Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you have had a good week. Thank you to so many of you who have supported us this week by collecting poorly children during the day. The winter viruses have certainly taken hold this week and we have seen a huge impact in school on attendance. Let's hope that we can recover before term ends so that everyone is healthy again before the Christmas break.

DfE Attendance Target

The DfE have published our new school attendance target at 94%. Naturally, we aim for much higher than this every single week. Education Secretary sets roadmap to improve attendance levels - GOV.UK

Rock Academy

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Greig Hall on Tuesday for our Rock Academy concert—*A Tribute to The Prince of Darkness*.

Thank you for your support and to the staff team for making this happen for our fabulous musicians. It was an awesome evening, and it was so lovely to chat to so many of you there.

What's inside this week

Page 6	***Review—Spectacular Performances of Grease the Musical***
Page 8	***Help Us Stock Our Shelves***
Page 14	***Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard***
Page 16	***Sports News***

Miss Sacco has included a comprehensive update on last week's exceptional performances of Grease for your interest. See page 6.

Congratulations to our School Captains for raising over £500 across the three nights for their chosen House charities, too.

Billesley—
Teenage Cancer Trust: £210.83

Greville—
WWF: £148.12

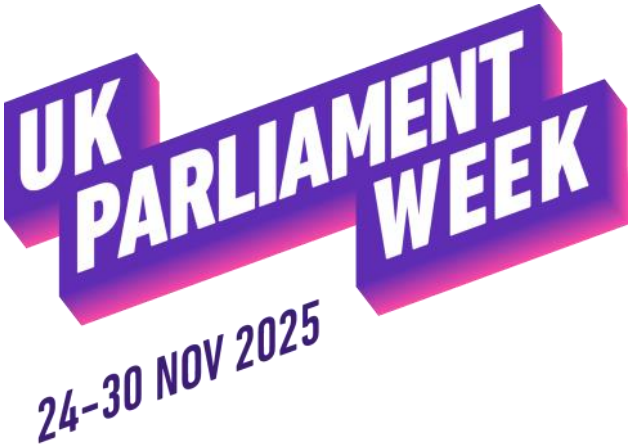
Oversley—
Race Equality Foundation: £87.28

Ragley—
PTA (Friends of Alcester Academy): £74.72

This week

We celebrated the United Nations World Children's Day in assemblies this week and then in an extended tutor time on Wednesday, we were lucky enough to secure a live link into Parliament for year 8, 9 and 10, to hear about the work of our MPs as part of a dedicated week for the nation.

We were very grateful to have this opportunity. Our MP sadly could not join us on Wednesday, but we have managed to rearrange this opportunity and all being well, Manuela Perteghella will be in school to speak with all students before we break up this term.
Home | UK Parliament Week



Congratulations to year 11s on their first full week of mock examinations. These continue next week, therefore 3:2 days also carry on.

Class of 2025

We welcomed back Class of 2025 on Wednesday evening in order to collect their GCSE certificates. It was a delight to see everyone and catch up on their news from this term. Good luck everyone.

Welcome this week

We extend a warm welcome this week to our new invigilators who are supporting year 11 mocks. We also welcome Mrs Ball, our new SENCo who started on Wednesday with us. Mrs Ball will be introducing herself to you in one of our future bulletin editions before Christmas.

Ofsted Updates

Parent View has been updated again in light of the new toolkit published recently. Please do continue to add your views when you get time. Those views posted in October, are now archived.

Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View

Are you ready for the National Year of Reading in 2026?

Parents urged to read more to boost children's life chances - GOV.UK

The call comes as the Department for Education and National Literacy Trust join forces to launch a National Year of Reading, starting in January 2026 to kick start a reading revolution. It will aim to reverse the trend, as just one in three aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2025.

Bringing together parents, schools, libraries, businesses and literacy experts, the campaign aims to foster a love of reading for pleasure in children and young people, ensuring all children get the best start in life.

The UK is experiencing a profound, generational decline in reading enjoyment.

Evidence from the National Literacy Trust's Annual Literacy Survey (2025) reveals that only one in three children and young people aged 8 to 18 reported enjoying reading in their free time, while just one in five read something daily. International comparisons further highlight this challenge: according to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS, 2021), only 29% of pupils aged 9 to 10 in England said they "very much like reading," significantly below the international average of 46%.

GO ALL IN | National Year of Reading – FAQs

Warwickshire Home-School Transport Consultation

Warwickshire have now launched parent consultation events around their proposals: Have Your Say Join Warwickshire's Home to School Transport Consultation Events! - Warwickshire County Council

Water Bottles

Please could you be sure that students have access to a water bottle that is refillable? Thank you. Sadly, we cannot afford to keep giving out disposable cups for students. There are four key points around school where there are water dispensers.

Scholar's Programme Years 7-10

I had an interesting catch up with Miss Elliott this week discussing the progress of our Young Scholar's. We will be looking at their work to date in our next meeting together. Thanks for your hard work everyone!

End of term reward trips

Congratulations to students who received their reward trip invitation in Wave 1 this week. We are really proud of you all. Thank you for always working with us.

Early Finish—Friday 19th December

We will break up at 12.40pm, on Friday 19th December. Students will be released from 12.25pm, in order to get a steady and safe exit from school. I will write to you with specific detail nearer the time. Please be aware of the one way traffic system that we operate at the end of term on Gerard Road. This significantly helps the flow of vehicles and keeps everyone safe. Thank you.

Thank you to our science and French staff team who are in school tomorrow for year 11 Saturday School. This is now the last weekend student event of this calendar year. Our PTA however will be on their Round Table Santa Run Tuesday 16th December around the Birmingham Road area. Please look out for them!

Finally, Mr Anderson will take the reins next week with an IT Safety Bulletin edition. I'll be back with you therefore in two weeks.

Wishing you all a super weekend. And do get better soon to those students and staff who are feeling under the weather right now.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

Christmas Tree Topper House Competition
Can you create a Christmas Tree topper that shines as bright as a star?
All tree toppers must be made in the colour of your individual House
Which house will come out on top?
The Deadline for all completed Christmas Tree Toppers is Friday 5th December
Please hand all entries to Miss McKenzie

ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS
Family BINGO Night
Friday 30th January
Doors Open 6.30pm — Eyes down 7.00pm
1 Book (6 Games) - £2
6 Books (6 Games) - £10
Bar
Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available
Pre-booking recommended.
Book now online or via the school office.
https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

ALCESTER ACADEMY
CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION
Do you love Christmas?
Are you creative and enjoy Art?
Mrs Mellors is on the look out for a unique Alcester Academy Christmas Card Design that will be distributed to members of our local community to wish them all a 'Merry Christmas!'
The Deadline for designs is Monday 1st December
*Please hand in designs to your tutors

Alcester Academy Shines in Spectacular Performances of Grease the Musical

What an incredible week it was at Alcester Academy last week as our students took to the stage for three superbly attended performances of Grease the Musical. From the very first notes of *Grease is the Word* to the final moments of We *Go Together*, the energy, excitement and talent displayed on stage created an atmosphere we will all remember for a very long time. Each night ended with a standing ovation, and the joy this brought to our cast was truly heart-warming. Their faces said it all—a mixture of pride, disbelief and absolute delight.

One of the most special parts of this year's production is the sheer scale of student involvement. One in four members of our entire Academy took part in the show, whether performing on stage, running tech, working backstage, supporting costume changes, or helping with set and scene transitions. It was not just a musical; it was a genuine whole school effort where every role—big or small—contributed to the outstanding final product. The sense of teamwork and community spirit was evident in every rehearsal and every performance.

We would like to express a huge thank you to the Friends of Alcester Academy, who provided refreshments each night and ran the raffle. Their support makes a huge difference to our productions, both financially and in creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere for families. A very special thank you must also go to Mr Millen and Mr Jones for returning to run the bar, even in the freezing cold—their commitment and good humour did not go unnoticed.

We are also incredibly grateful for the support shown to our Young Enterprise teams, for whom this was their first ever live event. They handled themselves with professionalism and confidence, and it was wonderful to see the community engaging with their products and encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all the dignitaries, governors and community members who joined us in the audience throughout the week—your presence and support meant a great deal to our students and staff.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr Palmieri and Miss Lee for their commitment throughout the rehearsal process and the performance week itself. Their energy, encouragement and willingness to go above and beyond made a huge difference to both staff and students. And of course, a huge special mention must go to Mrs Lewis, whose outstanding work on the props this year was nothing short of phenomenal. Her creativity brings each production to life in ways that are utterly unique to Alcester Academy, and we feel incredibly lucky to have her.

We would also like to recognise the generosity of our audiences who kindly donated loose change at the end of each performance in support of our House charities. We are delighted to share the totals:

Billesley—Teenage Cancer Trust: £210.83

Greville—WWF: £148.12

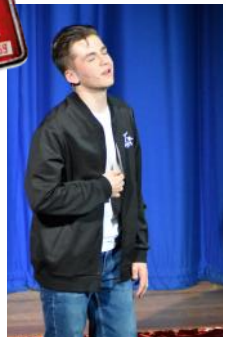
Oversley—Race Equality Foundation: £87.28

Ragley—Friends of Alcester Academy: £74.72

Total raised: £520.95

As we look back on this remarkable week, what stands out most is not just the talent on stage, but the confidence gained, friendships formed, resilience built and memories created. Whether students were dancing in the spotlight or quietly moving scenery in the wings, they were part of something bigger—something that brought our school together and showcased the very best of Alcester Academy.

Miss Sacco



Help Us Stock Our Shelves: The School Library's Amazon Wishlist!

Our Learning Resource Centre School Library (LRC) is a vital hub for learning, imagination, and discovery, but keeping our collection fresh, diverse, and up-to-date is an ongoing challenge. We want to ensure every student can find a book that sparks their curiosity and supports their studies, but our budget can only stretch so far.

Why a Wishlist?

We've created and are continuing to add to a special Amazon Wishlist filled with titles that our librarian, teachers, and students will be excited about! This list includes:

- **Bestsellers and New Releases**: Books that students are buzzing about and requesting now.
- **Diverse Voices**: Stories that reflect the rich diversity of our school and the wider world.
- **Non-Fiction Resources**: Up-to-date materials to support classroom assignments and independent research in science, history, and more.
- **Graphic Novels and Manga**: High-interest items that help engage reluctant readers.

By using the Wishlist, you can purchase a book that goes directly to the school library. It's a simple, transparent way to know exactly what your donation is providing for our students. Every book donated becomes a shared resource for the entire school community for years to come!

How You Can Help

Supporting the library has never been easier! Here's how you can make a difference today:

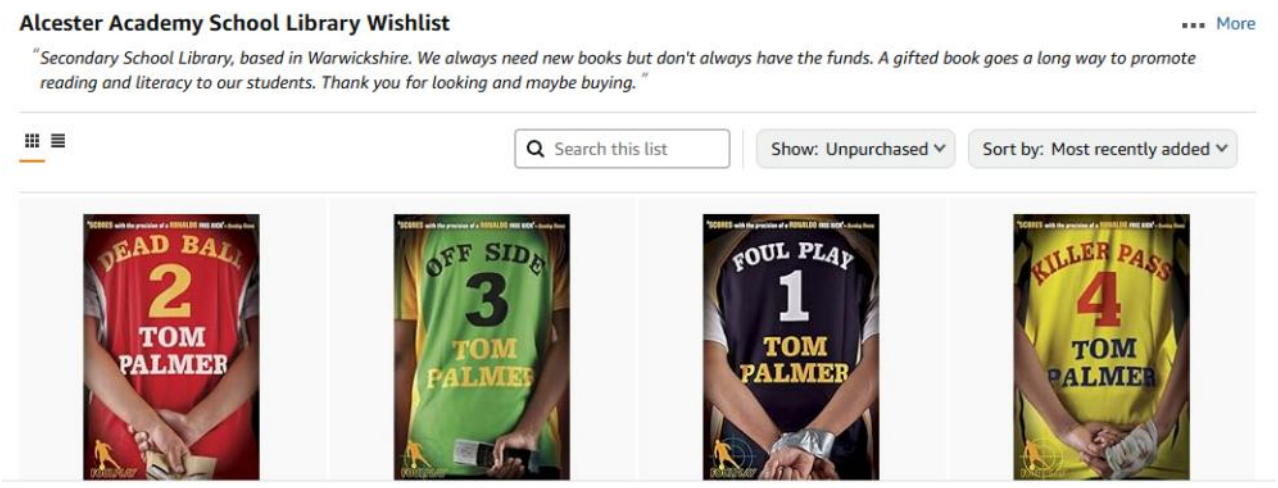
- **Find the List**: You can access the Wishlist by visiting https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EPAIJEMK3OSC?ref_=wl_share

Please note that it is no longer possible to directly search for a 'wishlist' on Amazon, and so this link is the only way to find it.

- **Pick Your Book**: Browse the items and choose a book (or several!) that you'd like to donate.
- **Check Out**: When purchasing, select the school's address (often listed as the "Gift Registry Address" during checkout) so the book is shipped right to us. Don't forget to include your name in the gift message if you'd like a thank-you note!

Even purchasing a single paperback can make a significant impact on our collection and put a smile on a student's face. Thank you in advance for helping us nurture a lifelong love of reading and learning in all our students! For more information, please contact the LRC Manager juliehands@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Mrs Hands—LRC Manager



Key Dates This Term

Wednesday 3rd December—Friends PTA meeting online 7.30pm

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

Friday 12th December—Christmas rewards trips for years 7, 8 and 9

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

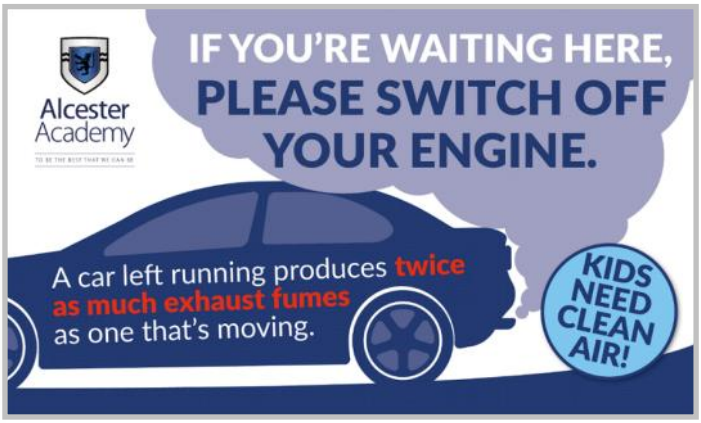
Wednesday 17th December—Year 9 Enrichment Super Learning Day

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

Thursday 18th December—Christmas rewards trips for years 10 and 11

Friday 19th December—Break up at 12.40pm

This list is not exhaustive.



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 after the a19th August 2024.

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 each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

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 (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A penalty notices will be 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

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

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 parents are asked to review the data collection form on MCAS. If you need to make changes, please do so via MCAS or email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

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.

Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 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

Examination Invigilators

£13.68 per hour, claimed monthly

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 12th December 2025

Interviews: January 2026

Start date: To be confirmed

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.

Alcester Academy

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
21th—27th November 2025

Top Positive Point Students:

1	Max	8BW	Greville	14 points
2	Lottie-Dot	10YA	Ragley	11 points
2	Olivia	10GA	Billesley	11 points
4	Min-Seo	10GA	Oversley	10 points
4	Liv	10YA	Greville	10 points
4	Thomas	7LX	Billesley	10 points
4	Isla	10GA	Greville	10 points
4	Abi	7LX	Oversley	10 points
4	Ruby	7LX	Greville	10 points
4	Daniel	10GA	Oversley	10 points

Top Positive Point House:

1	Oversley	534 points
2	Greville	533 points
3	Billesley	530points
4	Ragley	506 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

1	10YA	146 points
2	7LX	138 points
3	7PA	134 points
4	10GA	133 points
5	7WI	119 points

Top Positive Point Subjects:

1	Maths	293 points
2	English	291 points
3	Art	246 points

Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Mr Hall	406 points
2	Mr Yarrington	363 points
3	Mrs Weatherley	245 points

Facilities Supervisor (to include out of hours lettings)

Scale G, scale point 11, £28,142

Closing Date: 12 noon, 5th December 2025

Starting: As soon as available

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Academy is looking to recruit a Facilities Supervisor. This is an exciting opportunity for an individual to gain experience in facilities management, whilst managing Health and Safety compliance in a school environment.

We are looking for someone who is fully committed to working in a front-line service role and providing excellent customer service to support the Academy. The successful candidate will have experience of managing Health and Safety and of working within a facilities team. The candidate will also be experienced in undertaking minor project works from concept to completion. The ability to communicate effectively and confidently is essential to the post.

This post requires the successful candidate to be flexible in their working approach in order to facilitate school lettings.

The Application Process

To apply for this role, forward a completed application form and equal opportunities monitoring form and a covering letter outlining why you feel that your skills and experience would equip you to take on this role, by email to: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 5th December 2025.
Interviews - tbc.

If you have any queries about the role or would like to discuss it in more detail, please email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Elements of this job description may be negotiated at the request of either party and with the agreement of both.

Alcester Academy

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Weekly Sport Roundup

Year 9 Boys South Warwickshire Football Tournament

Our year 9 boys continuing to reach incredible success within sport, following up their basketball tournament win, with another District victory in the football tournament held at Stratford School.

The students came away from the tournament with six wins and a draw, finishing in 1st place out of our eight district schools. A brilliant achievement to all involved, many congratulations to you all.

Year 10 Netball v AGS

Two year 10 teams took on AGS in a friendly netball match this week. It was brilliant to have two teams participate in this fixture.

The A Team won their match and the B Team lost a close contest against some strong opposition. Well done to all who participated and represented the school in this fixture.

Cross Country Results

Many congratulations to our three cross country runners who represented Warwickshire last weekend at an Inter-County event, held in Dudley. We are incredibly proud of our county runners who put in some outstanding performances.

Marijke—1st
Will—6th
Poppy—30th

A special mention to Marijke who won her age group race. To finish in 1st place at any inter-county event is a phenomenal achievement.

Mr Moffatt—Lead PE & Sports

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Next week's sport

NEXT WEEK'S SPORT
W/B 1/12/25

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 9 and 10 Netball- PE	Courts
Tuesday	Year 9 Girls SW Football tournament– MO Archery Club (Selected students) - NA	Stratford Gym
Wednesday	All years Rugby training– Gloucester coaches/MO Year 7 and 8 Netball- PE	Field Courts

Lunchtime sport

AUTUMN 2 LUNCHTIME SPORT

- Starting w/b Monday 10th November on a Monday and Tuesday.
- Follows the set timetable each half-term from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1) in the Gym
- PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear

w/b	MON - MO	TUES - NA
10/11	Year 11 Indoor Football	KS3 Badminton
17/11	Year 11 Indoor Football	KS4 Badminton
24/11	Year 11 Indoor Football	KS3 Badminton
1/12	Year 11 Indoor Football	KS4 Badminton

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Home to School Transport in Warwickshire

Help shape the future of school transport

We'd love to hear from families, carers, and young people about how we can make home-to-school transport better for those that need it.

How to get involved:

- Attend one of our drop-in or online events
- Respond online at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk
- Call us on 01926 410410
- Email: hometoschooltransport@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Post your response to: Transport Delivery (consultation) Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SP.

Consultation closes 4 January 2026.

Scan for more information including online survey, consultation events and Easy Read versions

/WarksLocalOffer

Warwickshire County Council

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FOR UNDER 18s

Calling all nature lovers, photographers and curious explorers!

Join our Nature Photography Challenge to discover, record and celebrate Alcester's amazing wildlife and habitats.

This could be wildlife, plants, trees, insects or landscapes from around Alcester

OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 TO AUGUST 2026

Submit your best photos and the winners will feature in the 2027 Alcester in the Wild Calendar.

info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

Wassail!

Join Alcester Court Leet for a magical evening, with a torchlit procession and a blessing of the apple trees in the community orchard.

The White Hart Morris men will provide music and dance, and the Sealed Knot re-enactment group will demonstrate their muskets in a spectacular display. There will also be a number of activities, including:

- Make a natural crown (with a prize for the best one)
- Free hot dogs for children
- Hot dogs, burgers, cider & hot drinks available (cash bar)
- Hook-an-Apple game

Saturday 17th January, 2026 - there is no charge to take part.

Activities will take place in the Eric Payne centre from 2pm, with the procession leaving at 4:30pm. Please dress warmly, wear shoes suitable for wet grass and bring a torch. **Plus** - bring a saucepan & wooden spoon, to make some noise!

EARLES

Proudly sponsored by Earles Estate Agent and Chartered Surveyors