Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you had a relaxing half term. Welcome back. It's lovely to see a bit of sunshine finally.

This week, we have featured a report for you following the fabulous Spanish ski trip over half term and an account of the successful House Charity Day that we held at the end of term.

Back to Basics

We've kick started this half term with a focus on some key basic expectations within school. Each week we will focus on an area of school life that we all want to see improvements in. This week, it is uniform especially. Next week, we will focus on uniform and punctuality in every aspect; arrival to school and being on time to lessons. I'll keep you updated as this initiative continues.

SEND White Paper

Finally, we saw the publication of the consultation for SEND Reform this week. Send Reform: Putting Children and Young People First.

As parents and carers, you can respond via email: SENDreform.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk

The consultation does not close until 18th May 2026.

Traffic Summit Meeting

This afternoon, I shall be meeting again with our MP, Manuela Perteguella, local councillors and the headteachers of Alcester schools in order to review where we have got to on the road safety issues raised last summer.

Assembly Themes

I held an assembly this week with years 7-10 on what is coming up this half term. Mr Cooke then shared this with year 11s after their mock examination on Monday. Mrs Weatherley then led assemblies with years 7-10 on International Day of Languages.

What's inside this week

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Year 9 Farm Trip—Oversley Hill Farm

Thank you to Oversley Hill Farm for hosting our year 9 visit this week over several days. This was one of our Employer Encounter Days as part of our Careers Information, Advice and Guidance work at school. We are very grateful to the staff at the farm for the generosity of their time.

Mobile Phone Policy

Further to a bulletin edition prior to half term, our new mobile phone policy can be found on the school website if you are interested. I have reminded the students about it in assembly this week. I expect that phones are now kept in bags or lockers switched off for the day and not seen in pockets please. I appreciate your support as always with this matter. Alcester Academy Mobile Phone Policy

Friends of Alcester Academy—PTA

Thank you to parents who attended the meeting on Wednesday this week.

Next Week

It is year 9 Exam Focus Week next week in school prior to these starting. Year 11 mocks continue, it is World Book Day, as well as year 10 Work Experience Week.

Good Luck Year 10s

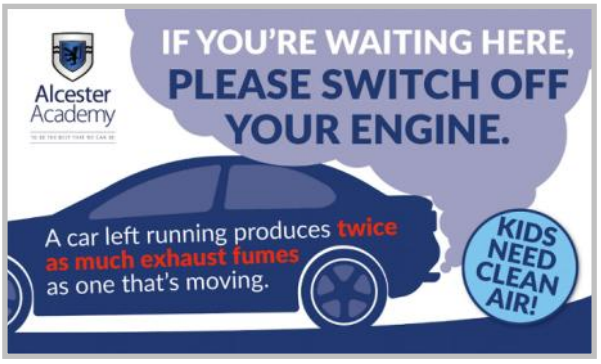
Huge luck to our 111 year 10s going off on Work Experience next week. I look forward to hearing the stories of their experiences. For those students remaining in school, a central timetable has been arranged, which includes an online work experience programme for part of the week. Year 9s, it is not too early to begin to think about your destination for next year!

Well Done Year 11

Year 11 began their second set of mock examinations in earnest this week. We are very proud of you! These continue into next week, so 3:2 days carry on. Finally, thanks to maths and English staff for last week's Saturday School.

Wishing you all a superb weekend ahead.

Kind regards
Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



Success in the Intermediate UKMT Mathematical Challenge

Last month, 68 KS4 students took part in the Intermediate UKMT Mathematical Challenge, a prestigious national competition designed to stretch and challenge mathematical thinking. Students answered 25 carefully designed questions that tested their logical reasoning, problem solving skills and ability to apply mathematical ideas in unfamiliar contexts. The challenge encourages students to think creatively and think beyond the obvious. Our students approached it with real focus and enthusiasm throughout.

Congratulations to all students who took part, with special recognition for the following students.

Year 10
Patryk—
Gold Certificate and Best in School Award

Lottie, Gold
Enzo, Silver
Thomas, Bronze
Jasmine, Bronze
Harry, Bronze

Year 9
Amelia—
Bronze Certificate and Best in Year Award

Jack, Bronze
George, Bronze
Jayden, Bronze
Isla, Bronze
Neve, Bronze
Charlotte, Bronze
Dan, Bronze
Chloe, Bronze
Tia, Bronze

A special congratulations to Patryk, who was placed in the top five percent nationally, and has qualified for the follow-on round, the Pink Kangaroo. This is a fantastic achievement! Patryk will sit the Pink Kangaroo on 19th March. Best of luck to him.
Being selected to take part in the UKMT Challenge is an achievement in itself and reflects strong attainment and commitment to Mathematics. Well done to everyone involved for representing Alcester Academy so positively.

Miss Home—Whole School Numeracy Lead

What's Coming Up This Half Term

Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Monday 2nd March	Year 9 Exam Focus Week, with exams taking place in the hall the following week.
Monday 2nd March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Monday 9th March	Year 8 Geography Super Learning Day
11th/12th March	Year 8 Maths trip to the races!
Thursday 12th March	Year 11 Music controlled assessment day
Tuesday 17th March	Student Climate Change Conference
Thursday 19th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening. LIVE school hall
Thursday 19th March	Christopher Edge author visit
19th/20th March	Year 11 performing arts controlled assessment days
Friday 20th March	Year 10 Super Learning Day *Safe and Sound*
Friday 20th March	Family Bingo Night
Monday 23rd March	Year 9 Enrichment Day
Monday 23rd & 26th March	Year 8 Shakespeare in the Forest trip
Tuesday 24th March	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Tuesday 24th March	Rock Academy Concert
Wednesday 25th March	Year 10 D of E Training
Thursday 26th March	Year 11 final school photographs
Thursday 26th March	Year 7 and 8 Warwickshire Book Award Final
Friday 27th March	End of term. School finishes at 12.40pm

As always, this covers most of the next half term, but certainly not everything that will be in place.

Employer Encounter Experience—Year 9 Visit to Oversley Hill Farm

This week, our year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Oversley Hill Farm as part of the Careers programme and Employer Encounter Experiences.

The visit was careers-focused, giving students valuable insight into the farming industry, including an understanding of local market information and the economic factors that influence modern agriculture. Students enjoyed a hands-on experience and explored the wide range of job roles involved in modern farming today, from animal husbandry and machinery operation to business management and food production. The day provided a meaningful opportunity to see firsthand how classroom learning connects to real-world careers.

Throughout the day, students took part in a variety of practical, hands-on activities. They made their own butter from scratch, learning about the science behind the process, and enjoyed tasting it with freshly baked homemade bread. They had the opportunity to handle sheep and lambs, gaining confidence while learning about animal care and welfare. Students also observed cattle and calves up close, discussing breeding, feeding routines, and herd management. They fed the chickens and explored the tractors and other large farm machinery, developing an appreciation for the scale and technical skill involved in modern farming. In addition, they experienced some of the less glamorous but equally important aspects of farm life, including mucking out and preparing feed, which helped them understand the daily commitment required to maintain high standards of animal care.

Our students asked thoughtful and inquisitive questions throughout the day and demonstrated excellent engagement and practical skills. They left with a far greater understanding of the agricultural industry and the many career pathways it offers.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Corbett family, particularly Sophie and Lucy, who went above and beyond to ensure the visit was both informative and enjoyable. Their generosity, expertise, and enthusiasm made the day truly memorable for our students.

It was an enriching and inspiring experience for all involved. *Miss Bartlett—Careers Co-ordinator*

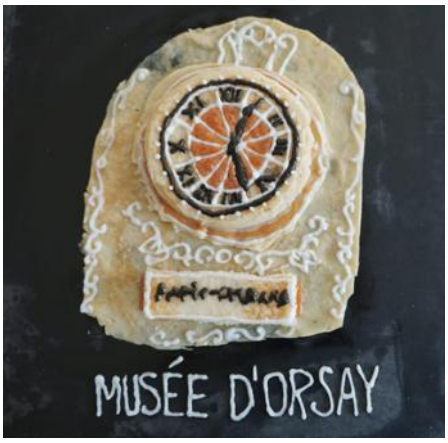
A Flip-tastic Effort from Year 7!

The MFL Faculty would like to thank all of the year 7 students who sent in photographs of their pancakes over half term. We had an amazing amount of entries. Please can I congratulate Ava (Greville) on being my overall winner and the runners-up were Morgan (Oversley), Tom (Oversley) and Lucy (Billesley). All participants will receive prizes and certificates as well as house points.

Mrs Z Weatherley—Lead MFL

Ava—Overall Winner

Morgan—Runner Up



Tom—Runner Up

Lucy—Runner Up

Inaugural Charity House Day

What an incredible way to mark our very first annual Charity House Day! On Friday 13th February, Alcester Academy was transformed into a sea of colour, energy and community spirit as students proudly wore their house colours for a whole school non-uniform day.

From the moment students arrived, there was a real buzz around the school. It was wonderful to see the vibrant displays of red, green, blue and yellow filling corridors and classrooms, with students embracing the opportunity to show their house pride while supporting worthy causes. Each house hosted its own fundraising activities, and the creativity and enthusiasm on display were outstanding. Ragley turned the LRC into a lively book and stationery hub, selling second-hand books and stationary items. Greville brought a touch of Valentine's spirit to the day with cards and sweet treats available to purchase. Oversley's cake sale was a huge success, with an impressive array of homemade bakes that proved extremely popular throughout the day. Meanwhile, Billesley hosted a fantastic "Beat the Teacher" penalty shoot-out in the gym, drawing crowds eager to test their skills against staff volunteers.

The generosity of our school community was truly heart-warming. Students, families and staff all contributed, whether through School Gateway >>

donations or by taking part in the activities on the day itself. The final totals are something we can all be incredibly proud of:

Billesley – £268.70
Greville – £293.00
Oversley – £614.16
Ragley – £304.30

This brings our grand total raised to an outstanding £1,480.16.

Beyond the money raised, what stood out most was the sense of unity and shared purpose. Students demonstrated teamwork, leadership and kindness throughout the day, supporting one another and embracing the opportunity to make a positive difference.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers who supported the day so generously. Whether you donated homemade cakes, contributed second-hand books, or provided your child with money to take part in the activities, your support made a real difference. The success of the day reflects the strength of our wider school community, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued encouragement and involvement.

We are incredibly proud of how well the day ran and the maturity and enthusiasm shown by all students. Thank you to everyone who donated, baked, bought, organised and supported this event. Our inaugural Charity House Day has certainly set the bar high for the years to come. We are already looking forward to next year.

Miss Sacco

How parents can support careers conversations at home

Parents and carers play an important role in helping young people explore their future options.
You can support these conversations at home by:

- Encouraging your child to talk about what they enjoyed or found interesting during National Apprenticeship Week
- Discussing different post-16 and post-18 pathways, including apprenticeships, T Levels, college, and university
- Exploring local and national apprenticeship opportunities together
- Helping your child consider their strengths, interests, and career aspirations
- Reassuring them that career pathways are flexible and that there are multiple routes to success.

Apprenticeship Careers Fair 10th March 2026

Year 11 students will be attending an Apprenticeship Careers Fair next half term.

The fair will give students the opportunity to meet a wide range of employers, training providers, and apprenticeship organisations. Students will be able to learn more about different apprenticeship pathways, entry requirements, and how apprenticeships combine paid employment with training and qualifications. This event is designed to help students explore practical post-16 options and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Further details, including the date, location, and arrangements for the day, will be shared with parents and carers in due course.

Miss Bartlett

Using Unifrog to Support Careers Planning

Students and parents also have access to Unifrog, our online careers platform, which provides a wide range of resources to support decision-making about future pathways.

Through Unifrog, students can research apprenticeships, T Levels, colleges, universities, and careers, explore labour market information, and compare different routes side-by-side. The platform also helps students reflect on their skills and interests, record careers activities, and build a clear picture of their next steps.

Please use the following link to access LMI about apprenticeships.
https://cdn.unifrog.org/video/n11egc96lb/720.mp4

Students were also invited to explore the Apprenticeship Fair this week. Details can be found on their Unifrog accounts or on the Google Classrooms.
https://webapp.spotme.com/login/eventspace/apprenticeship-fair

Miss Bartlett

Useful Websites for Parents and Students

- **National Apprenticeship Service**— https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- **Amazing Apprenticeships**— https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com
- **T Levels**—https://www.tlevels.gov.uk
- **National Careers Service**— https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- **Stratford-upon-Avon College**—https://www.stratford.ac.uk
- **Unifrog**— https://cdn.unifrog.org/video/n11egc96lb/720.mp4

Our Ski Adventure to Masella in Spain

Last week students from years 8 to 11, along with Miss Buckthorp, Mr Powell, Mr Nash and Miss Lee set off on their ski adventure. We flew out from Birmingham and landed at Barcelona Airport before our onward journey to the Spanish Pyrenees. After a couple of hours we arrived at the beautiful resort of Masella where we were to be based for the week. We were surrounded by beautiful mountains and lucky for us the region was experiencing the best snow they had in the last ten years. The conditions were perfect and we were surrounded by fresh powder.

We stayed at the Alp Hotel, which was literally next to the slopes which we could see from our bedroom windows. We were so lucky to be skiing in powder conditions, our new skiers were literally flying round the mountain within a couple of days and our skiers had plenty of more advanced runs to contend with. It was so delightful to see the how all our skiers, both beginners and advanced, quickly progressed and their enthusiasm to improve and challenge themselves, skiing on all the different levels of runs was just brilliant.

Our Après ski evenings were spent in the hotel pool and taking part in karaoke, Zumba dancing, playing pool and bowling. We enjoyed crepes after skiing in the resort and there was the traditional Alcester Academy room tidy competition, which saw fierce competition for prizes. The students really enjoyed the hotel, the food was great and it was great for them to be able to mix with other young people from different schools.

It was a brilliant trip; the students were an absolute delight to spend the week with and they made us proud every day with how they represented the school, worked and helped each other; how they improved their skiing and showed such enthusiasm and determination every day. Skiing for 5 hours a day is quite a feat and all our students skied a lot of miles during the week. We all enjoyed skiing with the students, seeing them progress and it was lovely to be able to have our chats on the chair lifts in such beautiful surroundings.

After 5 days of full on skiing, it was time to return home, one of our reps Eduardo guided through a tour of the beautiful city of Barcelona seeing all the main sights. There was some time for shopping before we headed back to the airport to catch our flight back to Birmingham.

Thank you to all the students for their great company, the parents for such support of the trip, Mrs Savery for all her incredible work behind the scenes in sorting out all our admin for the trip and to the rest of my staff team—Mr Powell, Mr Nash and Miss Lee.

Next year for Ski 2027 we return to the USA and New York but I am sure we will return to Masella in the future as it was such a great adventure!

Miss Buckthorp

Alp Hotel

RYANAIR

BINGO
BINGO
EASTER
BINGO
Prepare your lucky charms for our Easter Bingo Night!
Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled evening of games, music, and exciting prizes.
Licenced bar and tuck shop available.
20
MARCH
FRIDAY
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
EYES DOWN 7.00PM
"FRIENDS"
OF
ALCESTER ACADEMY
Book Online Now

Year 11 Revision Timetables

WEEK A	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Music coursework - MU1	
Tuesday	Music coursework - MU1 Grade 7-9 Club Geography	English
Wednesday	Music coursework - MU1 DT coursework	Science Combined Computer Science
Thursday	Music coursework - MU1 History Clinic with Mr. Rossiter (invite only) History	Maths
Friday	Music coursework- MU1 Geography intervention	

WEEK B	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Music coursework - MU1	
Tuesday	Music coursework - MU1 Grade 7-9 Club Geography Media Studies	French German Food and Nutrition
Wednesday	Music coursework - MU1	Science Triple
Thursday	Music coursework - MU1 History Clinic with Mr Rossiter (invite only) History	Art & Photography Further Maths
Friday	Music coursework - MU1 Geography intervention	

Saturday/Holiday School Sessions 2026

Saturday 7.3.26 - Performing Arts - 10am-4pm in school

Thursday 9.4.26 - French - 9am-10.30am in school
Thursday 9.4.26 - German - 10.45am-12.15pm in school

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
20th February—26th February 2026

Top Positive Point Students:

The following students all have 8 points! Congratulations!

Daniel	8MO	Oliver	8BI
Liv	8RW	Oscar	8MO
Nora	8MO	Dexter	8BI
Anthony	8BW	Sofia	8SA
Abigail	8MO	Callum	8MO
Ellie	8SA	Emily	8MO
Erin	8BI	Teddy	8BI
Poppy	8SA	Amelie	8SA
Dyl	8MO	Noah	8BI
Faye	8SA	Ben	8BI
Nick	8BW	Philip	8BI
Theo	8SA		

Top Positive Point House:

1	Oversley	351 points
2	Greville	319 points
3	Ragley	308 points
4	Billesley	294 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

1	8BI	126 points
2	8SA	111 points
3	8MO	99 points
4	8BW	89 points
5	7WI	86 points

Top Positive Point Subjects:

1	English	429 points
2	Art	210 points
3	Maths	153 points

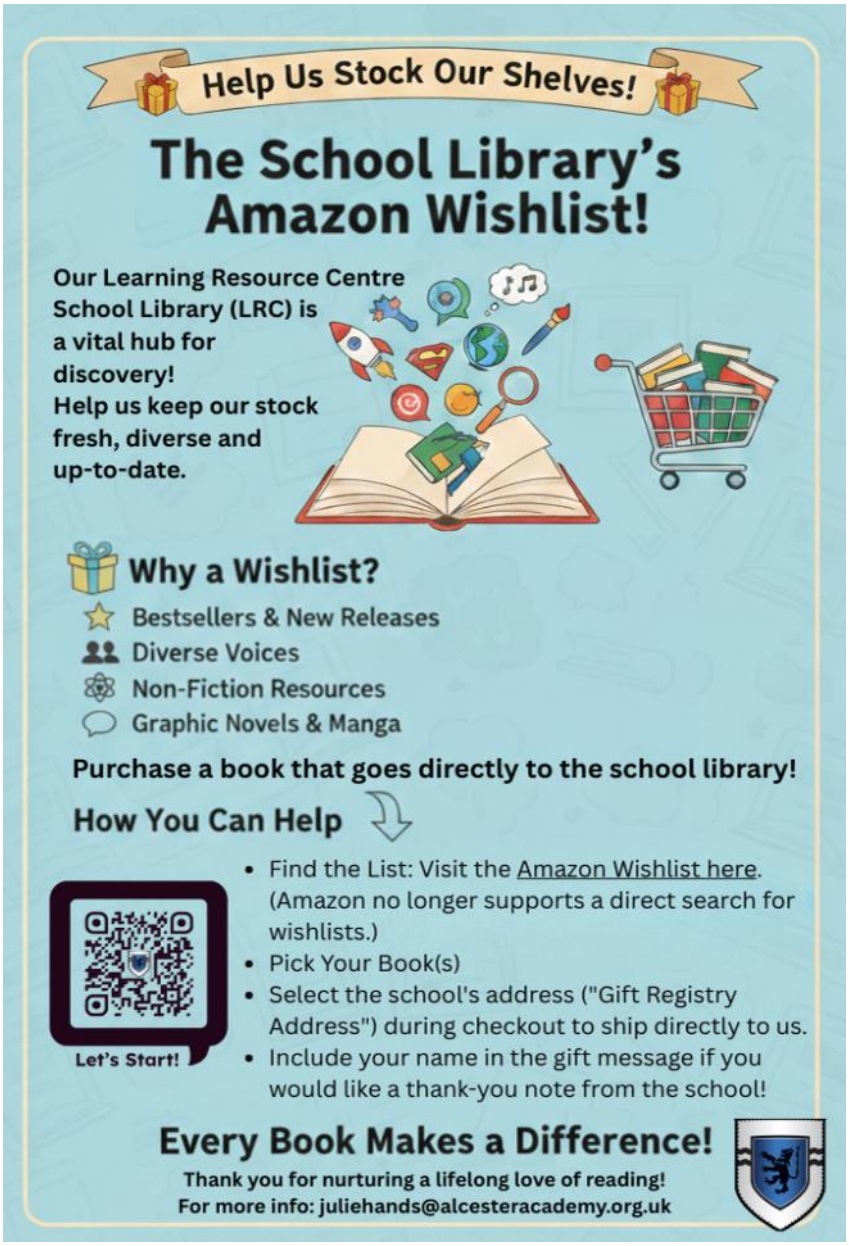
Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Miss Lewis	388 points
2	Mr Yarrington	253 points
3	Mrs Hirji	173 points

World Book Day 2026!

Get the date in your diaries—World Book Day is on Thursday the 5th March. This is a great year for us at the Academy to celebrate a love of books and all things reading. This is especially pivotal this year as 2026 is the UK's National Year of Reading in which we are encouraging pupils, staff and parents to *Go All In* and read anything and everything!

This year, we will be holding a non-uniform day in which students from KS3 can dress up as their favourite books or characters. There will be prizes available for the best outfits. More details on the day will follow after half term. *Miss Lewis*



Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 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*

Clinics for Missed Vaccinations—information from Public Health Warwickshire

The School Aged Immunisation Service is running the following clinics for children who have missed any of their vaccinations. The clinics will take place at Alcester Children & Family Centre, St Faiths Road, Alcester, and the available vaccinations are listed alongside each date.
Parents and carers can book an appointment using the following link:
https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/userlogin.php

VACCINES AVAILABLE	DATE	VENUE
Flu HPV Td/IPV Men ACWY MMR	23rd March	Alcester
HPV Td/IPV Men ACWY MMR	20th April	Alcester
	8th June	Alcester
	13th July	Alcester

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week: 94.2%

Top Tutors this week:

11HE with 100% attendance

8RW with 99.5% attendance

7WI with 97.7% attendance

7LX with 97.5% attendance

9AN with 97.5% attendance

Top House this week:

Billesley with 95.5% attendance

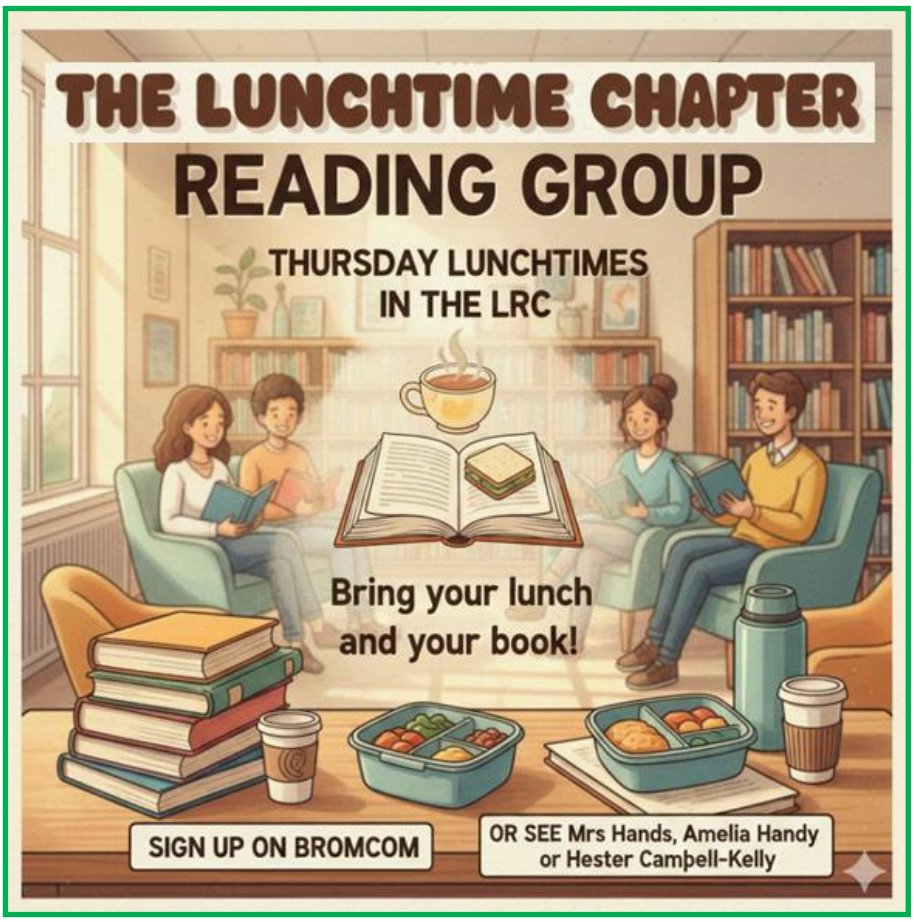
Data from
Monday 23.2.26 – Thursday 26.2.26

If your child will be absent from school, please notify our Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, with the reason before 8.50am each day. You can do this via:

⇒ **MCAS App—medical appointments and absences can be reported through the app**
⇒ **SchoolComms**
⇒ **Phone: 01789 762285**
⇒ **Email: louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk**

We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students who are leaving for appointments during the school day to come to the office a few minutes early so they can sign out promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms Louise Hatcher—Attendance Officer



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

After School Clubs

NEXT WEEK'S SPORT
W/B 2/3/26

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Y9, 10 + 11 Girls Basketball tournament – PE / NA	AGS
	U13 Rugby training - MO	Field
Tuesday	Y7 Basketball v Studley – NA/MO	Studley
Wednesday	Year 8 Rugby v Henley - MO	Henley
	Year 7 + 8 Netball - PE	Courts

Lunchtime Clubs

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Sporting Round-Up

Year 7 Basketball District Cup Semi-Final v Shipston

Our year 7 basketball team have punched their ticket to the District Cup Final after a commanding performance against Shipston High School. In a game defined by clinical finishing and an air-tight defence, we secured a 30-8 victory and showed significant improvement in performance from our previous fixture v St Benedict's.

From the opening tip-off, Alcester set the tempo. The team showed incredible chemistry, moving the ball quickly and finding gaps in the Shipston defence. Our shooting was particularly impressive, with Alcester converting several difficult chances to build an early lead.

This brilliant performance means Alcester Academy will now face Studley High School in the grand final to decide who will be crowned the South Warwickshire Cup winners for 2026.

Year 11 Football District Cup Semi-Final v Studley

This week our year 11 football team will proudly represent us in the Semi-Final of the MSWSFA Cup competition against Studley.

With many players unavailable from the squad who played the quarter final match v Aylesford, it is set to be a tough challenge for the team but one that we know the lads will relish.

There are many students from younger year groups making up numbers for our year 11 team so we wish them the very best of luck for this important match—report to follow next week.

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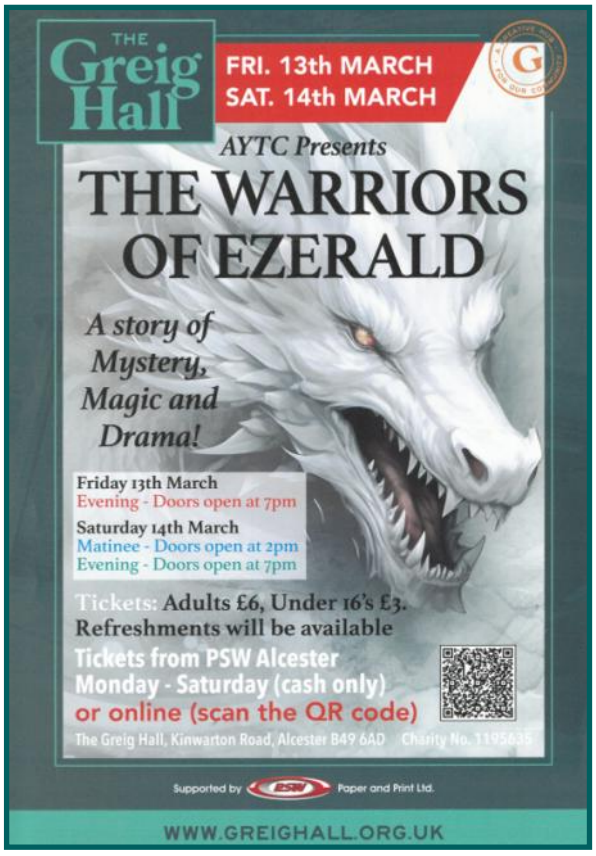
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