Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, I extend my thanks to you for your continued support this week. I do appreciate that this lockdown is more wearing than the last in many ways and we are very aware of trying to look after the students as much as possible throughout this period. On Wednesday this week we all heard from the Prime Minister that schools will not open after February half term, and that he hopes it will be safe to start reopening them from 8th March. That means another four weeks minimum of learning remotely. As we hear more about this situation, we will keep you updated of course.

Miss Buckthorp has put together some student wellbeing reminders within the bulletin that might help your lockdown to be as positive as possible. Please reach out to school if you need any support. We are making many lockdown wellbeing voice and video calls as well as Covid safe home visits too. I was absolutely horrified to read in the media of children recording work on toilet paper and alike this week! There is absolutely no need for you to be struggling at home. If you need any equipment right now, you must contact us as a matter of urgency karenbuckthorp@alceseracademy.org.uk. This includes families where siblings are still sharing laptops. We can't promise an instant solution to this but we will work rapidly on it for these families.

Our Subject leaders tweeted some outstanding student work this week. Please follow us @AlcesterAcademy

SLT met this week with the Head Boy and Head Girl in order to canvass some more views on home learning from the students' perspective. It was so lovely to see them! We chatted through how the online learning was going and how we could support student wellbeing further. Louisa and Tom will be helping us to do the same thing with students from other year groups over the next few weeks, and we will be reaching out to seek parent opinions too.

Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2021

Half Term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Back to school	Monday 22nd February 2021
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Thursday 1st April 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

Summer Term begins	Monday 19th April 2021
May Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2021
Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021
Back to school	Tuesday 8th June 2021
Summer Term ends	Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm
School closed	*Wednesday 21st July 2021*
	Teacher training day

Super Learning Days

We will be launching our first lockdown SLD before half term. If you recall, during the summer months, these proved to be a popular distraction from the screen style learning. It will be no surprise to hear that wellbeing will be the theme of the first SLD. More details to follow. Year 11s will be permitted to have a catch-up day if they do not wish to participate whilst we are collecting the evidence for their summer assessed grades.

February half term

School will be closed over February half term. This follows the national picture. Parents and students entitled to benefits related free school meals will receive vouchers to cover this period to the value of £21 per eligible child. Thank you to Mrs Kirby for sorting these out again for parents.

Attendance to live sessions

This week, we tracked attendance to Tuesday tutor time and year 9 and 10 lesson attendance on Wednesday 26th January as follows:

Tutor time —Tuesday 8.45am
Year 7 - 86%
Year 8 - separate assembly in place of tutor time 76%
Year 9 - 64% based on only 3 groups
Year 10 - 65%
Year 11 - 58%

TARGET
As you can see we would appreciate some further support from home to encourage attendance at tutor time on a Tuesday. This is via Google Meet. We are using tutor time to touch base on wellbeing with students and attendance is vital. Thank you.

This week we took an attendance snap shot of year 9 and 10s on Wednesday. Across the day, year 9 averaged at 79% participation in real time lessons and year 10 at 86%. Like me, I'm sure that you would agree that we could probably try and improve this considerably please. If you are struggling with lack of devices still at home, please contact us. We will be doing some spot checks next week and contacting you if students are not in class.

Year 8 Options

It was so lovely to talk to year 8 this week about their options process. All materials will be placed on the designated website area https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/options. We will be running a series of daily assemblies very soon where subject leaders will talk about their courses in person with the year 8s. Watch this space!

Website

We are well aware that our photographs are very out dated on the website. We are waiting for a safe visit from a photographer when we also have children back in school. Thanks for your understanding especially if you are a parent who has children featured that have now left us!

Parent View – Your opinions

Thanks to the five parents who completed Parent View last week. I'm grateful. Statistically, we need a lot more responses before the data becomes visible please. If you could spare the time to complete this, I'd be really grateful. Thank you again!
https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views

Headteacher Challenge

Thank you for the entries to the Biden Challenge this week. Many congratulations Rosie in year 9, declared as the winner!
All entries gain epraise points and the winner each week gets entered into a £50 prize voucher draw.
This week: Create or find a MEME to positively represent learning from home! Entries to me by Thursday 4th March by 9am
head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Year 11 Holocaust work. Thank you to the various departments for thinking about Holocaust on Wednesday's memorial day. Such excellent work was produced.

The weather never smiled,
Nor as the sun were bright,
A forever lonely sky weeping into the night,
Far down below, the citizens of death mocked by hope of release,
Envied those who could now eventually rest in peace.

Suspended between desperation for death
And craving the pleasure of life,
Despite the silver lining,
All were born to die.

The shrill scream of a whistle from a cold tin shell
Echoes through the minds of those haunted…
Until it doesn't anymore.

Well done Michael in year 11.

Be sure to try and get some quality family time this weekend. I extend my thanks as always to you all and the staff without ever taking this for granted. The continued hard work of our community right now is just amazing.

Reach out if you need us.

Very best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

epraise news—week ending 27.1.21

Congratulations to the Top Students:
1st—Jack—Year 7 SECOND WEEK
2nd—Maya—Year 7 SECOND WEEK
Equal 3rd—Kaitlyn— Year 9 NEW
Equal 3rd—Isabelle— Year 9 STANDING FIRM

Topping the charts in other years:
Year 8—Josh STILL THERE!
Year 10—Dan STANDING FIRM—WELL DONE
Year 11—Archie STANDING FIRM—WELL DONE

Top Tutor Groups:
1st—7HT
2nd—7TY
3rd—7BW

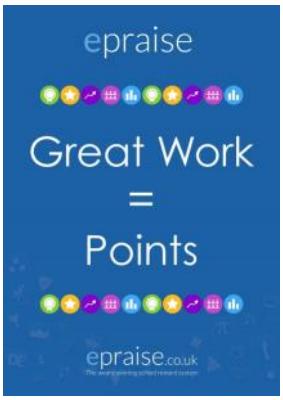
No change this week. Well done year 7s

Top Subject and Staff:

Science leads as a subject again this week. Go science AGAIN! WOW!

Mr Bastock leads on the staff board with Mr Yarrington in second place.

Well done everyone!
Mrs Mellors



Photography of the Week

Some outstanding macro photography created by one of our very talented year 10 students.

Freija has used miniature figures inspired by the work of Slinkachu to explore the impact COVID-19 has had.

Bien fait

Linguists of the Month

Gute Arbeit

Year	French	German
7	Oliver	Archie
8	Lucy	Adelena
9	Charlotte	Luke
10	Amelia	Bea
11	Louisa	Tom

MFL Idiom of the Week

English: Practice makes perfect
French: C'est en forgeant qu'on devient forgeron
Literal meaning: It's by forging that we become blacksmith
German: Ubung macht den Meister
Literal meaning: Practice creates masters

St Augustine's Sixth Form
Q & A—Year 11 Live
Thursday 4th February at 8.45am

CALLING ALL YEAR 11S

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to apply for St Augustine's Sixth Form. If you are interested there is a live session where you will be able to ask any questions. Simply click on the link below, write your question and submit.

And on Thursday at 8.45am, the Head of Sixth Form will reply to you via a live YouTube video.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MKcd5G15b0SG85FNYTIvOCT81jfR9XRPrulY7GVfp_xUMzY4NzRGVVZMMlMwTjJLQldOMDdDRzFKSy4u

The application deadline is Friday 12th February.

Headteacher Challenge

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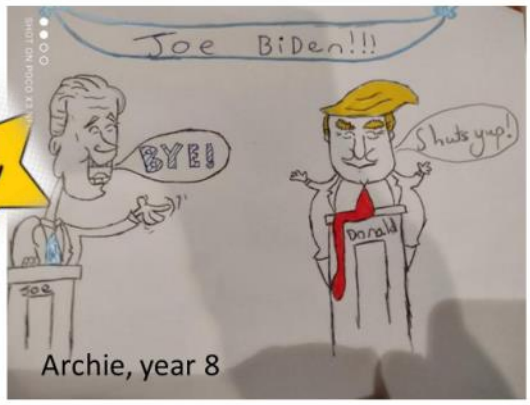
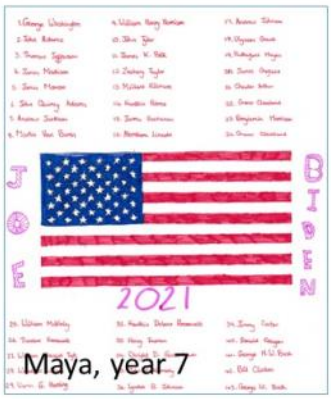
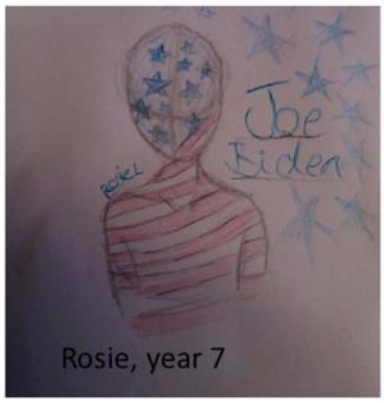


Archie, year 8

Ollie, year 10



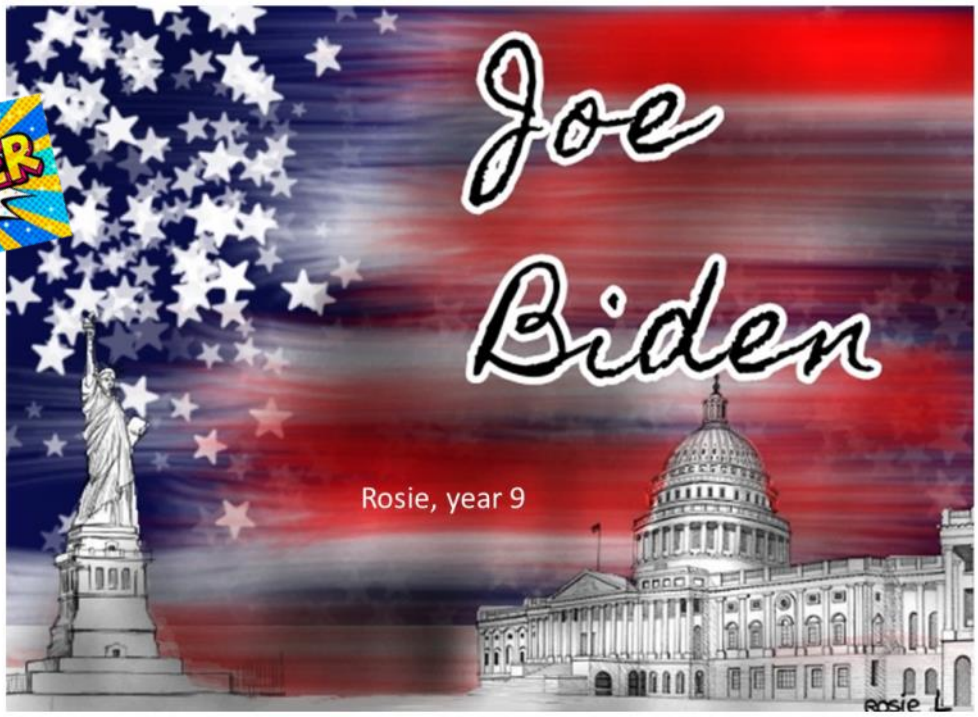
Maya, year 7



Rosie, year 7

Ewan, year 7

Bea, year 10



Rosie, year 9

Struggling a bit? ….check out these out!!

Netflix wants its subscribers to take a breath, reset, and start fresh in the new year. To put people on the right path for a better 2021, the streamer has teamed up with the go-to mediation platform, Headspace, on three original series, coming next year. Kicking off the new year, the series Headspace Guide to Meditation premiered globally on January 1. A second series, Headspace Guide to Sleep and An Interactive Experience, will follow later in the year.

Now chill with the trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H77PL7SlI1M&feature=emb_logo

Also, check out the Headspace App or their website, which offers audio relaxation

https://www.headspace.com

Remember there is always someone to talk to…
Online counselling services:
Feagans Online counselling for teenagers

Fegans
Counselling Children, Supporting Parents

https://www.fegans.org.uk/online_counselling_teenagers/

Think Ninja:

A great website full of advice & guidance on all topics including exam stress for young people& they have a great app you can download too See @THINKNINJA

think ninja

Shout: Anxious? Worried? Stressed? Get 24/7 support

shout
for support in a crisis

https://www.giveusashout.org

Kooth – Free confidential support for young people

kooth
Free online counselling support for young people!

Remember if you are struggling or need anything – Get in contact:

lsusupport@alcesteracademy.org.uk

National Apprenticeship Week 8th – 14th February

ThinkHigher is joining in with the National Apprenticeship Week 8th – 14th February

At the beginning of the week **ThinkHigher** will be releasing a pre-recorded video which will talk about:

- What is an Apprenticeship
- Impartial advice about Apprenticeships
- The pros and cons
- Myth busting

Later in the week **ThinkHigher** will be putting on a live talk and Q&A with current and former Apprentices. Apprentices will be talking about their experiences as well as answering questions. To watch the talks students will need to register their interest on the links below. They will then receive a link to the **Live** talk.

This is aimed at students in year 10 and 11

Thursday 11th February

2pm slot aimed more at year 10 and 11 students:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-week-2021-qa-2pm-tickets-136435188321

thinkhigher

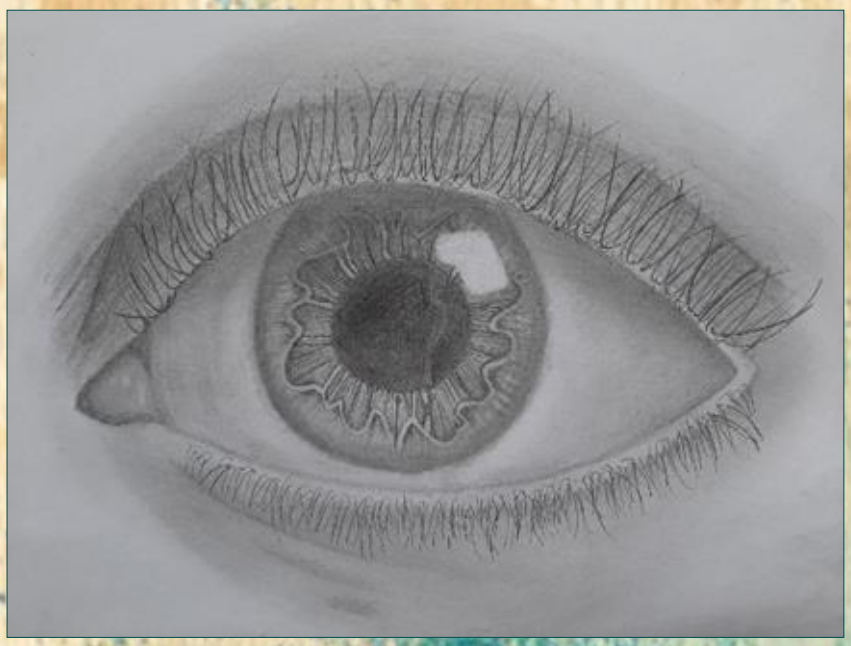
Apprenticeships
National Apprenticeship Week
8 - 14 February 2021

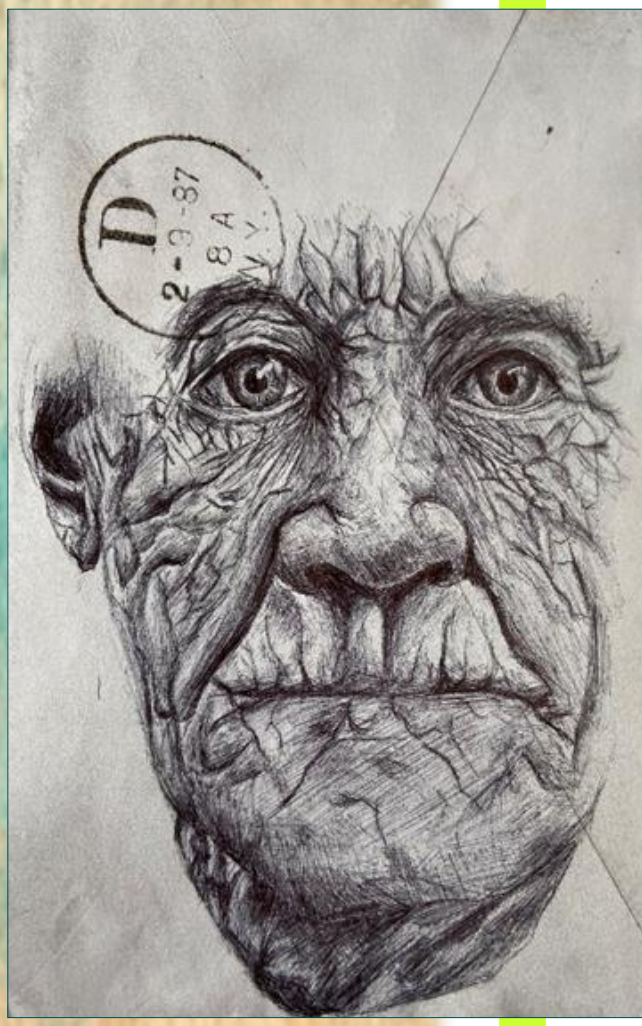
WE NEED YOUR HELP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US RENOVATE, REFURBISH & REOPEN "THE GREIG HALL" FOR THE PEOPLE OF ALCESTER

CALL 07746 774253
EMAIL THEFRIENDSOFTHEGREIGHALL@BTINTERNET.CO.UK
OR THEGREIGHALL@OUTLOOK.COM

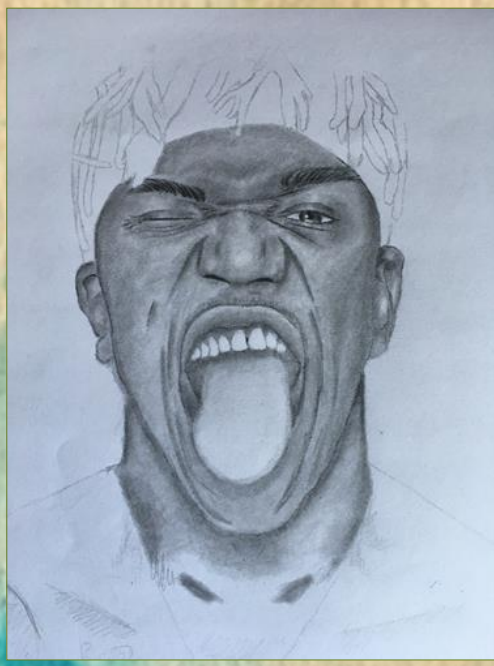
A celebration of GCSE art talent at Alcester Academy





A reminder of the fantastic work produced by some of our talented GCSE students during the previous lockdown

Mr Yarrington



Food Technology Stars of the Week

Year 9 Cooking Stars

Rosie has been making delicious looking food with fantastic presentation.

Roan has been cooking so much at home and has made some impressive things.

It's so difficult to deliver a practical subject remotely during a pandemic but these two students have been motivated and committed to cooking even when not asked. Also, a big thankyou to parents for supporting them.

Mrs Megee

Rosie has been making scrumptious looking food!

Roan, year 9, making mozzarella!

Year 7 Cooking Stars

The year 7s have been trying hard making pizza bread this week and have produced some wonderful things. Keep up the great work. Thanks to parents for supporting these practical tasks at home.

Mrs Megee

Oscar

Michael

Grace

Isabella

Ewan

Food Technology Stars of the Week

Year 7 have been busy making pizza baguettes and some have made their fruit salads this week. Keep up the good work year 7!

Miss Wincup

SPORTS NEWS * SPORS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

COVID-19 SKATEBOARDING GUIDELINES

#SkateSafeStaySafe

ONLY SKATE ON YOUR OWN, WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR WITH UPTO 5 PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

KEEP AT LEAST **TWO METERS** APART AT ALL TIMES

DON'T TRY DIFFICULT OR DANGEROUS TRICKS

#SAVEOURNHS

NO CONGREGATING UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

NO FIST-BUMPS, HIGH-FIVES OR HUGS

DON'T SHARE PHONES, EQUIPMENT, FOOD OR DRINK

WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY

NO MORE THAN ONE PERSON COMPLETING A RUN AT A TIME (OUTDOOR SKATEPARKS)

DO NOT SKATEBOARD IF YOU HAVE ANY **COVID-19 FLU** LIKE SYMPTOMS OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE WHO HAS.

CLEAN YOUR SKATE EQUIPMENT BEFORE & AFTER SKATING AND TRY NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING ELSE.

ONLY USE AN OUTDOOR SKATEPARK IF YOU ARE **ACTIVELY SKATEBOARDING** AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINISHING.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE – WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

SKATEBOARD ENGLAND

SkateboardGB

HM Government

NHS

ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME › PROTECT THE NHS › SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
gov.uk/coronavirus