# Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon.

In news this week, our year 8 students have spent an amazing week in Bideford, Devon at Skern Lodge. Miss Buckthorp led the trip with a record number of students attending. She will write a full trading.

tending. She will write a full report in next week's bulletin but here are a few photographs for now.



Mr Rossiter, Head of History led assemblies this week to celebrate the start of Black History Month. For more resources to use at home go to: <u>Black History Month 2025</u>.

We also celebrated National Poetry Week across the school together.







#### What's inside this week

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#### **Open Evening**

Thank you all for accommodating the early finish last Thursday so that staff could get prepared for Open Evening. It is appreciated very much. Once again, our students were all phenomenal ambassadors for the school. We were all so proud as a staff.

#### **Parent View**



# <u>Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View</u>

I am expecting the questions for the academic year 2025-26 to alter in light of the new Ofsted toolkit being published, but for now, please feel free to complete the questions outlined.

#### Year 11 Parents' Evening— Thursday 23rd October

This will now be a LIVE event, in school from 4-7pm, and not a parents' evening using SchoolCloud from home. Further details to follow.

#### **Prince Henry's High School**

We were interested, for our year 11s to hear more about Prince Henry's Sixth Form in assembly this morning. Thank you to the staff and former students who came in to speak to the year group. It is lovely seeing our alumni. Miss Bartlett, Careers Advisor has arranged an information assembly each week in order to assist the students when making their important post-16 choices.

#### **Alliance Smart Phone Safety**

Thank you to King Edward's VI Shakespeare School for leading on our joint Three Rivers Alliance phone safety videos for parents and carers. Miss Barton, Digital Lead at KES is featured on these videos. These are just a superb way of finding out more about parental controls for any device that you choose to allow your child/ren to have. I highly recommend that you take time to watch these informative short videos. You can access the videos through your parent MCAS link and then choose to watch the information for Android Devices, or Apple products.

Might I add that we still continue to support that our year 7 students do not need a smart phone for secondary school. We endorse all of the work being done by <u>Smartphone Free Childhood</u>.

It has been brought to my attention that some of the bus companies are requiring our students to show their bus pass electronically using a smart phone. In light of our year 7s being discouraged to carry a smart phone, I have written to all of the bus companies in order to ask them to find a suitable alternative.

You may be interested in the Alliance poster, on page 3, outlining some of our progress to date as a group of schools.

#### Welcome new Governors

We welcome parent governors Miquet Humphryes, Amy Butler and Rob Jones to the full governing body this academic year, and appreciate them volunteering for this role that we value very much indeed.

#### **Teachers in Training**

We also welcome trainee teachers to the school this term in art, science and maths. This experience is so important, and we are delighted to be supporting a national recruitment issue in teaching at Alcester Academy.

#### **Cycle Safety**

Could you ensure that all students wear their safety helmets to school if they cycle? Much appreciated.

#### **Youth Club**

I was pleased to pop into Alcester Youth Club on Tuesday and say hi to our students on my way home. I received a lovely greeting. The staff were crafting with the students and making them some food. We are aware that the is very limited lighting around the journey to Youth Club from several directions. I will talk to the Town Council about this. As the evenings draw in, please be sure that you ensure your child's safety if they do make a journey home after Youth Club independently.

Wishing you all a super weekend ahead.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



# **GOALS ACHIEVED 24-25!**

During the 2024-25 academic year, the Three Rivers Alliance made progress in the following areas:



#### DEVELOPED SUBJECT HUBS AND COLLABORATION ACROSS THE ALLIANCE

In January, we hosted a joint CPD day with staff coming together across the five schools. Joint SLT learning walks have informed CPD and eleven departments have now connected across the Alliance through staff visits.



The Digital Futures Conference on 10th January had very positive feedback. Titled 'An introduction to Al for Teaching, Learning and Admin'. Digital Strategy Leads are now collaborating on digital strategy, teaching and learning and ensuring the best provision in each school.





#### PROVIDED JOINT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Personal Development leads from the Alliance schools formed a new network to share best practice. The Alliance hosted a successful Thriving Minds Conference for Year 9s and a Samba Music workshop, which ended with an opening performance at KES's End of Term Concert.

#### ENHANCED SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE REVIEW

Business Managers, Network Managers, and Facilities staff are connecting across the schools. Headteachers have continued to share and develop best practice to ensure staff wellbeing. Chairs of Governors met in February to discuss governance, training, induction, and digital transformation.



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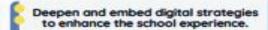


#### DEVELOP AND REFINE THE CURRICULUM TO ENSURE RELEVANCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Each Alliance school committed to deliver one of the following sessions: interdisciplinary links (including a workshop for TAs/SEND), resilient learners, AI, oracy and exam support in English, History, Maths and Biology. The Alliance 'Teaching & Learning' group is now focused on designing further CPD opportunities.

#### **OUR NEXT STEPS**

Developing high quality adaptive teaching practice across the Alliance.



Establish further opportunities for students' personal development

To build best practice and excellence to enhance our schools' effectiveness

Foster further collaboration in training and developing staff To plan, adapt and develop efficiencies in strategic leadership







#### **SEPTEMBER**

200 Club Registration Opens -22.09.2025

Friends Meeting - 10.09.2025

200 Club Draw - 29.09.2025

#### **OCTOBER**

2025-2026

Friends Meeting - 08.10.2025 Coffee Morning -22.10.2025 at 9.30am

Non Uniform - 24.10.2025 200 Club Draw - 20.10.2025

#### **NOVEMBER**

Friends Meeting - No meeting Bingo 1 - 14.11.2025

Show nights - 19.11.2025 -21.11.2025

200 Club Draw - 24.11.2025

#### **DECEMBER**

Friends Meeting - 03.12.2025

Santa Route - TBC

200 Club Draw - 15.12.2025

#### **JANUARY**

Friends Meeting - 14.01.2026

Bingo 2-30.01.2026

200 Club Draw - 26.01.2026

#### **FEBRUARY**

Friends Meeting - 25.02.2026

200 Club Draw - 23.02.2026

#### **MARCH**

Friends Meeting - 25.03.2026

Non Uniform - 13.03.2026 TBC

Bingo 3 - 20.03.2026

200 Club Draw - 23.03.2026

#### **APRIL**

Friends Meeting - No meeting

200 Club Draw - 27.04.2026

#### MAY

Friends Meeting - 13.05.2026

200 Club Draw - 18.05.2026

#### JUNE

Friends Meeting - 10.06.2026

Alcester Street Market Tombola - 07.06.2026

200 Club Draw - 29.06.2026

#### JULY

Friends Meeting - 30.06.2026 / 01.07.2026 TBC - End of year

meal

200 Club Draw - 13.07.2026

#### **AUGUST**

Friends Meeting - No meeting -Summer Holiday

200 Club Draw - 02.09.2026



Night

# Friday 14th November

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

## **Key Dates This Term**

Tuesday 7th October—Year 10/11 art and photography trip to Birmingham

Wednesday 8th October—Friends PTA meeting online at 7.30pm

Thursday 9th October—KS3 HW, Google and assessment parent forum. Online. 6-7pm.

Tuesday 14th October—Year 7 Super Learning Day by Loudmouth, called Bully4U

Wednesday 15th October—Year 10 Employability workshop

Thursday 16th October—Year 7 Meet The Tutor evening. Live in school 4-7pm.

Wednesday 22nd October—Community Coffee Morning, in school 9.30-10.30am

Wednesday 22nd October—Year 8 trip to Matilda

Wednesday 22nd October—Year 11 Employability workshop

Thursday 23rd October—Year 11 Parents' Evening. Live in hall. 4-7pm.

Friday 24th October—Student flu vaccination

Friday 24th October—Non-uniform day

HALF TERM-27th-31st October 2025

Wednesday 5th November—Year 11 Parent Forum on Revision. Online 5.30-7pm (provisional)

Wednesday 5th November—RAF day for year 10 in school (provisional)

Tuesday 11th November—Armistice Day

Tuesday 11th November—Year 9 Super Learning Day from Loudmouth called Working for Marcus

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th November—year 10 and 11 mock interviews

Friday 14th November—Friends PTA Family Bingo Event. Evening.

Monday 17th November—Year 11 MFL speaking mocks start

Monday 17th November—National Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 19th—Friday 21st November—GREASE ...is the word! School Show dates!

Monday 24th November—Year 11 mocks begin

Tuesday 25th November—Rock Academy Concert at the Greig Hall. Evening event 7pm.

Wednesday 3td December—Friends PTA meeting online 7.30pm

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

Thursday 11th, and Friday 12th December—Christmas rewards trips

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

Friday 19th December—Break up at 12.40pm

This list is not exhaustive.

# Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Following an assembly with Alcester Grammar School last week, please note that they have altered their entry requirements this year.

Full details are available on the Post-16 Google Classroom. Code: **wauovgl.** 

Please find attached a mini prospectus link: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1da5QZwH-">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1da5QZwH-</a>
<a href="by0CIKCiS5lOLEMD4KsITJp/view?usp=sharing">by0CIKCiS5lOLEMD4KsITJp/view?usp=sharing</a>

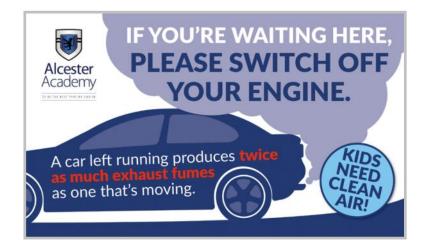
And also a GCSE requirements link detailing the menu of A levels on offer, and GCSE grades needed:



https://docs.google.com/document/d/184SBTA4Ga MQ3Z11yzalrM O1Cu 989RNDPwf9t4wRg/edit?usp=sharing

Miss Bartlett





#### Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard



#### Top Positive Point Students—this week:

1	Lola	10TU	Oversley	15 points
2	Lily	7TN	Billesley	12 points
3	Erin	9DA	Billesley	11 points
4	Lettie	10KI	Greville	10 points
5	Pollyanna	7PA	Billesley	9 points
5	Immy	11GO	Greville	9 points
5	Victoria	9SO	Billesley	9 points
5	Téo	7TN	Billesley	9 points
5	Jada	9NA	Billesley	9 points
5	Reece	7TN	Billesley	9 points
5	Astrid	9NA	Ragley	9 points



#### Top Positive Point House—this week:

1	Oversley	518 points
2	Billesley	502 points
3	Greville	468 points
4	Raglev	463 points



#### Top Positive Point Tutor Group—this week:

1	7TN	154 points
1	7PA	151 points
3	7WI	141 points
4	7RA	130 points
5	7LX	128 points



Bromcon

#### Top Positive Point Subjects—this week:

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1	Science	351 points
2	English	300 points
3	Maths	268 points
4	German	262 points
5	$\operatorname{Art}$	259 points



#### **Top Positive Point Staff—this week:**

1	Mr Yarrington	383 points
2	Mrs Hirji	311 points
3	Miss Gruszczynska	262 points

<sup>\*</sup> www.alcesteracademy.org.uk \* 01789 762285 \* admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk \* X @AlcesterAcademy \*

#### Autumn Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

#### Extra Curricular Timetable Autumn 2025 Tuesday Monday Lunchtime Lunchtime Young Enterprise -H4 Youth Speaks - E4 Pride Group- E4 Pop Band- Music hut Acoustic Group- Music Hut ART- A1 & A2 GCSE Maths Clinic - S5 Afterschool Scrabble Club- E6 School Show- Hall ART- A1 & A2 Dungeons and Dragons-R1 Wednesday Lunchtime Board Games-LRC Orchestra - MU 1 ART- A1 & A2 After School Cookery Club - Food Room Thursday Friday Lunchtime Lunchtime Year 8 Book Club- LRC Rock Band - Music Hut Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic- M1 Photography - A1 ART- A1 & A2 ART- A1 & A2 Principal school show rehearsal After School - Drama Room School Show - Hall GCSE Art and Photography - A2

<sup>\*</sup> www.alcesteracademy.org.uk \* 01789 762285 \* admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk \* X @AlcesterAcademy \*

#### 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 in the academic year 2024-25

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 <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total</u>).
  - 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 (<u>from the date of issue of the first penalty notice</u>): A
  penalty notices will 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

# Whole School Attendance this week is 93.9%

#### Top tutors this week:

7PA with 98.8% attendance 8MO with 98.8% attendance 9AN with 98% attendance 10TU with 96.2% attendance 11HE with 100% attendance If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, of the reason, before 8.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing <a href="mailto:louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk">louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk</a>

Thank you, Ms Hatcher



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

#### **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, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

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.



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

#### **Alcester Academy Term Dates**

**AUTUMN TERM 2025** 

Half term Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Back to school Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Autumn Term ends Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 12.40pm

**SPRING TERM 2026** 

School closed Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half Term Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Back to school Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 12.40pm

**SUMMER TERM 2026** 

Summer Term begins Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

School closed Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Teacher training day

May Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Half Term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Back to school Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Summer Term ends Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 12.40pm

School closed Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Teacher training day

<sup>\*</sup> www.alcesteracademy.org.uk \* 01789 762285 \* admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk \* X @AlcesterAcademy \*

MFL Culture Competition

# Mauerkunst: the art of the Berlin Wall

To celebrate the Day of German Unity (Tag der deutschen Einheit) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, I would like to invite all students of Alcester Academy to take part in our Mauerkunst competition.

Mauerkunst means "wall art" and is synonymous with the Berlin wall. The wall, and its art, is a cultural phenomenon and is the home of some of the most iconic cultural / political artwork of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



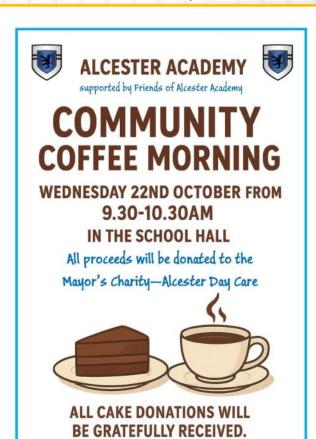
1. Research the art of the Berlin wall.

2. Create your own piece of art inspired by it: digital or handmade.

3. Submit your art to Mrs Laventine-Lee in L2 (paper copies).

Deadline: Wednesday 22nd October

Prizes: Winners and runners-up will be announced on Friday 24th Oct.





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

# Sport Roundup Year 11 Football v AGS



Our year 11 team played out an entertaining 3-3 draw against AGS this week. After a strong first half performance we opened up a 3-1 lead, although AGS finished the match stronger bringing the score back level in the final ten minutes of play. Well done to the seven year 10 students who represented year 11 in this match, and put in some brilliant performances.

We have had a great week for year 7 with two of our teams representing the Academy in their first competitive fixtures.

#### Year 7 Football v Henley

Our year 7 boys took on Henley School in their first match of the school season. There were many positive signs from the newly formed team in an entertaining match that finished with a 3-3 draw.

There was some brilliant attacking play on show from year 7 who created many scoring opportunities throughout the game. A special mention to Ollie who put in a brilliant performance scoring 2 goals, including a free kick, which flew into the back of the net.

#### Year 7 Girls Football v Studley

Our year 7 girls were simply outstanding in their first match versus Studley.

Alcester Academy secured a dominant performance against Studley. The team showcased exceptional skill and control throughout.

From the first whistle, Alcester controlled the tempo of the game, consistently dominating play creating many attacking opportunities. The midfield and forwards worked tirelessly to create numerous scoring opportunities, keeping the Studley defence under constant pressure throughout the match.

Equally impressive was the team's defensive effort. The back line demonstrated real resilience and control, effectively shutting down any Studley attempts to break through and ensuring our goalkeeper was well-protected. It was a true testament to the team's balance of attacking flair and defensive solidity. The Studley goalkeeper put together a string of fantastic saves to keep the score to 0-1, but it was an extremely impressive first performance for our year 7 girls.



#### A Note for Orla

During the second half, the game was stopped in such unfortunate circumstances following Orla suffering a bad knee injury. The entire team and school community send our best wishes to Orla for a speedy recovery. We are all thinking of you, and we hope to see you back on the pitch as soon as you have recovered!

Mr Moffatt

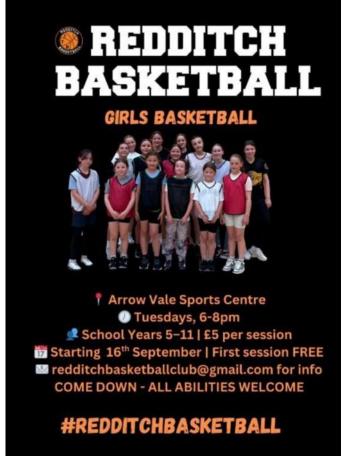
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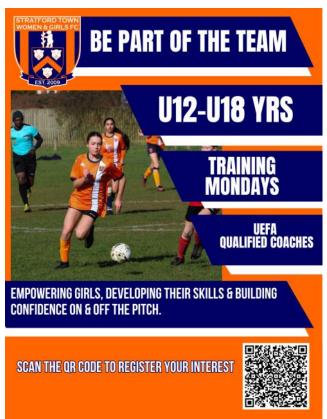
	NEXT WEEK'S SPOI W/B 6/10/25	KI 💓
Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	U15 Girls SW Netball Tournament -	Stratford School
	PE	
Tuesday	Year 7 Football vTrinity - NA	School Field
	Archery (Selected) - MO	Gym
Wednesday	U13 SW Rugby festival - MO	AGS
	Year 7 and Year 9 Netball- PE	Courts
Thursday	Year 7 and Year 10 Boys Football v AGS – NA/PE/MO	AGS



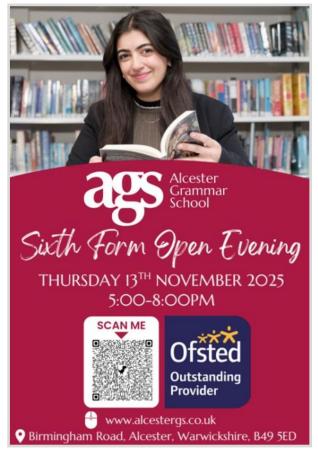
#### \* SPORTS NEWS \* SPORTS NEWS \*

#### **Opportunities**





# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY







# CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY





# LIFE SKILLS FOR EVERYONE!

# FREE **WORKSHOPS FOR** WARWICKSHIRE **RESIDENTS 16+**

**Money made** simple, futures made strong

#### **Our workshops**

#### **Power Down**

energy saving hacks to reduce your utility bills

#### **Savvy Shopper Secrets**

the art of shopping for less

#### Cheap Eats, Big Flavour

tips for cooking on a budget

#### **Upcoming Workshops:**

#### Mondays:

6 October 25- 11:30am-12:30pm

13 October 25- 11:30am-12:30pm

20 October 25- 11:30am-12:30pm

#### Venue:

Eric Payne Community Centre, Jubilee Fields, St Faiths Road, Alcester, **B49 6AG** 





To find out more visit our website or contact the **Branching Out team at CWCDA** 

T: 02476 633911

W: cwcda.co.uk

E: info@cwcda.co.uk



instagram.com/@CW\_CDA

facebook.com/CoventryandWarwickshireCDA

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