

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon. I hope that you have had a great week. It's lovely to be back at school with the students and we have had a busier week than ever here.

I first want to offer my thanks to those parents and community members who stopped to help a student after the car accident yesterday morning. Yet again, it endorsed what a truly amazing community we are. I'm pleased to say that whilst shaken, the student is in good health and should be back at school very soon. Thank you to staff who also helped in numerous ways.

Thank you to year 11 parents who joined us on Tuesday for the Parent Forum on some key GCSE subjects. We are looking forward to presenting to year 7 and 8 parents next Tuesday on the Key Stage Three curriculum in our next event. We are finding that the Microsoft TEAMS meetings are suitable for these updates and offer you as parents a convenient way to engage with key aspects of school life.

We welcomed *Elevate Education* in to school this week for some timely revision reminders. For year 9 and 10 parents, this organisation might be new to you. Details of their work can be found at <https://uk.elevateeducation.com/> Their work around *Study Skills* has been of value to our older students in previous years.

Students visited Stratford College this week, we had a practising midwife in for a careers talk and a talk in science on pathology careers. Students went to a performance of *Blood Brothers*. Rehearsals for *Beauty and the Beast* and The Rock Academy concert continued in earnest too. Our year 11 *SOS* team went to

Kings School on Wednesday evening to compete with two selective schools looking at stereotypes. This was a most able project led by Oxford University. Mr Cooke will reveal the excellent outcome of this later on in the bulletin. Saturday Schools begin this weekend in readiness for year 11 mocks too. Phew! My goodness, I'm not sure quite how we have squeezed it all in. As ever, these things cannot happen without the dedication of a truly amazing staff team here.



Alongside all of this, I'm delighted that covid cases continue to be much lower than before half term. Thank you for continuing to support our measures to achieve this. At the point of writing the bulletin, numbers are as follows:
Year 7 — no cases
Year 8 — 4 cases
Year 9 — 1 case
Year 10 — 1 case
Year 11 — 1 case
I will return to updating you on numbers weekly on a Tuesday.

Miss Buckthorp update

We are collecting all of your kind messages to send to Miss Buckthorp. She is currently still in hospital on day 16. We are in regular touch with her and she is responding very well to treatment. She is as buoyant as usual but rather frustrated that she is not yet allowed home! Many thanks to our students this week for sending her get well cards from each tutor group. This will continue to give her the lift needed whilst she cannot see her friends and family in person. We can pass on any more wishes or cards if you would like this.

Thank you for your compassion and understanding this week. We are covering Miss Buckthorp's roles effectively, but SLT levels of communication may be just slightly slower than usual in light of this. We are all communicating as an SLT with those parents we are individually dealing with. We absolutely do not wish to compromise the level of support available to you all or students. Many staff are stepping up during this difficult time and I'm very grateful indeed.

Congratulations to Miss Elliott

On the safe birth of baby Alba last Monday! We were delighted to hear this news.

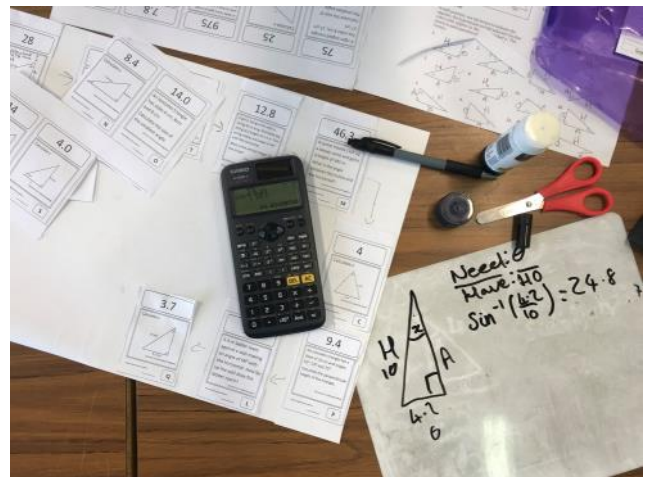
Creator Profile List

Congratulations to Mr Bowater who is now included on the Creator Profile list for the United Kingdom of YouTube, @Mr_BOWATER, representing the Midlands area <https://t.co/xdNXybt5n1?amp=1>

People all over the world have used YouTube to follow their passions, connect with others and develop economic opportunities for themselves and their communities. Explore the stories behind just a few of YouTube's creative entrepreneurs. Meet creators and small businesses from all across the UK who call YouTube home. See how farmers, teachers, musicians and other creative entrepreneurs use YouTube to empower their communities and share their passions with the world. We wish Mr Bowater all the best with this well deserved accolade.

Year 10 Catch Up Session

Thank you to our dedicated students and staff for being in school over half term for the Catch Up sessions. Students took part in some English and maths sessions. They were an absolute delight to have in school.



What is your child learning? Key Stage Three

This is a new feature in the bulletin for the next few weeks where Subject Leaders have summarised what your child will study in years 7 and 8. This is in response to the Ofsted survey; Parent View question 5. 14% of parents have indicated that they are not made aware of what their child is learning. This week, MFL and Art/DT have put together the first of our summaries for you. Please don't forget that detail of all subjects by year group is broken down on the website for you under *Quality of Education*.

If you want to know more about the Key Stage 3 core subject curriculum, please attend our virtual Parent Forum on Tuesday 9th November at 6pm via TEAMS. Details have been sent out about this.

Finally, if you wish to provide your views on school life, please do so through the Parent View survey <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



Charity updates

Thank you for your support before half term. We raised £1,026 for Myton Hospices



So far, our Poppy Appeal has raised £575. Watch this space for the display outside school beginning to take shape. All proceeds go to the Alcester Division of the British Legion. Thank you so much for your amazing contributions. There is still time to sponsor a poppy if you want to! Please go to the Gateway.



Warwickshire Covid

Thank you if you alerted me to some of the calls that were received over half term regarding our Academy covid protocols and procedures. I have chased this up with the Lead Consultant at Warwickshire; Nadia Inglis. If you have any queries regarding our contact tracing procedures at school, please be in touch head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. I feel absolutely satisfied that we are doing everything that we can to mitigate case numbers. I will keep you updated weekly by year group on numbers in a separate school communication. From 1st November, I have been told that Warwickshire will be telephoning all parents and carers of positive PCR cases as standard practice, in a bid to try and minimise the growth of cases.

If your child missed their vaccination recently at school, you can now log into the NHS site to find out how to get this elsewhere.

Stress Awareness Day

I have attached some useful resources in recognition of *Stress Awareness Day* that was on Wednesday this week. I hope that these might be of help.



We are celebrating Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication) as a cultural learning experience across subjects on Monday 29th November-Friday 5th December. Hanukkah reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival. Although not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures, Hanukkah came to be widely celebrated and remains one of the most popular Jewish religious observances.

Graduation Day

Congratulations to Miss Radbourne, Miss Lewis and Miss Home who all graduated yesterday at Worcester Cathedral.



In memory

Thinking of the 14th anniversary this week of the incident at Atherstone-on-Stour where four fire-fighters lost their lives, Ashley, Darren, Ian and John.

Next week in school we will be covering the theme of Remembrance in assembly and tutor time. There will be a two minute silence on 11th November.

Please stay safe this Bonfire weekend.

Wishing you all a super weekend.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

Blood Brothers Trip

Yesterday saw a group of year 10 and 11 students visit Birmingham Hippodrome to see a production of Blood Brothers as part of their English literature GCSE.

The show was spectacular and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The perfect reward after months of hard work studying the play.



Sustainable Calendars

This week 'Alcester Bee Collective,' our Young Enterprise team, were invited to *Space Graphic Solutions* to discuss the production of their environmentally, sustainable calendars.

They were offered a tour of the factory and staff were enthusiastic about their ideas. The team are now collaborating to produce a prototype which they can then show local businesses in the hope of receiving sponsorship.

If you have any photographs which you would like to donate, or are a business interested in sponsoring a 'month', then please contact the company directly at alcesterbeecollective.all@alcester.academy. Their theme is nature in and around Alcester.



Greig Hall Update

As I am sure you are aware there is now a Greig Hall Working Party within Alcester, who are restoring the beautiful old venue to its former glory. This is a charitable event and one in which Alcester Academy are keen to support in any way possible. Last month our students volunteered to help at a craft fair and coffee morning at the Eric Payne Centre, which was extremely successful, and this weekend we are due to support a ladies pamper evening at the same venue. We are keen to encourage you as parents and carers to become involved with us and would like to offer you the chance to purchase raffle tickets for *The Greig Hall Christmas Raffle* taking place at The Greig Hall on Saturday 4 December 2021. The tickets are £1 each and are available to purchase through the School Gateway system. Please see this link for further details about the project: <https://greighall.org.uk/>.



Project SOS: Alcester Academy shine!

Fifteen year 11s presented at King's High Warwick on the evening of Wednesday 3rd November. Their presentations, and research poster talks, were a summary of all their hard work report writing in association with Physics team at Oxford University over the past two years.

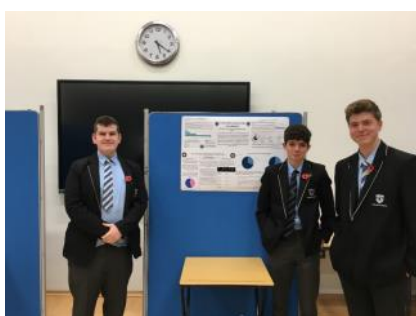
All the teams had a brief to write a scientific report and collect and analyse data around a hypothetical question of their choice based on 'stereotypes'. Themes ranged from the justice system to gender issues in high school sport.

Alcester Academy's four teams competed against other pupils from Kings' High and Warwick School - two private schools - and were judged by representatives from the physics department of Oxford University. There were 13 teams in total. We are delighted that our students delivered such slick and clear work in such an environment, but to win the research poster element and receive highly commended awards for both the presentation and project was a truly impressive and moving experience.

The evening was palpable confirmation of how resilient, hard-working and adaptable Alcester Academy students can be! And proof that there really is no limit to what can be achieved.

The winning research poster team's theme was their careful consideration of the question: 'how do stereotypes around gender affect aspirations around life goals in British teenagers? They were praised for their teamwork, quality of poster, ability to discuss their project at length and impressive data set. We aim to display the poster - watch this space!

Andrew, Lucas, Max and Henry:



Picture of the winning research poster team: Amelia, Matilda, Abigail and Freija.

The Highly commended team: Ellie-Anne, Lola and Beatrice:



Alfie, Will, Nathan and Alex:



Dates for your diary this half term

TRIPS

11th November — Stratford College year 11

25th November — Year 7 Bear Grylls

1st December — Year 8 Theatre Trip

13/14th December — Proposed end of year reward trip dates - covid permitting

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday 9th November —

Year 7/8 Parents Forum on Core Curriculum 6pm on TEAMS

Friday 12th November —

Years 7-10 School photo day with the year 11 photos after Christmas

Monday 15th November —

School Production Week *Beauty and the Beast*

Thursday 18th November —

Year 9 and 10 sessions with *Elevate Education* on Study Skills

Monday 22nd November —

Year 11 Mock Preparation Week and MFL Speaking Exams for year 11 start

Monday 22nd November — Rock Academy Concert

Monday 29th November —

Year 11 Mocks start. 3:2 days Timetable attached

Thursday 2nd December —

Year 10 Parents' Evening via SCHOOL CLOUD

Wednesday 15th December — Christmas Concert

Friday 17th December — Non Uniform. Christmas Jumper Day for *Save The Children* and *Asthma UK* (Yes, we all wear Christmas jumpers! It's amazing) and early finish at 12.40pm. BREAK UP.

During this half term, year 8 written reports are due out as well.

Art & Design – Key Stage 3

As a subject area, our primary aim is to build confidence, resilience and to foster a love of learning, experimentation and hard work. Students arrive in year 7 very unsure of their abilities and we decide to return to basics with drawing, building skills and an awareness of visual presentation. Very quickly, staff are able to identify a range of needs and challenge the more able, at the same time building resilience with those whose confidence threatens to hamper development.

Learners soon realise that they are able to make progress effectively through the personalised programme that we offer. Gradually, technical skills using a range of media evolve allowing students to experiment with scale and photographic supporting materials in particular.

Throughout key stage 3, all learners are encouraged to investigate literacy elements within the subject, researching the work of other artists and becoming aware of their style characteristics, their intentions and the context of the work, both at the time of its creation and also within present-day society. Students also use written and verbal feedback to drive their own and each other's development through staff and peer assessment. Student responses are prompted through a planned questioning focus during lessons, both on the whiteboard, through verbal interaction and also within PTR sheets in sketchbooks.

All of these features effectively build the skills required for study at key stage 4. The expectation of the department dictates that commitment outside lessons is essential for success; something that we believe prepares all learners for the demands of the new GCSE course. We also cover the various career possibilities in art and design through display material in the department but also via the newly-established photography course.

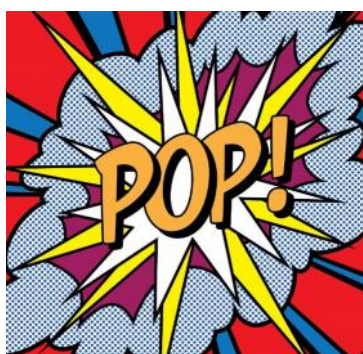
Throughout KS3, students learn the skills and ways in which to gain and continue building knowledge within the subject. In addition to technical challenges, learners are always encouraged to consider their intentions when using a particular media. They would be expected to be able to justify the selection of materials for the purpose of the piece. Students' knowledge of artists' work extends from the characteristics of his/her style to reasons for links to the project and also that artist's intentions, what he or she was trying to portray, the intended audience.

At key stage 3, we encourage learners to reflect on themselves as people and also those around them. Both the year 7 'Pop Art' and year 8 'Cubism' units of work involve a clear focus upon self-identity and students are able to investigate things that are personal to them e.g. family, friends, pets, hobbies, favourite celebrities/sports stars etc. This echoes starting points of many artists, both within the themes studied but also as they progress to the more flexible and broad-based GCSE approach in year 9 and onwards, even involving possible responses to the GCSE exam starting points in year 11.

Much of the work at the beginning of projects is modelled by staff to build confidence and also establish expectations. The department also utilises exemplar work from past and present students and encourages peer coaching to share good practice and drive success.

Projects studied at KS3

Year 7—Drawing, Colour, Natural forms, Pop Art
Year 8—Cubism and Surrealism



Epraise Updates—past 7 days

Top Scorers—past 7 days:

| | | | |
|---|----------|-----|-----------|
| 1 | Maya | 8SO | 22 points |
| 2 | Tom | 7WI | 15 points |
| 3 | Mercy | 8HL | 14 points |
| 4 | Isabella | 8HL | 12 points |
| 4 | Kobe | 8HL | 12 points |
| 4 | Arthur | 7SI | 12 points |
| 4 | Matthew | 7SI | 12 points |
| 4 | Rosie | 7SI | 12 points |
| 9 | Evie | 8HL | 11 points |
| 9 | Sophia | 7HT | 11 points |

Top Tutor Groups—past 7 days:

| | | |
|---|-----|------------|
| 1 | 7WI | 189 points |
| 2 | 7HT | 184 points |
| 3 | 7TY | 165 points |
| 4 | 7SI | 162 points |
| 5 | 9YA | 145 points |

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

| | | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Geography | 464 points |
| 2 | Art | 413 points |
| 3 | Science | 295 points |
| 4 | Maths | 268 points |
| 5 | English | 233 points |

Top Staff—past 7 days:

| | | |
|---|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Mr Yarrington | 326 points |
| 2 | Mr Bowater | 319 points |
| 3 | Mr Bastock | 293 points |
| 4 | Mr Powell | 290 points |
| 5 | Mrs Weatherley | 152 points |

Revision Timetable for year 11

| WEEK A | Lunchtime | After school (3.30-4.30pm) |
|-----------|--|--|
| Monday | Informal Maths revision | |
| Tuesday | Informal Maths revision | Maths |
| Wednesday | DT | English |
| Thursday | Chemistry (Br) or Biology for Triple Alternate weeks - see dept lists | Biology (Cp) or Chemistry (Br) for Triple alternate weeks - see dept lists |
| Friday | Combined Science | |

| WEEK B | Lunchtime | After school (3.30-4.30pm) |
|-----------|---|---|
| Monday | Art/Photography | |
| Tuesday | Art/Photography | PTE |
| Wednesday | German (MFL2) Performing Arts/Music | iMedia and Computer Science Performing Arts/Music |
| Thursday | French (MFL1) | Art/Photography |
| Friday | Geography | |

Modern Foreign Languages at KS3

The aim of the MFL Faculty is to provide all students at Alcester Academy with the chance to study languages and thus the opportunity to be a linguist. We firmly believe in *Languages for All*. We teach French and German from year 7 and there is the ability to choose Spanish as an extra-curricular activity club in the summer term.



We provide a curriculum that:

- enables students to effectively communicate their thoughts and feelings on topics familiar to them in the foreign language.
- ensures students are exposed to and use the foreign language regularly as a purposeful means of communication within the classroom.
- promotes cultural development.
- ensures challenge and rigour.
- fulfils the breadth, depth and ambition of the National Curriculum.

MFL in year 7

In year 7, all students study French for one hour per week and the majority also study one hour of German per week. The below table shows the topics studied throughout year 7.

| FRENCH | GERMAN |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Myself | Myself |
| Family and friends | My family |
| School life | School life |
| Food and Drink | Hobbies and free-time |
| My local area | Town/local area |
| Cultural project - Mr Men | Cultural project - Germany |

In addition, we celebrate and study a range of foreign festivals and traditions such as *Mardi Gras*, *Le 14 juillet* and *European Day of Languages*.

MFL in year 8

In year 8, all students continue to study the languages which they learnt in year 7, with the view to opting for one or both languages to study at KS4 for GCSE. The below table shows the topics studied throughout year 8.

| FRENCH | GERMAN |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fashion | Media and music |
| Holidays | Healthy living |
| Sports and free-time activities | Environment |
| World of media | Jobs and careers |
| Jobs and careers | Holidays |
| Cultural project - film | Cultural project - film |

In addition, we celebrate and study a range of foreign festivals and traditions such as *Mardi Gras*, *Le 14 juillet* and *European Day of Languages*.



Year 11 Mock Examinations Autumn 2021

| Date and Time | Subject | Duration |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Monday 29th November | | |
| 8.50am | English Language Paper 1 | 1hr 45 |
| 1.20pm | French Reading/Listening F&H | 45mins/1hr 35/45mins |
| Tuesday 30th November | | |
| 8.50am | English Literature Paper 1 | 1hr 45mins |
| 1.20pm | iMedia Computer Science Paper 1 | 1hr 15 1hr 30 |
| Wednesday 1st December | | |
| 8.50am | Maths Paper 1 | 1hr 30 |
| 1.20pm | Biology | 1hr 15/1hr 45 |
| Thursday 2nd December | | |
| 8.50am | English Literature Paper 2 | 1hr 45 |
| 1.20pm | French Writing F&H Media Paper 1 | 1hr/1hr 15 1hr 30 |
| Friday 3rd December | | |
| 8.50am | English Language Paper 2 | 1hr 45 |
| 1.20pm | History Paper 1 – Germany 2 x clash students Media Paper 1 | 1hr 1hr 30 |
| Monday 6th December | | |
| 8.50am | Maths Paper 2 | 1hr 30 |
| 1.20pm | German Reading/Listening F&H | 45mins/1hr 35/45mins |
| Tuesday 7th December | | |
| 8.50am | Chemistry | 1hr 15/1hr 45 |
| 1.20pm | Geography Paper 1 | 1hr |
| Wednesday 8th December | | |
| 8.50am | Child Care RE Computer Science Paper 2 | 1hr 15 2hrs 1hr 30 |
| 1.20pm | History Paper 2 – Health & The People | 1hr |
| Thursday 9th December | | |
| 8.50am | Maths Paper 3 | 1hr 30 |
| 1.20pm | German Writing F&H Sport Media Paper 2 | 1hr/1hr 15 1hr 15 1hr 30 |
| Friday 10th December | | |
| 8.50am | Physics | 1hr 15/1hr 45 |
| 1.20pm | Geography Paper 2 | 1hr |



Alcester Academy invites you to be our guest
and join our magical world of...



Disney
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST
THE MUSICAL

17th, 18th and 19th November

Buy your tickets now on the school gateway!

It will be a night you won't want to miss



We are pleased to inform you that tickets for our school production *Beauty and the Beast* are now on sale. Tickets can be purchased via the School Gateway.

Exam, Reporting & Parents' Evening Timetable September 2021 – July 2022

Year 11

MFL Mock Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 22nd November 2021
GCSE Mock Exams 1 — weeks commencing Monday 29th November & 6th December 2021
Mock Results & Parents' Evening — Thursday 6th January 2022 - 4-6.30pm
GCSE Mock Exams 2 — weeks beginning Monday 28th February & 7th March 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
GCSE Examinations — Monday 16th May — Tuesday 28th June 2022
(these dates are provisional and will be confirmed by the awarding bodies imminently)
GCSE Contingency Day — Wednesday 29th June 2022 - all students must be available

Year 10

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 1st December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 2nd December 2021 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 10th & 17th January 2022
Exam Results Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 17th February 2022
Internal MFL Speaking Exams — week commencing Monday 20th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 9

Data Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 24th March 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Internal Exams — weeks commencing Monday 28th March & 4th April 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Friday 20th May 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 18th July 2022

Year 8

Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 3rd March 2022 - 4-6.30pm
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 14th March 2022
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
Options Evening — Wednesday 4th May 2022 — time tbc
Data Report published to parents/carers — Monday 20th June 2022

Year 7

Attitude to Learning Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 15th December 2021
Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud — Thursday 17th February 2022 – 4-6.30pm
Data Report published to parents/carers — Thursday 7th April 2022
In-class Exams — week commencing Monday 13th June 2022
Full Report published to parents/carers — Wednesday 20th July 2022

Term Dates 2021—2022

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Autumn Term ends Friday 17th December 2021 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2022

*School closed Tuesday 4th January 2022
Teacher training day*

Spring Term begins Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half Term Monday 21st – Friday 25th February 2022
Back to school Monday 28th February 2022

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 8th April 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022

Summer Term begins Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June 2022
Back to school Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Term ends Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 12.40pm

2021/2022 TERM DATES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

School Attendance — up to 4.11.21

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Whole School |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------------|
| 92.3% | 92.7% | 90.9% | 89.3% | 87.7% | 92.3% |

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

DT Textiles—Work of the Week

Maisie
Year 10



Year 10 have been studying fashion designers and are producing their own design ideas inspired by their chosen one. Here are some examples of work produced over the last few weeks.

Lucy
Year 10



Miss Wincup

Lilia
Year 10



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Very pleased to announce the winner of the hair competition is Danielle from year 10. Danielle joined us a week into the course and has made a huge improvement in her skills as the weeks have progressed.

Her final piece was original and neatly executed, she wins a deep conditioning treatment to keep her own locks healthy.

Well done Danielle!

Miss Sacco



Year 11 Geography — Revision sessions and support

Geography Revision Blast—
every Wednesday evening 7pm to 7.30pm!

Geography Saturday School—
Saturday 6th November

The class code for these events is:
ommjqov





Stress Awareness Day (03/11/21) School information pack

Stress is your body's reaction to help you deal with pressure or threats. This is sometimes called a "fight or flight" response.

A small amount of stress can be useful. It can motivate you to take action and get tasks completed. It can also make you feel alive and excited. But too much stress can cause negative effects such as a change in your mood, your body and relationship issues. Find out more [here](#).

Ways to reduce stress

Coping with stress for young people - This webpage looks at what stress is, what causes it, how it might feel to be suffering from stress and ways to cope with stress. **Wellbeing bingo** is a great activity to get you talking and thinking about what you have done in the last week to look after yourself. It could be reading a good book, spending time with a friend or visiting somewhere new. **Stress Bucket** - consider what makes you stressed and some ways to help those stresses go away.

Stress Awareness Day highlights ways that stress can affect people and what you can do to manage your stress before it becomes a problem. Feeling stressed and being under pressure is a normal part of life. But becoming overwhelmed by stress can lead to mental health problems. The information within this resource can be shared with children, young people, and parents/carers.

How do I know when to get help with my mental health?

Trust your instincts - you know if something is up. Don't wait for things to get really bad before reaching out. The earlier you get help, the more likely it is that you can stop your problem getting worse.

Here are some of the signs you might feel when stress becomes too much:

- feeling sad all the time
- feeling angry all the time
- feeling anxious all the time
- feeling worthless

Stress - how to cope

If you are struggling to cope with life pressures, you might be stressed. [Rethink Mental Illness factsheet](#) explains the common symptoms and causes of stress. It also looks at some of the ways you can try to reduce stress.



Developing Resilience

Taking steps to look after your wellbeing can help you deal with pressure, and reduce the impact that stress has on your life. This is sometimes called developing emotional resilience. Resilience is not just your ability to bounce back, but also your capacity to adapt in the face of challenging circumstances, whilst maintaining a stable mental wellbeing. [Check out Minds tips to develop resilience.](#)



NHS Every Mind Matters

There are plenty of things you can do to help cope with stressful events, and simple steps you can take to deal with feelings of stress or burnout. Find out more [here](#).

Find out about:

- What is stress?
- Top tips to deal with stress and burnout.
- Get your mind plan - take the quiz
- Signs of stress and burnout
- Possible causes of stress
- Support for stress



Information for pupils & families

Services
CW RISE
Rise is a family of NHS-led services providing emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Dimensions Tool
A web-based app that will help you to find well-being support in the local area specific to your needs, or someone else's needs, after you answer a series of questions.

Relate
Counselling service for young people.

Kooth
Join Kooth, the free online mental health community for young people in Coventry and Warwickshire. Includes counselling via text service.

Websites
www.mind.org.uk
www.youngminds.org.uk
www.selfharm.co.uk
www.time-to-change.org.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sorted (For self help books)
www.papyrus-uk.org
www.youthaccess.org.uk
www.themix.org.uk
www.annafreud.org
www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/parents-and-young-people

Apps
SAM: Self-help for Anxiety Management
Headspace

C4H Confidential support via text
Young people aged 11-19 (or up to 25 with SEND) can text a school nurse for support via ChatHealth. The nurse can provide support with a range of topics, including stress, and can refer onwards to specialist services where required.

07505 331 525



Art—Work of the Week



Year 7 and 8s recently enjoyed print workshops as part of our extra curricular offering. Pictured here are colourful prints by Jacob in 8KA and Sophia in 7HT. Great work!
Miss Simpson



ALCESTER RUGBY CLUB



*Amusements
& Bar*

*Stalls &
BBQ*

Friday 5th November
Gates open - 6.30 p.m. Bonfire - 7.30 p.m. Fireworks- 8.00 p.m.



Adults £8 Under 16 £5
Cash ONLY on The Gate
**Advanced tickets available from the
Clubhouse (Under 5s free)**
Ample Free Parking



Stratford Youth Theatre

**Sunday 7th
November
(2021)**

Open Auditions are being held this
Sunday (7th November) at
Foundation House in Stratford-
upon-Avon.
From 10:30am onwards.



Stratford Youth Theatre CIC
Presents:
the
IT
By Vivienne Franzmann
at The Bear Pit Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon
25th & 26th February, 2022
www.stratfordyouththeatre.com

We are looking for young people
between the ages of 12 years and 19 years and are
interested in drama and all aspects of theatre to join
us for weekend rehearsals and a performance at
The Bear Pit over **February half term, 2022.**

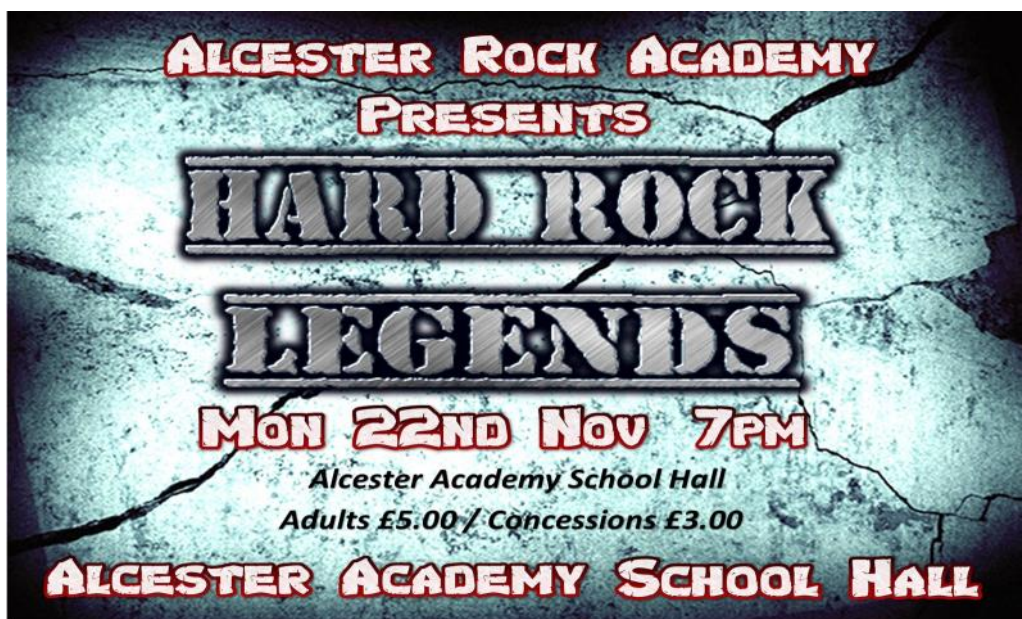
If you, or someone you know would like to join a
vibrant creative group of young people and work
toward putting on an exciting new show in Stratford-
upon-Avon, written especially for young performers,
then get in touch straight away.

**You can contact us on 07804 848674 or
visit www.stratfordyouththeatre.com and click on
the links.**

Visit to TV Studio

Year 11 students were offered the opportunity to visit Stratford-Upon-Avon College yesterday.

They were given information about the college itself and the courses on offer, before being given a guided tour of the campus. This included a visit to the brand new TV studios. Lots to think about as they begin making future career choices post Alcester Academy.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. 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.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required 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, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed 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 in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

Warwickshire School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.

EDUCATERERS LIMITED

We have the following vacancy:

CATERING ASSISTANT

Coughton Primary - 10hrs per week

Monday to Friday, term time only. £9.43 / hour

No Catering Experience required.

For further details please phone recruitment line on 01926 743439.

Please leave your name, telephone number and the vacancy you wish to apply for, or email hr@educaterers.co.uk

Closing date for application form: 09/11/2021



A 'Save the Date' poster for the Alcester Christmas Fayre. It features a yellow background with orange and green circular accents. A circular inset shows a photograph of Greig Hall, a large brick building with a covered entrance. The text reads: 'Welcome Back Alcester Christmas Fayre', 'SAVE THE DATE!', '11-5pm Sat 4th Dec at the Greig Hall!', and 'Christmas gifts, entertainment and hot food. Detailed programme to follow'. There are decorative wavy lines in green and orange.

A Christmas Market poster for St Nicholas Church and Church House, Alcester. The poster is framed by a decorative border of green Christmas trees. The text reads: 'St Nicholas Christmas Market', 'In St Nicholas Church and Church House, Alcester', 'Saturday 20th November 2021 10.00am until 12.30pm', and 'Tombola, preserves, crafts, produce, activities for children, Christmas cards and decorations, cakes, gifts, bric-a-brac, raffle and refreshments'. There is a small holly leaf icon below the market title.

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

House Rowing 2021



In the week prior to half term the PE Department ran a pulsating indoor rowing competition for the students. Each student completed a 3 minute row to gather as many metres as possible for their houses. As you can see some excellent individual performances were achieved with all students entering into the spirit of the competition with their usual joie de vivre!

When the dust had settled, and all the metres had been totalled up, Billesley came out on top after a ding-dong battle with Greville. Congratulations to all competitors and we are now looking forward to the inter-school competitions coming up towards the end of November.



| YEAR 7 | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| GROUP | B | G | O | R |
| 7xb | 2272 | 2369 | 2213 | 2411 |
| 7xg | 2026 | 2222 | 2296 | 2280 |
| 7xm | 1189 | 1016 | 973 | 1007 |
| 7yb | 2034 | 1707 | 1368 | 1714 |
| 7yg | 2353 | 2637 | 2400 | 2430 |
| SCORES | 9874 | 9951 | 9250 | 9842 |
| POSITION | 2nd | 1st | 4th | 3rd |

| INDIVIDUAL SCORES | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
| 7X BOYS | George 639 G | Aedan 614 R | Sam 608 R |
| 7X GIRLS | Georgie 609 B | Molly 590 R | Caroline 589 R |
| 7Y BOYS | William 642 O | George 640 B | Arthur 625 B |
| 7Y GIRLS | Natasha 620 G | Georgia 609 R | Morgan 601 B |

| YEAR 8 | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| GROUP | B | G | O | R |
| 8xb1 | 2891 | 3208 | 3139 | 3219 |
| 8xb2 | 1289 | 1251 | 1154 | 1198 |
| 8xg | 3210 | 2952 | 2891 | 2826 |
| 8yb | 3018 | 3136 | 2957 | 3116 |
| 8yg | 3112 | 2975 | 2784 | 2939 |
| SCORES | 13520 | 13522 | 12925 | 13298 |
| POSITION | 2nd | 1st | 4th | 3rd |

| INDIVIDUAL SCORES | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
| 8X BOYS | Ed 721 G | Aaron 679 R | Brandon 668 G |
| 8X GIRLS | Summer 713 B | Fran 661 O | Evin 655 B |
| 8Y BOYS | Fin 718 G | Max 691 G | Fin 669 R |
| 8Y GIRLS | Olivia 679 B | Chloe 656 B | Emily 653 R |

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

| YEAR 9 | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| GROUP | B | G | O | R |
| 9X BOYS | 4516 | 4837 | 4815 | 4977 |
| 9X GIRLS | 3239 | 3089 | 3354 | 3365 |
| 9Y BOYS | 3254 | 3348 | 3489 | 3054 |
| 9Y GIRLS | 1234 | 1340 | 1160 | 1133 |
| SCORES | 12243 | 12614 | 12818 | 12529 |
| POSITION | 4th | 2nd | 1st | 3rd |

| INDIVIDUAL SCORES | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
| 9X BOYS | Josh 787 G | Oli 769 R | Ellis 766 B |
| 9X GIRLS | Martha 724 G | Holly 696 R | Isobel 669 R |
| 9Y BOYS | Lucas 770 G | Oli 740 O | Kuba 738 O |
| 9Y GIRLS | Diana 712 G | Zoe 640 B | Hannah 628 G |

| YEAR 10 | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| GROUP | B | G | O | R |
| 10X BOYS | 3591 | 3357 | 3798 | 3641 |
| 10X GIRLS | 2074 | 1826 | 1909 | 1890 |
| 10Y BOYS | 2207 | 2267 | 1878 | 2300 |
| 10Y GIRLS | 3361 | 3035 | 3032 | 2936 |
| SCORES | 11233 | 10485 | 10617 | 10767 |
| POSITION | 1st | 4th | 3rd | 2nd |

| INDIVIDUAL SCORES | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
| 10X BOYS | Finn 841 B | Callum 795 O | George 790 R |
| 10X GIRLS | Emily 754 B | Tyla 667 O | Chloe 662 R |
| 10Y BOYS | Luke 843 R | Ashton 779 B | Ted 770 G |
| 10Y GIRLS | Mary 714 B | Marianna 693 B | Harriet 677 B |

| YEAR 11 | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| GROUP | B | G | O | R |
| 11X BOYS | 4918 | 4655 | 4524 | 4261 |
| 11X GIRLS | 1708 | 1967 | 1675 | 2086 |
| SCORES | 6626 | 6622 | 6199 | 6347 |
| POSITION | 1st | 2nd | 4th | 3rd |

| INDIVIDUAL SCORES | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
| 11X BOYS | Carter 951 B | Jude 834 O | Jimmy 829 G |
| 11X GIRLS | Amelia 724 R | Hannah 697 G | Jess 687 G |

| OVERALL TOTALS | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | B | G | O | R |
| SCORES | 53496 | 53194 | 51809 | 52783 |
| POSITION | 1st | 2nd | 4th | 3rd |

**VACANCY—Alcester Academy
Lunchtime Supervisor**



We are currently seeking reliable staff to join our team of lunchtime supervisors, working 7.5 hours a week, term time only. Times may vary according to academy activities throughout the academic year. Currently hours are temporarily increased to cover Covid-19 academy need and are expended to approx. 3 hours daily covering mid-morning break and lunchtimes. This increase will be managed on a monthly basis.

Post Level Band A £9.25 per hour

This post is temporary 12 months in the first instance due to Covid-19
Closing date for applications is Monday 15th November at 12 noon

If you are interested in this post, please visit the Academy website www.alcesteracademy.org.uk for further academy information and an application form please email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

**VACANCY—Alcester Academy
Teaching Assistant**



**Full Time Working term time only (39 weeks including 5
Teacher Training days)**

**Scale F range 6-11 FTE £19,698 starting salary (Actual pro rata
£16,944)**

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 Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form which can be found on our website <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/vacancies>. 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.

The application deadline is 12 noon on Monday 15th November.

SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS

Footballing career

Exciting times are lying ahead for Zach (year 11) whose footballing career is moving on at pace. Zach is currently playing for Stratford U16 Colts in the MJPL and is looking to join the Stratford Town Academy when he leaves school. He is currently having trials with Birmingham City - he was spotted whilst playing for his club side, following several recommendations from opposition managers, and BCFC have recently had him on trial within their set up.

In addition to this, Zach was recently invited to St George's Park for trials by Burnley and the AiScout program. Back in lockdown Zach did some online training and assessment with the AiScout program and from 12,000 kids at his age group 15 were selected. He had a great day and played v Burnley Academy and is eagerly awaiting the results of this trial.

He has also been selected to represent Warwickshire County U16's Football and over the half term played in a friendly match v Sheffield United U16's Academy side at their Academy facility in Sheffield. They drew 1-1 which for their first match together was a great result.

On top of all this he turned out for our year 11 team versus Henley and gave a dominant exhibition of mid-field play in a competitive fixture. We wish Zach all the best in the coming months and congratulate him on his achievements so far. Good luck on your journey Zach!



England Womens' Rugby International

Worcester Warriors are hosting the international between England women and USA at Sixways Worcester on Sunday November 21st.

In the last world cup England lost in the final and the USA made the semi finals so it promises to be a very competitive match between two of the world's top teams.

The kick off is at 2.45pm and tickets are available at £15 adults and £5 juniors. The link below will take you directly to the ticket page for the match.



<https://www.warriors.talent-sport.co.uk/PagesPublic/ProductBrowse/ProductHome.aspx?ProductSubType=H005>

PE Practices/Fixtures: week beginning 8.11.21:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 9th November: | Year 8 Archery (Invitation letters issued) |
| Wednesday 10th November: | Year 8 Netball |
| Wednesday 10th November: | Year 8 Basketball |
| Thursday 11th November: | Year 7 Netball |
| Thursday 11th November: | Year 7 Basketball |

At the end of the school day come down to the gym and get changed as soon as possible.

Normal school PE kit is required.

All practices will run until 4.30pm and are open to everyone in the specified year groups.