

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! Gosh, how long have I waited to say that! A particularly warm welcome to our new parents/carers of year 7 children. We are so pleased that you have joined Alcester Academy.

We have had a busy, but extremely rewarding week in school. It was absolutely the right decision to have children return to school in phases in order to help with greater support and instructions in light of the 'bubble' situation under COVID. We now look forward to having a full and happy school back together on Monday. Thank you all sincerely for working with us on the detail of the plans with regard to face coverings, entrances/exits and staggered times. It has helped enormously. I'm also grateful for how hard you have worked on

ensuring that uniform is correct. I am aware of a few supply issues and we are working on these with the National School Wear Centre. My attention is very much around standards and we have started back with the highest expectations in all areas.



Dates for your diary

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

Half term Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020
Back to school Monday 2nd November 2020

Autumn Term ends Friday 18th December 2020 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2021

School closed Monday 4th January 2021
Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half Term Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Back to school Monday 22nd February 2021

Spring Term ends (Easter) Thursday 1st April 2021



We used the opportunity this week to work with our year 7s and a company called Mobile Climbing in order to facilitate an exciting first day at secondary school. The weather just about held out for us and the children had a great time as you can see from these photographs. For other bubbles, there was plenty of time with

tutors going through the new routines in order to keep safe around school. If you or the children have any queries about any of the return to school information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

In news over the summer, I expect that you all kept up to date with the various 'u turns' on the awarding of GCSE grades. I'm lucky to be fortunate to work with a very reactive team who provided the information required for our year 11 students at very short notice. I was thrilled that students achieved GCSE grades in line with our progress over time, or in cases, even better. The integrity of our internal assessment and staff professionalism supported this process massively and I want to relay how proud all of the staff are for the mature way that our year 11s faced this unprecedented period of time.

Many congratulations to all of them and we wish them much future success as they move on with their post 16 choices.

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to the team this year. I hope that you'll join with me in making them feel welcome at the academy:

Mr Martin – IMEDIA/Computing

I am the new iMedia and Computer Science Teacher (plus a bit of maths) at Alcester Academy. My life throughout the last decade has been highly focused on programming, so I welcome this opportunity to impart my knowledge and enthusiasm for all things computer-related onto the students here at Alcester Academy!



Mrs Case – Maths

After a career in Project Management I studied my PGCE (Maths) at Warwick University. Placements at Myton School and North Leamington. Previous teaching posts at Stratford High School and Studley. Previously worked as a Youth Worker, Youth Counsellor and in a Young Offender's Institution. I have 3 children, one at sixth form, one at university studying engineering and one carving a career in retail management. I love being outdoors, particularly by the sea. I enjoy walking, cycling and yoga.



Mr Bastock - Maths

Hello! I feel very fortunate to have worked in mathematics every day for the last 20 years; what a great job! I have worked in a number of schools in a variety of different positions but always find myself wanting more time in the classroom. I'm really excited to be starting at Alcester Academy and looking forward to sharing the fun of maths. When not immersed in mathematics I enjoy spending time with my wife and two children, Daniel (17) & Lucy (13) and of course the family dog. I am a keen photographer and like to push the boundaries of photography Why not stop me and ask to see my latest photo? You may be surprised...



Miss Bush - SEND

Hi, my name is Catherine Bush, I have previously worked in various main-stream and SEND schools, both at primary and secondary levels. I live locally with my partner and two children aged 11 and 16 years old. I enjoy baking- especially cakes, which my family are always happy to sample. I also enjoy spending time with my family on camping trips, walks, Go-Karting, and Go-Ape. I'm really looking forward to being part of a great staff team at Alcester Academy and getting to know all of the students.



my toes and normally spend my weekends creating 'masterpieces' with them. I have previously worked in two other secondary schools, Arden Academy as a LSA and Woodrush High School as Teacher of Design and Technology and have teaching experience working in college settings. In addition to my teaching experience I have varied fashion industry experience as a knitwear designer, a garment technologist, and a teacher of craft workshops. I enjoy teaching a practical subject and sharing my passion for Art and Design. I am looking forward to meeting you here at Alcester Academy. *Mrs Megee*

Ms Megee - DT

As a graduate of Art and Design I love all things creative. My hobbies include making and trying new crafts like yarn spinning, weaving, and printing, Yoga, and trying new foods. I have two young daughters who keep me on

**Mrs Weatherley – Head of MFL**

Having been Head of Languages for the past 12 years at Trinity High School in Redditch and Stourport High School, I am excited to be continuing my career at Alcester Academy. Outside of school, I enjoy travelling, visiting new places and camping. I live near school, with my family, and our recently acquired kitten, Muffin!



Alcester Academy

Virtual Open Week 2020

Monday 14th September to Friday 18th September



The Staff and Governors of Alcester Academy warmly invite you to our:

Virtual Open Evening Presentation & Virtual Open Mornings

Alcester Academy is happy to virtually open its doors to prospective parents for Open Week 2020.

The Virtual Open Evening Presentation will be posted on the school website week beginning 14th September 2020.

Alcester Academy will host Virtual Open Mornings from Monday 14th September to Friday 18th September, at 9.30am and 11.30am, via TEAMS. Respectfully we ask families to book one meeting at their convenience during this week. Please call the main office on 01789 762285.

'There is a culture of high expectation in lessons. Pupils are encouraged to aim high and teachers do not accept mediocre answers.' *Ofsted 2019*



Winner
Maths teacher
or team of the year

View our 360° tour at: <http://tours.lourdesit.org.uk/Alcester/>

Alcester Academy, Gerard Road, Alcester, B49 6QQ * Tel: 01789 762285 * Email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk * Website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk

We have spent a long time as a staff planning for the return to school. Our initial agenda relies on us re-growing the self-confidence of the children and ensuring that they feel safe and happy in school. I'm optimistic that over time, and with care, we can begin to re-establish the opportunities available to the students in terms of extra-curricular activities and trips; for our year 11s this will include GCSE interventions and a whole school focus on COVID 'catch up'. Mrs Woodman has sent a letter out separately discussing homework and our introduction to addressing any gaps that the lockdown created with learning.

I am very optimistic about the year ahead for us at Alcester Academy. I continue to feel blessed with such support from a very strong team of staff

alongside your own endorsement of what we do as parents. We have an amazing group of students who make up the heart of the school and the staff have returned with the energy to support them all in every way possible. I'm looking forward to our future very much indeed.

Have a fabulous weekend and I'll be in touch next Friday again.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

It might seem like fun at first... but think twice about swimming in open water...



**Rivers, lakes
and reservoirs may
look safe but there
are dangers below
the surface that
can seriously injure
or kill you.**

Currents in open water are more powerful than they look. Even the strongest of swimmers can be caught off guard.

Swimming near river weirs is also extremely dangerous. The current can create a 'washing machine effect' that makes it very tricky to get out.

Weirs can also create foamy, white bubbles which make you lose buoyancy in the water, making it much more difficult to swim and stay afloat.

If you swim in open water not only do you put your life at risk, but also the lives of our firefighters and passers-by, who go in to try and rescue you.



In Brief

We are looking forward to seeing all students back together on Monday 7th September. Please adhere to the bubble start times and correct entrances.

In light of us not being able to run parent and carer drop ins each Wednesday, please be sure to email us any concerns:

General concerns -

head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Learning/Progress related -

wendywoodman@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Pastoral/welfare -

karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

If you are a new parent to the school, we would be grateful if you come directly to us with any concerns rather than asking for opinions on social media. Thank you in advance. We have tried to work really hard on this aspect of school life with our parents in years 8-11.



Absence

More important than ever, is the need for you to let us know quickly if your child develops any COVID related symptoms or requires testing. Please contact any member of SLT or our Attendance Officer jackieHODGES@alcesteracademy.org.uk

EPraise

We are very pleased to be launching the reward aspect of EPraise in school this term <https://www.epraise.co.uk/> We will update you as parents in more detail as we imbed this system with details of how you can access information about your child/ren. In light of how popular the 'stars' were in lock down, we hope that you and students will like this system. Thanks to Lourdes IT for their support with this roll out. EPraise are running live events nationally for parents on 10th and 17th September in order to update you further on the functions. Please go to the home page for details – note, we are only currently using the Reward function of this package.



Lourdes Lease Device Scheme

We are optimistic that the devices for year 9 and 11 will be in school in mid



September. Once we have these in school working, we will be considering rolling this scheme out to other year groups.; Watch this space!

Twitter Accounts

Keeping up with news @AlcesterAcademy
We now have numerous twitter accounts in school, all designed to help keep you up to date with the latest news at school.

Follow our accounts:

@AlcesterAllstar, @AAcademy_PE,
@AA_LRC_Library, @AlcesterHistory
@AcademyMfl, @EnglishAlcester
@jamesyarrington2, @AAcademy_House
@aa_science, @AA_Careers_Zone
@AA_PTE, @AADesignTechno1
@academy_rock, @Mr_BOWATER
@AlcesAcad_TandL

STAY IN
TOUCH!!

Teacher Training Days 2020/21

Please note that Friday 23rd October 2020 is no longer a training day. In light of the recent missed face time with students, we will be in school teaching as normal on this date. A new training day for the summer will be published in lieu.

Google Classroom



We will continue to use Google Classroom for setting homework tasks. If you have any issues with this from home, please contact Lourdes IT helpdesk to get these resolved. <https://help.lourdesit.org.uk/support/home> Should we have to go back in to lockdown, or a Tier 2 rota system in school for year groups, we will need to revert back to teaching via Google Classroom immediately. It is best to be organised now!

Organisations that can support us

In light of the new five bubbles in school, we are struggling to fund new outdoor benches in all of these school areas. If any parents or carers are aware of any funding streams that might support this, I'd be grateful to know. Thanks so much head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Bubble updates

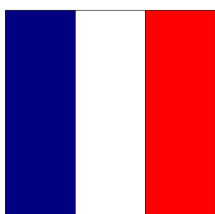
For clarification, please can you ensure that children wear masks on buses. Some of our younger students were concerned that year 11s were not wearing masks on the journey into school on Thursday. This is a legal requirement unless a child is exempt on health grounds. I would like year 11s to role model the right thing to do please.

Entrance directions must be as follows for children walking to school or being dropped off by car. If you are dropping children off, please ensure that you do this as near to their entrance as possible:

Year 7	Side school drive adjacent to the caretakers bungalow	Walking up Captains Hill and along Gerard Road
Year 8	Side entrance at the back of the science block	Walking along Throckmorton Road and along Gerard Road
Year 9	English door	Walking up Captains Hill and along Gerard Road
Year 10	Main student entrance underneath 'the tower'	Walking up Captains Hill and along Gerard Road
Year 11	English door	Walking along Throckmorton Road and along Gerard Road

Please can I ask that children approach school wearing face coverings to be safest. All students leaving buses must continue to also wear their face covering until in their tutor room.

Thank you.
Mrs Mellors



Language Idiom of the Week

To be really happy.

Avoir la banane.

"To have the banana"

Auf Wolke sieben sein.

"To be on cloud seven"

