Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN



26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I'm writing to you at the end of a fantastic Open Week, and an extremely busy Open Evening last night. Our student ambassadors were wonderful and are always the very best advertisement for the school. They speak to visitors with respect and immense pride about their school. It was a joy to see some of our former students return too and we always enjoy hearing their stories and finding out about their progress.

Thank you to everyone involved in the evening.

Here are a few photographs of the event.





What's inside this week

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Miss McKenzie led assemblies this week around the theme of inclusion again; specifically about *International Day of Sign Languages*. We all joined with her to learn how to sign our British Values and the lyrics to a song. It was fantastic! This was nicely combined with a focus on *European Day of Languages* too! Thanks to the MFL team for leading this theme during the week for students. We also managed to combine a Macmillan Coffee Morning around this today, as well!

High Bailiff Donation

I was grateful to receive a donation from the High Bailiff's charity this week. Mrs Tracy Parkes kindly offered the students a generous donation towards their ideas for commemorating the school's 60th anniversary this academic year. We will update you on how these ideas progress in time.



Thank you AGS

The series of year 11 post-16 assemblies began today. Thank you to Mr Slater from AGS for speaking to the students today.

Good Luck Year 8s

A vast number of our year 8s are heading to Devon next week to Skern Lodge on their week long residential trip. We all wish them a wonderful time and we can't wait to hear all about it. Stay safe everyone! Watch X for all of the fun and challenges emerging.

How are we about to step in to October already? I'm certain that you've noted the colder mornings creeping in now. Wrap up, and have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

 $Sarah\ Mellors-Headteacher$





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Key Dates This Term

Week of 29th September—Year 8 Skern Lodge residential trip

Week of 29th September—Black History Month starts

Thursday 2nd October—KS3 HW and Assessment Parent Forum 6-7pm online. Invitations to follow.

Tuesday 7th October—Year 10/11 art and photography trip to Birmingham

Wednesday 8th October—Friends PTA meeting online at 7.30pm

Thursday 9th October—KS3 HW, Google and assessment parent forum. Online. 6-7pm.

Tuesday 14th October—Year 7 Super Learning Day by Loudmouth, called Bully4U

Wednesday 15th October—Year 10 Employability workshop

Thursday 16th October—Year 7 Meet The Tutor evening. Live in school 4-7pm.

Monday 20th October—Diwali. Year 8 mosque trip

Wednesday 22nd October—Community Coffee Morning, in school 9.30-10.30am

Wednesday 22nd October—Year 8 trip to Matilda

Wednesday 22nd October—Year 11 Employability workshop

Thursday 23rd October—Year 11 Parents' Evening. Live in hall. 4-7pm.

Friday 24th October—Student flu vaccination

Friday 24th October—Non-uniform day

HALF TERM-27th-31st October 2025

Wednesday 5th November—Year 11 Parent Forum on Revision. Online 5.30-7pm (provisional)

Wednesday 5th November—RAF day for year 10 in school (provisional)

Tuesday 11th November—Armistice Day

Tuesday 11th November—Year 9 Super Learning Day from Loudmouth called Working for Marcus

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th November—year 10 and 11 mock interviews

Friday 14th November—Friends PTA Family Bingo Event. Evening.

Monday 17th November—Year 11 MFL speaking mocks start

Monday 17th November—National Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 19th—Friday 21st November—GREASE ...is the word! School Show dates!

Monday 24th November—Year 11 mocks begin

Tuesday 25th November—Rock Academy Concert at the Greig Hall. Evening event 7pm.

Wednesday 3td December—Friends PTA meeting online 7.30pm

Thursday 4th December—Year 10 Parents' Evening. Online 4-7pm.

Thursday 11th, and Friday 12th December—Christmas rewards trips

Tuesday 16th December—Christmas Concert, at school, from 6.30pm

Wednesday 17th December—Year 9 Enrichment Super Learning Day

Thursday 18th December—Year 9 annual panto for year 7s

Friday 19th December—Break up at 12.40pm

This list is not exhaustive.

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Languages, Learning, and Lovely Cakes: MFL News Highlights

Throughout last week, a range of activities were held in school to celebrate *European Day of Languages*. All over Europe, students celebrated this day to raise the importance of learning languages and the benefits that this can have to your life.

In the assemblies this week, Miss McKenzie spoke about the importance of respecting and tolerating people of different cultures as well as informing students about international sign language.

On Thursday, we held our well-supported MFL Bake-Off. There were over twenty entries and students who were judged best in school can be seen below.

The winners have received prizes this week and all entrants have been invited to a French-themed breakfast.

Please can I thank those students who donated their cakes to our MacMillan cake sale on Friday. We were amazed at the standard of the cakes this year. Well done all!

Overall winner—The Colosseum— Roman and friends in Ragley house

Second place—The Eiffel Tower Lucy in Billesley house

Third place—The France Cake Thomas in Billesley house



Runners up: Violet—Oversley Leo—Oversley Leela—Billesley

In addition to the Bake-Off, students completed competitions in their tutor groups. They will have tutor prizes next week:

Year 7 winner—7WI Year 8 winner—8MO

In language lessons some students completed some French poetry work. Our winners will be announced in next week's bulletin.

There was certainly a buzz around school and I look forward to next year's event.

Mrs Z Weatherley Head of MFL





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THE GREAT
BAKE OFF

















LRC Roundup—This Week at Alcester Academy



Alcester Academy Students Shortlist Books for Warwickshire Teen Book Award

On Monday, students from Alcester Academy's years 9 and 10 participated in shortlisting books for the Warwickshire Teen Book Award.

Unlike other awards, the students themselves choose the shortlist. They had to select four books from a longlist of eight, which was curated by staff at the Warwickshire Schools Library Service (WSLS).



The students spent five minutes reading an excerpt from each of the eight longlisted books before voting for the four they were most excited to read. The results from Alcester Academy will be sent to the WSLS and combined with votes from other participating schools across Warwickshire to determine the final shortlist.





The seven students participating in the award will discover which four books they will be reading on 30th September. They'll have until early December to finish the books and cast their vote for their favourite one.

Cake Sale Raises Money for Macmillan Cancer Support

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Students and staff held a successful cake sale in the Learning Resource Centre today during break and lunch, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes, especially those from the *European Day of Languages Bake-Off*, or who gave money to this worthy cause. Student librarian Jasmine (Ragley) will provide a detailed report on the sale and the total amount raised in next week's bulletin.







Accelerated Reading



The Accelerated Reading system is now available for all students in years 7 and 8, and English sets 5 in years 9 and 10 to quiz on the books they are reading.

Initial STAR testing has been completed and Home Connect letters have now been sent out to parents.

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

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, 8 and 9, and abc for year 10.

Online LRC for students

dt6iw3u

For reading ideas and up-to-date news about the LRC, please make sure you have been added to the LRC Google Classroom, use this code to add yourself if not.

X and Instagram accounts for parents and carers

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



Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard



Top Positive Point Students—this week:

1	Ayla	8BI	Billesley	11 points
2	Evie	8RW	Greville	10 points
2	Rupert	8SA	Billesley	10 points
2	Lola	8BI	Billesley	10 points
2	Logan	8BW	Greville	10 points
2	Astrid	9NA	Ragley	10 points

Top Positive Point House—this week:

1	Oversley	557 points
2	Ragley	554 points
3	Billesley	527 points
4	Greville	520 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group—this week:

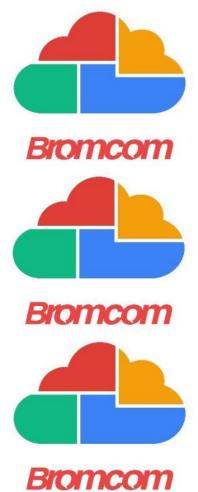
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1	7LX	119 points
1	7WI	119 points
3	8BI	115 points
4	11MR	104 points
5	9AN	101 points

Top Positive Point Subjects—this week:

1	Maths	553 points
2	English	395 points
3	Science	316 points
4	French	241 points
5	German	143 points

Top Positive Point Staff—this week:

1	Mrs Hirji	361 points
2	Mrs Weatherley	240 points
3	Mrs Gorner	224 points
4	Mr Yarrington	206 points
5	Mrs Marshall	154 points



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Autumn Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

Extra Curricular Timetable Autumn 2025 Tuesday Monday Lunchtime Lunchtime Young Enterprise -H4 Youth Speaks - E4 Pride Group- E4 Pop Band- Music hut Acoustic Group- Music Hut ART- A1 & A2 GCSE Maths Clinic - S5 Afterschool Scrabble Club- E6 School Show- Hall ART- A1 & A2 Dungeons and Dragons-R1 Wednesday Lunchtime Board Games-LRC Orchestra - MU 1 ART- A1 & A2 After School Cookery Club - Food Room Thursday Friday Lunchtime Lunchtime Year 8 Book Club- LRC Rock Band - Music Hut Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic- M1 Photography - A1 ART- A1 & A2 ART- A1 & A2 Principal school show rehearsal After School - Drama Room School Show - Hall GCSE Art and Photography - A2

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected 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. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total</u>).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted.
 Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (<u>from the date of issue of the first penalty notice</u>): A
 penalty notices will not be issued, and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal
 Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

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

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week is 92.7%

Top tutors this week:

7WI with 97.9% attendance 8MO with 97.7% attendance 9NA with 97% attendance 10GA with 97.1% attendance 11GO with 98.4% attendance If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, of the reason, before 8.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Thank you, Ms Hatcher



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



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

Notice for Parents

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Alcester Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

Alcester Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.



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



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

Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Half term Monday 27th – Friday 31st October 2025

Back to school Monday 3rd November 2025

Autumn Term ends Friday 19th December at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2026

School closed Monday 5th January 2026

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half Term Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026

Back to school Monday 23rd February 2026

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 27th March at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term begins Monday 13th April 2026

School closed Friday 1st May 2026

Teacher training day

May Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026

Half Term Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026

Back to school Monday 1st June 2026

Summer Term ends Friday 17th July 2026 at 12.40pm

School closed Monday 20th July 2026

Teacher training day

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Examination Invigilators

£13.68 per hour, claimed monthly

Closing date: 12 noon on Tuesday 30th September 2025

Interviews: TBC

Start date: Mid October for training, exams start in November 2025

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Broad Description

The ability to work in a team, under direction, and to communicate effectively are essential. Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ and the Academy's regulations and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process. Alcester Academy runs a number of examination series during the academic year and would expect flexible availability during these times, dates available on request. Applicants must be available for at least 5 sessions (morning/afternoon) per week during internal and external exam seasons throughout the academic year.

The Application Process

This should be by completed application form emailed to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk we do not accept CVs.

Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

We do encourage interested candidates to come and visit the school before making an application.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy, please contact head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Sport Roundup

A big congratulations to all students who have been selected to represent Alcester Academy so far this term!

It's been a busy and successful start, with many competitive fixtures already under our belts. Our football teams from years 8, 9, 10, and 11 have been in action, along with the year 11 netball squad and our cross-country runners across all year groups. It's fantastic to see so many of you competing and representing the school with such dedication.

Keep an eye on the daily notice in your tutor time and the school bulletin every Friday to stay updated on what's happening in the week ahead.

It has also been brilliant to see the return of the externally run Archery Club, provided by the Bowmen of Alcester. Best of luck to everyone taking part—we're excited to hear about your progress over the coming weeks!

A stand out result this week saw our year 10 football team progress in the Mid and South Warwickshire School's Cup with a 5-0 victory against St. Benedict's. Well done to everyone who represented in this fixture.



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

South Warwickshire Cross Country District Trial—Results

A massive congratulations to all Alcester Academy students who recently represented the school at the South Warwickshire District Cross Country trials!

It was a day of outstanding results, and we'd like to give a special shout-out to Poppy (Minor Girls), Marijke (Inter Girls), and Will (Inter Boys), who all finished their races in 1st place. An incredible achievement!

Further congratulations are in order for the 18 students who qualified to represent the district at the upcoming inter-area event at Stratford School. This is a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to earn a spot on the Warwickshire County team for events later in the academic year. Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Well done to everyone who has reached this standard of running.

Minor Boys

7th Alfred 13th Roman

Minor Girls

1st Poppy 5th Abby 6th Molly 8th Efa 14th Evie *21st Lucy

Junior Boys

16th Keegan 17th Dexter

Junior Girls

13th Isabella

Inter Boys

1st Will 6th Dan 12th Harry

Inter Girls

1st Marijke

Additional qualifiers: Dylan, Eva.





* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

	NEXT WEEK'S SPOR W/B 29/9/25	et TS
Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 11 Football v AGS-NA	AGS
	Year 7 + 8 Girls and boys Rugby training - MO	School field
Tuesday	Archery Club (Selected) - MO	Gym
Wednesday	Year 7 Football v Henley - NA	School field
	Year 7 Girls Football v Studley – MO	Studley
	Year 9 +10 Netball – PÉ	Courts
Thursday	Year 10 and 11 Girls Football – MO	Top Field
	Year 7 Netball – PE	Courts

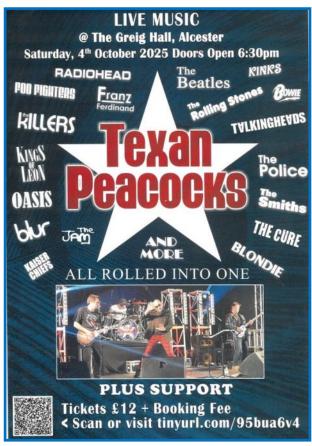


CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

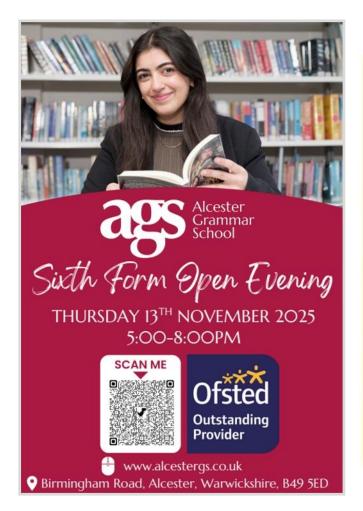








CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY





Alcester Level 3 Bikeability Holiday Course

The Level 3 holiday course is intended for children in school years 6 - 9 who have previously completed the Bikeability Level 1 & 2 course.

All courses are run by first aid and safeguarding trained National Standard Instructors.

Level 3 equips riders with the skills to tackle more complex roads and traffic situations such as roundabouts and junctions controlled by traffic lights. The training also includes guidance and practice on planning routes.

There is no charge for this course for residents of Warwickshire. Participants will need a roadworthy cycle and a helmet, please contact us if you would like to make use of WCC's fleet of cycles available for loan.

Available places 6

Venue Eric Payne Community Centre, Alcester

Eric Payne Community Centre, Jubilee Fields, St Faith's Rd, Alcester B49

6AG B49 6AG

Sessions 31/10/2025 (09:00 - 12:00)

31/10/2025 (09:00 - 12:00)



Book Now—Click Here

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Friday 31st Oct

Ursula Jeakins
Craft Workshop:
Stationery and Bookmaking
£16.04 | 2-4pm | Age 11+*

Events for Families

Make your own stunning notebooks and stationery using bookbinding techniques under the expert guidance of Ursula Jeakins. There'll be take-home kits available for purchase. Please note: sharp



craft knives are used at this workshop. Instruction will be given but participants use them at their own risk.

Ticket prices includes all materials

Box Office: 0333 666 3366 or online at stratlitfest.co.uk

All ticket prices include a booking fee



Please note:

Adults are also expected to buy a ticket to events unless otherwise stated.

Saturday 1st November

Gaming Event

£10.69 | 5pm-6.30pm | Age 11-16*

Are you a budding young adventurer ready to slay? Come and play Dungeons & Dragons with our talented team of Dungeon Masters. Borrow some dice and a ready-made character from us and get stuck in! No experience necessary - we'll help you all the way.