Alcester Academy
WEEKLY BULLETIN

6th November 2020

Thank you so much for your donations to the Alcester branch of the Royal British Legion this year. We are currently holding £1,220 on their behalf as your donation. We are very grateful indeed.

Please keep an eye out on BBC *Midlands* Today for the feature on our poppies.

There will be a two minute silence held on Wednesday 11th November in school at 11am.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after half term. As ever, I really want to convey my thanks to you this week as we reacted to the Prime Minister's address on Saturday evening about the national four week lockdown again. I've asked the students to respect the wider picture for you at home this week and we are thinking of you all as many of you head back into working from home and the additional anxieties caused by looking after elderly or infirm relatives during this period. The students continue to be a real credit to you and the team at the Academy. We feel privileged that we are able to keep their routines going at school during the next four weeks and have continued to reassure them that they are in the safest environment here that we can create. Despite the national picture, the buzz around school continues to be uplifting and positive and there has been a good start to this half term. Children have worked with us on the new social areas and seem much better suited to their new environments for now at least. We will move to a 3:2 day as year 11 mocks begin on 26th November.
It was superb to welcome our year 9 and year 7s back this week after their period of self-isolation. Thank you for working with us on this; not at all easy over half term!
I'm grateful for the resounding support shown by you to the idea of students keeping face coverings on in class. In light of the growing R rate this is providing additional security for students and staff in the short term. I do recognise that seeing faces is the best option but sadly we haven't the luxury of taking chances right now. The children know that we are working as a community to protect each other and the staff. Frankly, whilst a cliché, we are all working together to protect whatever the Christmas period looks like too. It is my expectation now that children will keep face coverings on in lessons.

In other news this week, thank you for the contributions made to Young Minds and Macmillan at the end of last term. We raised just over £1200.00 that has been split and sent off to both charities.

Half Term

We are extremely grateful to Alcester Town for putting on the lunch offer at the Jubilee Centre for our students. I am also grateful to those of you running more discrete offers for students.
We have been advised that there is a Welfare Scheme in Warwickshire if parents need this over any future holiday periods.
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme

Newport Foundation

Thank you to the Newport Foundation for a further grant received towards IT equipment for students at this time.

Year 11s

I have attached the updated revision timetable towards the end of the bulletin with a further copy of the mock timetable also. Mocks begin at the end of November. Saturday Schools start this weekend in readiness for the mocks.
Students must have their own set of equipment for mocks in order to comply with safety and they will all be asked to wear a face covering in the hall for added protection. I've have been asked if a clear visor is acceptable in light of some exams being over two hours long and yes, this will be perfectly fine as an alternative. Stationery items must be carried in a clear case and a water bottle is permitted as long as it has clear plastic with no labels. See the mock guidance sent out recently.

New Governor Welcome

We welcome Mr Tim Harrison to the Governing Body and thank him in advance for this contribution to school life.

General equipment in school

Please can you ensure that all students are properly equipped for school. This would help hugely right now. Thank you.

Year 8 and 9 Parent Forum

Thanks to those of you who joined Mrs Woodman and Mr Cooke on Wednesday for the parent voice session on our proposed new reporting system. We appreciated you giving up part of your evening. If you still need to feedback, please let Mrs Woodman know in the next few days.
wendywoodman@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Uniform

We apologise to those of you still waiting for PE garments from NSC. As a solution, Miss Buckthorp turned entrepreneur over half term and we have sourced some good old M & S equivalents. We will then brand these with the school logo. Please keep an eye on the Gateway in order to order these rather than wait. We'll have a few days turn around on delivery and embroidering.

National School Meals Week 2020

National School Meals Week 2020
9th – 13th November
National School Meals Week (NSMW) has now been running for almost 30 years, and during what continues to be very strange times for us all, NSMW has added importance this year. Children are continuing to be away from the school environment due to isolation periods and, following the many months away from education in the spring/summer, many school caterers are still being asked to serve packed lunches in the classroom, the return to hot meals has been staggered across the country. Many schools continue to make different arrangements as everyone finds their way through what best works for them.
NSMW can help restart the conversation around the importance of nutritious hot school meals and hopefully support more children returning to school meals. An important point to make is that school catering staff, key workers in their own right, have been serving school food safely throughout the pandemic, including during the school holidays and, for that, the country as a whole is very grateful. They are at the heart of all that is happening now and we thank them for their flexibility, dedication and hard work. School caterers are best placed to feed children at lunchtimes. That's why we have dedicated a day of NSMW to them.

Get involved on social media and in the press

Please follow all our social media platforms.
Facebook
@nationalschoolmealsweek
Twitter
@NSMW @LACA_UK
Instagram
#nationalschoolmealsweek laca_uk

Remember that students can choose to buy from the canteen at Alcester Academy on any day without notice. Just ensure that their cards are uploaded to provide credit on their account.
Parents – all students now have access to a food area that uses the cashless system at break time and lunchtime now. Please ensure that cards are uploaded with credit so that service can be as quick as possible.

Careers News

Delighted to receive this certificate this week for our partnerships with local businesses. We thank them for helping us to support the students so well.

Coronavirus Updates

Alcester Town Football Club

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of the Chairman, Dave Taylor at this very sad time. We thank Dave very much for everything that he did to support Alcester Academy students.

What we do when a case is confirmed with a student

It might help parents to know the logistics followed by SLT when a student covid case is confirmed.
After contacting Public Health England and Warwickshire, SLT work quickly to identify the close contacts of the affected child. All of the classes have accurate seating plans available to SLT both in and out of school. This includes the tutor groups and clubs or interventions running within school too. We look into friendship groups and travel to school in order to ensure that the bubble size to self-isolate is reduced to the absolutely minimum number of children.
There are three letters sent out to parents as follows:

- To inform you that your child has been in close contact and needs to self-isolate for 14 days.
- To inform you that your child has NOT been in close contact but you need to remain aware and vigilant for symptoms. Your child can continue to come to school
- To inform the rest of the school of a positive case.
- These letters are recommended templates written by Warwickshire and PHE. They include advice references for further information as required.
- Sadly if your child is ask to self-isolate for 14 days after been in close contact with an affected child, receiving a negative test does NOT exempt them from this period of time. Symptoms can still develop within this time frame.

Work whilst isolating at home

Hopefully by now, parents are aware that work for students will be posted on the normal lesson Google Classrooms or in the self-isolation classrooms. See the website for codes https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/coronavirus--covid-19-

Buses

Our last two confirmed coronavirus cases included children who did travel on buses. It is more imperative than ever therefore that face coverings are worn during the school journey please.

Community Support

November lockdown - ff you need practical help please call Alcester Community Resilience on 07707 598379 or email: alcester.response@outlook.com

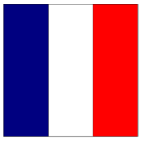
Expenses for schools

If you feel able to, please could I ask parents to help schools by signing the petition to help us claim back some of the thousands of pounds spent now on getting the building covid safe for the students return in September. As a small school, we have really felt this on the budget. Thank you. https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/555718

On behalf of all staff and Governors, we continue to appreciate everything that you are doing to support us right now. We are still having to react to many constant changes and it can be waring for everyone we know. In school, maintaining a happy and buoyant atmosphere is essential and therefore we are planning some exciting 'new style' end of term activities for students. Watch this space.

Please ensure that students honour and respect the lockdown guidance over the next few days.
Wishing you a safe and relaxing weekend.
Best wishes

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher



Language Idiom of the Week

English: To make up something
French: Raconter des salades
Literal meaning: To tell salads

German: Etwas erfinden
Literal meaning: To find something out

Artworks of the Week

Year 8 students have been working on their Conflict project work this term. Excellent work Lilia (top) and Alice (above)! *Miss Nemeshanyi*

Year 11 Mock Examinations – Autumn 2020		
Date and Time	**Subject**	**Duration**
Thursday 26th November		
9.00am	English Literature Paper 1	1hr 45
1.30pm	French Reading/Listening	F 45/35m H 1hr/45m
Friday 27th November		
9.00am	Biology – Combined Science Biology	1hr 15 1hr 45
1.05pm	Sport Child Care	1hr 15 1hr 15
Monday 30th November		
9.00am	English Literature Paper 2	1hr 45
1.30pm	IT Computer Science Paper 1	1hr 15 1hr 30
Tuesday 1st December		
9.00am	History	2hrs
1.30pm	Maths Paper 1 Non-calculator	1hr 30
Wednesday 2nd December		
9.00am	Chemistry – Combined Science Chemistry	1hr 15 1hr 45
1.30pm	Physical Geography	1hr 30
Thursday 3rd December		
9.00am	English Language Paper 1	1hr 45
1.30pm	Media	1hr 30
Friday 4th December		
9.00am	Maths Paper 2 Calculator	1hr 30
1.30pm	Catch up session	
Monday 7th December		
9.00am	English Language Paper 2	1hr 45
1.30pm	German Reading/Listening	F 45/35m H 1hr/45m
Tuesday 8th December		
9.00am	Physics – Combined Science Physics	1hr 15 1hr 45
1.30pm	Maths Paper 3 Calculator	1hr 30
Wednesday 9th December		
9.00am	Human Geography	1hr 30
1.30pm	French/German Writing	F 1hr 5 H 1hr 20
Thursday 10th December		
9.00am	RE	2hrs
1.30pm	Computer Science Paper 2	1hr 30
Friday 11th December		
9.00am	Catch up session	
1.30pm	Catch up session	

Year 11 Revision Timetable

WEEK **A** wb- 9/11, 23/11.	Lunchtime	Afterschool
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	**Chemistry (sets 1 and 2) (M1)** English (M2-5)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	**Music&PA (Music rooms)** Science combined if not Music&PA (M1)	Music &PA-(Music rooms)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2)	Maths (M rooms)
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1) Textiles	Independent study at home

WEEK **B** wb-2/11, 16/11, 30/11.	Lunchtime	Afterschool
Monday	Physics (sets 1 and 2) (M4)	English (M rooms)
Tuesday		MFL (M1 and M2)
Wednesday	**Music&PA (Music rooms)** Science combined if not music/pa (M1)	Geography (M1)
Thursday	RE (M1) IT (iMedia & CS) (ICT2) Textiles	**Biology sets 1 and 2 (M4 and M5)** Maths (M1 -4**)**
Friday	History (M1) Art (M1)	Independent study at home

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2020

School closed	*Monday 14th December – Teacher training day*
Autumn Term ends	Friday 18th December 2020 at 12.40pm

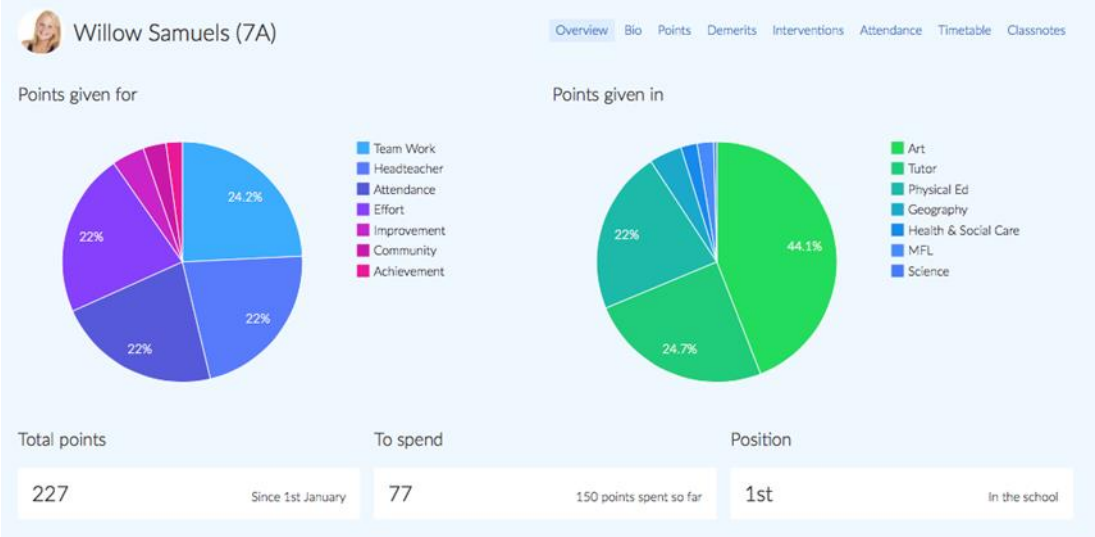
SPRING TERM 2021

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 are excited to introduce our new rewards system at Alcester Academy

epraise.co.uk
The award winning school rewards system

Check out the website www.epraise.co.uk for more information and see below how to sign up. epraise is an online platform for schools, that helps parents to engage more with their children's education. This guide will explain how to get started with epraise.



Registering on our website

You may receive an invitation from your child's school which will contain instructions for you to follow. If you don't receive an invite, then you can register yourself by following these instructions:

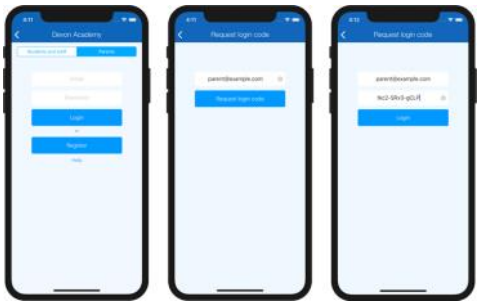
Go to epraise.co.uk

1. Click login
2. Select the correct school
3. Select the Parent tab
4. Enter the email address you gave to the school (leave the password blank)
5. Click the Login/Register button

Follow the instructions in the email that is sent to you

Please note that you can only access epraise if the school have added you as a parent. If your details are not recognised you will need to contact the school directly.
Once you have clicked the Login/Register button, you should receive an email that contains a link to create your epraise password. The link remains active for 24 hours so you will need to use it within that time or repeat the steps above to obtain a new email.

Registering on our app



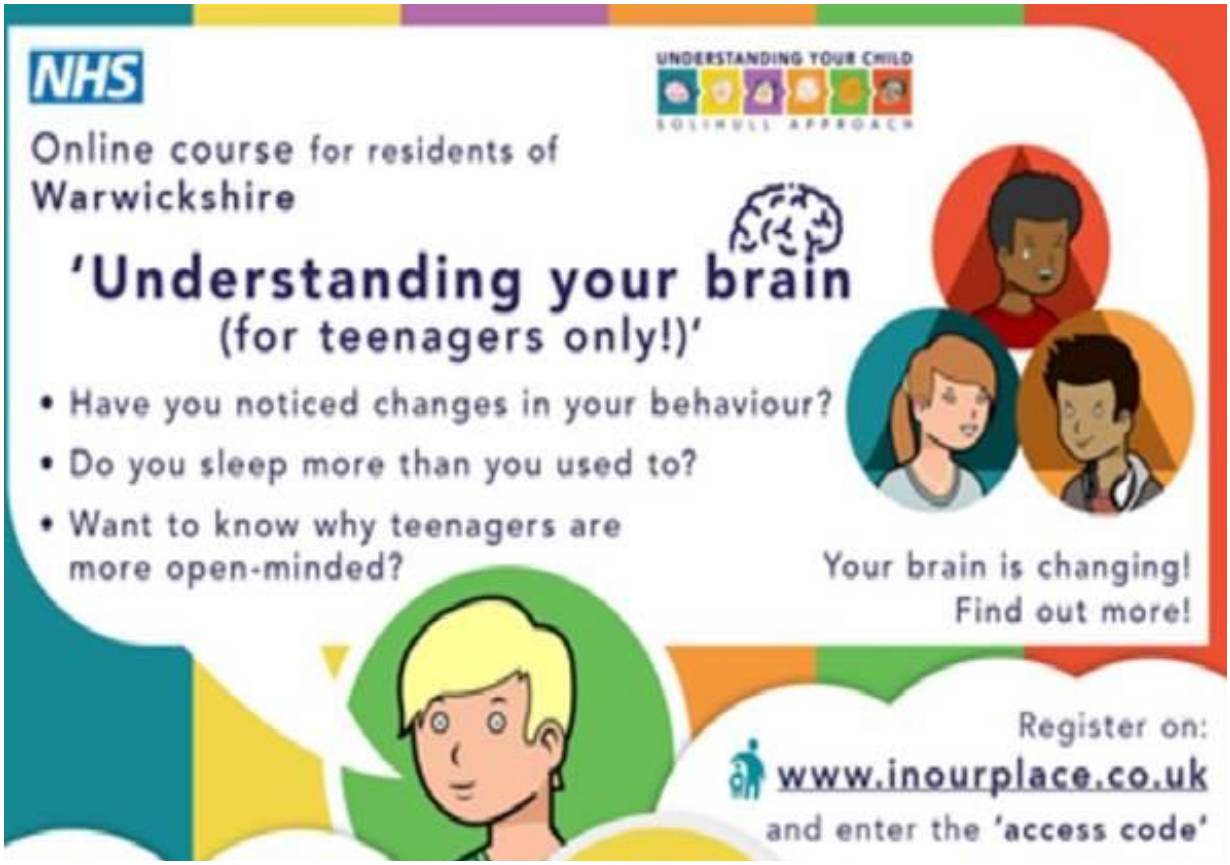
To register on our iOS or Android app you can:

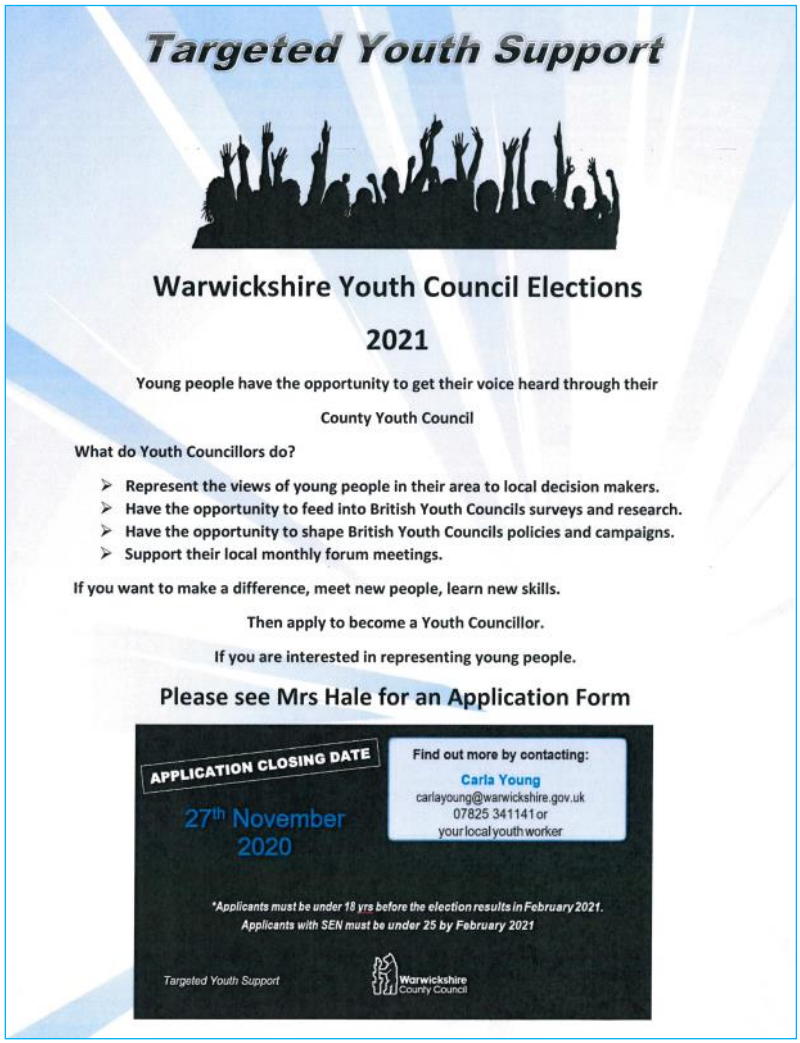
1. Download our app (just search for epraise in your app store) and open it
2. Select your school
3. Tap the 'Register' button
4. Enter the email address that has already been given to the school
5. Tap the 'Request login code' button
6. Enter the login code sent via email

Tap 'Login'

Over the coming weeks we will be developing prize draws and rewards for those students with the most points and students will be able to work towards their epraise bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges.

Miss Buckthorp




Targeted Youth Support
Warwickshire Youth Council Elections
2021
Young people have the opportunity to get their voice heard through their
County Youth Council
What do Youth Councillors do?
Represent the views of young people in their area to local decision makers.
Have the opportunity to feed into British Youth Councils surveys and research.
Have the opportunity to shape British Youth Councils policies and campaigns.
Support their local monthly forum meetings.
If you want to make a difference, meet new people, learn new skills.
Then apply to become a Youth Councillor.
If you are interested in representing young people.
Please see Mrs Hale for an Application Form
APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
27th November 2020
Find out more by contacting:
Carla Young
carlayoung@warwickshire.gov.uk
07825 341141 or
your local youth worker
*Applicants must be under 18 yrs before the election results in February 2021.
Applicants with SEN must be under 25 by February 2021
Targeted Youth Support
Warwickshire County Council

escape|arts
creating community wellbeing
Surprise Santa Deliveries
We will NOT let Coronavirus ruin our Surprise Santa deliveries. Escape Arts are looking for families who would benefit from a FREE Santa Surprise experience. Due to Coronavirus restrictions our Grotto on the Go has had to remain at Lapland and Rudolph is self-isolating. However, don't worry, Santa will be doing personal video calls and doorstep present deliveries with his elves. We want to help make lasting happy memories after what for so many has been such a difficult year. If you know a family who needs a special treat this year please contact our Elf headquarters at info@escapearts.org.uk or (01789)532110 (answer machine in operation, please leave us a message). Although we will do our best we are unable to promise to surprise all nominees. Visits will take place over December. Nominations open Saturday 24th October and close Saturday 14th November. www.escapearts.org.uk
Charity No: 1097718

COMMUNITY FUND

COMMUNITY FUND

COMMUNITY FUND

Become a Covid-19 Community Champion and help people do the right thing for Warwickshire.

FREE online training starts on Monday 16 November 2020

Do you want to support individuals in your community to be safe and well?

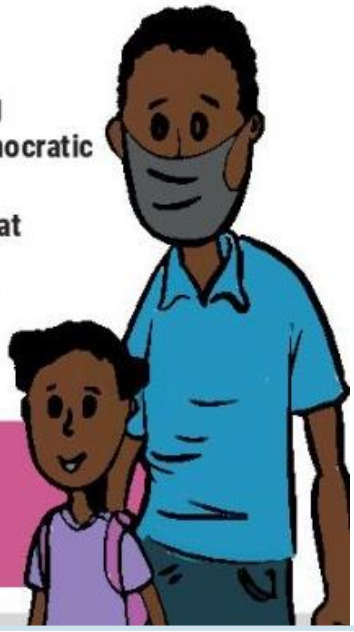
Training for anyone who wants to gain valuable skills in active citizenship. Hurry - places are limited.

Is it for me?

Yes. If you are interested in learning more about being active as a responsible and supportive member of your community.

The course has three sessions which will help you to:

- Understand how to be more active and involved in helping communities and how to contribute effectively to the democratic processes
- Learn about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and what people can do to stay safe and protect others
- Ensure vulnerable people have access to information and support and help extend services to groups who may be hard to reach



Find out more or register your interest today by calling **Mike Slemensek** on **07557 814937** or emailing **mikeslemensek@warwickshire.gov.uk**

School Attendance — up to 5.11.20

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.3%	94.4%	95.2%	92.3%	92.6%	94.2%

Top Tutors per Year Group — well done!

7TY, 8MA, 9WA, 10RO and 11BA.

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

VACANCY FOR

YOUTH CLUB LEADER

JobTitle: Youth Club Leader

Salary: £13.45 per hour

Hours: Four hours per week during term time
(plus additional hours for development and training by agreement)

This is a temporary position for one year starting in early 2021 (Covid-19 restrictions allowing). Subject to funding, this may be extended.

The purpose of this position is to lead the Depot Youth Club which meets at the Eric Payne Community Centre in Alcester on Tuesdays between 6 pm and 9 pm.

This will include:

Planning the Club's programme • Keeping the Club's records and finances • Leading weekly sessions • Safeguarding • Risk assessments • Management of volunteers

This is an exciting opportunity suitable for a qualified youth worker or youth leader.

An application form and full job description can be obtained by emailing the Town Clerk, Mrs Vanessa Lowe at clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk or by phoning 01789 766084

CLOSING DATE: Friday 27th November 2020

Vacancy—Teacher of science

Salary: TMS
Location: Alcester, Warwickshire
Contract Type: Full Time
Contract Term: Temporary in the first instance
Required: From January 2021

A vacancy has arisen to become part of an outstanding science department within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally as a result of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious and supportive science team. At Alcester Academy, teachers enjoy the freedom to deploy their individual skills, and talents, whilst conveying a passion for their subject and delivering excellent outcomes.

Teacher of Science Application Pack

More details regarding this post and an application pack is available by emailing: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk or by visiting the Alcester Academy website.

Vacancy—School Business Manager

Contract type: Full Time
Contract term: Permanent
Closing date: 13.11.20

Start date: As soon as possible, ideally no later than January 2021

The successful candidate must have strong financial and business management skills and equally impressive leadership ability as Business Manager, to lead a group of support staff and manage the financial, administration and IT functions supporting the academic and non-academic activities. The role will include duties as day-to-day Financial Controller, Fire Officer, Health and Safety Appointed Person and Data Protection Officer.
The successful candidate must be a Graduate or have equivalent education, with a professional qualification ideally financial and should have experience working in general, financial, property and IT/systems management and have undertaken advanced studies and/or have relevant professional qualifications in those areas. Excellent communication, administration and interpersonal skills together with flexibility and a commitment to working proactively and creatively as part of a team are essential qualities for the role.

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE ADVERT ON TES

HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS
NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

5 November to 2 December

National restrictions apply to England:

Meeting Indoors
You cannot meet anybody socially indoors unless they are in your household or support bubble.

Meeting Outdoors
You can meet with 1 person from another household in outdoor public spaces, following social distancing. Children under 5 and anyone dependent on continuous care do not count towards the 2 person limit.

Weddings and Funerals
Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies can only take place where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover. Funerals can take place with up to 30 people in attendance.

Working from home
You must work from home if you can. If you cannot work from home you should continue to go to work (unless you are clinically extremely vulnerable).

Essential Shops
Open. Essential shops should follow COVID-secure guidelines.

Non-essential Retail
Closed. Can only open for click-and-collect and delivery services.

Exercise
You can exercise outside on your own or with your household; your support bubble; or one person from another household.

Leisure and Gyms
Closed. Except for allotments and outdoor playgrounds.

Hospitality
Closed except for takeaway, click-and-collect, drive through and delivery services. Takeaway not permitted after 22:00.

Education
Early years, schools and FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.

Healthcare Services
You can leave home for any medical reason.

Residential Care
Care homes are encouraged to provide safe, COVID-secure visiting opportunities. See the guidance for details on how to keep visits safe.

Travel
You must not travel in the UK or overseas other than for permitted reasons, including work, education, medical reasons, caring responsibilities or for essential retail.

Public Transport
You may still use public transport, but should only travel for permitted reasons and should look to reduce the number of journeys you make, avoid travelling at peak times, and walk or cycle where you can.

Overnight Stays
Overnight stays and holidays away from primary residences are not allowed, except for work and other exempt purposes.

Entertainment and tourism
Entertainment venues are closed. Public gardens at visitor attractions are open.

Vulnerable People
If you are 60+ or clinically vulnerable, be especially careful to follow the rules and minimise contacts with others. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend essential health appointments.

Worship
Closed. Except for: funerals, broadcasting acts of worship, and individual prayer.

Childcare
Registered childcare and childcare activities open to enable parents to work, or for respite care. Parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.

Youth Clubs and Activities
Some youth services are able to continue, such as 1-1 youth work and support groups, but most youth clubs and groups will need to cease for this period.

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus

HANDS FACE SPACE