

Alcester Academy

WEEKLY BULLETIN



5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good afternoon.

It is a sombre start to the bulletin this week after we said a formal farewell to dear Liv in year 7 on Wednesday. Thank you all for the wonderful messages that you have sent to Liv's family over recent weeks. I was extremely proud of Liv's friends for showing the strength to say their goodbye alongside us at school. The dignity and maturity that was shown by them was just amazing. I thank the 'mums' that came along to support too, as well as staff and Governors who lined Gerard Road to say farewell; neighbours also! I was privileged to then travel to Liv's service and burial on behalf of the Academy. It was a beautiful tribute to Liv but not one that I ever want to repeat in my Headteacher



career. Our thoughts remain very much with Liv's parents and family members at such a difficult time. We continue to promise that we will arrange a fitting tribute to Liv once we are all back in school together.



Thank you to Wild Bunch in Alcester for helping to create our school uniform from flowers for Liv. We added Liv's school badges to these.

Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2021

Half Term
Back to school
Spring Term ends (Easter)

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Monday 22nd February 2021
Thursday 1st April 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

Summer Term begins
May Bank Holiday
Half Term
Back to school
Summer Term ends
School closed

Monday 19th April 2021
Monday 3rd May 2021
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021
Tuesday 8th June 2021
Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm
Wednesday 21st July 2021
Teacher training day

I was honoured and proud to be able to read out many messages from Liv's friends at the service. These were so poignant and well written. This poem stood out for me from Darcie, year 7 and I wanted to share it with you all :

*I thought of you today,
but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday,
and days before that too.
I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name.
All I have are memories and
your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake
from which I will never part.
Heaven has you in its arms,
but I will always have you in my heart.*

From the tragedy of such a young life being taken too early then to that of us hearing about Captain Tom; our National Treasure. I can only hope that in this news that we have spent time reflecting on how lucky we are, or how these two amazing individuals might provide a real inspiration for us to want to make a true difference at this time.

I am opening an 'at home' project for our students where I'm challenging them to raise £10 from doing various jobs for you at home as an example. They could donate their own money of course too. As a thoughtful way of respecting Sir Tom, I thought that our community might keep his legacy going for a while longer with our 'Tenner for Tom' campaign. The funds that we raise will go to the NHS, perhaps to local causes that our families benefit from? I've opened this on the School Gateway and we will keep it running until Easter; plenty of time to do jobs for you and raise the cash! I hope that you will support this.



Any more updates right now rather pale into a lot less significance I know. I therefore relay these extremely respectfully this week as we continue to want to support the school community.

Year 8 Options Event and Parents' Evening



Thank you to those parents who have already registered for the short Microsoft TEAMS presentation on Wednesday 10th February at 6pm. This should help to set the scene for parents' evening on Thursday 11th February via School Cloud. If you wish to have specific option related questions answered on the night, please submit these to me by Monday. head@alcesteracademy.org.uk We will anticipate some of these and talk you through the appropriate responses.

All Options information is being shared on the website as it evolves.

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/options>

In order to help connectivity for parents' evening, please restrict internet users at home for the duration of your appointments. Previous parents users have given this as good advice. Also have the students sat with you to listen and contribute. If you have had difficulty with making appointments, we apologise. This is a popular evening and many staff have extended their night in order to accommodate more parent meetings. Parents sometimes make apologies and have to drop out before the date and so you will see a waiting list option. If you can use this and then get in touch with us after the event if you have still struggled to see teachers, I'd be very grateful.

Nearer the options deadline, we do have a meeting in our hall traditionally where you can talk to staff again. Obviously if it still isn't covid safe to do this, we will find other creative ways as always.

Year 8 Options Assemblies



Year 8 students must attend assemblies on Monday 8th February – Friday 12th February 8.45am each day in order to hear various Subject Leaders talk about KS4 options and courses available. Mrs Woodman will lead these each day.

Parent View—Ofsted



Thank you to those 29 parents who have completed the Parent View survey recently. If you could continue to find the time to do this, I'd be very grateful. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

In response to a few results already:

- For those few parents highlighting concerns about not knowing what their child is learning, please note that the long term curriculum plans are published on our web-site under every subject area:
<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/subjects>
- Equally for students with special educational needs, don't forget that we do have an active SEND team and Mrs Bush, SENCo can be contacted to discuss your concerns. We are all teachers of children with identified special educational needs
<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/special-educational-needs--disabilities>
- We also continue to work with a number of highly regarding external professionals in order to support students. This is carrying on safely throughout lockdown.
- If you do disagree, or strongly disagree with any of the statements on the survey, I urge you to get in contact with me. If we don't know about views, we can't act positively to make experiences better. Please give us that chance.

HEADTEACHER CHALLENGE

Headteacher Challenge

Many congratulations to the students for the MEME entries. I really appreciated these this week. I also smiled at the parent entry! You know who you are! See the MEMES later on in the bulletin. I'm entering all of these students for the prize voucher draw this week. In every way, these were all creative. The Food Tech one maybe made me smile a little more. All entrants receive epraise points too. Thank you for making the effort. It means a lot Rosie, Bea, Ewan, Alex and Michael.

This week sees our first cooking challenge of the year! Let's go for the pancakes then as Shrove Tuesday approaches. The most creative (and edible) idea wins. This fits nicely with our MFL feature this week called *La Chandeleur*.

Parent Distant Learning Survey

If you wish to complete our Distant Learning survey, please do. Thank you for those returned already

<https://forms.gle/NpdPGmd4FC5h1SPP7>



NEXT WEEK

Tuesday —

Tutor Time at 8.45am

Wednesday —

Year 7 assembly at 8.45am

Wednesday —

SUPER LEARNING

NON-SCREEN DAY

Let's talk about Wellbeing 2

Thursday —

Year 9/10 assembly at 8.45am

Friday —

Year 11 assembly at 8.45am

Monday to Friday —

Year 8 Options assemblies at 8.45am each day

Options

Attendance

Just a reminder that we are now doing checks at tutor time, assembly time and in lessons to be sure that students are not missing these opportunities in real time. If your child is poorly on any day, please continue to contact:

jackieHODGES@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Mrs Hodges is our Attendance Officer. We may well make contact with you if your child has not logged into one of their regular school opportunities.

Focus on Wellbeing

Further to the message on Tuesday to you, this is a reminder that we are having a *No Screen Day* next Wednesday 10th February. The focus of this day will be *Let's Talk About Wellbeing 2* (with *Wellbeing 1* having taken place in the first lockdown). I admit to a small proportion of screen time to participate in some activities too!

We hope that you found some of the wellbeing links useful in last week's bulletin. Here are others if you still need some help at home right now:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/>



<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



<https://nowandbeyond.org.uk/>

Warwickshire are currently running various Parenting Programmes right now:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/parenting-courses

More detail can always be found by registering for the Family Information Services newsletter too: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>



Obviously these are in addition to the parent Elevate session running next week.

Elevate Education

Just a reminder that you can register for the *Stress and Wellbeing* session with Elevate taking place on Tuesday 9th February at 6pm. You can also access a recording if you are unable to watch this live. I do hope that this will help many parents who need further guidance in this area.

ELEVATE PARENT WEBINAR

The webinar series is completely free for parents at Alcester Academy.

*Tuesday 9th February:
Stress & Wellbeing*

*Tuesday 2nd March:
Preparing for Assessments*

*Tuesday 23rd March:
Managing Technology and Distractions*

Parents will also be sent the replay link if they have registered so if they miss it live, they can still access it.

Registration link:

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

I continue to be so impressed with the work being completed by our students each day. Their tenacity and perseverance is overwhelming. This is evidence itself that our academy values are exactly as they ought to be in reflecting such wonderful characteristics of the students. I'm sure that being in another extended lockdown is beginning to feel hard for those households that are busier.

One of my main messages this week is therefore:



All that we can continue to ask is that students try their hardest and we know that as parents, you are doing just that to support their education right now. We continue to be very grateful. Thank you to staff also for going the extra mile in their day to day jobs for the students either in school or at home. They are a very special team indeed.

Wishing you a restful weekend.
Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

Thank you—Huge thanks to WCC for donating further laptops to us for supporting students at home right now. We were very grateful to hear this news!



**House
Competition!**



Year 7 Maths

**Design your own Mr Man or
Little Miss Maths**

**During your Maths lesson on
Monday 8th February!**



SLD
Wednesday 10th February

Let's Talk about Wellbeing 2

COOK-A-LONG WITH MISS BUCKTHORP

**You will need to get
the ingredients together for either
Recipe 1 or Recipe 2.**

Which one will you choose?

RECIPE 1

Ingredients you will need:

200g of crushed
digestive biscuits
Mini marshmallows
(as many you wish)
50g Icing sugar
2 tablespoons of milk
100g chocolate chips
60ml of milk
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons icing sugar

RECIPE 2

Ingredients you will need:

55g (2 oz) butter or
margarine
110g (4 oz) soft light brown
sugar or Caster sugar
1 teaspoon Vanilla extract
1 egg
110g (4 oz) plain flour
1 pinch salt
110g (4 oz) chocolate chips
(milk or plain) or crushed
Smarties, chocolate
M&Ms, chocolate mini
eggs

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE

uo6faby

SLD
Wednesday 10th February

Let's Talk about Wellbeing 2

**PEBBLE MAGIC
WITH MISS BUCKTHORP**

You will need some pebbles!



GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE
uo6faby

epraise updates—week ending 4.2.21

Congratulations to the Top Students:

1st—Jack—Year 7 THIRD WEEK

2nd—Maya—Year 7 THIRD WEEK

3rd—Kaitlyn— Year 9 SECOND WEEK

Topping the charts in other years:

Year 8—Josh STILL THERE!

Year 10—Dan STANDING FIRM—WELL DONE

Year 11—Archie STANDING FIRM—WELL DONE

Top Tutor Groups:

1st—7HT

2nd—7TY

3rd—7BW

No change this week! Well done year 7s!

Top Subject and Staff:

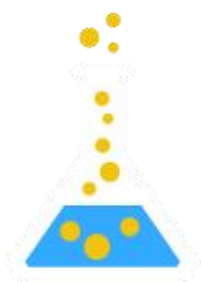
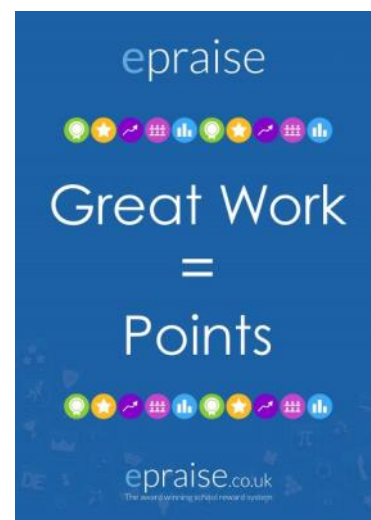
Science leads as a subject again this week. Go science AGAIN!

Mr Bastock leads on the staff board with Mr Yarrington in second place.

Not much movement AGAIN this week.

Well done everyone!

Mrs Mellors



Photography of the Week



Chloe, year 10, has been experimenting with double exposure edits on Photoshop combining images taken of speeding traffic at night with some of her fashion photography.

Reading Drive

With World Book Day approaching (Thursday 4th March), the English team have been discussing how we can continue to push the 'need to read' for all our pupils this week. We 'gate-crashed' a year 7 assembly this week too. Conscious of the increase in screen time over the school closure, we are keen to encourage our learners to pick up a book and lose themselves in it for a while. In addition to booking in a Super Learning Day for World Book Day, we generated ideas such as book swapping, book recommendations on Google Classroom and the use of audiobooks. So do please encourage your children to raid bookshelves at home, have a look on Amazon

and spend a small amount of pocket money, talk to their friends, ask their teacher for guidance, or post a message on the LRC classroom that Mrs Hands always keeps an eye on. Not surprisingly, Accelerated Reader stats are down due to not being in school (it is still possible to test online and use My-ON), but we are desperate to keep up good habits with reading as it makes all the difference to the progress of children in so many ways! Drop us an email should you have any further suggestions or examples of success.

Best wishes

The English Team

LRC News—Useful Links

Online resources for school children from the University of Warwick

Collection of their online education resources for secondary school children and signposted to other external sources. All of these resources are either free, or they have been made free during the period of school closures.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/about/community/projects/educationresources>



2021 Read For Empathy Guide ~ books to build empathy – for young people aged 12-16

Empathy is our ability to understand and experience someone else's feelings. It builds stronger, kinder communities. It's a crucial life skill that children need to learn, thrive and contribute. We're not born with a fixed quantity of empathy – it's a skill we can all learn. Excitingly, research shows that books are a powerful tool to develop it. When young people identify with book characters, they learn to see things from others' points of view.

As they read, they are building their empathy skills.

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/b2f3fbc2/files/uploaded/EMPATHYLAB%202021%20secondary%20GUIDE%20Landscape%20WEB.pdf>



Poetry writing with Paul Cree

Learn how to write a simple poem with help from Paul Cree, a London-based poet, storyteller, rapper and theatre-maker.

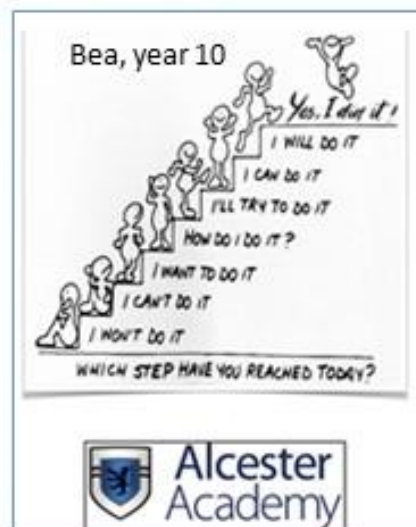
<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/zone-in/activities/how-to-write-a-poem-with-paul-cree/>



Headteacher Challenge

Thank you for the Headteacher Challenge entries.
Many congratulations to EVERYONE—
you are all winners!!!

EVERYONE IS A WINNER!!



**A smile can
always be nice**



Rosie, year 7

**it might be
school**



can still be fun

Rosie, year 7



La Chandeleur

Throughout the next week, the MFL Faculty will be celebrating the French festival of *La Chandeleur*.

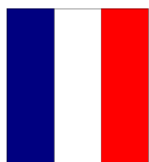
Every year on February 2nd, France observes *La Chandeleur* – a day dedicated to the eating of pancakes (Les crêpes). The catholic religious holiday is exactly 40 days after Christmas, but has its origins in an older pre-Christian holiday celebrating the harvest and marking the midpoint of winter.

There is an old tradition that if you hold a gold coin in your writing hand, flip a pancake with your other and manage to catch it in the pan, then your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year. Students will learn about this tradition, undergo research on the origins of crêpes in France, design and hopefully make some of their own pancakes. I look forward to seeing some of their photographs and hope to share these in a future bulletin.

Mrs Weatherley
Head of MFL



MFL Idiom of the Week



English: Rome wasn't built in a day

French: Paris ne s'est pas fait en un jour

Literal meaning: Paris wasn't made in a day

German: Rom ist auch nicht an einem Tag erbaut worden

Literal meaning: Rome wasn't built in a day



House Competition!

TOP SECRET!

Year 8 Maths

The Ultimate Spy Challenge

Put your spy skills to the test!


During your Maths lesson on
Monday 8th February!

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

CAREERS ZONE

Class Code: **a3hdvcr**

All students are invited to visit the Careers Zone.
This is up dated daily with the latest information on specific events and activities, jobs, post 16, apprenticeships, there are virtual tours at workplaces, colleges, universities and so much more!



National Apprenticeship Week 8th – 14th February

ThinkHigher is joining in with the National Apprenticeship Week 8th – 14th February

At the beginning of the week **ThinkHigher** will be releasing a pre-recorded video which will talk about:

- What is an Apprenticeship
- Impartial advice about Apprenticeships
- The pros and cons
- Myth busting



Later in the week **ThinkHigher** will be putting on a live talk and Q&A with current and former Apprentices. Apprentices will be talking about their experiences as well as answering questions. To watch the talks students will need to register their interest on the links below. They will then receive a link to the **Live** talk.

This is aimed at students in year 10 and 11

Thursday 11th February

2pm slot aimed more at year 10 and 11 students:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/apprenticeship-week-2021-qa-2pm-tickets-136435188321>



Year 7 Artwork of the Week

The students challenge was to create a pet or animal portrait but represent tone with complementary (opposite) colours.



Faith



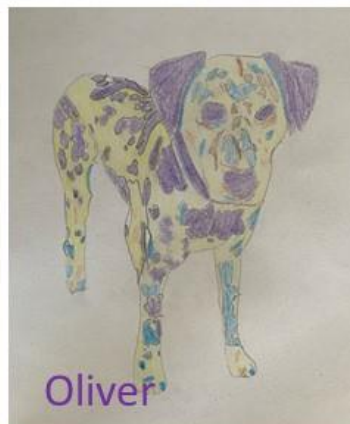
Archie



Billy



Sophie



Oliver



Evin



Kobe



Send a Thank You message



During these difficult times we want to say thank you to everyone helping with supporting school, staff and students.

If you have a 'thank you' message for someone at Alcester Academy, we would love to hear it on our message board.

Click here to
send a message

The link for the message board is - <https://padlet.com/sdyer20/Alcester>

Safer Internet Day — 9th February 2021

This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores reliability online. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction? Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally with the slogan: Together for a better internet. The assembly next week will examine this in more detail, but in preparation for this, start to look at the following resources at home:

Video:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-educator/safer-internet-day-films/films-11-18-year>

Watch this video and then think about the following questions:

What impact does inaccurate content we see online have on us?

Why does inaccurate content exist, where does it come from, what's the solution?

Top tips for pupils:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/safer-internet-day-2021-top-tips/safer-internet-day-1>

Have a look at the tips & the suggestions on how to stay safe and positive online, particularly:

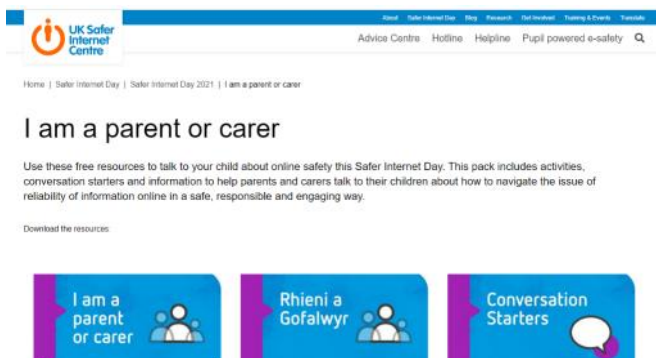
- Question the source
- Fact or opinion
- Is it too good to be true?
- Check with your friends
- Talk it through



Parent resources:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

Use these free resources to talk to your child about online safety this Safer Internet Day. This pack includes activities, conversation starters and information to help parents and carers talk to their children about how to navigate the issue of reliability of information online in a safe, responsible and engaging way.



Safer Internet Day 2021 | **Tuesday 9 February**
 Together for a better internet
www.saferinternetday.org



Food Technology Stars of the Week



Year 7 and year 8 Cooking Stars

Year 7s have been working really hard and made some fantastic pasta salads this week. Look at all the colours!

Mrs Megee



Archie
Elijah
Evin
Jessica
Grace
Harry
Ewan



Katherine
Natalie
Oliver
Thomas



Year 8s have been working hard creating these fruit crumbles at home. *Mrs Megee*



Ben
Kurits
Morgan
Megan
Riley
Sam





HM Government



ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

**THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.**

▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
gov.uk/coronavirus