

# Alcester Academy

## WEEKLY BULLETIN



28th January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon. We enjoyed a slightly calmer week at the Academy this week after Ofsted recently. There are currently no updates for you related to this.

The remainder of our year 7s completed their STEM Super Learning Day. Thank you to Miss Wincup for organising this, I enjoyed being able to spend some time seeing the students enjoy the activities. Our year 10s have started to get their exam results back. These are being collated and will be sent home to parents/carers. We are keeping year 10 exam papers in school at this current time just in case we might need to call on them for future evidence because of the pandemic. Let's hope not though! Our year 11 performing artists also jumped right in to their controlled assessment this week with energy and enthusiasm. Well done to our year 9 basketballers who had a victory on Monday against a local team!

epraise

It was *Feel Good Friday* here today. This means that staff sent out some uplifting emails to recognise particular students who might have gone above and beyond over recent weeks.

EPRAISE points are added to accounts also. Many congratulations to those students who were recognised this time around. We aim to try and do this each half term.

### Thank you!

Thank you so much to the anonymous parent who sent us flowers last Friday after our Ofsted Inspection. This was such a lovely gesture.



### Governors

Thank you to our entire Governing Body for their fastidious approach to supporting the students, staff and the local community led by Mike Dean, Chair of the Trust. I felt extremely blessed to have their presence around us during the recent inspection.



### Covid-19 updates

Current cases within year groups are:

- Year 7: 5 positive cases
- Year 8: 3 positive cases
- Year 9: 3 positive cases
- Year 10: 5 positive cases
- Year 11: 3 positive cases

Vigilance is still needed with regular lateral flow testing from home. Please can you send Mrs Hodges the NHS confirmation email when a positive test result has been posted. Thank you.

Under national guidance, we have offered students the opportunity now to remove face coverings if they wish to. Obviously, if they want to keep these on, this is absolutely fine. Some staff will be doing the same currently as well I know.

We have experienced slightly more staff who have contracted Covid. Thank you for their live teaching where possible and we send them and our poorly students our warm wishes for a swift recovery.



## Phone reminder

Can I just remind you that mobile phones should not be on or used during school hours. We have confiscated more phones than ever this week. Some of our younger students also feel able to use these for photographs or video purposes. This is absolutely against school rules on safeguarding grounds.

## Congratulations Lucas – year 8

Such fabulous writing in Geography.

*'It was a cold, crisp morning when we started our climb up Mont Blanc.*

*The cold frigid snow brushed our faces. As we got higher it felt like the mountain was sort of telling us not to go any further. By shaking snow going at a high speed to us not quite an avalanche but a warning. We didn't think much but my crew was elated but I was quite nervous. It could have just been me or I swear I could of heard screams simultaneously we started to see clumps of snow tumbling down.*

*The mountain was HUGE it was 4807 meters high and we were just over half way and were shattered. We decided to take a break, but that was a huge mistake. We had some food and drink, but the huge gusts of wind caught us by surprised and we went tumbling down the mountain. Fortunately I clung on, trembling with fear.'*

## Big Garden Birdwatch | The RSPB

Thank you to Mr Jones for highlighting to us all at school that it is the *Big Garden Bird Watch* this weekend. Please see the link to enjoy resources and more detail associated with this.



### How to take part...

*Count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between*

*28 and 30 January 2022.*

*Go to [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) to tell us what you saw. Whatever you saw – even if nothing at all – please let us know using the online function via the website. The more people that submit their findings, the better picture we will have of how garden birds are faring. There are key birds to identify on the RSPB website.*

*The RSPB stated: In 2021, more than one million people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch, all coming together to look out for birds. Why not join in and be one in a million for 2022?*

*Shockingly, we have lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 50 years, so it really is vital we do all we can to look after our birdlife.*

*As a conservation charity, we depend on your support to save nature and to look after places where wildlife can thrive. By taking part in Big Garden Birdwatch, you can also make a difference. Wherever you are, whatever you see, it counts!*



**giving  
nature  
a home**

## Year 11 Saturday School Schedule

We sent out the new Saturday School schedule this week. Please note that Geography on 5th February is now online via TEAMS and not in school. Thanks to staff for providing this for the students.

## Bus Behaviour Contracts

We will be chasing up those contracts not yet returned to us as a matter of importance.

## New AGS Principal

I am pleased to announce that Alcester Grammar School has appointed a new Principle called Rachel Thorpe. Rachel is currently Deputy Head at Pate's Grammar School and Director of Odyssey Teaching School Hub. She begins at AGS in June. We extend a very warm welcome to Rachel on behalf of the Alcester Academy community.

## Student Take Over

I promise to secure a student edition of the bulletin before half term. I'm hoping that the delay is due to the in-depth interviews being conducted. Let's see soon!



Wishing you a crisp and sunny weekend ahead. Thank you for your on-going support. The landscape seems a little calmer now (Ofsted aside) and I look forward to a Spring full of greater opportunities for us all.

Best wishes  
Sarah Mellors  
Headteacher

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Lego Club is now in full swing. Look at these amazing creations inspired by the National History Museum Lego Space World Series.

**Felix Dennis Young Poets Competition 2022**

Win up to £300

**Judges include**  
Alex Wharton  
Performance Poet and Author

**Who can enter?**  
Anyone aged 5 to 21 years living in the UK

**What's the deadline?**  
5.30pm on Friday 4th March 2022

**What's the prize?**  
5 to 10 years: £100  
11 to 16 years: £200  
17 to 21 years: £300

**PLUS** The winning and selected best poems will be published in a special Festival book

**How to enter**  
Poems can be on any theme but a maximum of 600 words. Only one entry per person.

Submit your entry as a Word document attachment only. The file name must be your name and age. Please also include your name and address at the top of the document and email it to: [info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk)

Please go to [www.stratlitfest.co.uk](http://www.stratlitfest.co.uk)  
For full details of how to enter

**Stratford Literary Festival**  
[stratlitfest.co.uk](http://stratlitfest.co.uk)

**We're back!**

It's the Alcester & Bidford Rotary

**Charity Breakfast**

Still only **£6** or go large for **£8**

ENJOY A FRESHLY COOKED FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST AND HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR GOOD CAUSES IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.

**Crawford Hall, Bidford**  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
9.00am – 12 noon

**Alcester Town Hall**  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
8.30am – 12 noon

For more information please email [alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com](mailto:alcesterbidfordrotary@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk](http://www.alcesterbidfordrotary.co.uk)

**Rotary**  
Alcester & Bidford

Organised by Rotary with the generous support of Bidford Co-op, Clay Hall Farm Eggs, Freemans, Plato, Simply Fresh, Waitrose and other local businesses

## Epraise Updates—last 7 days



### Top Students—last 7 days:

1	Jack	8KA	36 points
2	Lucas	8PW	30 points
3	Katie	9ST	29 points
3	Morgan	9YA	29 points
5	Hannah	10BI	28 points
5	Orly	11HK	28 points
5	Billy	8KA	28 points
5	Chloe	10MA	28 points
5	Maisie	10MA	28 points
5	Charlie	8SO	28 points

### Top Subjects—last 7 days:

1	Science	456 points
2	Art	435 points
3	Geography	409 points
4	Maths	403 points
5	IT	363 points
6	English	343 points
7	PE	280 points
8	History	169 points
9	German	155 points
10	French	149 points

### Top Tutor Groups—last 7 days:

1	11BR	296 points
2	10MA	270 points
3	8SO	233 points
4	8KA	228 points
5	7TY	224 points
6	7WI	217 points
6	8PW	217 points
8	7SI	195 points
9	9YA	194 points
10	9ST	193 points

### Top Staff—last 7 days:

1	Mrs Mellors	911 points
2	Mr Martin	380 points
3	Mr Bowater	365 points
4	Mr Powell	357 points
5	Mr Yarrington	348 points
6	Miss Burgess	244 points
7	Mr Bastock	214 points
8	Miss Home	205 points
9	Miss Lewis	163 points
10	Miss Heitmuller	158 points



### School Attendance — up to 27.1.22

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
91.5%	92.7%	92.4%	90.5%	89.7%	91.4%

### This week's top tutor groups

7TY – 96.3%, 8SO – 93.1%, 9YA – 92.2%, 10LE – 95.9% and 11HO – 89.4%.

*Well done! Mrs Hodges*

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

## Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable

### Year 11

GCSE Mock Exams 2 — weeks beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February & 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 GCSE Examinations — Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May — Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
*(these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently)*  
 GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - all students must be available

### Year 10

Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
 Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Year 9

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 4-6.30pm  
 Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March & 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### Year 8

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 - 4-6.30pm  
 In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 Options Evening — Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 — time tbc  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Year 7

Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – 4-6.30pm  
 Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
 In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
 Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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## Term Dates 2022

### SPRING TERM 2022

Half Term Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
 Back to school Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

May Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Half Term Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022  
 Back to school Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Summer Term ends Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 12.40pm

**[2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)**

## Year 11 Saturday School Timetable

		Session 1	Time	School or Online	Session 2	Time	School or Online
Saturday	5.2.22	Geography	10-12noon	Online			
Saturday	12.2.22	Science	10-1pm	School Hall			
Monday	21.2.22	Chemistry	10-12 noon	School			
Saturday	26.2.22	English	10-12 noon	Online			
Saturday	5.3.22	Maths	9-11am	School	French Speaking	11-1pm	School

## Year 11 Revision Timetables

WEEK A	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Maths (by invitation only)	
Tuesday	English (by invitation only)	Maths
Wednesday	DT	English
Thursday	Biology triple	Physics triple
Friday	Combined Science	Chemistry triple

WEEK B	Lunchtime	After school (3.30-4.30pm)
Monday	Art/Photography Maths (by invitation only)	
Tuesday	Art/Photography	PTE
Wednesday	German (MFL2) Performing Arts/Music	iMedia and Computer Science Performing Arts/Music
Thursday	French (MFL1)	Art/Photography Chemistry triple
Friday	Geography	

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

### 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.**

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

### Practices and Fixtures

We have several fixtures coming up, so it is important that students attend in order to be considered for teams.

#### PE Practices/Fixtures: week beginning 31st January 2022

Tuesday 1st February:  
Year 8 Archery (Invitation letters issued)



Wednesday 2nd February:  
Year 8 Basketball v St.Bede's (Home) (Invitation letters issued)



Thursday 3rd February:  
Year 7 & 8 Sports Hall Athletics Practice

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible. Normal school PE kit is required. All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups. For Fixtures a separate team sheet including all the necessary details will be sent out via parentmail.



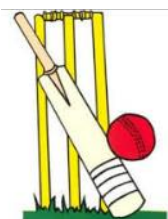
### Warwickshire Cricket Board February Half Term—Girls Only Cricket Camp

**Kineton School on the 24th and 25th February 2022 from 10-2pm.**

**Ages 7-14, Girls of all abilities welcome.**

**£25 per day or £40 for 2 day booking.**

**Girls of all abilities welcome!**



**Booking link:**

**[WCB - February Half Term—Girls 2-day Cricket Camp](#)**

