

# Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to Mrs Woodman for updating us via the bulletin last week on some of the superb things continuing in school right now in spite of the pandemic. I appreciated the staff contributing to this.

I'm delighted to let you know that we continue to be Covid-19 free within school right now. Long may this continue! We absolutely believe that the students wearing face coverings throughout the day is helping and we would like to actively encourage this after the national lockdown ends on Wednesday next week please. We feel that protecting the family Christmas is key for everyone now. Mike Dean, Chair of Governors updated me to say that the news of us being in Tier 3 is being challenged currently but at the point of writing this I have no further news.

This week has seen the start of our year 11 mock examinations and the launch of our



virtual parents' evening platform for year 9s presently; School Cloud. I was privileged to use this recently with my daughter's parents' evening at college and I can absolutely say how quick and efficient it proved to be; all from the comfort of my own home! Please let us have feedback after next week's event.

We continue to be so proud of the students around school. Their maturity and conduct is exemplary and is helping to keep the school operating in an efficient and effective manner.

Last week saw science *Saturday School* in action. I appreciated the science staff being in for the students. The uptake was the best yet with almost 100 year 11s attending. Wow! This weekend, we are looking forward to hosting maths on Saturday and then launching our first virtual Sunday School for English. I'm in awe of the continued commitment from the staff at such a difficult time right now. I'd like

## Term Dates

### AUTUMN TERM 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

to thank our school counsellor, Claire Gibb for running the drop in sessions over recent lunchtimes for our year 11s worrying about exams right now. Claire is making a massive contribution across the school right now supporting numerous students.

We say farewell to Mr Peace on Tuesday next week after stepping in to support Mr Dyer's groups. A huge thank you to him for his support recently.

### LRC Updates

Staff at the Academy have recently worked hard to add another ten desktops to our LRC in order that lessons can be taught without students having to learn on laptops. This was such a great idea and is working extremely well for our year 7 bubble.



### Year 8 news

Thanks to our team of former students for helping us to get the hall ready for year 11 mocks over the weekend with Miss Buckthorp. We appreciate the year 8s going back to stools and benches whilst this happens.



### Food Bank Donations

We were delighted to support Arden Food Bank today with their Christmas food collection. I can't thank you all enough for the generous donations that you made to this cause. We appreciate it so much! So do the Food Bank and families that they support.





## School Cloud Update



Year 9 parents should now have been sent the details of how to register with School Cloud and log in to make appointments for next Thursday's Parents' Evening. If you are struggling with any aspect of this, please just let us know at school so that we can support you. Please don't miss out on this superb opportunity to see how GCSE courses have started for your son or daughter. For year 11, we will review how year 9 Parents' Evening goes and then update parents regarding the January mock evening.

## Year 10 D of E

We wish Mrs Evason and the year 10 D of E students a great weekend ahead!

## Uniform Checks

SLT will be running uniform checks from next week during tutor time. We're keen to ensure that standards remain high within the academy. Please can you help us with some recurring issues right now across school?

- Piercings. Students can wear one stud in each ear. No nose studs or tongue piercings are permitted.
- No rings.
- Boys trousers should be mid grey and not black.
- Shoes should be polishable.
- Boys socks should be black/grey.
- Other than for year 11, PE wear currently should be school branded. If you are waiting for items from NSC then I'm sure you've made us aware, thank you, or students are wearing plain black alternatives.
- Hair colours should be natural; no shaved in patterns.

## End of term arrangements

This is just an initial reminder about things happening at the end of term:

**Monday 14th December – Teacher Training Day. Students are not in school.**

**Friday 18th December – Christmas Jumper Day (Charity donation of £2)**

**and early staggered finished for all students starting at 12.40pm.**

Staff are working on organising some enrichment activities for the students during the last week of term in order to make this time of year feel appropriately joyous for them all. Many children have had such negative experiences this year and we felt that we wanted to provide some smiles and opportunities to remember in this final week. I'm very excited about this for everyone. We will be asking parents/carers of years 7/8 students for a small donation towards this please unless you have kindly already donated to school fund this year.

School Gateway will be uploaded with various things very soon for you to consider. I believe that this will be live for you tomorrow.

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



Alcester Youth Project Team is a small group of individuals who aim to improve the provision of activities which engage young people in Alcester. We are looking for two students to join us so that we have a couple of voices representing young people in Alcester and what they would like us to focus on. We are a very friendly bunch and participation would be via Zoom due to current Covid-19 restrictions. We meet every 3 months for about an hour. Volunteering for this would look great on your CV and we would love to hear your views!

Please

email: [ros.anscombe@gmail.com](mailto:ros.anscombe@gmail.com) or call 07792 462789



## Seasonal Snowflakes— our next charity drive

After the success of the Poppy Appeal, we are asking if you would like to *Sponsor a Snowflake* for £3 per family. These will be displayed on our trees outside the front of school and proceeds will go to selected local groups and charities. These will appear on the School Gateway for you shortly.



## Coronavirus Updates

### Warwickshire Welfare Scheme

I have been asked to remind any families struggling right now to reach out to the Warwickshire Welfare Scheme:  
Tel: 0800 408 1448.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>

The scheme can support families in many ways. Warwickshire authority are working on plans to get those families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals a voucher to cover the cost of food over Christmas (to include weekends). This will be redeemable at Pay Point vendors and families will be provided with a list of these. School will provide Warwickshire with the details of those families that are eligible for this and then the local authority will be in touch with you. This is such good news!

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> for further information if you are unsure about anything.

Finally this week, this made my family smile in the midst of everything:



I hope that it gave you all a giggle too!  
Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



# Sponsor a Snowflake




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These will be displayed on our trees outside the front of school and proceeds  
will go to selected local groups and charities.

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**mind | Springfield**  
for better mental health in Warwickshire and Worcestershire


**ONLINE TASTER SESSION  
VINYASA YOGA  
WITH AMELIA CARRUTHERS  
WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 5P.M.**



**AN ONLINE TASTER SESSION  
LEADING TO FREE 6  
WEEK COURSES FOR  
YOUR PHYSICAL AND  
MENTAL WELL BEING**

AMELIA CARRUTHERS  
WWW.ACSTUDIES.COM  
YOGA AND MEDITATION: @ACSTUDIESYOGA


Get Set to **GO**

**mind**  **LOTTERY FUNDED**

PLEASE CONTACT DAVID.ARNOLD@SPRINGFIELDMIND.ORG.UK OR  
CALL 01789 298615 FOR MORE DETAILS

**mind | Springfield**  
for better mental health in Warwickshire and Worcestershire


**ONLINE TASTER SESSION  
TAI CHI  
WITH PETER FLETCHER  
WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2P.M.**



**AN ONLINE TASTER SESSION  
LEADING TO FREE 6  
WEEK COURSES FOR  
YOUR PHYSICAL AND  
MENTAL WELL BEING**

PETER FLETCHER BTCA  
WWW.BRITISHTAICHI.CLUB


Get Set to **GO**

**mind**  **LOTTERY FUNDED**


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**mind | Springfield**  
for better mental health in Warwickshire and Worcestershire


**ONLINE TASTER SESSION  
BODY BALANCE  
WITH KIRSTY JACOBS  
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 12P.M.**



**AN ONLINE TASTER SESSION  
LEADING TO FREE 6  
WEEK COURSES FOR  
YOUR PHYSICAL AND  
MENTAL WELL BEING**

KIRSTY JACOBS  
 **KIRSTY JACOBS**  
PERSONAL TRAINER  
KIRSTYJFITNESS@OUTLOOK.COM

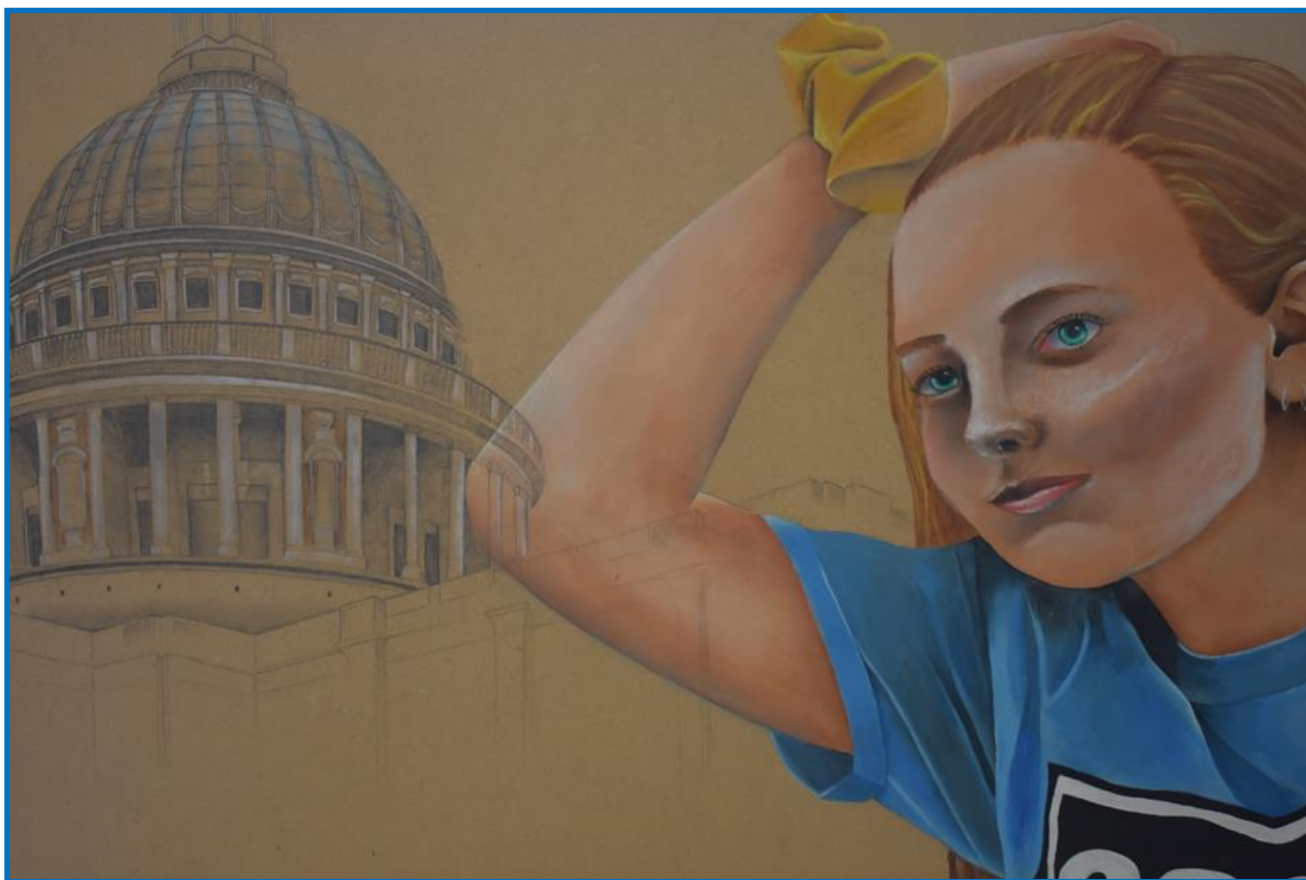
Get Set to **GO**

**mind**  **LOTTERY FUNDED**

PLEASE CONTACT DAVID.ARNOLD@SPRINGFIELDMIND.ORG.UK OR  
CALL 01789 298615 FOR MORE DETAILS



## Artwork of the Week



It's that time of year when last year's leavers come to collect their portfolios.  
We will be sad to see such amazing work leaving us.  
Here is Natalie's city-based piece looking at the  
style of Minty Sainsbury as her inspiration.  
A beautiful use of composition, layering and transparency.

epraise

epraise news

epraise

**Congratulations to year 10 students:  
Abi, Amelia and Gaby  
for achieving the most epraise points this week!**



## MFL Department updates

In lessons this week, students in years 7,8,9 will be taking part in a second competition run by Aston University. Students will be designing the front cover of a French/German Christmas card depicting Christmas traditions in that country. The deadline for the competition is Monday 30th November.

Winning entries will receive a prize in school and the best will be sent to the university with the chance to win Amazon vouchers and be the design of the university Christmas card for this year.



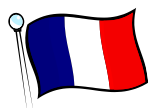
MFL will also be allocating college points and epraise points for the Top 10 entries. Winning entries need to be handed to Mrs Weatherley or Miss Heitmuller by the end of the day on Monday 30th November.

*Mrs Weatherley*

*Bien fait*

*Gute Arbeit*

## Linguist of the Month



Year  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11

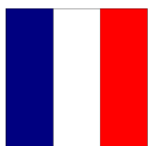
French  
**Joe**  
**Noah**  
**Em**  
**Hannah**  
**Chloe**

German  
**Jake**  
**Isobel**  
**Seb**  
**Gabby**  
**Sophia**



## Language Idiom of the Week

**English: To have a long weekend**



French: Faire le pont

Literal meaning: To make the bridge

German: Ein langes Wochenende haben

Literal meaning: To have a long weekend





## Teaching and Learning..oops!

Teaching and Learning

**...and last but not least, an apology to one of our most valued T&L colleagues, Miss Nemeshanyi, who was inadvertently missed from last week's bulletin...**

As a practical subject teacher with visual outcomes, I have a strong interest in verbal feedback and its impact on progress and learning. We all know that providing timely, specific, and actionable feedback is one of the vital tools that helps students learn. However, it is essential to consider how the effect of feedback varies considerably depending on how it is delivered and received. With marking and feedback looking different in schools at present, due to the current restrictions, my focus in lessons has been on creating a dialogue with students that stretches their learning with higher-level open-ended questions and more informative explanations.

Effective feedback treats mistakes as important opportunities to learn. It stimulates students to try alternative strategies and to seek out additional resources to develop their knowledge, understanding, and skills  
(*Cauley & McMillan 2010*).

*Miss Nemeshanyi*



## Year 11 Revision Timetable

<b>WEEK B</b> <b>wb-2/11, 16/11, 30/11.</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Afterschool</b>
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	English (M rooms)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	<b>Music &amp; PA (Music rooms)</b> Science combined if not music/pa (M1)	Geography (M1)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2) Textiles	<b>Biology sets 1 and 2 (M4 and M5)</b> Maths (M1 -4)
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1)	Independent study at home

## School Attendance — up to 26.11.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.6%	94.0%	94.9%	92.5%	93.1%	94.3%

## This week's top tutors per year group — well done!

7BW - 99.3%, 8BL - 95.6%, 9WA - 97.3%, 10RO - 99.1% and 11HK - 98.7%





### Design and Create an Advent Calendar

- Open to all year 7 & 8 students
- Fantastic prizes for the best entries
- Hand in to your Philosophy or Theology teacher by 15<sup>th</sup> December

**TIP:** For the best chance of winning use the knowledge you have gained this term in theology to create the images behind the doors!

\* Year 8 House Competition \* Year 7 House Competition \*



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

## ALCESTER ACADEMY

## INTER-HOUSE

## GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Check into the House Google Classroom to access a series of fun activities for you to complete to gain points for your House.

There are a wide range of activities available including a Weekly general knowledge QUIZ.  
Good luck, and I look forward to seeing your efforts in the coming weeks!  
PW

XMAS CARD DESIGN

SHORT STORIES

PHOTOGRAPHY

COAT OF ARMS DESIGN

# sy6jica

POETRY

IT'S SHOWTIME!

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

MOVIE POSTER DESIGN

TRICK SHOTS

DESIGNER GEAR





YOGA

MEDITATION

CIRCUIT TRAINING

MY PERFECT HOLIDAY DESTINATION!

WEEKLY QUIZ!



## *Heroes and Heroines* story writing competition



# Heroes



The University of Birmingham and the National Literacy Trust are jointly running a story writing competition. Following on from the university's *How to write a female villain* story writing competition in 2019, this year's topic is *Heroes and Heroines*.

[https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/birmingham/families/story-writing-competition/?mc\\_c](https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/birmingham/families/story-writing-competition/?mc_c)

**Deadline for submission of the story: Friday 4 December**

**Winners will be announced: Friday 18 December**

**Story length: 500 - 750 words**

The competition is open to participants aged 9 to 14 years old (years 5 to 9).

The link is also in the LRC Google Classroom.



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## Warwickshire 9 Book Award – which book will be their favourite?

The ten year 9 students that committed themselves to this award have been fantastic, despite us not being able to run the award in the usual way.

Next week they will be casting their votes and choosing their favourite book – our votes will then be handed over to Warwickshire School Library Service to add to the votes from all the other secondary schools around Warwickshire that have taken part in this award, and the overall favourite book will be announced before we break up for Christmas.

Mrs Hands





## WILL YOU BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS DAY?

This Christmas will be very different for many of our residents so we want to bring some dinner and cheer to those who will be alone on Christmas Day

To register please call us:  
07414 851644  
or email:  
[alcester-ccd@hotmail.com](mailto:alcester-ccd@hotmail.com)

This service is for residents of Alcester

organised by  
ALCESTER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER



