Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

6th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Huge congratulations this week to the 112 year 10 students who went out on their Work Experience placements. This is a record number of students spending the week with local employers; Specsavers, Chapter 23, Butter Street Bakery, Coughton Court, Hillers, Walls and Ceilings and Playbox Theatre to name just a few placements. Most of our priority feeder primary schools also hosted students.

We are grateful to Mrs Carole Hodgetts, School Governor for accompanying Miss Bartlett on some of the visits to see students this week. There is a full report later on for your interest. Year 9s, it is not too early to begin planning for your placements for 2027.

We are so grateful to the many employers who have worked with us yet again this academic year. We are very proud of the students who completed such a brilliant week.

This week, we celebrated World Book Day. It's always such a fabulous day in school. Thanks to Miss Lewis, Literacy Lead for coordinating this. There is more detail later on for you all.

What's inside this week

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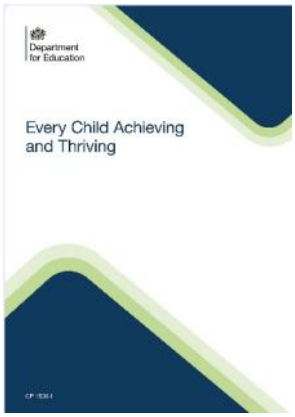
White Paper and SEND Reform

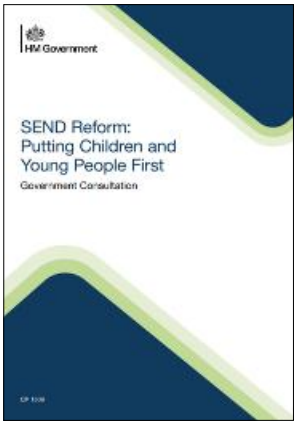
Middle leaders have spent some time looking at the White Paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving* and the SEND Reform consultation this week. Whilst there are clear areas for us to work on for 2028, I'm delighted that a lot of ground work has started at school in the area of enrichment especially where we have focussed on providing a broad curriculum for a while now. There are many opportunities for students at the Academy. Reading is another area that has made fantastic progress over the last two years.

The consultation aims for all schools to consistently reach 94% attendance also. I will write to you in greater detail about this in the coming weeks.

Every child achieving and thriving - GOV.UK



SEND Reform: putting children and young people first - GOV.UK



Have your say here: SEND Reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space

There is a lovely explanation document for you: The Education Hub—What parents need to know about changes to the SEND system

Welcome Year 6 Parents

I am thrilled to welcome our new year 6 parents and carers to Alcester Academy following National Offer Day on Monday. We are full for September 2026 with a waiting list of 63 children at the time of writing this. Thank you for choosing Alcester Academy for your child's future. I will write to you separately about the summer transition arrangements. This will include details of Summer School 2026.

Parent Drop In

Parent drop-in continues each Wednesday 3.25-4.25pm. There is no appointment needed. Bear in mind that we may need time to research any issue in full before responding, however. There are different members of SLT and ELT on duty each week.

Uniform After Easter

Just a short reminder that students can wear tailored, knee length mid grey shorts after Easter if they wish to. These should have no cargo pockets. We have also introduced plain, sky blue polos for the summer term if students wish to wear these with shorts, skirt or trousers. Both of these items should be fairly inexpensive to purchase if you wish to. https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/life-at-alcester-academy/uniform

The options for summer therefore are:

- Full school uniform to include blazer, tie and shirt or,
- Polo shirt with school skirt, shorts or trousers.

The polo shirt option has been introduced for particularly hot weather. Hopefully, the students will appreciate this as a more comfortable solution. School Council were involved in this decision.

A separate letter has gone out about this for your information.

Other uniform reminders

False eyelashes are not permitted in school. Thank you. And, for all students in years 7-10, one stud is allowed in each ear, with two studs allowed in year 11.

Back to Basics

Our *Back To Basics* focus in school this week has been around punctuality. Next week, we are concentrating upon one of our principal school values; respect.

How can you Support your Child's Learning?

Don't forget that the Curriculum Palettes are now all on the school website for KS3 and 4. You can use these to support learning at home. Alcester Academy | Quality of Education

Thank you to Year 8s

A huge thank you to Keegan, Callum and Charlie in year 8 for receiving a commendation from a member of the public about how helpful they were to a citizen last weekend in Stratford!

Good luck Year 9s

…as you head into your exams next week.

Congratulations to Year 11s

…for completing their last round of mocks. Results will not be given prior to 9th March.

Safeguarding

Government consultation around social media access for children

You may have seen the headlines around the proposed consultation. I do urge you as parents and carers to complete this. There is an option to glean student feedback to the consultation and we will be exploring this in school with the students carefully, in a very balanced way.

Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK

Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Growing up in the online world: a national conversation

Landmark consultation seeks views on major measures to protect children on social media, gaming platforms and AI chatbots - GOV.UK

CCTV in Reception

As previously reported, there is now CCTV in main reception. Signage will indicate this for you.

Safeline Parent Workshop Opportunity

Thursday 18th March at 5pm via Zoom

We are excited to announce an upcoming online parent workshop focused on internet safety delivered through Safeline—one of our support organisations we work closely with in school.

Safeline is committed to providing valuable insights and advice on how to keep young people safe online. This one hour workshop will be delivered via Zoom on Thursday 19th March. The session will begin promptly at 5pm and conclude at 6pm.

This workshop will address the prevalence and widespread issue of online sexual risks, equip parents with essential knowledge about social media apps/games, explore critical privacy considerations, and raise awareness about online grooming tactics being used to target young people. We will also cover support available.

Inclusion

The Witherslack Group are offering webinars to parents as follows. This is an organisation new to Alcester Academy. Do let us know if you find these of use.

Special Educational Needs Schools & SEND Support - Witherslack Group

Afterschool Burnout & Shutdown: Strategies To Support Your Child

ADHD & Autism Sleep Challenges: Practical Help For Tired Parents

Kooth are also running a webinar for parents regarding exam stress: How you can support your child to manage exam stress

Community Opportunity

The Cherry Trees Care Home is looking for young artists to convert their corridors with themed murals. Mr Yarrington has the details if any students are interested in this opportunity.

Next Week

Next week, year 8s are off to the races for their maths learning, year 11s have their controlled assessment in music, there is a hair and beauty careers drop-in on Wednesday lunchtime to name just a few things taking place.

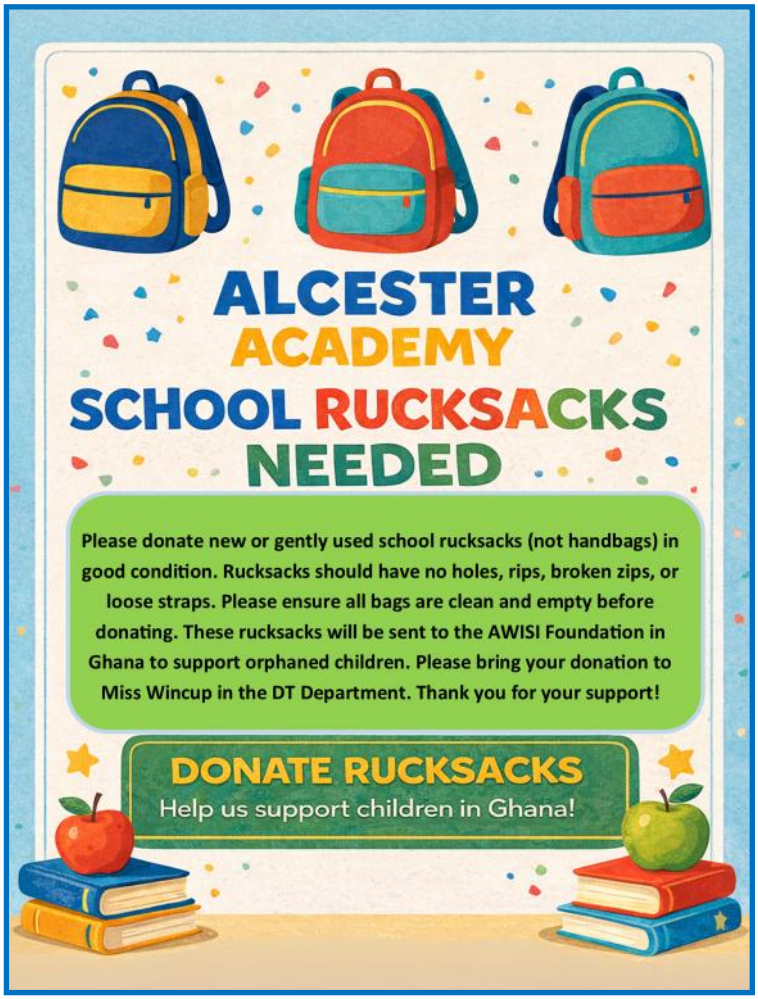
Thank you to the performing arts staff team for being in school with year 11s tomorrow.

Goodbye Mrs Finlinson

Goodbye to Mrs Finlinson, one of our fabulous teaching assistants who leaves us next Friday for pastures new. We wish you all the very best and have appreciated your hard work.

Wishing you a sunny, and relaxing weekend ahead.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



Warwickshire Skills Show—Coventry Arena

On Tuesday a group of our SEND students in years 8-10 had the opportunity to attend the Warwickshire Skills Show. The session was planned specifically so that there were fewer participants, thus creating a calmer and safer environment with the opportunity for students to all get fully involved with hands-on creative activities whilst interacting with employers.

Thank you to Miss Austin, Mrs Lacey and Miss Ballinger for supporting the trip. All the pupils had a fantastic time and learnt about a broad spectrum of careers, qualifications to enter those careers and also vital labour market information. This was one of a number of opportunities for our students at Alcester Academy during National Careers Week!

Miss McKenzie

Inspiring Futures at RS Components

Our recent trip to RS Components was an inspiring and eye-opening experience for our students, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the world of engineering, logistics and technology in action.

Exploring the Warehouse

The day began with a guided tour of the warehouse, where students learned all about goods in and goods out, and how products move efficiently from suppliers to customers. We explored the impressive automation systems, alongside the digital processes that ensure accuracy, speed and reliability at every stage. Students were fascinated to see how technology underpins large-scale operations and how carefully designed systems keep everything running smoothly.

Inside the Calibration Labs

Next, we visited the specialist calibration labs, where experts delivered talks in each area, explaining the importance of precision and quality control. Students observed machines used to calibrate a range of products, including PAT testers and even tape measures. Seeing these highly accurate instruments in action helped bring classroom learning to life and demonstrated the real-world application of maths, physics and engineering principles.

Hands-On Coding Experience

After lunch, students took part in an engaging coding workshop. Guided by industry professionals, they explored the fundamentals of programming and problem-solving — and the highlight of the afternoon was that every student received their very own coding kit to take home and build. The excitement in the room was clear as students realised they could continue developing their skills beyond the classroom.

Looking Ahead

It was a truly amazing day, giving students insight into a wide range of careers — from logistics and automation engineering to calibration specialists and software developers. Opportunities like this help our young people see the pathways available to them and understand how the skills they develop in school connect directly to future industries.

A huge thank you to the team at RS Components for their warm welcome and for delivering such an informative and inspiring experience

Miss Wincup

Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

This week, 111 year 10 students stepped beyond the gates of Alcester Academy and into the world of work — and what an incredible week it has been!

As part of our voluntary work experience programme, students embraced the opportunity to explore potential career pathways first-hand. This invaluable experience allows them to make informed decisions about their post-16 choices and strengthens the personalised careers guidance we are so proud to offer at school.

There truly is no substitute for lived experience. Thanks to the extraordinary support of our wider community, we have once again been able to provide this transformative opportunity. The response has been over-whelming. Families, friends, and businesses not only across Alcester but as far afield as Northumberland, Wales and London generously opened their doors to our students. We have been genuinely humbled by the time, care and enthusiasm shown in creating such exciting, motivational and inspirational placements.

Throughout the week, almost every student was visited by a member of staff, reinforcing the strong partnership between school and workplace. On Tuesday, our School Governor, Mrs Hodgetts, also ventured out into the community to witness first-hand the remarkable experiences our students were enjoying. We are sincerely grateful for the commitment and encouragement shown by everyone involved.

A particular highlight of the week has to be Connor, whose dedication and hard work at Endeavour Vehicle Conversions resulted in an offer of a Saturday job — with the exciting potential of a post-16 apprenticeship in the future. What a fantastic achievement!

Miss Bartlett

WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 Work Experience

HEVANS
Year 10 Work Experience
LODDERS
Vets for Pets
The paws you
love in the
hands you tru

Work Experience 2026

We would like show our gratitude to the following organisations for their support with Work Experience placements:

The Old Station Nursery Alcester

Pegasus Group

Beiersdorf

Artifex Interior Systems Limited

Specsavers

Serenity

Chapter 23

Butter Street Bakery

Waitrose

Matthew J Elmes & Co

Annabel Sarah Bridal

Clarion Chase

Fortitude School

Coughton CofE Primary School

Coughton Court

Hillers

Alcester Nursery Studio

St Nicholas CofE Primary School

Alcester Nursery Studio Ltd

Alcester Plastering Services

RS Brookhouse Engineering

Walls & Ceilings

Eagle 4x4

Strong Feet Dance Academy

Angel Accounting

Calgavin

Great Alne Park

Tudor Grange Primary Academy Haselor

Christopher Allen

Seco Tools

Alcester Nursery Studio Ltd

T.L. Automotive

Ideal Sites (UK) Ltd

Elevate Fitness Bidford

Sunlover Ltd

DaMand Installs Ltd

Viezu Technologies Ltd

Bidford on Avon Primary School

Acorn Veterinary Centre

Astwood Bank Food Emporium

Oak Farm Kennels

Animal Pantry

McGettian Veterinary Surgery

Redditch Golf Club

AMCO

Innovare Offsite Ltd

Warwickshire Police

Dassault Systems

Playbox Theatre, Warwick

Vets for Pets Stratford Upon Avon

Stratford Oaks Golf Club

Arthur's Day Care

Stratford Library

Alveston C of E Primary School

Warwickshire Golf Sim

Special EFX

Avon Vale Veterinary Centre

Quinton House Nursing Home

Escape Arts

Hevans

Wood Fired Shack Bangor

BP - Castrol Technology Centre

Downham Farm

Grizzly Custom Vans

Phillipson & Co Ltd

Harvington C of E First School and Nursery

Evesham AutoWorx

Specialised Security Systems

Top Tubes

World Book Day at Alcester Academy

On Thursday, we held our annual celebrations for World Book Day. World Book Day acts as a global celebration of storytelling as well as promoting the benefits and importance of reading for pleasure. This year, World Book Day has been a part of the UK's National Year of Reading initiative in which we are encouraging pupils, parents and staff to 'Go All In' and read anything and everything that they can!

We started this week with assemblies during tutor time promoting the importance of creating our reader identities to help us read for both pleasure and progress; by considering what our preferences are around reading.

We also saw the return of our decorate the door competition! The winning doors will be announced next week.

On Thursday, there were some brilliant costumes from some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils. We have been blown away by some of the effort that was shown in these costumes. Winners of the best costume prize will be announced next week with our door winners.

Mrs Hands also held her annual tutor quiz for all years. Plus, we had some of our brilliant Year 7 readers take part in the National 'Footie and Bookie quiz'. Students in Year 7 and 8 have also received their World Book Day tokens which can be used in local high street stores.

If you would like more information on how to support your child's reading, the recent KS3 and KS4 Reading Forums are available on the school website, or please get in touch with me directly.

Miss Lewis
Whole-school Literacy Co-Ordinator

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

Celebrate World Book Day

101 Dalmatians

Literary Legends: The Tutor Quiz Results!

On Thursday morning, our tutor groups went head-to-head in an epic four-round battle of literary wits. Students put their bookish knowledge to the test, competing fiercely against their peers for the top spot.

A massive congratulations to our winners who walked away with the prizes:

Year 7: 7TN
Year 8: 8BI
Year 9: 9RO
Year 10: Group 2 Remainers
Year 11: 11GO

Footy and Booky Quiz 2026

During lesson 1 on Thursday morning, some of our year 7 students kicked off **National Year of Reading 2026** by diving into the annual **World Book Day Premier League Takeover** quiz.

Hosted by broadcaster Kenzie Benali alongside *Football School* authors Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton, this 45-minute "Go All In Together" online event challenged students with two high-energy rounds. From football trivia to literary brain-teasers, the questions were delivered straight from their favourite authors and sporting heroes!

What's Coming Up This Half Term

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11th/12th March	Year 8 Maths trip to the races!
Thursday 12th March	Year 11 Music controlled assessment day
Tuesday 17th March	Student Climate Change Conference
Thursday 19th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening. LIVE school hall
Thursday 19th March	Christopher Edge author visit
19th/20th March	Year 11 performing arts controlled assessment days
Friday 20th March	Year 10 Super Learning Day *Safe and Sound*
Friday 20th March	Family Bingo Night
Monday 23rd March	Year 9 Enrichment Day
Monday 23rd & 26th March	Year 8 Shakespeare in the Forest trip
Tuesday 24th March	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Tuesday 24th March	Rock Academy Concert
Wednesday 25th March	Year 10 D of E Training
Thursday 26th March	Year 11 final school photographs
Thursday 26th March	Year 7 and 8 Warwickshire Book Award Final
Friday 27th March	End of term. School finishes at 12.40pm

As always, this covers most of the next half term, but certainly not everything that will be in place.

Clinics for Missed Vaccinations—information from Public Health Warwickshire

The School Aged Immunisation Service is running the following clinics for children who have missed any of their vaccinations. The clinics will take place at Alcester Children & Family Centre, St Faiths Road, Alcester, and the available vaccinations are listed alongside each date.
Parents and carers can book an appointment using the following link:
https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/userlogin.php

VACCINES AVAILABLE	DATE	VENUE
Flu HPV Td/IPV Men ACWY MMR	23rd March	Alcester
HPV Td/IPV Men ACWY MMR	20th April	Alcester
	8th June	Alcester
	13th July	Alcester

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week: 93.6%

Top Tutors this week:

10GA with 99.6% attendance

11HE with 99.1% attendance

8RW with 98.4% attendance

11MR with 98.1% attendance

11GO with 97.7% attendance

Top House this week:

Billesley with 94.2% attendance

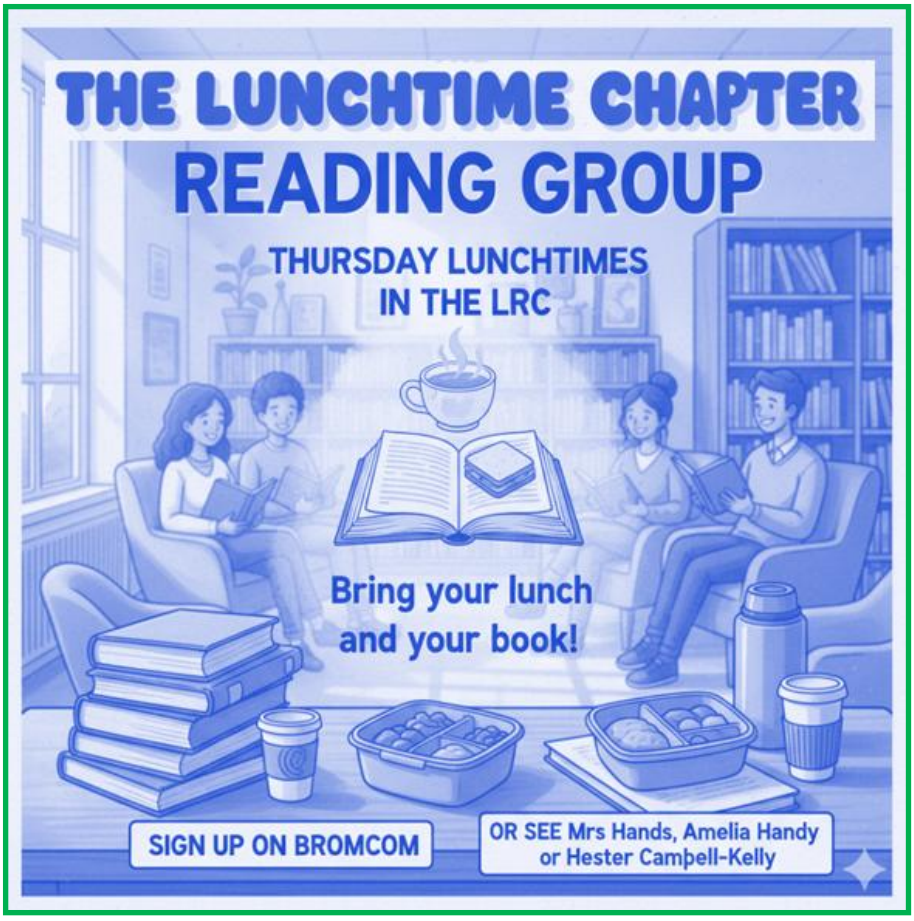
Data from
Friday 27.2.26 – Thursday 5.3.26

If your child will be absent from school, please notify our Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, with the reason before 8.50am each day. You can do this via:

⇒ **MCAS App—medical appointments and absences can be reported through the app**
⇒ **SchoolComms**
⇒ **Phone: 01789 762285**
⇒ **Email: louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk**

We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students who are leaving for appointments during the school day to come to the office a few minutes early so they can sign out promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms Louise Hatcher—Attendance Officer



BINGO
BINGO
EASTER
BINGO
Prepare your lucky charms for our Easter Bingo Night!
Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled evening of games, music, and exciting prizes.
Licenced bar and tuck shop available.
20
MARCH
FRIDAY
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
EYES DOWN 7.00PM
"FRIENDS"
OF
ALCESTER ACADEMY
Book Online Now

Year 11 Revision Timetables

WEEK A	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Music coursework - MU1	
Tuesday	Music coursework - MU1 Grade 7-9 Club Geography	English
Wednesday	Music coursework - MU1 DT coursework	Science Combined Computer Science
Thursday	Music coursework - MU1 History Clinic with Mr. Rossiter (invite only) History	Maths
Friday	Music coursework- MU1 Geography intervention	

WEEK B	Lunch 1.50-2.20	After school 3.30-4.15
Monday	Music coursework - MU1	
Tuesday	Music coursework - MU1 Grade 7-9 Club Geography Media Studies	French German Food and Nutrition
Wednesday	Music coursework - MU1	Science Triple
Thursday	Music coursework - MU1 History Clinic with Mr Rossiter (invite only) History	Art & Photography Further Maths
Friday	Music coursework - MU1 Geography intervention	

Saturday/Holiday School Sessions 2026

Saturday 7.3.26 - Performing Arts - 10am-4pm in school

Thursday 9.4.26 - French - 9am-10.30am in school
Thursday 9.4.26 - German - 10.45am-12.15pm in school

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
27th February—5th March 2026

Top Positive Point House:

1	Oversley	575points
2	Billesley	549 points
3	Greville	530 points
4	Ragley	523 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

1	8BI	162 points
2	7TN	141 points
3	7WI	139 points
4	8MO	139points
5	8SA	133 points

Top Positive Point Subjects:

1	English	432 points
2	Maths	290 points
3	French	260 points

Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Mr Hall	463 points
2	Mr Yarrington	324 points
3	Miss Lewis	288 points

Top Positive Points Students— all with 8 points!

Liv	8RW	Billesley
Lucy	7TN	Billesley
Nora	8MO	Oversley
Anthony	8BW	Ragley
Yvette	8BI	Greville
Abigail	8MO	Oversley
Ellie	8SA	Greville
Erin	8BI	Oversley
Poppy	8SA	Ragley
Dyl	8MO	Oversley
Faye	8SA	Ragley
Nick	8BW	Billesley
Tommy	8BI	Oversley
Oliver	8BI	Greville
Jacob	8SA	Oversley
Oscar	8MO	Greville
Dexter	8BI	Billesley
Sofia	8SA	Oversley
Callum	8MO	Greville
Emily	8MO	Ragley
Teddy	8BI	Ragley
Amelie	8SA	Oversley
Noah	8BI	Greville
Philip	8BI	Oversley
Theo	8SA	Greville
Sophia	7TN	Greville
Amae	7TN	Ragley

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2026

Spring Term ends (Easter)	Friday 27th March at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2026

Summer Term begins	**Monday 13th April 2026**
School closed	*Friday 1st May 2026—Teacher training day*
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026
Back to school	**Monday 1st June 2026**
Summer Term ends	Friday 17th July 2026 at 12.40pm
School closed	*Monday 20th July 2026—Teacher training day*

End of Term Early Finish—Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Early Finish—Friday 27th March 2026

The spring term will once again finish at an earlier time on Friday 27th March 2026. In order to support the safe dismissal of all children we will be staggering the finish times of students as detailed below:
12.25pm - Year 7 and 8
12.30pm - Year 9
12.35pm - Year 10
12.40pm - Year 11

We would like parents to travel one way along Gerard Road, entering at the top of Gerard Road via Captain's Hill and exiting via Gerard Road leading into Throckmorton Road. Alternatively, parents can make arrangements to collect children from Captain's Hill.

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

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

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Sporting Round-Up

Year 7 Basketball District Cup Final v Studley

Our year 7 basketball team have shown brilliant development on the court this season with their hard work and teamwork being rewarded by reaching the cup final and the opportunity to take on strong opposition in Studley High School. Having played Studley earlier in the season we knew that it was going to be a tough final.

Our year 7s gave it everything in the match although Studley proved to be formidable opponents and took the win and cup competition by a scoreline of 39-11.

Year 9 Girls—3rd Place

KS4 Girls District Basketball Tournaments

Well done to all representing us in the South Warwickshire Girls District Basketball Tournaments this week. There were some promising performances out on the court and particularly from our year 11 girls who managed to retain their title as district champions for a third year running—congratulations!

Year 9 Girls—Representing our year 10 team!
4th Place

Year 11 Girls—1st Place

Sports Awards Evening

I am delighted to confirm the date of Thursday 26th March for the 2026 Alcester Academy Sports Awards. We look forward to a brilliant evening to celebrate the sporting talent at Alcester Academy with invited students.

Mr Moffatt—Lead PE & Sports

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

After School Clubs

NEXT WEEK'S SPORT
W/B 9/3/26

Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Staff training – No clubs	
Tuesday	Year 8 Football v Studley Year 10 Football v Studley	AA Studley
Wednesday	Year 7 SW Netball tournament U13 Football v SB	Stratford SB

Lunchtime Clubs

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

CREATIVE CAREERS FAIR

Tuesday 7 April, 5.30–7.30pm. Free Entry
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Curious about careers in the creative industries?

Join us for an inspiring evening where you can meet professionals from across the arts and discover the different entry routes into creative work. Throughout the event you'll find short talks, lively discussions and plenty of opportunities to chat one-to-one with people working in the sector.

Explore new opportunities, make connections and get inspired to take your next step into the creative world.

IKON BIRMINGHAM CITY University

Community Message from Bidford Parish Council

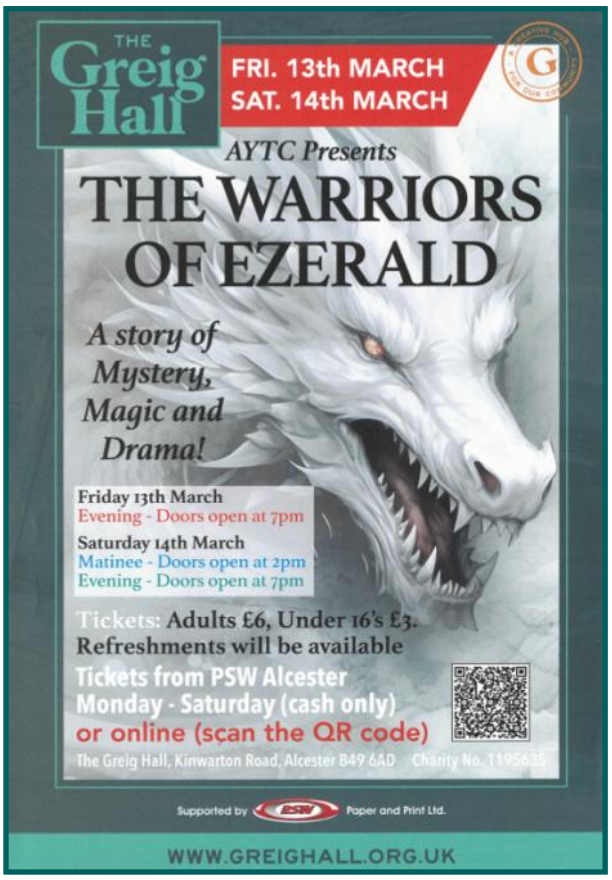
We are hoping you may be able to assist in promoting a survey which Bidford on Avon Parish Council are currently running. This needs to be completed by 31st March. Survey questions can be viewed via the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BqqwiCdZu0uok4nMJxOsgk7ZeIPNLclOsuOSxoX00VRURVU3QzdBMlJDN0pUNVM1Mk40OTNKRUVOUi4u

You will obviously be aware that some of your students are local Bidford residents (which includes the surrounding villages of Barton, Marcliffe and Broom). We are keen to launch the questionnaire and to encourage as many of these students as possible to take part in this.

Gina Miller—Deputy Clerk

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Children and Family Centres

Share your feedback

Your views can help create spaces where families can play, learn and grow together.

Sharing your ideas will shape support at the centres and help providers to understand what's important to you.

Scan here to share your ideas.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/myvoice

Service provided by