Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

School has been much quieter this week with many of our year 8 students being at Skern Lodge in Devon. Miss Buckthorp will report back in next week's bulletin with an overview of how the week went. Our year 7s will have this trip offered to them in the next few months for next year.

Monday saw the arrival of our new MP, the Rt Hon Manuela Perteghella and her party in school for a tour and a meeting. Cllr Susan Juned and Aide, Thom Holmes joined the visit. Thank you to our School Captains for leading a fabulous tour, and to the Chair of Governors for joining some of SLT for an important discussion. We focussed this around school capacity, school buildings and Gerard Road safety especially.

Thom Holmes is a former student of the school, and it was especially rewarding to see him return in his new role.

What's inside this week...

Page 5	***National Poetry Day 2024***
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Page 16	***Sports News***

Rules of courtesy

I been concerned by a few reports of parents becoming angry or upset when we try to reach out to you for support for your child. Can I ask that in the nature of a positive partnership, we try to work in mutual collaboration at all times. I am aware that this culture is becoming more evident from upset parents on certain social media platforms towards schools and this is not something that I want developed further at Alcester Academy. The task of parenting can be very challenging at times, as can our role within school. We always aim to work on this together when needed.

I remain very grateful to the majority of parents who work in amazing conjunction with us every single day for the benefit of the students. Thank you for this! It does make us a very special school and I don't take this for granted ever.

Black History Month

Miss Bishop led assemblies this week to start Black History Month. These were extremely thought provoking indeed. Please see the article on page 7.

B:M2024

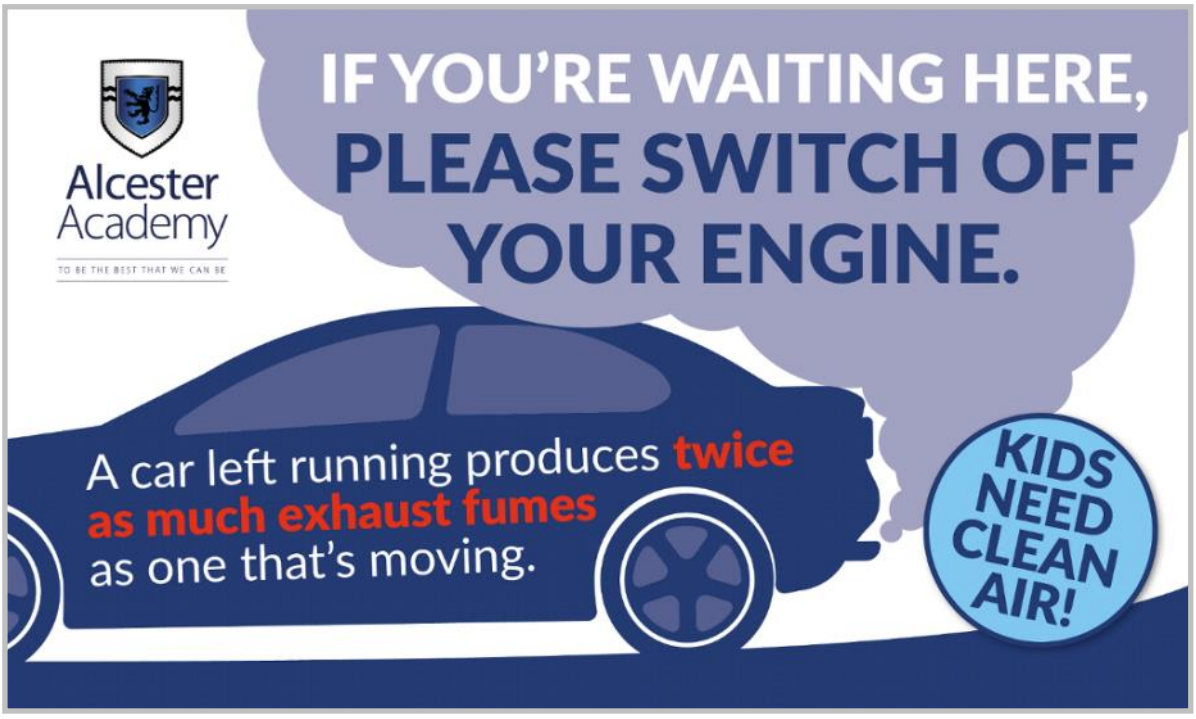
DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

SGGS

Thank you to Stratford Girls' Grammar School, one of our Alliance partners, for attending year 11 assembly this morning on Post-16 choices.

Iceland here we come!

I appreciate those parents who attended the Iceland meeting on Wednesday. This is our first visit to the glaciers, and we are very excited for the geography department and students.



Parent Forum—Google Classroom

Mr Cooke, Deputy Headteacher, led the Parent Forum on Thursday, with Mr Hall joining him by video from Skern Lodge! I hope that parents new to Google found this a useful information forum. A recording can be found on the website. www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/parent-forum

National Poetry Day

Miss Lewis has written about our National Poetry Day events from yesterday a bit later on in the bulletin.

Hello Yellow—Mental Health Day next week

We are coming together as a school in yellow on Thursday 10 October (World Mental Health Day) to raise awareness and funds for the charity *Young Minds* to show children and young people they're not alone with their mental health.

Donations can be made from next week via the School Gateway and pupils are invited and encouraged to accessorise their uniforms with a splash of colour—whether that be yellow socks/ tights/ hairbands/ scarves etc, we will all be raising awareness together.

In addition to taking part in #helloyellow pupils will also have an assembly with Miss McKenzie raising awareness for World Mental Health Day.

We can't wait to spread the sunshine across Alcester Academy next week.

Thank you…

To a parent who has volunteered to help clear the shrubbed area that I featured in last week's bulletin. I'm also grateful for the recommendation by parents of various organisations that might help with this. And to a Redditch based company; Sika for reaching out to provide volunteers for us. Watch this space for more progress!

Congratulations to JJ, year 10

Jessica participated in the Bristol Feis last weekend and came away with some great results. She came 1st in her premiership dance for under 14s. We are very proud to hear this!

Holidays in term time

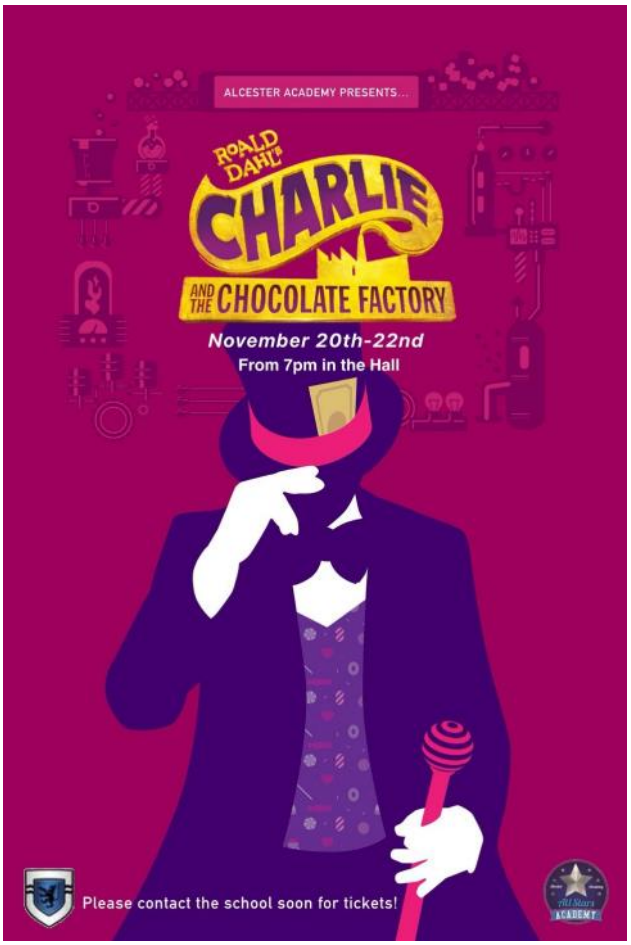
Just a reminder that holidays in term time are not permitted. This could jeopardise your child attending school trips. Please refer to our Attendance Policy.

Finally, in looking forward to next week, Saturday sees the first rehearsal in school for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Thanks to staff for giving up their weekend.

Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead.

Best wishes,

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher



A new STEM Club

Calling all Harry Potter fans...

During the month of October
SCIENCE STEM Club
is running *Hocus Pocus,*
Friday lunchtimes,
in Miss Tandy's classroom!

If you are interested in joining—
please sign up on epraise!

National Poetry Day 2024

On Thursday 3rd October, we celebrated National Poetry Day. This was the 30th anniversary of the occasion and we have been busy having fun at Alcester Academy. This year's theme was *counting*.

Year 7 have been writing their own poetry, based on the theme, within their Literacy tutor work over the last few weeks. Congratulations to Ben (7TN) from Billesley, for his brilliant poetry submissions.

Year 7 have also explored poetry associated with our school values within their Personal Development lesson this week.

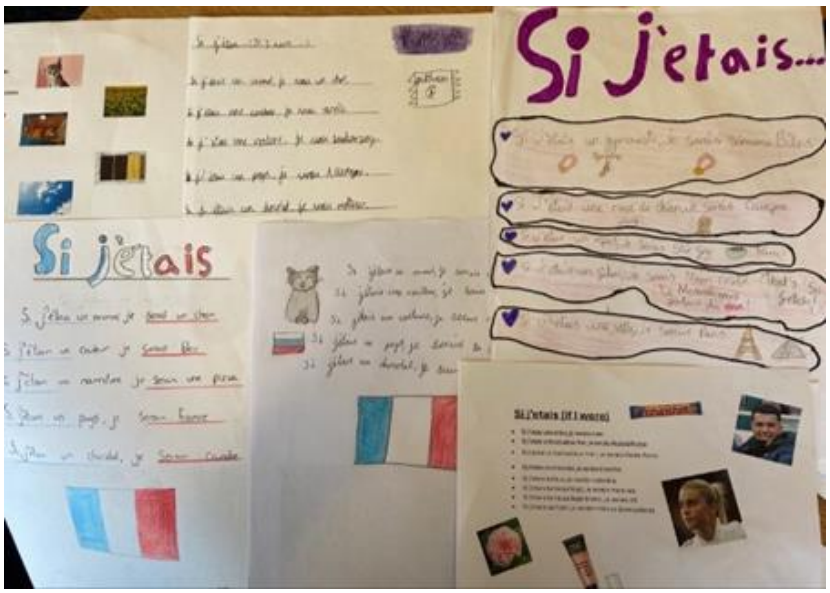
The year 8s not busy surfing at Skern Lodge, have been completing their research on what National Poetry Day means to them in their English lessons. They have also been writing their own poems based on this year's theme.

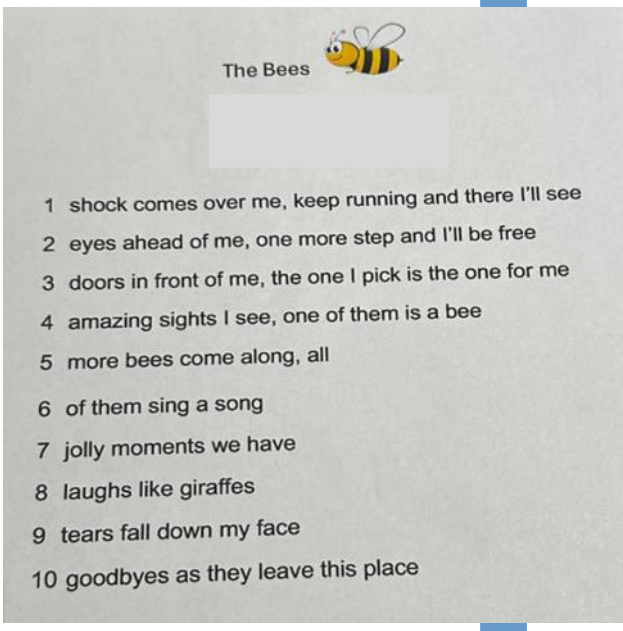
Mrs Weatherly's classes have been busy creating poetry in another language.

Year 10 continue their GCSE studies on the *Power and Conflict* poetry anthology in English. Check out X to see some of our year 10s perform their favourite poems from the Anthology. You can also watch some of our Numeracy Leaders perform poetry about Maths!

Mrs Marshall has been sharing her favourite science poem. 11LE have even celebrated the day by continuing to develop their unseen poetry skills during English intervention in tutor time.

Although we have had fun celebrating National Poetry Day this week, poetry remains at the heart of literature all year round. We can't wait to see what the theme will be next year!
Miss Lewis




The Bees

1 shock comes over me, keep running and there I'll see
2 eyes ahead of me, one more step and I'll be free
3 doors in front of me, the one I pick is the one for me
4 amazing sights I see, one of them is a bee
5 more bees come along, all
6 of them sing a song
7 jolly moments we have
8 laughs like giraffes
9 tears fall down my face
10 goodbyes as they leave this place

The Bees by Ben, year 7.

Epraise Leaderboard—past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Finlay	11GO	Ragley	47 points
2	Darcie	11MR	Greville	46 points
3	Liv	11GO	Oversley	45 points
4	Charlie	11MR	Ragley	43 points
5	Tom	11HE	Oversley	42 points
6	Immy	10PL	Greville	41 points
7	Poppy	7KO	Oversley	40 points
8	Georgia	10MO	Ragley	37 points
9	Arturo	10SA	Billesley	36 points
9	Natasha	10BI	Greville	36 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Oversley	2480 points
2	Ragley	2277 points
3	Billesley	2244 points
4	Greville	2229 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

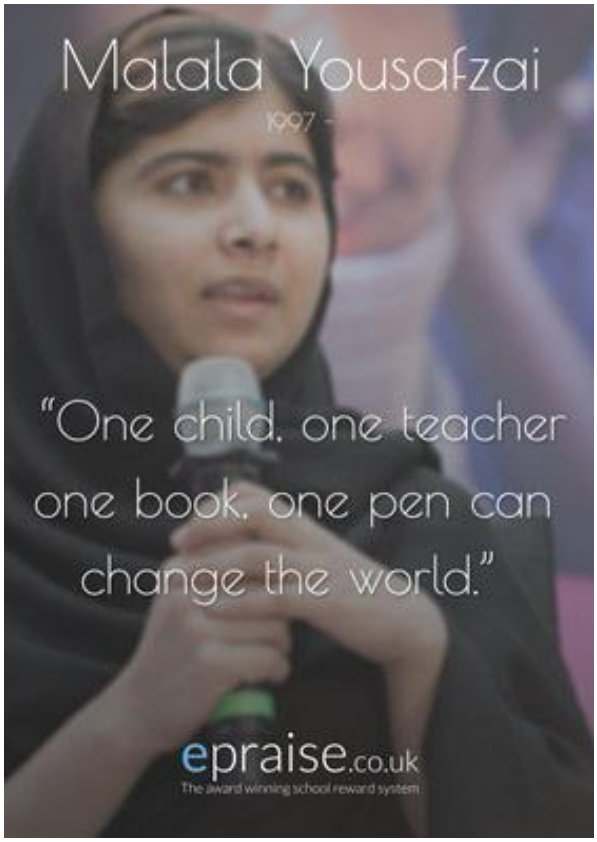
1	English	2207 points
2	Science	829 points
3	Maths	716 points
4	Art	545 points
5	French	443 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Miss McKenzie	1241 points
2	Mr Yarrington	564 points
3	Miss Lewis	397 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	381 points
5	Ms Hirji	368 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	7KO	522 points
2	9GA	442 points
3	9PA	436 points
4	7RA	432 points
5	7LX	431 points



Black History Month 2024: Reclaiming Narratives

This week, our school community came together to celebrate Black History Month under the powerful theme of *Reclaiming Narratives*. Throughout the week, we explored the rich contributions of Black individuals and communities, focusing on stories that have often been overlooked or misunderstood. The theme encouraged us to look deeper, recognise the diversity of Black experiences, and understand the importance of telling history from multiple perspectives.

School-wide assemblies highlighted the importance of reclaiming history, celebrating culture, and amplifying voices that have been historically silenced. Tutor sessions allowed students to engage in discussions about identity, culture, and the impact of Black voices in shaping society. Through these activities, we were reminded that history is not static; it evolves and to honour the voices that tell it.

This year's theme served as a reminder of the ongoing journey toward equality and justice, inspiring us all to continue learning, growing, and ensuring that every story is heard.

Would You Like to Sponsor our School Show?

We're excited to announce that sponsorship opportunities are now available for our upcoming school show, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. With over 100 students involved, we're looking for support from our community to help make this production truly spectacular!

We have a variety of sponsorship packages available. If you or your business are interested in supporting our show, please get in touch for more details; sabrinasacco @alcesteracademny.org.uk.

Miss Sacco

Key Dates for your Diary

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

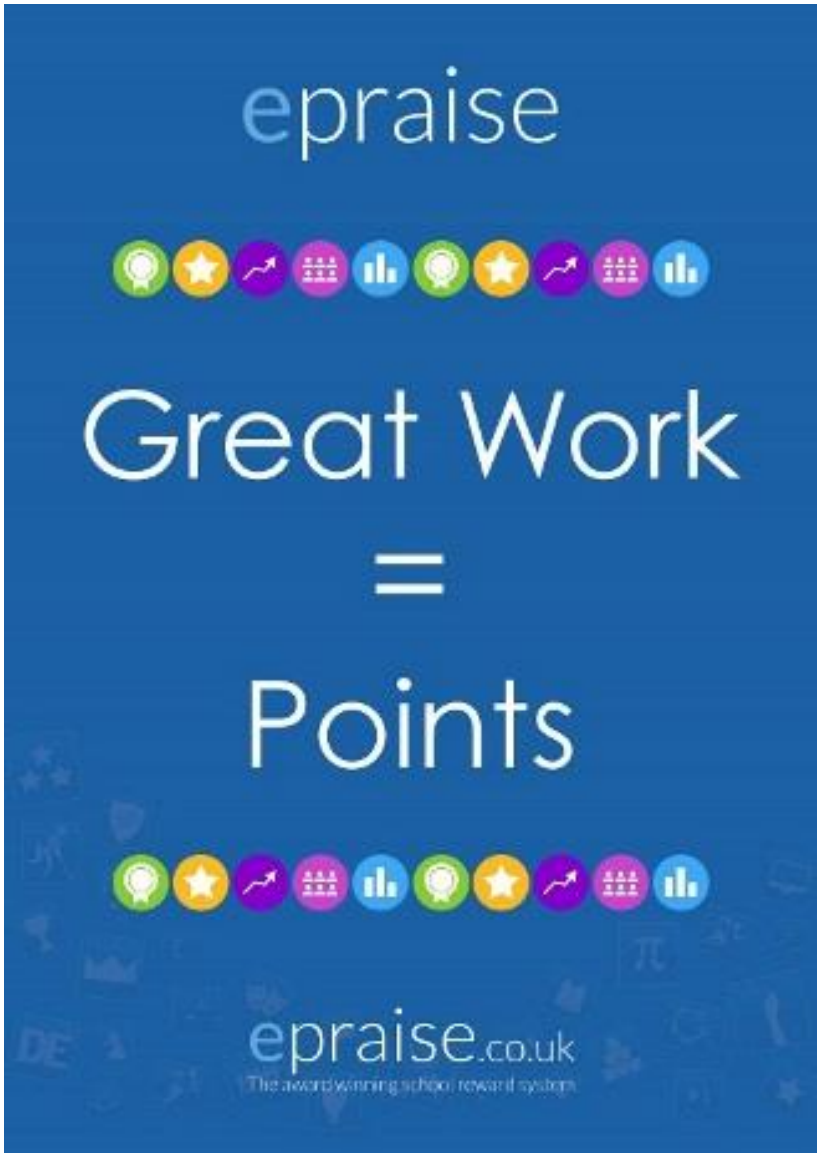
Thursday 24th October 2024—Year 11 Parents' Evening online 4-7pm

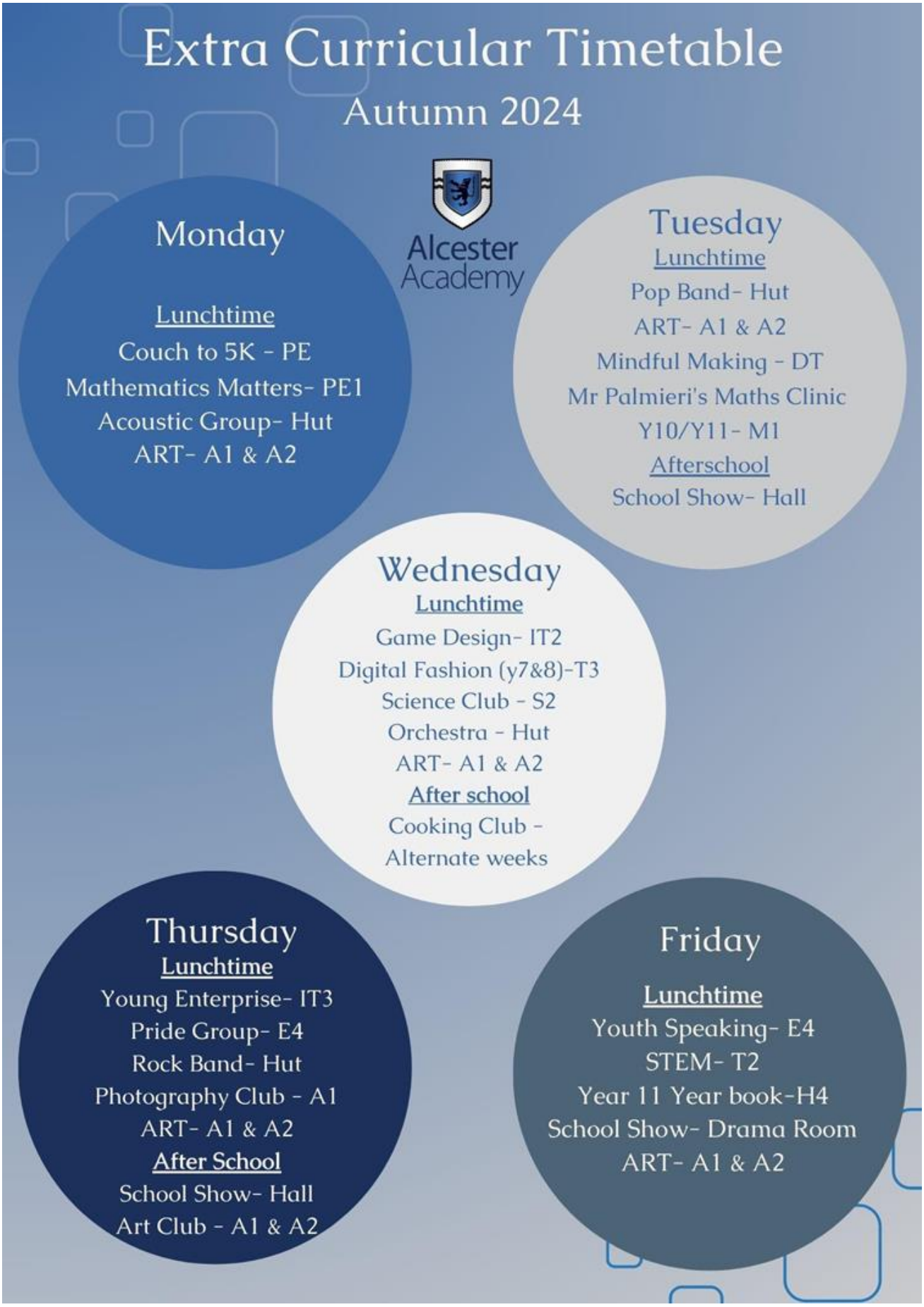
Thursday 7th November 2024—Year 11 Parent Forum online (revision theme) 5.30-7pm
This will be recorded and a link sent to year 11 parents

Parents' Evenings

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

SchoolCloud is an online video service




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

European Day of Languages

Throughout last week, a range of activities were held in school to celebrate European Day of Languages. All over Europe, students celebrated this day to raise the importance of learning languages and the benefits that this can have to your life. In my assemblies this week I spoke about the importance of respecting and tolerating people of different cultures.

The week began on Monday with our well-supported MFL Bake-Off. There were over twenty entries and students who were judged best can be seen below. The winners have received prizes this week and all entrants have been invited to a French breakfast. Please can I thank those students who donated their cakes to our Macmillan cake sale last Wednesday. Our overall winner was Abi in year 7 with her Italian inspired cake. This was decorated as spaghetti and meatballs with a Sicilian lemon flavour.

1st Abigail—Oversley
2nd Chloe—Greville

Runners-up:
Noah—Oversley
Lacie—Greville
Anna—Oversley
Connor—Oversley
Teddy—Ragley
Ava—Oversley

In addition to the Bake-Off, students completed competitions in their tutor group. They have also enjoyed their prizes this week:

KS3 Guess the Language Fact Winner—8RO
KS4 Guess the Language Fact Winner—9YA
KS3 Cultural Quiz Winner—to be confirmed
KS4 Cultural Quiz Winner—9GA

In language lessons some students completed some French poetry work. Congratulations to our winners:

RJ—Oversley
Callum—Greville
Sophie—Ragley
Sophia—Oversley
Violet—Billesley

Throughout school on Thursday, the official day of languages, students were greeted in another language by the teachers of each lesson they went to. There was certainly a buzz around school and I look forward to next year's event.

Mrs Z Weatherley
Head of MFL

Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance this week is 94.9%

Top tutors this week:

7TN with 98.8% attendance
8RO with 98.1% attendance
9GA with 98.5% attendance
10BW with 94.5% attendance
11MR with 98.7% attendance

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

SCIENCE REVISION GUIDES

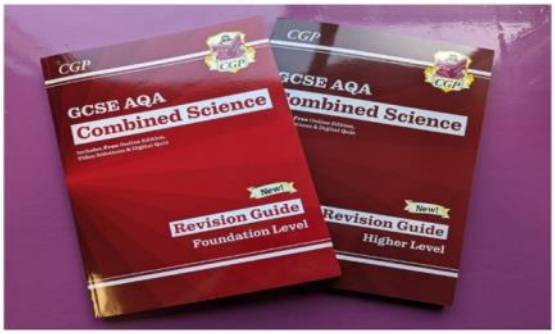
Calling all students: science revision guides are now in stock! Available from the science department, get yours today to help revise for your upcoming exams.

Prices:

Triple award: £10 (3 books)

Combined: £6.50 (1 book)

Please speak to a member of the department to get yours.



ALCESTER ACADEMY PRESENTS
Family BINGO Night
Friday 8th November
Doors Open 6.30pm — Eyes down 7.00pm
1 Book (6 Games) - £2
6 Books (6 Games) - £10
HTTP://FRIENDSOFAA.SUMUPSTORE.COM/
SUPPORT US BY VISITING THE "FRIENDS" ONLINE SHOP
Bar
Tuck Shop
& Snacks
available
Pre-booking recommended.
Book now online or via the
school office.
https://friendsofaa.sumupstore.com

200 Club Results

"FRIENDS" OF ALCESTER ACADEMY

September 2024

1st	2nd	3rd
192	137	103
£52	£31	£21

LRC News

Warwickshire Teen Book Award 2024

This week Warwickshire Schools Library Service (WSLS) announced the shortlist of books that the students voted for last week.

The books that will be read are:
Thieves Gambit by Kayvion Lewis
Seven Million Sunflowers by Malcolm Duffy
We Don't Swim Here by Vincent Tirado
Northern Soul by Phil Earle

The eleven students taking part in the award will start reading these books from next week and have until the beginning of December, when they will then vote for their favourite book.

Cake Sale for Macmillan

The final total raised from the cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support was £239.61. Thank you very much to everybody who donated or bought cakes and helped out in some way.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Accelerated Reading

The Accelerated Reading system is now available for all students in years 7 and 8, and English sets 4 and 5 in year 9 to quiz on the books they are reading. Home Connect letters have been sent out to parents.

Please only quiz on new books that you have read since the start of September.

To access Accelerated Reader quizzing at home

Make sure are using Google Chrome and this link/URL to access the system: https://ukhosted26.renlearn.co.uk/1893467/ Then type in your username (your school network name) and the password – abc123 for years 7 and 8, and abc for year 9.

Online LRC for students

For reading ideas and up-to-date news about the LRC, please join the LRC Google Classroom.

X and Instagram accounts for parents

The LRC has its own X account, please follow us for all our latest news: **@AA_LRC_Library** and for Instagram it is **aa_lrc**

Mrs Hands

Teaching Assistant Level 3

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

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Learning Support at Alcester Academy

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

The Post

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

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

The Application Process

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

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

We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.
Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.

Alcester Academy

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight
Poppy (Ragley, year 7)

Congratulations to Alcester Academy's tennis superstar, Poppy, who has been competing in her tennis club championships over the last few weeks. On finals day last weekend Poppy managed to win the U14 Girls singles event and also went on to come runner up in the U18 Girls singles. As a result of Poppy's excellent performances and progress being made in tennis, Poppy has now been invited to attend the U14 Warwickshire Country Training Programme which starts later this month and we wish Poppy the best of luck. Some phenomenal achievements and milestones being reached within the sport of tennis which such potential being shown for a future within the sport.

Inter-Area Cross Country— Saturday 12th October

Congratulations to our Alcester Academy runners who have received selection letters to represent the South Warwickshire District at the Inter-Area Cross country event held at Stratford School next weekend. Our team put in some incredible individual performances at the recent district trial (pictured below) with a staggering eleven Alcester Academy runners going on to be selected to represent the district.

Best of luck to all at this event and I look forward to sharing their success with you in next week's edition of the bulletin.

Minor Boys:
Dexter
Keegan
Noah
Hugh

Minor Girls:
Poppy
Sienna

Junior Girls:
Bella

Junior Boys:
Toby
Will

Inter Girls:
Marijke

Inter Boys:
Will

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Fixture Round Up

This week saw our year 7 team take on Studley in their second competitive match of the school season. Following a tough first match against Campion away in the cup, our year 7s showed great improvement in many aspects of the game and participated in an evenly matched contest with Studley school from start to finish. Fantastic attitudes and sportsmanship were on show from both groups of players. Well done to those who were selected to represent the Academy in this fixture.

Many congratulations to the many year 11 Academy students who represented the U16 Alcester RFC team who took on Kings Norton Rhinos last weekend. The boys played out a thrilling match coming away with a 31-22 victory, with 2 tries for Tom, 2 for Finlay and 1 for Zak.

Well done to all involved in this brilliant achievement and good luck for the remainder of your club season!

ALCESTER RFC

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Next Week's After School Clubs

****THIS WEEKS SPORT**: W/B 7/10/24**

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	No clubs – staff meeting	N/A
Tuesday	Archery (Selected group) - MO All years Girls Rugby festival - MR Year 8 Football v Kenilworth - NA	Gym AGS Field
Wednesday	Year 7 and 8 Boys Rugby festival – PE/NA. U13 Girls Cup v Kenilworth - MO	AGS Playing Fields Kenilworth School
Thursday	Year 7,8 and 9 Boys Rugby – Gloucester Rugby Coach Year 7 Football - MO Year 11 SW Netball tournament – PE	Field Field Stratford School

Next Week's Lunchtime Clubs

AUTUMN 1 LUNCHTIME SPORT

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

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

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

MHST

Mental Health in Schools Team

Parent/Carer Tips For Wellness

Going back to school

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

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

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

What to do if your child is finding change difficult:

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

Scan for tips for going back to school

Scan for tips around sleep from the Sleep Charity

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

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

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

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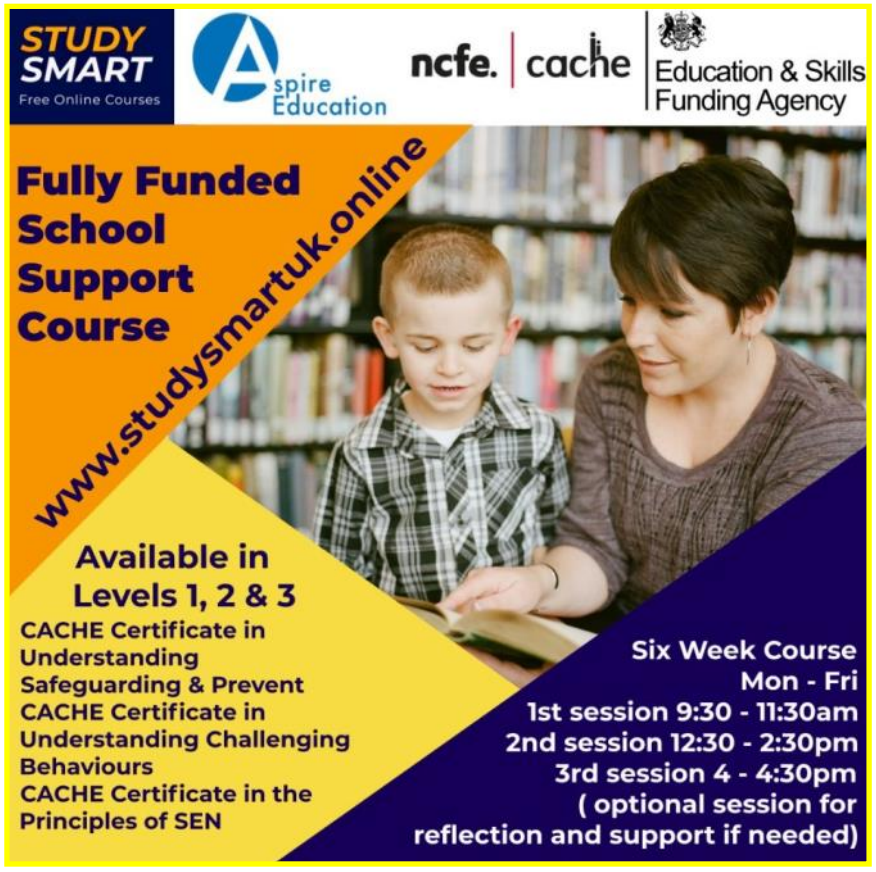

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CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

FREE TRAINING COURSES FOR YEAR 5 AND ABOVE

BIKEABILITY

Improve your riding skills

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

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

USE THE CODES BELOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

LEVEL 1 & 2

LEVEL 3

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

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Parade Day/Time

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

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

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

JOIN US
sea-cadets.org/evesham

UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL

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

MAKE WAVES

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

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