

Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN



4th July 2025

Good afternoon everyone,

We've had another fabulous week at school, with so much happening. A large proportion of the week has been dedicated to meeting our new year 6 parents and students, in readiness for September.

We held a fantastic induction day on Wednesday, where the new students responded positively to their new routines and environment. This was aided hugely by some exceptional year 9 buddies and a great deal of staff support. Thanks to Miss Bartlett, Head of Year 7 for organising this and for preparing for our new intake over many months. We warmly welcome our new parents and carers to the Alcester Academy community. Over 100 year 6 students have signed up to *Summer School* now. This is a record number.



What's inside this week

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In other news, the performing arts team held the auditions for the *Grease* production that will take place in November, our year 10 student leader contenders began their campaigns in earnest, we held a KS2 literacy and numeracy morning and of course we held Sports Day yesterday. This is one of my own favourite days of the year. Mr Moffatt will lead the bulletin next week on the successes of the day.

The Three Rivers Alliance

The Chair of Governors, Mike Dean and I were part of the Annual Governing Board meeting for the Alliance this week. At this meeting, we looked at the progress towards the 2024-25 Development Plan and the objectives that we will work towards collectively as schools in the next academic year. I will share these with you next term.



Three Rivers Salsa Drumming Workshop



Wimbledon Trip

The Wimbledon trip left today. Keep an eye on X for some photos and highlights (and maybe the odd celebrity?). Have fun everyone and stay safe.

Year 10 exams

Staff are feeding exam results back to students in class and we will collate these in a document to send home to parents before term ends. The exam results do contribute to the organisation of key core subject tutor groups for September. We held an important 'stepping up' assembly with year 10s this morning. All year 10 students should now move across from Google Classroom *Careers Zone* to Google Classroom *Post-16*. The code is **wauovgl**.

Whilst we were all busy at the year 11 Prom last week, Mr Hall took a dedicated group of year 9 students to a drumming workshop at King Edward VI Shakespeare's School, led by Fareed Siddiqui. Our students collaborated with students from AGS, SGGS and KES in order to create a final piece that opened the summer music concert at King Edward VI Shakespeare's School. We were extremely proud of the students.



About Fareed Siddiqui:

Fareed has played in the UK for over 40 years and has also played abroad in the USA, Sweden, Switzerland and Trinidad & Tobago. He is a very proficient player, and he has played in all of the three major steel band competitions with some of the world's top steel bands, around the world.



Thank you Governors

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our governors, led by our Chair, Mr Mike Dean. We have an incredible team that support the work of the school giving of their time on a voluntary basis throughout the year.

Mrs Sarah Wright retires from her role this term after many years as a dedicated governor and Chair of our Quality of Education Committee. We send our thanks to Sarah for the hours of time that she has given to the school and send our best wishes for the future.

SEND Supported

We are grateful to SEND Supported for the time that they have spent with many students this academic year. Both Clair Cole and Lucy Clarke, specialist teachers are regular visitors to the school.



SEND Supported

On Friday, Lucy was with our fantastic teaching assistant team looking at the benefit of social stories and comic strip conversations. [SEND Supported - SEND Training & Support - Warwickshire](#)

Windows 11

There has been lots of work going on in school as we migrate to Windows 11. This will continue over the summer.

Changes to pastoral support for 2025-26

When the students return in September, each year group will have a dedicated person overseeing their pastoral care:

Miss Bartlett—Head of Year 7

Mrs Bennett—Head of Year 8

Mrs Austin—Head of Year 9 and 10

Miss Buckthorp will continue to oversee all year 11s. I will write to you all again about this in September.

Looking ahead...

Next week our year 9 geographers head out to Bristol for a day of fieldwork. Many students will be rehearsing in readiness for Celebration Evening on Thursday; another highlight of the year. And, our year 10 bronze D of E group head out for their assessed expedition.

In preparation for the summer now, students need to be thinking about clearing any lockers of food, or unwanted items. We will begin to talk to the students about the uniform expectations in readiness for this too. All students will be part of weekly equipment checks in tutor time in September. Miss Buckthorp will send out a reminder to parents at the end of term in order to assist you with the planning for September. Thank you.

Finally, I wish you all a restful weekend. We acknowledge that the students are getting tired now after a year of hard work. I want to say how proud we all are of the way that they have conducted themselves recently in some extreme temperatures.

Regards,

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

A morning of numeracy and literacy: Welcoming year 6s to the Academy

On Tuesday, we had the opportunity to invite some of our most able year 6s into the Academy for a morning of numeracy and literacy.

The numeracy session focused on mathematical curiosity and discovery. Year 6 students were introduced to the fascinating world of the Möbius strip, which is a seemingly simple loop with some very surprising properties. Working practically, students made predictions about what might happen when the strip was cut in certain ways, before testing their ideas and recording the unexpected results. This led to brilliant discussions about shape, space and dimension. The year 6s showed fantastic reasoning and problem-solving skills throughout.

A huge thank you to our Student Numeracy Leaders, Sam (year 10), Sophia (year 10), Charlie (year 9), James (year 9), Milo (year 10), and Georgia

(year 10), who went above and beyond to set up and support the session.

After this, the year 6s got a chance to visit the LRC for a literacy session. In this, they explored what the word 'adventure' meant to them and how this might be seen within texts. They then completed their own literacy adventure by finding books in the LRC and then writing their own openings to these books. Thank you to our Student Librarians Jasmine (year 9) and Lily (year 9) for their brilliant support and book recommendations!

We were so impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our year 6s, and we look forward to seeing them fulfilling their potential when they start with us in September.

Miss Lewis and Miss Home




Alcester Academy
TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

ALCESTER ACADEMY

OPEN EVENTS 2025

Open Evening—including headteacher address & tours with a student guide
Thursday 25th September—6.30pm to 8.30pm

Guided Open Mornings with a member of the leadership team
Monday 22nd September to Friday 26th September—at 9.30am

To reserve a place on a Guided Open Morning please call the main office on 01789 762285 from September, or alternatively email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk anytime.

Prospective students and their parents will have a unique opportunity to gain a real insight into Academy life



Have your say: Help shape Autism support in Coventry and Warwickshire

Coventry and Warwickshire All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2026 Feedback Survey

The Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System are seeking the views of people who are waiting for a neurodevelopmental diagnostic assessment and autism diagnosis, and those diagnosed with autism, and their families and carers, as well as the views of professionals whose roles incorporate working with autistic individuals and their parents and carers.

The survey, which now closes on 20 July 2025, is part of a review of the Coventry and Warwickshire All-Age Autism Strategy 2021–2026. It seeks insights from people with experience of local autism services, including autistic individuals, their families, and professionals, to understand what is working well and what more needs to be done.

Your experience matters. You play a vital role in supporting autistic children and young people every day, and your insights can help shape services that will meet their needs. Please take a few minutes to [complete the survey](#) and share your perspective.

How to take part:

- [Fill in an online survey](#)
- Request alternative formats or support by emailing: IntegratedLDACommissioning-Team@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Write to: Integrated LDA Commissioning Team, Children and All Age Disabilities Commissioning, Social Care and Health Commissioning, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL

The survey will now close on 20 July 2025.

This work is a joint initiative by Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council, the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board, and the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust.

If you have an active interest in the Autism Strategy, then please refer to the following website: [Neurodivergence & Autism - Happy Healthy Lives](#).

Congratulations to Isla!

Isla has recently achieved a fantastic milestone by passing her Rock School Grade 1 Ukulele exam with Distinction, earning an impressive score of 92%!

Well done, Isla—what an great accomplishment!

Mr Badham



Alcester Academy Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2025

School closed Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day
Summer Term ends Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm

AUTUMN TERM 2025

School closed Monday 1st September
Teacher training day

Autumn Term begins

Years 7 and 11 only Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Years 8, 9 and 10 only Wednesday 3rd September 2025
All students back Thursday 4th September 2025

Half term Monday 27th – Friday 31st October 2025
Back to school Monday 3rd November 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

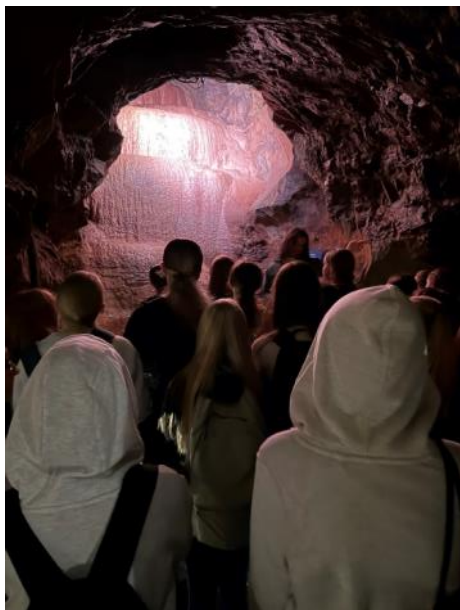
May Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026

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

Year 8 trip to Cheddar Gorge



Last week year visited Cheddar Gorge to explore the limestone landscape as part of their *Geography Rocks* unit. This was a really fantastic experience for the students as many had not seen or been in a cave before.

This was also a first opportunity for many of them to undertake some fieldwork tasks in preparation for GCSE study next year.

It was amazing to see their faces as we entered Gough's Cave and saw the massive stalagmites and stalactites for the first time with our guide.

Jacob's Ladder with its 278 steps presented no challenge and my group raced up in no time to take in the views of the area from the lookout tower!

Then there was just time at the end of the day for us to enjoy a cold drink and a cream at the café—a must on any geography trip!

The students asked insightful questions and learnt a great deal about cave formation. Great work year 8! You're going to smash GCSE geography next year.

Thank you, *Mrs Sandells*





Alcester Academy LRC



The LRC at Alcester Academy is a place for you to Study, Do Homework or even just to spend a little bit of time out of the sun.

The LRC is open every lunch time and break time for you to swap out books, do homework and read.

Alcester Academy

✦ **PRE-LOVED** ✦

UNIFORM

✦ **SALE** ✦

TUESDAY 15TH JULY

FROM 3.30PM TO 4.30PM

IN THE SCHOOL HALL


Please note there is minimal PE kit available. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Monday 7th July 2025	Geography department trip to Bristol
Thursday 10th July 2025	Celebration Evening
Friday 11th July 2025	D of E Bronze assessed expedition
July 2025	Planning of September 2025 Reward Trips

These diary dates are subject to change.



End of Term Early Finish

The summer term will once again finish at 12.45pm on Friday 18th July 2025.

In order to support the safe dismissal of all children, we would like parents to use the one-way system along Gerard Road. Please enter Gerard Road via Captain's Hill and exit via Gerard Road leading into Throckmorton Road. Alternatively, parents can make arrangements to collect children from Captain's Hill.

Unfortunately, none of our transport companies are able to change their schedules to accommodate this early finish so you will need to make alternative arrangements to collect your child.

If your child travels by a public service bus, please ensure you either check the timetable for an earlier service or make alternative travel arrangements for their journey home.

Kind regards
School Office



Examinations, Data and Administration Manager

Salary Scale NJC G Scale Point 11-17

Pro-rated for 40 working weeks/year

£24,827 Actual Salary

Closing date Friday 11th July 2025

Interviews Week Beginning 14th July 2025

Start date End of September 2025

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Board Description

- The post holder is responsible for the administration and organisation of all aspects of external examinations in accordance with the regulations laid down by JCQ and the awarding bodies and for whole school reporting and data assessment system (Bromcom).
- To work with the Deputy Headteacher in order to ensure the effective use of the school's MIS (Bromcom) in collecting data relating to student performance, behaviour and attitudes to learning in a format that allows for analysis and in the analysis of Year 11 data relating to external exams.
- To organise and manage the whole Academy Examination procedure.
- Responsible for all the Academy administration needs.
- Contribute to the school's statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Application Process

This should be by letter addressed to the headteacher, along with a completed application form. Please be succinct and concise using Arial 12 font. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs.

The deadline for applications is Friday 11th July 2025

Interviews week beginning Monday 14th July 2025

Starting: End of September 2025

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.



Epraise Leaderboard—for the past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Skye	10SA	Oversley	26 points
2	Claudia	7TN	Billesley	14 points
2	Jaycee	7TN	Ragley	14 points
4	Ayla	7TN	Billesley	13 points
4	Lottie	10MA	Billesley	13 points
6	Max	7KO	Greville	12 points
6	Rose	7TN	Ragley	12 points
6	Archie	7TN	Billesley	12 points
6	Jade	7RA	Billesley	12 points
6	Ruan	7TN	Greville	12 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Oversley	867 points
2	Billesley	761 points
3	Greville	759 points
4	Ragley	749 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

1	English	262 points
2	Maths	259 points
3	French	141 points
4	History	98 points
5	Art	87 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Mrs Gorner	178 points
2	Miss Home	141 points
3	Mrs Hirji	138 points
4	Mrs Weatherley	121 points
5	Mr Yarrington	108 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	7TN	199 points
2	9CR	180 points
3	9GA	168 points
3	9PA	168 points
5	8NA	167 points



Attendance Notices

Whole School Attendance this week is 94.2%

Top tutors this week:

7TN with 99% attendance

8AN with 99% attendance

9GA with 96.7% attendance

10BW with 99.2% 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 louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk.
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!

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 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 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.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlights

Poppy—year 7, Ragley

Our year 7 tennis superstar Poppy continues to wide her experiences within tennis as she competed in the U18 LTA Grade 4 County Tour at Northampton, and even managed to win the event last week.

Poppy's incredible performances in the competition meant that she didn't drop a single set in her three matches and managed to take the final 4-0, 4-1 in convincing fashion. Keep up the excellent work on court and hard work off it, Poppy, congratulations!



Courtney—year 10, Billesley

Last weekend Courtney was selected to play in the West Midlands U16s girl water polo team. The team, captained by Courtney, travelled up to the north west to compete in regional competition at the Liverpool Aquatics Centre this weekend. Congratulations on this superb achievement, Courtney!



South Warwickshire Championships Roundup



Congratulations to all students selected to represent Alcester Academy at the South Warwickshire Schools Athletics Championships last week. Fantastic performances across track and field saw us finish in 4th place out of nine schools. Well done on a brilliant effort from all.

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Alcester Academy Sports Day 2025

It was a fantastic day of athletics for Alcester Academy as we held our whole school sports day on Thursday 3rd July. I look forward to sharing a full report with you in next week's bulletin.

Next week's sport timetable

<div>  **THIS WEEKS SPORT**: <u>W/B 4/7/25</u>  </div>		
Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	U13 Boys Cricket v Stratford Year 9 Girls v Year 8 Girls Rounders	Stratford School Field
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday	Celebration Evening – No clubs	N/A



The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is urging people to stay vigilant when in, on or around water this summer. With 141 children known to have drowned from England, Scotland and Wales in the last three years alone, ensuring your family knows what to do in an emergency is vital. RLSS UK is urging everyone to learn the Water Safety Code through its video animation.

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/listing/category/the-water-safety-code>

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



THE Greig Hall

CAR BOOT SALE

SUNDAY 13TH JULY
**THE GREIG HALL,
ALCESTER**
SELLERS. 7:30AM
BUYERS 8:30AM
OPEN UNTIL 12:30
PITCHES £7 CASH, INSIDE TABLE £1 EXTRA
BACON ROLLS AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

[HTTPS://GREIGHALL.ORG.UK/](https://greighall.org.uk/)
CHARITY NUMBER 11356435



GLO-KIDS PRESENTS
GLO-FEST
**THE ULTIMATE OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE
HOLIDAY CLUB**
FROM £25 PER DAY

SCAVENGER HUNTS
TEAM BUILDING
SECRET MISSIONS
WEREWOLVES
EPIC QUESTS
OUTDOOR GAMES
DRONE FLYING

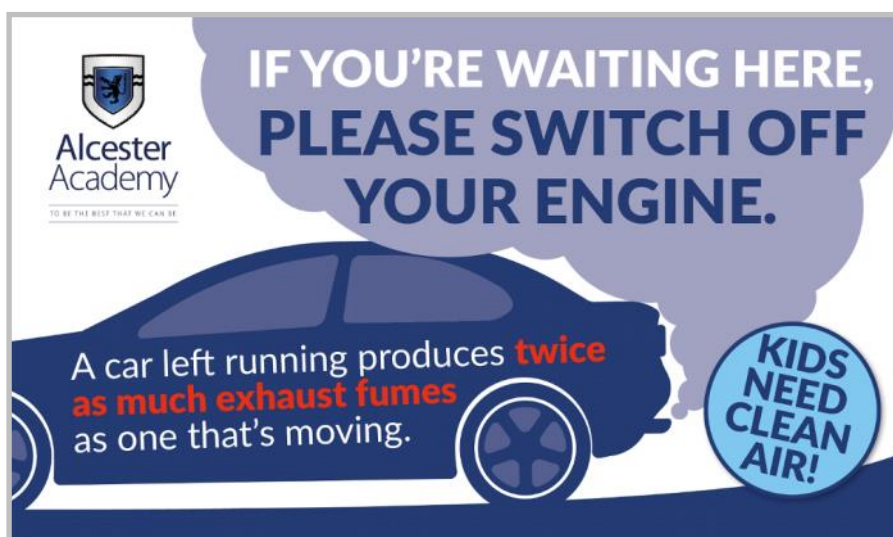
WHERE
STRATFORD RUGBY CLUB, LOXLEY
ROAD STRATFORD UPON AVON

COST?
£30/DAY OR JUST £25 WHEN
BOOKING THE WHOLE WEEK

WHEN
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
FOR UPCOMING DATES

HAF HAF AND SIBLING
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PROMOTIONAL DISCOUNTS AND
A SNEAK PEAK AT OUR TIMETABLE VISIT:
www.glo-group.co.uk/glo-fest Or call: 07816 329 649



Alcester Academy
TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

**IF YOU'RE WAITING HERE,
PLEASE SWITCH OFF
YOUR ENGINE.**

A car left running produces **twice**
as much exhaust fumes
as one that's moving.

**KIDS
NEED
CLEAN
AIR!**