Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

27th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I'd like to start this week with a huge thank you to our wonderful student body for their assistance with Open Evening last night. The event was so well attended, and our students are the very best ambassadors for the school. They never ever let us down with their exuberance and energy. I extend this to our former students too. It was so lovely to see them all back at school. Thankfully, the weekend ahead should help with the late night that students and staff had.

On Monday, we all arrived to the Gerard Road closure. I'd like you all to know that I received no advance notification of this and the Governors and I will raise this with Severn Trent. Thank you all for re-arranging drop off areas and collection zones with your children. I appreciated your co-operation very much indeed.

There is just a brief update for you all in this week's edition, as follows;

European Day of Languages

The MFL team and the entire staff body embraced this week—not just one day—with some activities to include our amazing cake competition, year group assemblies and quizzes. I'm very grateful to the team for this.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Huge congratulations to our student librarians for their wonderful work this week, concluding in Wednesday's cake sale. I'm grateful to Mrs Hands and Mr Tuckey for supporting this. £237 was raised for Macmillan.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

What's inside this week...

Page 5	***Our geography trip to beautiful Blencathra***
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Year 7 Houses

It was an exciting assembly day yesterday as Miss Sacco issued the House badges to our new year 7s. I was really impressed with the pride shown by all students.

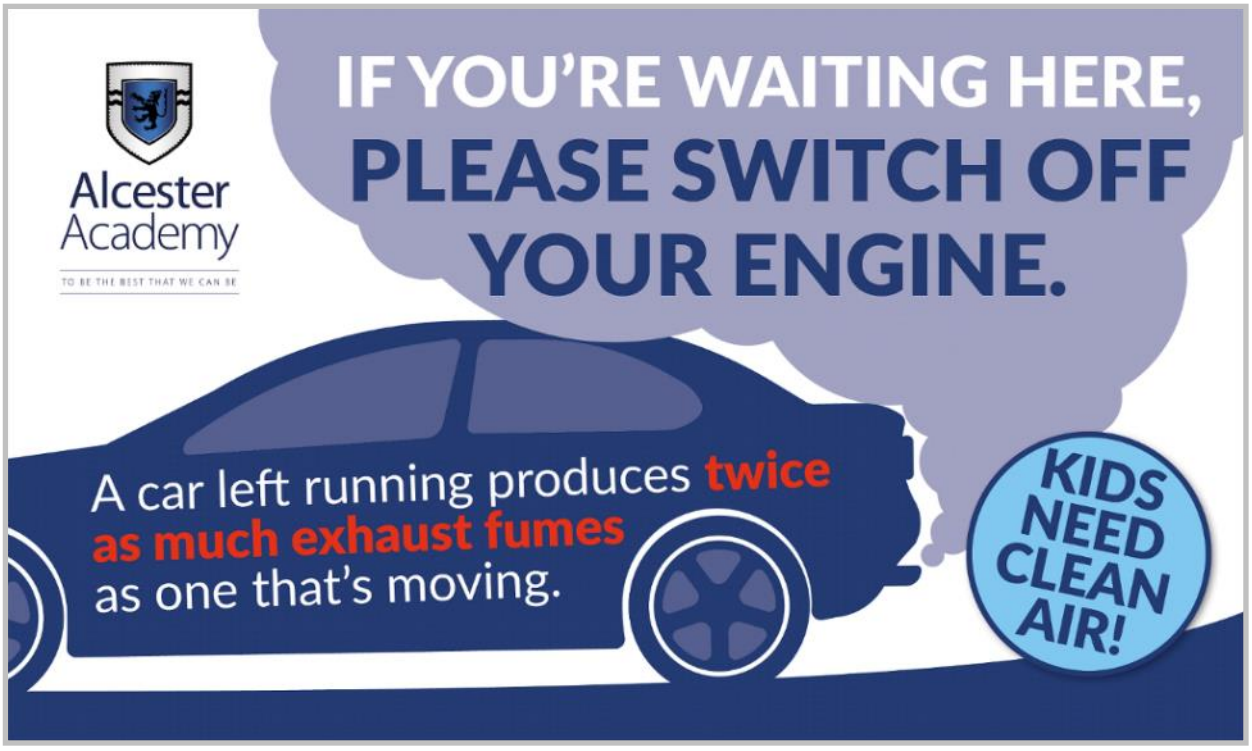
Industry Adult Volunteer Days

In a bold approach to you all as parents, I was wondering if anyone had an employer who dedicates volunteer community days to organisations please? We are looking to clear a site within school that is full of overgrown shrubs. The quote to do this has just been unbelievable. Please reach out if you think that your organisation might help by emailing head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Thank you.

Looking ahead to next week

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish our year 8s all the best for their Skern Lodge trip to Devon next week. I hope that they all have a fabulous week, keep your eye on X for photographs. Stay safe everyone!

We are also hosting our new MP for a visit on Monday. I'm delighted that the Rt Hon Manuela Perteghella can spare some time to come and meet myself, the Chair of Governors and the School Captains. I'll be raising the issues of school capacity, the age of the school building and road safety as just a few of our talking points.



On Wednesday 2nd October, we are holding the final parental meeting for the Iceland trip. It's getting really close now!

And, then on Thursday 3rd October, we have our KS3 Parent Forum online that will sign post you to navigating Google Classroom as parents.

Wishing you a super weekend ahead.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

And finally…

On behalf of the school, I'd like to offer our good wishes and congratulations to Mrs Tracy Parkes who becomes the first ever female High Bailiff of Alcester next week. This is an exciting and very historic event indeed for Tracy and the Court Leet.

KS3 Parent Forum

You are warmly invited to attend our first parents' forum of the term which covers information about the Alcester Academy homework process, how we assess your child at KS3, and information about the use of Epraise.

The date of our virtual TEAMS forum is Thursday 3rd October 6.00pm and we anticipate the session will take 30 to 40 minutes.

If you are a year 7 parent, and able to attend, we strongly recommend you join us. For year 8 parents, the forum will serve as a refresher of our processes also.

Please confirm attendance by clicking here to register for the KS3 Parent Forum.

A link to join the Parent Forum will then be sent out on Wednesday 2nd October 2024.

Kind regards
Mr Cooke—Deputy Headteacher

Epraise Leaderboard—past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Ranveer	8RO	Greville	36 points
2	Ollie	8RO	Billesley	34 points
3	Jade	7RA	Billesley	31 points
3	Macie	8SO	Billesley	31 points
5	Immy	10PL	Greville	29 points
6	Teddy	7TN	Ragley	27 points
6	Aaron	9PA	Oversley	27 points
8	Connor	7TN	Oversley	25 points
8	Lauren	8NA	Billesley	25 points
8	Olivia	8NA	Ragley	25 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Oversley	2284 points
2	Billesley	2138 points
3	Ragley	2100 points
4	Greville	2090 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

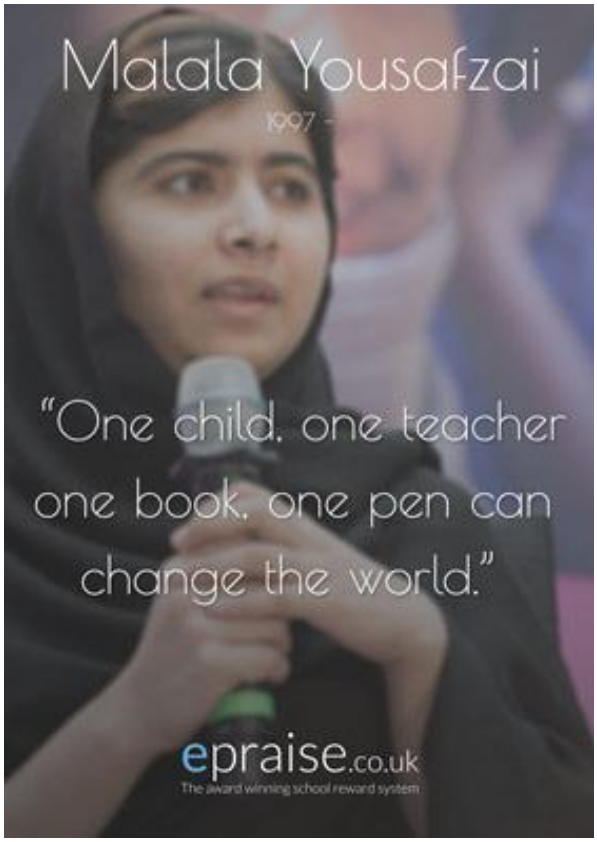
1	English	1105 points
2	Maths	807 points
3	Science	679 points
4	Art	499 points
5	French	464 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mrs Gorner	462 points
2	Mrs Weatherley	427 points
3	Mr Yarrington	411 points
4	Mr Rossiter	408 points
5	Mr Martin	382 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	7TN	454 points
2	7KO	435 points
3	8DA	390 points
4	7LX	382 points
5	7RA	376 points



Our geography trip to beautiful Blencathra

Wow what a week!Our year 11s embarked on the now annual geography trip to beautiful Blencathra in the North Lake District to carry out their physical geography fieldwork investigation for their paper 3 exam next summer. It's by far the best weather we have ever experienced in the Lakes; the sun shone throughout and we had temperatures above and beyond expectation! It's the first time we had to take sun cream instead of wet weather coats and jumpers!

The students absolutely excelled. We worked hard to get everything done and written up, and they were nothing but polite, well mannered, kind, thoughtful, hard working and a lot of fun. We have had a lot of laughs and also completed what is such an important part of their GCSE Geography Course. The students have developed their fieldwork skills and can now tell you most effectively about why the velocity of a river increases with distance from source.

Highlights of the week

- Fin's daily sandwich tower
- Melody and Imogen—how sheep don't fall off mountains!

- Charlie, Mercy, Maecie and Olivia—winning the t-shirts for best geographers and most improved geographers of the week
- Fin and Harrison—getting up super early to watch the sun rise over the mountains!
- All students—having a much needed splash about in the river after a long day of data collection on a very hot day.

Every student has been truly awesome and we have loved every minute with you all. Well done. Also a huge thank you to Mr Hollis, Mr Bowater and Mrs Austin for your time, dedication and energy on this trip. The students are so lucky to have such a fantastic staff team!

Mrs Sandells—
Head of Geography

Key Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 2nd October 2024—Iceland trip 2024 – Parents' Information Evening

Thursday 3rd October 2024—Parent Forum 6-7pm online
How to access homework on Google Classroom?

Thursday 17th October 2024—Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening. In school 4-7pm

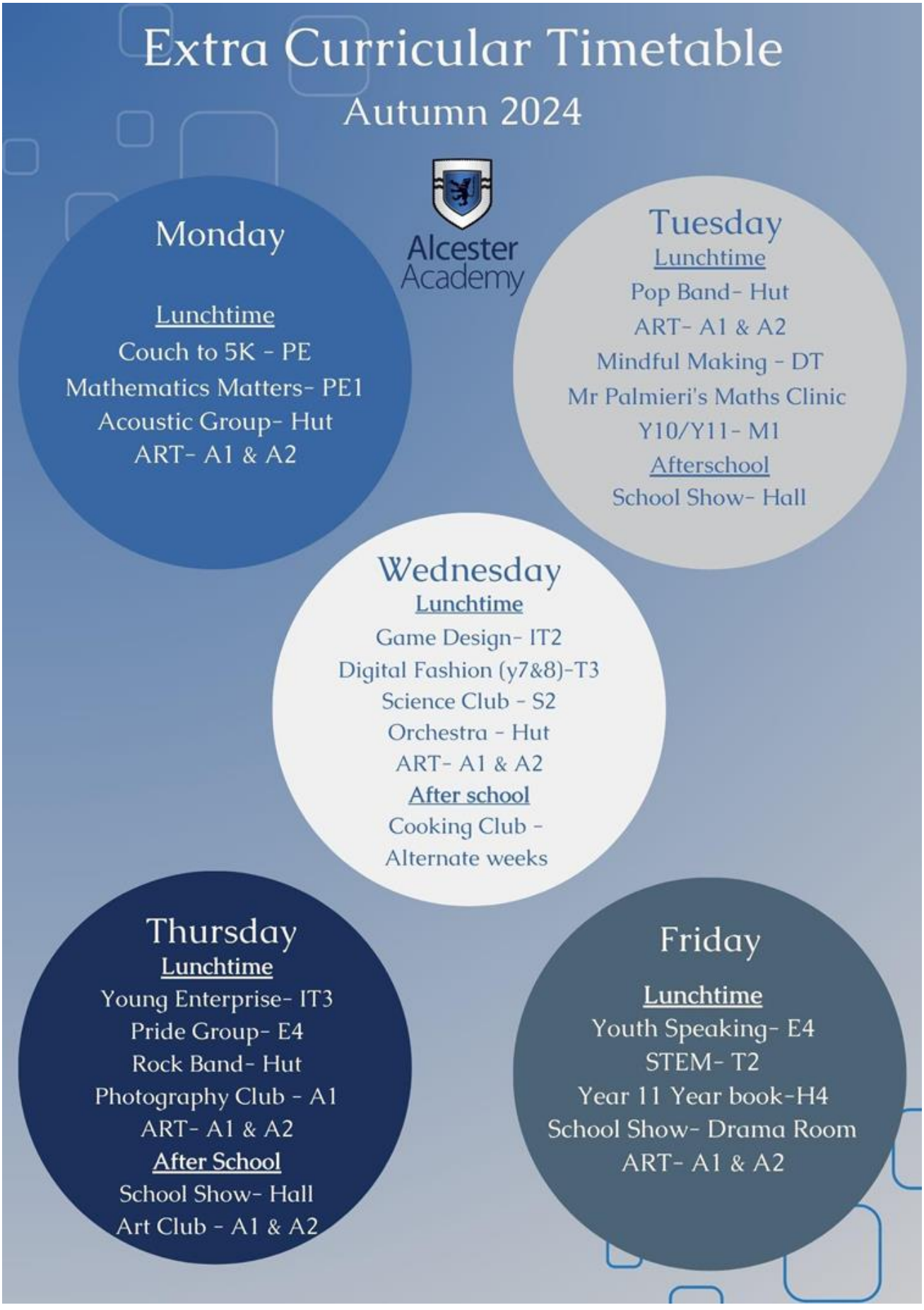
Thursday 24th October 2024—Year 11 Parents' Evening online 4-7pm

Thursday 7th November 2024—Year 11 Parent Forum online (revision theme) 5.30-7pm
This will be recorded and a link sent to year 11 parents

Parents' Evenings

Thursday 5th December 2024	Year 10 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud
Thursday 9th January 2025	Year 11 second Parents' Evening. Live in school.
Thursday 6th February 2025	Year 8 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud
Thursday 1st May 2025	Year 8 Options Evening. Live in school
Thursday 12th June 2025	Year 7 Parents' Evening SchoolCloud

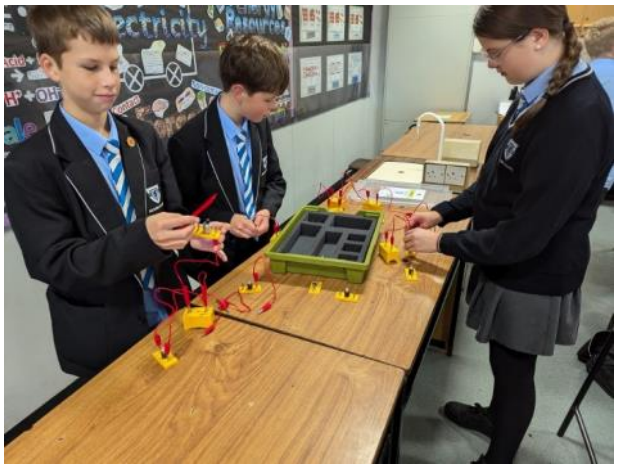
SchoolCloud is an online video service

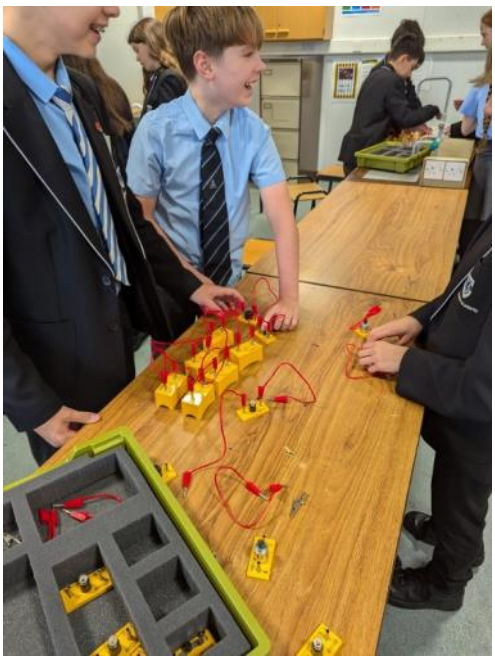

Extra Curricular Timetable
Autumn 2024
Alcester Academy
Monday
Lunchtime
Couch to 5K - PE
Mathematics Matters- PE1
Acoustic Group- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Tuesday
Lunchtime
Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mindful Making - DT
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
Y10/Y11- M1
Afterschool
School Show- Hall
Wednesday
Lunchtime
Game Design- IT2
Digital Fashion (y7&8)-T3
Science Club - S2
Orchestra - Hut
ART- A1 & A2
After school
Cooking Club -
Alternate weeks
Thursday
Lunchtime
Young Enterprise- IT3
Pride Group- E4
Rock Band- Hut
Photography Club - A1
ART- A1 & A2
After School
School Show- Hall
Art Club - A1 & A2
Friday
Lunchtime
Youth Speaking- E4
STEM- T2
Year 11 Year book-H4
School Show- Drama Room
ART- A1 & A2

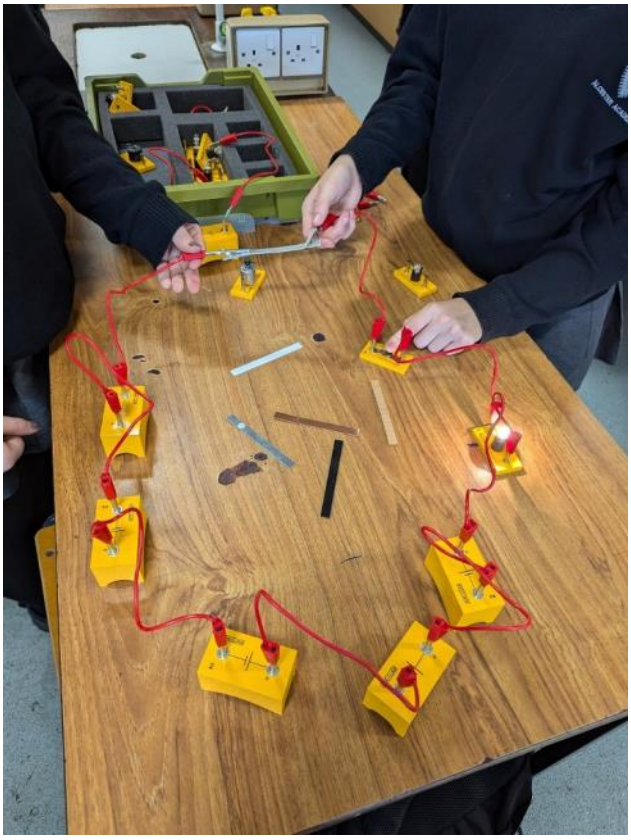
Exciting donation of Phizzi Electrical Kits from The Ogden Trust!

The science department is thrilled to announce a generous donation of Phizzi Electrical Kits, courtesy of The Ogden Trust. This gift will empower our students to explore the fascinating world of electricity through hands-on activities, making science more engaging and interactive.

The Phizzi Electrical kits are designed to bring classroom experiments to life, allowing students to build circuits, test electrical components, and deepen their understanding of key concepts in physics. The Ogden Trust, known for supporting science education, especially in the field of physics, has made it possible for our school to enhance its STEM curriculum and inspire future scientists.







These kits will provide our students with invaluable learning opportunities. We are grateful to The Ogden Trust for their ongoing support of science education and their commitment to fostering curiosity and discovery in young learners.

We look forward to integrating the Phizzi Electrical Kits into our lessons and can't wait to see the sparks of creativity and innovation they ignite in our students!
Mrs Marshall—Lead Science

Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance this week is 94.8%

Top tutors this week:

7LX with 98.4% attendance
8DA with 99.2% attendance
9PA with 97.6% attendance
10PL with 95.5% attendance
11HE with 100% attendance! Congratulations!

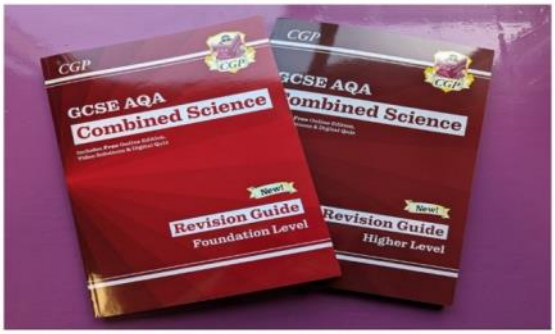
If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day.
This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk.
Thank you, Mrs Hatcher

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES

Calling all students:
science revision guides are now in stock!
Available from the science department, get yours today to help revise for your upcoming exams.

Prices:

Triple award: £10 (3 books)
Combined: £6.50 (1 book)
Please speak to a member of the department to get yours.



Army Careers Drop-in Session

This week we were delighted to hold our first Careers Zone Drop-in session of the academic year. We were visited by Cpl Gandy from the British Army, who delivered an insight into career paths to those students wanting to explore further options.

These sessions are available to all students and are a fabulous opportunity to be curious and ask questions about different industries within an informal setting. Following today's session Cpl Gandy will be coming back to the Academy to support a year 11 student with her application over the coming weeks. We are extremely grateful for his ongoing support.

If you feel you may be able to support one of our drop-ins to talk about your job, please feel free to contact Miss Bartlett, at: careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

New STEM Club

Calling all Harry Potter fans...

During the month of October—SCIENCE/STEM Club—will be running *Hocus Pocus* on Friday lunchtimes in Miss Tandy's classroom.

Starting on the first Friday in October, students can sign up on epraise to secure a place!

If you are interested in joining *Hocus Pocus* — you can speak to Miss Wincup or Miss Tandy for more details.

AGS 6th Form visit to Alcester Academy

We would like to thank Mr Slater, Vice Principle and Head of Sixth Form, at Alcester Grammar School for delivering an assembly to our year 11 students this morning.

This is the first opportunity our students have had to learn about a specific sixth form within the local area.

Please see the Post-16 Google Classroom for full details including vital open events.

Code: **wauovgl**

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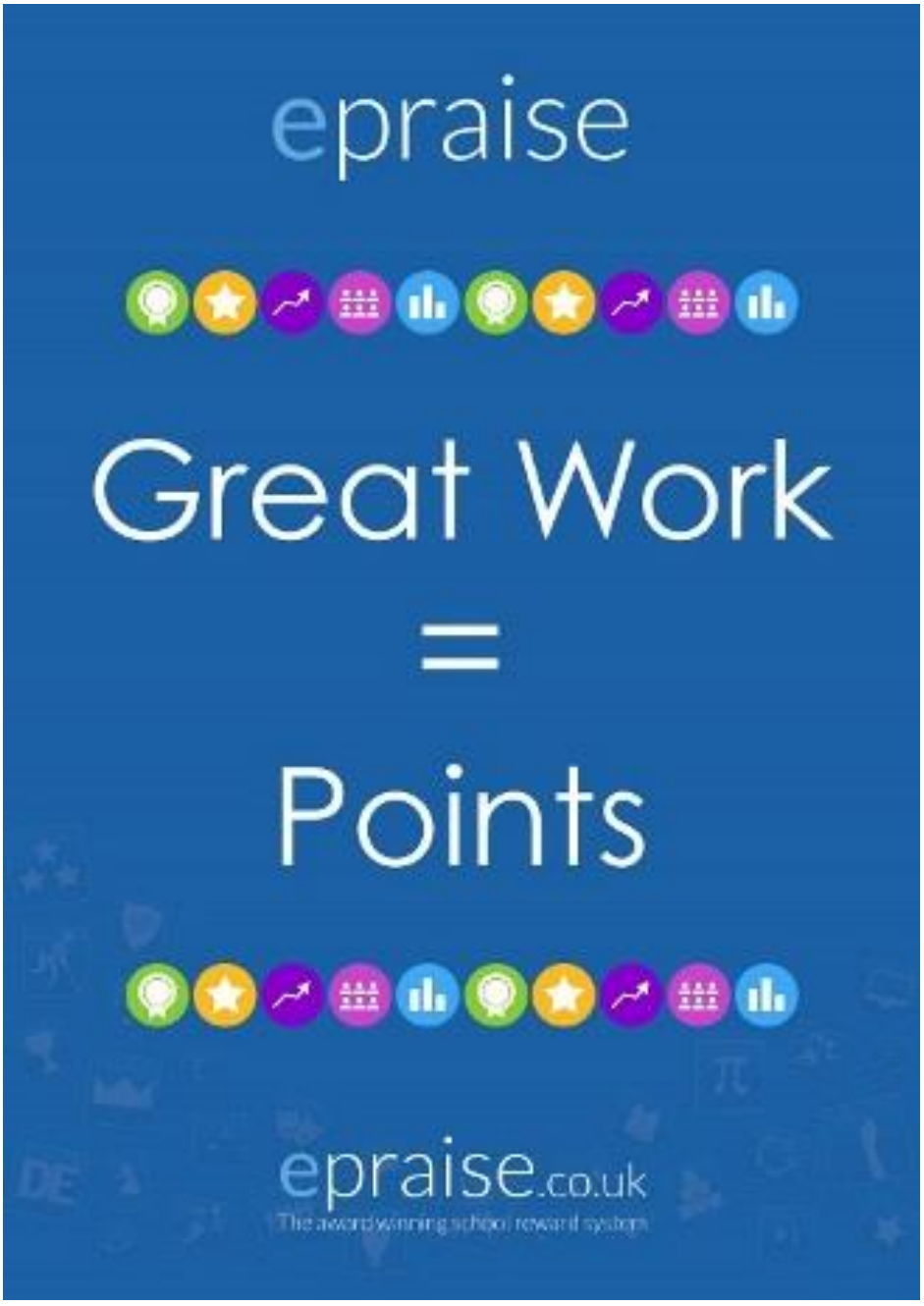
Alcester Grammar School



Cover Supervisor

Cover Supervisor

Salary subject to experience

NJC Scale J, starting at Scale point 6. Range 6 - 11

Completed applications by 12 noon on Friday 4th October 2024

Interviews week of 7th October 2024

Start date: 6th January 2025

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The School

Alcester Academy is a highly successful 11-16 school with 640 pupils currently on roll. Alcester is located between Studley and Stratford-upon-Avon. The school has an excellent reputation based on examination results, a progressive approach to educational development and a strong sense of community. At our last inspection in 2022, Ofsted judged us good. The school's overall average Progress 8 score for at least the last two years places us as one of the top performing non-selective schools in Warwickshire, and in the top 5% nationally.

Further details about the school can be found on our website (www.alcesteracademy.org.uk), including our current curriculum information. Our X (formerly Twitter) feed (@AlcesterAcademy) is another excellent source for a feel of the school.

Job Information

Responsible to: Cover Manager

The purpose of this role is to provide cover supervision for the whole class when the responsible teacher is on short-term absence.

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. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

Alcester Academy

Teaching Assistant Level 3

Full Time 1:1
Working term time only (39 weeks including 5 Teacher Training days)
Scale H range 17-22 FTE £28,770 starting salary
(Actual pro rata £24,746)
Immediate Start
Closing date: Friday 18th October 2024 at 12 noon
Interviews: TBC
This job may close early for the right candidate

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Learning Support at Alcester Academy

Working under the supervision of the responsible teacher, assist and support teaching and learning, working with individuals or groups, and assist in providing general care, safety and welfare for pupils.

The Post

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. Please send your completed application to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. **Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate.**

The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 18th October 2024. If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.
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.

Alcester Academy

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight

Will (year 10, Oversley) and Darcie (year 10, Greville) English School's Combined Events

I would like to congratulate Alcester Academy students Will and Darcie on competing at the English School's Athletics Combined events competition, held in Stoke last weekend. We are incredibly proud of the training and dedication from both of our athletes to reach the pinnacle of athletics competition within the UK. Despite the awful conditions, in true Alcester Academy spirit both Will and Darcie represented our county of Warwickshire exceptionally well and can both be very proud of their achievements. We are very lucky as a school to have such fantastic role models within the sport of athletics.

Fixture round up

It has been another brilliant week of fixtures for our boys football teams at Alcester Academy with our year 10 team putting in a fantastic performance against Arnold Lodge School in the District Cup. Our year 8 footballers continued their unbeaten start to the season with a 2-2 draw against AGS. We look forward to starting up our girls football teams over the coming weeks with practises scheduled ahead of upcoming fixtures.

Unfortunately, due to the rain on Wednesday the SW Year 11 Girls Netball Tournament had to be postponed. We will communicate at the earliest opportunity a rearranged date for this tournament.

Year 10 football v Arnold Lodge

Year 8 football v AGS

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Next Week's After School Clubs

****THIS WEEKS SPORT**: W/B 30/9/24**

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	No clubs – staff meeting	N/A
Tuesday	Year 7 Football v Studley – MO Archery (Selected group) - NA	Field Gym
Wednesday	Year 8 Football v Kenilworth – NA Year 7, 8 + 9 Girls Netball – MR/PE Year 10 + 11 Girls Football - MO	Field Courts Field
Thursday	Year 10+11 Boys Rugby – Gloucester Rugby Coach Year 10 + 11 Girls Netball - PE Year 7 and 8 Girls Football - MO	Field Courts Field

Next Week's Lunchtime Clubs

AUTUMN 1 LUNCHTIME SPORT

- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 16th September on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Lunchtime sport will follow a set timetable each half-term and run from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1)
- PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MON- NA	WED - PE	THURS - MO
16/9	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	Y11 INDOOR FOOTBALL
23/9	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS3)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS3)	Y11 INDOOR FOOTBALL
30/9	INDOOR ROWING TRIAL	INDOOR ROWING TRIAL	INDOOR ROWING (TRIAL)
7/10	INDOOR ROWING (TEAM)	INDOOR ROWING (TEAM)	INDOOR ROWING (TEAM)
14/10	BOYS BASKETBALL (KS4)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (KS4)	Y11 INDOOR FOOTBALL

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

FREE TRAINING COURSES FOR YEAR 5 AND ABOVE

BIKEABILITY

Improve your riding skills

Level 1 & 2 course runs
for 2 days
29th & 30th October
10:00am to 2:30pm

Level 3 course runs
for 1 day
31st October
9:00am to 12:00 midday

USE THE CODES BELOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

LEVEL 1 & 2

LEVEL 3

Venue is The
Eric Payne Community Centre
Off St Faiths Road
Alcester. B49 5AG

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Parade Day/Time

Senior section (12-18yrs)
Thursdays 18:30 to 20:30pm

At Sea Cadets, you'll learn recognised qualifications like BTECs and First Aid, gain new experiences, and meet new people.

You'll also develop problem-solving abilities and valuable life skills while participating in various activities such as powerboating, sailing, leadership, teamwork exercises, STEM projects, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and many more!

JOIN US
sea-cadets.org/evesham

UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL

Become the person you want to be – have fun on a different kind of adventure

MAKE WAVES

It doesn't matter if you've never been on a boat before, Sea Cadets gives you all the training and support you need to be part of an incredible experience. Get out on the water and hoist the sail of a yacht or learn how to navigate a power vessel.

"My confidence has increased so much through meeting new people and all the skills I've gained, which will come in really useful later in life."
Tyler, 14

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

MHST

Mental Health in Schools Team

Parent/Carer Tips For Wellness

Going back to school

Going back to school can bring up a lot of different feelings. For some young people going back to school is exciting, the thought of seeing friends or getting back into a routine. For others gong back can feel scary, the thought of new teachers or subjects, seeing friends or peers or being in a new environment.

Things to support your young person with when returning to school:

1. **Being prepared** – It can be helpful to encourage them to pack their school bag and get their uniform out the night before school, so that the morning is less rushed.
2. **Getting a good night's sleep** – Doing relaxing activities in the evening, such as having a bath, reading, listening to calming music and avoiding screen time for at least an hour before bed, can help your young person to feel more tired and fall asleep more easily. Setting a bedtime can support them in getting back into a good sleep routine and feel more rested.
3. **Take it one day at a time** – Remember it can take some time to get back into a routine. Lists can help to prioritise tasks and keep on top of homework.
4. **Try to focus on the positives** – Making a note of at least one thing that they liked or enjoyed about their day, every day, can boost their mood. This could be a small thing, such as making a joke with your friend or having something nice to eat for lunch.
5. **Try to form a morning routine** – A regular routine in the morning can help them to feel less rushed and reduce feelings of uncertainty. Try to set a morning alarm for the same time every day.

What to do if your child is finding change difficult:

- Help them to problem solve.
- Maintain hobbies, favourite family activities and routines to create a safety net if your child is struggling.
- Give them encouragement.
- Encourage them to open up by starting conversations about what they are interested in.

Scan for tips for going back to school

Scan for tips around sleep from the Sleep Charity

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.