

# Alcester Academy

## WEEKLY BULLETIN



25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support as ever this week. We seem to have lost the sunshine and are heading into Autumn properly. Just as a reminder, students will need coats or umbrellas more than ever with them in order to help them get to purchase food via the unusual outdoor bubble routes that we have in place. During 'wet break times', the students will continue to have access to their bubble classrooms in order to stay warm and dry. We are thrilled with how well the bubbles are operating and how seriously the students are approaching their new routines in school. We continue to be COVID free in school and I can only put that down to our rigour with bubbles and the routines that students have. Perhaps a good amount of luck too! Thanks for helping us right now with everything that we are trying to do. The students are applying themselves to classroom learning in such a dedicated and

focussed way at the moment. They are patiently waiting for staff as they dash from room to room and I am extremely proud that we are maintaining high standards in these unusual times.



In the academy this week, we have welcomed the school photographer for years 7-10. This was a slick and safe morning where over 500 photographs were taken within 3 hours! I'm optimistic that parents will receive the opportunity to purchase these if desired before half term. The Modern Foreign Languages team hosted our *European Day of Languages* celebration across the school. Please see the feature in the bulletin later on. We have begun to think carefully about how we will make alternative arrangements for you in order to carry out an equivalent of a Parents' Evening

### Term Dates

#### AUTUMN TERM 2020

Half term Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020  
Back to school Monday 2nd November 2020

*School closed Monday 14th December —Teacher training day*

Autumn Term ends Friday 18th December 2020 at 12.40pm

#### SPRING TERM 2021

*School closed Monday 4th January 2021—Teacher training day*

Spring Term begins Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half Term Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021  
Back to school Monday 22nd February 2021

Spring Term ends (Easter) Thursday 1st April 2021

under COVID-19 as well. The academy reporting season is beginning as usual with the first focus being on year 11s.

Our school counsellor, Claire Gibb returned to us this week and professionals from SEND Support also visited in our bid to try and resume the traditional style of support within school for students.

I was so proud to see year 8s working with Mrs Hall since returning on keeping their bubble 'neat and tidy'. Thanks to Mrs Hall for facilitating this idea as the students take turns to keep the grounds litter free in their new area:



## General updates

Please be aware that we are now switching off the SIMS Parent App. This will be replaced by our new rewards system EPraise and there will be a huge launch of this for you all very soon.

The National Schoolwear Centre is now stocking the new style of sports legging that you've been waiting for. Thank you all massively for your patience with this over recent weeks. We are very grateful indeed.

## Coronavirus Specific Information

We have built a section of our website in order to help support you with updates on coronavirus. This includes details of learning if we have to send a bubble home to learn whilst self-isolating or if we lockdown fully again.

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19->

## Confirmed cases

We have no confirmed cases in school still. Thank you once again and wholeheartedly for working with us on this. If a case is confirmed, you must

contact us at school ASAP please or myself directly out of hours: [head@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:head@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

Can I ask you that if you have children isolated from other school or social bubbles at home, you let us know again as soon as possible. The South Warwickshire schools are trying to work together as closely as possible on this and your support is helpful also.

## Face Coverings



It should be a matter of routine now that students wear face covering to and from, and around school. This is helping tremendously. The routes and bubble routines are also assisting a lot. We've refined a few bubbles this week in order to make lunchtime run a bit more efficiently.

## Year 8s

I have received a few year 8 parental questions about this bubble sitting on stools and not chairs in their allocated classrooms. In order to facilitate a full student return in September, we had no choice but to use the science classrooms and facilities. I am looking at alternatives all of the time and I thank students and parents for understanding this under difficult circumstances right now. I am working on an idea to help this situation.

## Purchasing Lunch

With new routines in place;

Year 7s – will use canteen cards at lunchtime

Year 8s – canteen cards

Year 9s – canteen cards

Year 10s – cash (students to inform canteen staff if they require money taken off their canteen card)

Year 11s – canteen cards

All students will continue to use cash at break times if they wish to purchase food. This is because we operate a trolley service in each bubble area.

## Sanctions

In order to maintain high standards within school at this time, we have made refinements to our behaviour policy. These changes will be published to you next week once Governors have ratified them. It will be no surprise to you that the changes are designed to promote safe and appropriate behaviours at this difficult time linked specifically to coronavirus. We have also refined the detention system so that subject detentions after school happen on just one day after school (Thursday) for 40 minutes. These will run concurrently with Academy Detentions for 1 hour. If students have to sit a detention after school, it will be within their own bubble to continue to adhere to legislation and safety. I'd appreciate it if you would talk to the students about the standards expected so that we continue to keep detentions to a minimum at this time.



## Date for your diary



We will be holding a non uniform day on Friday 23rd October 2020 in order to raise funds for Macmillan in lieu of a coffee morning this year and Young Minds. Donations of £2 per student will be expected please with all proceeds split between these two amazing charities. It would be nice if students wore green or yellow in support on the day. For new parents, we always choose to photograph those students who really make an effort for these days.

## 240 Bus

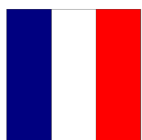
Students travelling on the 240 bus have been told this week that they must all wear their face coverings whilst travelling after reports that this was not happening. I am working with the Director of Education on transport safety along with our Chair of Governors. Children failing to adhere to this rule may be refused the right to travel.

As always, no exposed flesh, short shorts or spaghetti straps please. (Appropriate casual wear for a school environment should be worn).

Very best wishes,

*Sarah Mellors*  
Headteacher

## Language Idiom of the Week



**To cost an arm and a leg**

French: Coûter les yeux de la tête.

Literal meaning: To cost the eyes from your head.



German: Viel kosten.

Literal meaning: To cost a lot.

## Geography Department Update

### Revision sessions for year 11

GET AHEAD with your revision for the December mocks and the 2021 geography exams.

Revision sessions will run in H2 on Wednesday week B after school 3.30-4.30pm!

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Do you know your class codes for homework and resources?

Mrs Stedman

7x/Gg1: w2fuv6e

7y/ Gg1: bxe7qlu

8x/Gg1:cid7xmn

8x/Gg3: oezygvj

9A/ Gg1: dxwb4re

9C/Gg1: 25ptce5

10B/Gg1:sl7awqs

10C/Gg1:xwdyciu

10D/Gg1:qdhb6a2

11A Gg1: lwt6b7s

11B Gg1: pl2nhqv

Mr Bowater

7Y/Gg1: npsiowo

7Y/Gg2: duc4mj5

7X/Gg3: z3lemq5

8Y/Gg1: jy3vx44

8Y/Gg2: hqfd5jc

8X/Gg2: 5wwbeet

9A/Gg1: dxwb4re

9B/Gg1: o6xp7aj

9D/Gg1: ybup4iu

10A/Gg1: lwgsjzu

11B/Gg1: mhrmr5u

11C/Gg1: j2mj4em

Google classroom codes for Miss Bishop will be published shortly.



## Sunday morning coffee anyone?

We are delighted to announce that every Sunday morning for the next year Mr Bowater will be posting a geography revision session on his youtube page 'Mr B' called Sunday Morning Coffee!

He will be covering the entire AQA GCSE geography course over the year!

So grab a coffee and some breakfast and log on at 9am every Sunday.

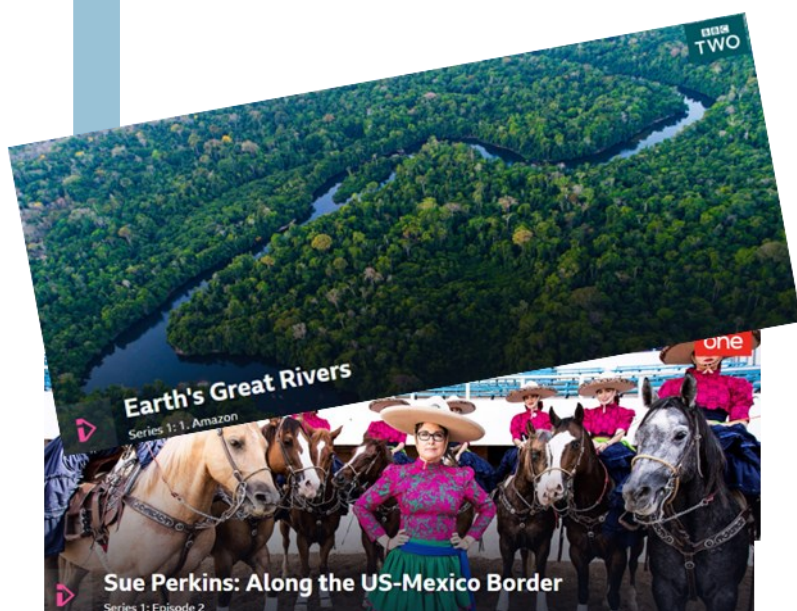
Massive thanks to Mr Bowater for this fantastic resource and revision opportunity.

## What's On TV?

Check out these fantastic geography programmes on BBC iPlayer this week!

[Extinction: the facts with David Attenborough](#)  
[Earth's Great River: The Amazon](#)  
[Sue Perkins: Along the US-Mexico Border](#)  
[Africa with David Attenborough](#)

Brilliant programmes for all ages and key stages! Mrs Stedman





## European Day of Languages – 26 September 2020

In order to recognise the 6000 different languages spoken in Europe, we have celebrated European Day of Languages this week at Alcester academy through a variety of activities.

Some of the activities included:

- Year 7,8,10 tutor quiz with prizes for the best tutor groups
- Lunchtime activities for year 7 on Thursday 24th September
- MFL students in years 7,8 and 9 will enter a regional competition run by Routes into Languages, who are based at Aston University
- European themed food was available in the canteen on Wednesday 23rd September
- On Thursday 24th September all staff at Alcester Academy promoted languages through their subjects.

In next week's newsletter we will announce the prize winners of all of our competitions.

*Mrs Weatherley*



Join our team as a 2nd Line Technician £22,483 -£24,825 - Full year full time role  
25 days holiday a year + Bank Holidays + Local Government Pension Scheme

We are looking for an experienced 2nd line technician to join our Onsite Team as soon as possible to support our growing customer base. This role is initially based full time on one of our secondary sites.

For further information visit: <https://www.lourdesit.org.uk/vacancies/#job>

## Calling all musicians and vocalists... we need you!

We have an awesome new year 8 band at Saturday Rock Academy that needs some more musicians and one vocalist.

We are looking for a drummer, an extra guitarist and a bass player (this can be a guitarist that wants to try). And keyboard player would also be a welcome addition.

Please fill in the enrolment link below to join:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1y42IA1zBxTtq53mAUTaQALDvxV-o9qabPD6FhyZPg3c/edit>

*Renny Badham*  
Alcester Rock Academy



**ALCESTER ROCK ACADEMY**

Here's some info all about the Alcester Rock Academy!

"Alcester Rock Academy is a unique opportunity for Guitarists, Bassists, Drummers, Keyboard players and Vocalists to get together and learn to play in a band under the supervision of expert tutors."

The Rock Academy is situated in the Alcester Academy music block.

Each Rock Academy session consists of five bands each in their own fully kitted out practice room, working on material for an up and coming gig. The bands are given expert guidance Renny Badham ( Rock Academy manager and guitar / bass teacher) and Matthew Green ( Pro drum / percussionist and teacher ).

The age range is from 10 to 18. Bands are generally put together initially using similar age groups.

There are three main Rock Academy concerts every year. A themed concert at Alcester Academy in November (sponsored by Upstage Lighting who have provided us with a state of the art pro lighting rig for every concert since 2007 free of charge); Acoustic Night at a local venue in April and The Summer Bash in July.

In between these main concerts Alcester Rock Academy perform at local events / festivals such as Alcester Street market and Alne - Fest.

We run two separate Rock Academy sessions each week for ten weeks of each term.

We have a Wednesday session from 4 – 4.30pm  
And a Saturday session from 10 – 11.30am  
Each session costs £6.00 per student i.e. £60.00 per term

History

Alcester Rock Academy came about due to Alcester Academy (then known as Alcester high school Technology) College achieving Music College Status back in 2006. The Rock Academy was, and is a community based initiative and its members are from schools and colleges from the local area. We have, and have had pupils attending from Alcester Academy, St Benedicts R.C. High school, Alcester Grammar, King Edward VI Grammar, Studley High School, Stratford High School, , Chipping Campden High school, Bidford Primary, Dunnington Primary and St Nicholas Primary School Alcester and Great Alne Primary School.

**Renny Badham Rock Academy Manager**  
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Phone – Alcester Academy 01789762285  
FB - Alcester Rock Academy



## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

### UPDATED 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.**

## Covid-19 related pupil absence

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

What to do if...	Action Needed	Return to school when...
...my child has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us</b></li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> <li>- Get a test</li> <li>- <b>Inform the school immediately about the test result</b></li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative <b>or</b> a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.
...my child tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school.</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- <b>Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days).</b></li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household.</li> </ul>	...10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. <i>(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)</i> <b>AND</b> the child feels well.
...my child tests negative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day).</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative.
...my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school.</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- Ring on each day of illness.</li> </ul>	...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
...someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school.</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household.</li> <li>- Household member to get a test.</li> <li>- <b>Inform school immediately about test result.</b></li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative.
...someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school.</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- <b>Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).</b></li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household.</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school.</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- <b>Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days).</b></li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The household member must self-isolate for 14 days.</b></li> <li>- Child can continue to attend school.</li> </ul>	...child can continue to attend school
... a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days.</b></li> <li>- Alcester Academy child(ren) can continue to attend.</li> </ul>	...child can continue to attend school



... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is NOT on the exempt list of countries.	<b>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled.</li> <li>- contact school to inform us you are back in the country and we will agree an earliest date for possible return to school.</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">*Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office (FCDO)</a> – for up to date travel information</p>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.
... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that IS on the exempt list of countries.	<b>If returning from a destination where quarantine is NOT needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the current <a href="#">Exempt countries and territories list</a> to confirm the country you have travelled from or through is on the exempt list.</li> <li>- Ring school to inform us you have returned to the UK and agree a return date to school.</li> </ul>	... you have informed the office of your return to the UK <i>(the office will ask you a few questions about your travel).</i>
...I have travelled from a country that requires us to quarantine (but my child didn't travel).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As long as you do not have / have not had symptoms in the last 14 days, your child can continue to attend school.</li> <li>- The person who has travelled MUST NOT leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs <i>(please contact school if you need support getting your child to school).</i></li> </ul>	...child can continue to attend school
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Do not come to school.</b></li> <li>- <b>Contact school to inform us.</b></li> <li>- Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.</li> </ul>	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again. ...you receive medical advice that your child may return to school.
...my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Child must not come to school.</b></li> <li>- Support your child at home with remote education provided by your school.</li> <li>- Your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days.</li> <li>- <b>Other siblings may continue to attend school.</b></li> </ul>	...school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.
... I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms	<b>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.</b>	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.

## School Attendance — up to 24.9.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
95.8%	94.0%	95.2%	91.8%	93.5%	94.1%

## Top Tutors per Year Group — well done!

7TY, 8MA, 9TN, 10RO and 11HK

## Alumni Sports News

Congratulations to Shaun Howl (Class of 2013) who has just been appointed as the new first team performance analyst at Cheltenham Town FC. Shaun will now be heading up the analysis department at the Jonny-Rocks Stadium and will be working with the first team management and players in his new role.

Shaun has been involved at CTFC since the 2016/17 season in a number of roles, including analyst for the under-18s squad and Head Academy analyst during the 2019/20 campaign.

He previously graduated from the University of Gloucestershire with a degree in Sports and Exercise Science and is now doing an MSC in performance analysis.

This is a fabulous achievement for one of our former pupils and we wish Shaun all the best in his new role and in his studies for his Masters Degree.

*Mr Powell*





**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**WORLD'S  
BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**From 10am**

**At Alcester RFC**



**ALCESTER RFC**



*Face coverings will be required*