.40pm

 $SUMMER\ TERM\ 2022$ 

Summer Term begins Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022

Back to school Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Term ends Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 3.25pm

2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

#### **Mock Trial Competition**

On a gloriously sunny Saturday, students from year 9 and 10 took part in the Mock Trial Competition at Worcester Magistrates' Court. This year, unlike previous years, allowed us to enter year 10 students into the competition as last year, due to Covid, they lost out. These incredibly hardworking students have worked every week since last November to get together their case that was tried in the court, meeting weekly at lunchtime, to perfect their roles within the team. Each student took on a prosecuting or defence role, arguing the case against rival schools in a bid to find the defendant either guilty or not guilty. Three students also took on the role of Magistrates, deciding on the fate of the defendant, based on the evidence put forward by the prosecution and defence teams.

Our day started with a bit of a hiccup as our first school, Nunnery Wood, was twenty minutes late, but this did not unsettle the defence team, who were the first of our teams into court. In fact, Ollie, our fabulously suited and booted lead defence lawyer, spent the waiting time scrutinising the opposition. Once in court, the preparation by our students became abundantly clear as they delivered a magnificent performance. Unsure of the running order, the opposition missed some key procedural tasks and due to their preparation, the defence team of Ollie and Charlotte, guided









by our brilliant be-gowned usher Abi, were able to capitalise on this. Questioning our defendant and then the opposition's witness, Ollie added dramatic pauses to have all on the edge of their seats, returning to questions he didn't feel had been answered properly. Even the 'no comment' responses that the opposition had to resort to did not phase him. Then up stepped Charlotte, our smiling-but-deadly second defence lawyer. Perhaps the opposition were lulled into a false sense of security by her bright smile, but by the end of her probing questions, her cross examination had reduced the witness to having to read from her notes. Our defendant Megan and defence witness, Skye, admirably responded to all questions fired at them, remaining completely composed and clear in their defence, particularly under cross examination by the opposition lawyers, strenuously denying any possible involvement in setting up a fake Instagram account or sending unpleasant emails.

The second round saw us facing Droitwich High School with our prosecution team. Although noticeably better prepared than our first round opposition, they were no match for the dynamic duo of lawyers, Hannah and Adelena. Hannah's opening speech and questioning was so professional, responding to, and adding questions for her cross examination of witnesses as evidence emerged during the case - this is exactly what the judges look for when marking. Adelena followed with her brilliant cross examination the opposition's defence witness who appeared to crumble and agree with most of the questions put to her.

Our legal advisor, Maisie, looking and sounding like this was her day job, delivered the statement 9 and summary of law for the magistrates. Mia and Carys, our prosecution witnesses, played their roles with complete mastery, ensuring the emotional distress caused by the 'defendant' was clear for the Magistrates.

Our Magistrate bench consisted of Ted, Emmeline and Martha and their strength in these roles was clear to see in court as they furiously took notes throughout the trial and were verbally strong in the retiring rooms to give their verdicts based on evidence they heard in court. To our collective delight, they were awarded the trophy for the best magistrate bench and their command of the

details of the court procedure and their discussion and justification of the verdict was clearly a critical part of the scoring.

What a brilliant team and what a brilliant day. As well as our magnificent magistrates winning best bench, our school team won the overall competition and I could not be more proud of this extraordinary set of wonderful pupils. They were relentlessly enthusiastic, turning up weekly, without prompt, to go through their roles and their win was thoroughly deserved. Thanks must also go to Charlie and Izzy who supported the team throughout the preparation period. Truly a team effort.

Ms Hoskin

#### Summer Extra Curricular Activities

This week students have listened to an assembly about what is on offer in the summer term.

If you child has not done so already please complete the following google form:

### $\frac{https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GiV2QOmiR4l71vaL1NJ9UWqJydTU2gq}{QZfZAoS2QOXw/edit}$

| *         | Before School       |              | Lunchtime     |  | Afterschool  |  |  |                             |            |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|------------|
|           | Actvity             | Teacher      | Location      | Actvity  | Teacher  | Location                                 | Actvity  | Teacher                     | Location   |
| Monday    | Marathon Kids       | Mrs Hamilton | Field         | Book Club,<br>Acoustic (ukulele)<br>Motorsport<br>Journalism                               | Mrs Hands<br>Mr Badham<br>Mr Cooke                         | LRC<br>Music hut<br>E6                   | Ornithology  | Mr Jones                    | o1         |
| Tuesday   | Reading club<br>KS3 | English Team | English rooms | Chess Club<br>Orchestra<br>Boys Reading Club   | Chess Team<br>Mr Badham<br>Mr Bowater                      | M1<br>Music hut<br>TBA                   | Musical Theatre choir<br>Sport activity (please<br>check noticeboard)        | Miss Sacco                  | PA Block   |
| Wednesday | Reading Club<br>KS4 | English Team | English rooms | Circuit Training<br>year 10 band   | Mr Rossiter<br>Mr Badham                                   | Gym<br>Music hut                         | Rock Academy<br>Spanish Club<br>Sport activity (please<br>check noticeboard) | Mr Badham<br>Mrs Weatherley | Music Room |
| Thursday  | Reading club<br>kS3 | English Team | English rooms | Music Tech club<br>Pop Band<br>Constructed<br>Textiles                                     | Mr Hall<br>Mr Badham<br>Mrs Megee                          | Music room<br>Music hut<br>T3            |  |                             |            |
| Friday    | Reading club<br>KS4 | English Team | English Room  | Dance club<br>Latin Club<br>Hairdressing<br>(summer 2/6th<br>june/KS4)<br>Guitar group ks4 | Miss Lee<br>Ms Hoskins<br>Mrs Woodman<br>————<br>Mr Badham | Drama Room<br>English<br>S1<br>Music Hut |  |                             |            |

<sup>\*</sup> www.alcesteracademy.org.uk \* 01789 762285 \* admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk \* Twitter @AlcesterAcademy \*

#### Warwickshire Secondary Book Award Final

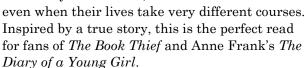
After two years of virtual finals, a group of year 7 and 8 students visited The Bridge House Theatre in Warwick, on Thursday, for a live final of the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award. Of the six authors, Geraldine McCaughrean, Alex Wheatle and Kate Mallinder were able to join us in person, while Liz Kessler, Brian Conaghan and Padraig Kenny joined us online. Students from twelve other schools in Warwickshire also attended.



Chloe from year 8 won a prize for her competition entry. A picture that she drew depicting all of the books that the students had to read for the award.

'When the World was Ours' by Liz Kessler was voted the overall winning book by our school and all the other schools that took part.

A powerful and heartbreaking novel about three childhood friends living during the Second World War whose fates are closely intertwined,



It was a pleasure to have worked with such enthusiastic readers—Evie, Molly, Chloe, Mia, Maya, Carlee and Harriet on this award.

Mrs Hands



The students wrote this about the trip:

We found the book award very interesting as it was very informative to learn about the individual authors. We also found the questions interesting because it was fun to see what sort of snacks the authors had when writing, how long it took for each of them to write their books and find out why they wrote their books. We really enjoyed reading all the books and taking group photos with the authors, even though not all of them were there. We all thank Mrs Hands for the amazing trip and Mrs Bennett for driving us there, it was awesome.'











#### My week at National Grid by Finn

this meets our current en-

## Natural gas is used every day to heat people's homes and cook their food. While Natural gas is used every focused on building a hydrogen test facility that will be

used to carry out hydrogen

ergy needs, it is harmful for the environment. In the UK, companies are being challenged to reduce their carbon emissions, to decrease future environmental damage. National Grid is one of these companies. I recently spent a week working with their Gas Transmission Hydrogen team, looking at how they plan to reduce their emissions.

tests on old gas equipment to see how it is affected. I was really lucky to visit the FutureGrid site in Cumbria while I was at National Grid. I found the site very interesting, and I was really surprised by how remote it is. It was nice to hear about the plans for the project and how the facility will be used.

National Grid Gas Transmission move gas around the country for people to use in their homes. They do this using their gas network – the National Transmission System (NTS). Hydrogen could be used as a lower carbon alternative to Natural Gas. Hydrogen can be made from renewable electricity sources which means it's carbon free and better for the environment.

I also visited Wormington Compressor Station to find out more about how gas is moved through the NTS using large compressors. A compressor uses a big jet engine to spin a turbine, which pushes the gas down the pipe at high pressure. At Wormington, there are 3 compressors which are currently helping to move gas across the country and into Europe. I spent my time with George, one of the site technicians, who showed me around the site while describing his job and his responsibilities.

The Hydrogen team are looking at how they could use Hydrogen in the NTS to replace the Natural Gas they transport today. They are doing this through multiple innovation projects, one of which is FutureGrid.

I really enjoyed my time at National Grid, and I learnt a lot. I was surprised by the size of the office; I hadn't realised how many people work

there. It was really nice to have the opportunity to go and visit a couple of operational sites. Throughout the week I found out that National Grid are working on getting sustainable hydrogen around the country, so that people don't have to rely so much on natural gas.



Finn—year 10





#### Year 8 – STEM Smallpeice Trust

Last week The Smallpeice Trusted visited Alcester Academy and our year 8 students were set a STEM challenge!

The Smallpeice Trust is an educational charity that inspires young people to pursue careers in science and engineering through events and workshops. For over 50 years, The Smallpeice Trust have been giving young people everything they need to fuel their passion for engineering.

The objective of the day was to design and build a system that will supply electrical energy to a small village. They had to design and build a power plant which would use a renewable energy source to generate electricity. They then had to build a network to transmit this energy across a landscape to the target homes.

Working in groups of six, each student had a job role such as project manager or investment engineer. Students learned how to budget for a project as well as problem solving, creativity and leadership. At the end of the session, each group had to present their idea to the rest of the groups and answer questions. Overall, it was an enjoyable day and the students gained a lot from it.

Miss Wincup & Mr Dyer









#### **MERCI!**

Freddy

Congratulations to all year 7 students who entered the MFL pancake competition. The pancakes of the winners and runners up can be seen below. All winners will receive a prize and all students who entered will receive a certificate. There are some amazing chefs out there!

**Danny Faith** Ollie Sam Molly

\* www.alcesteracademy.org.uk \* 01789 762285 \* admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk \* Twitter @AlcesterAcademy \*

#### **Year 11 Revision Timetables**

| WEEK A    | Lunchtime                    | After school (3.30-4.30pm) |
|-----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday    | Maths (by invitation only)   |                            |
| Tuesday   | English (by invitation only) | Maths                      |
| Wednesday | DT                           | English                    |
| Thursday  | Biology triple               | Physics triple             |
| Friday    | Combined Science             | Chemistry triple           |

| WEEK B    | Lunchtime                                  | After school (3.30-4.30pm)                           |
|-----------|--|--|
| Monday    | Art/Photography Maths (by invitation only) |  |
| Tuesday   | Art/Photography                            | PTE  |
| Wednesday | German (MFL2)<br>Performing Arts/Music     | iMedia and Computer Science<br>Performing Arts/Music |
| Thursday  | French (MFL1)                              | Art/Photography Chemistry triple                     |
| Friday    | Geography                                  |  |





#### Skern Lodge activity trip for year 9s

Last week 58 year 9s along with staff; Miss Buckthorp, Mr Bastock, Mr Badham, Mr Martin and Miss Lee made their way down to Skern Lodge for a packed week of activities.

Skern Lodge is an activity centre based in North Devon and is situated near the beaches of West-Ward Ho! and close to the town of Bideford. Surprisingly for March we had the most beautiful sunny week as the students participated in activities such high ropes, zip-line climbing, abseiling and the underground tunnels of Skern, which proved to be one of the favourite activities. All of these activities particularly focussed on team work which made staff very proud as groups helped, supported and encouraged each other.

Despite the sea temperature being a Baltic 8.3 degrees, the students enthusiastically participated in the most popular activity of surfing, with many getting to their feet as they surfed the waves on the beach at Westward Ho! Our other wet activity was rafting where the students in their activity teams made their way on a journey along the River Taw, tackling currents and bridges as they made their way along, playing games and perfecting their teamwork and paddling skills.



We spent time out on the beautiful south west coastal path at Hartland Quay, for a whole day of walking, rock scrambling and finding out about the local history of ship wrecks and lighthouses along the way.

Evenings were spent doing a team quiz, swimming in the outdoor pool, making campfires and of course there was time for the Alcester Academy bingo machine to make another appearance. After final activities on Friday morning, it was time to head back home, tired but full of memories that will hopefully last a lifetime.





After such a difficult couple of years for students with all the disruption they have endured, it was a sheer delight to watch their amazing enthusiasm and participation throughout the week, they made us very proud of their achievements. Well done to all those that participated and thank you to staff that supported the trip.

For current year 8 students we have booked a week for October 2022, details of the trip will be out very soon.

Miss Buckthorp



## 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 <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

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

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

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

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



## Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 5 April 2022 at 7pm

**Alcester War Memorial Town Hall** 



The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting for all the local government electors of the Parish.

It is not a meeting of the Town Council.

Anyone may attend and registered electors of the Parish may speak and vote during the meeting.

The Town Council has invited all local voluntary trusts and organisations to attend and to report on their activities during the past year and on their future plans.

Please contact Alcester Town Council for more information on: 01789 766084 or email administration@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Kathryn Cargill
Cllr Kathryn Cargill
Mayor of Alcester
March 2022



#### SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS

#### Practices and Fixtures — Week beginning 28.3.22

We have several fixtures coming up, so it is important that students attend in order to be considered for teams.

#### Monday 28th March:

Year 9 Basketball (H) v Shipston (selection letters issued)

#### Tuesday 29th March:

Year 8 & 9 Football @ St.Benedicts (selection letters issued)

#### Wednesday 30th March:

Year 9/10 Netball

#### Thursday 31st March

Sports Awards Evening

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. For Fixtures a separate team sheet including all the necessary details will be sent out via parentmail.



