Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN



6th June 2025

Good afternoon parents and carers,

I hope that you had a relaxing half term break. Thanks to Miss Bishop for updating us at the end of term about her new whole school role overseeing equality, diversity and inclusion. Don't for-

get to follow us on X @Alcester_EDI



It was a pleasure to welcome the students back from their Paris trip on Bank Holiday Monday. Thanks to trip leaders, Mrs Weatherley, Miss Bayliss, Mrs Gruszczynska and Mrs Laventine-Lee for accompanying the students on another successful residential experience.



In the news this week

I sent you an important letter earlier in the week regarding changes to the school day timings. All school communication can be found on the website.

www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/news/communications

Our food and nutrition students went to Bath on Tuesday to the Richard Bertinet bakery school. This was a wonderful day for all of the students. Thanks to Mr Tuckey for arranging this.



the BERTINET KITCHEN
Cookery School

What's inside this week

Page 4 Paris & Disney Magic: A Half Term to Remember

Page 5 Dates for your diary

Page 13 Year 10 Visit Richard Bertinet's Cookery School

Page 18 Sports News

Find out more about Richard Bertinet

The Bertinet Kitchen opened in September 2005 in the centre of beautiful and historic Bath. Owned and run by French baker and chef Richard Bertinet, the school offers a range of relaxed and fun courses for food lovers of all abilities and specialist baking and bread making courses for amateurs and professionals alike.

As well as our incredibly popular classes with Richard, the school regularly run lots of other cookery courses with our Guest Chefs. These include classes with Valentina Harris about Italian food and pasta, with Tim Anderson about all sorts of Japanese food, Indian courses with Amandip Uppal and many more. The school are also lucky enough to sometimes run classes with Michelin Starred chefs such as Nathan Outlaw and Lisa Goodwin-Allen.

Year 7s enjoyed a STEM Super Learning Day on Wednesday and some of our year 10s went to experience a year 12 lesson at AGS. It was a busy first week back for sure!



Welcome Mrs Kirk

We welcome Mrs Kirk to the English Department and hope that she'll be very happy with us at the Academy.



Smart Phone Safety

www.mediasmart.uk.com/tiktok-teens-social-media-and-you/



Parents might find this website of interest when continuing conversations at home about smart phone safety.

Congratulations to...

Kaitlyn in year 8 for her recent success as she begins her riding experience. Pictured here riding Molly.



Endangerlings

Congratulations to our Young Enterprise Company for a triumphant day at West Midlands Safari Park over half term. Miss Bartlett has written in more detail later on.



Important message from the X19 bus operator

Unfortunately, between 9th June and 22nd June, we will be unable to serve Haselor and Great Alne due to a road closure on Pelham Lane.

I'm writing to ask if you could kindly inform any children who may be expecting the bus along this route, so they can make alternative travel arrangements. We hope this advance notice helps minimise any disruption.

Alcester Street Market—this Sunday

Look out for us on the Friends of Alcester Academy stall on Sunday in Alcester. We will be located at the corner of Malt Mill Lane (opposite St Nicholas Church). The theme is TV and film from the 70s to the present day.



Our parent group have spent a long time organising this. We are very grateful for your bottle donations towards this fund raiser. I have seen the costumes and can truly say that the team will look fabulous!

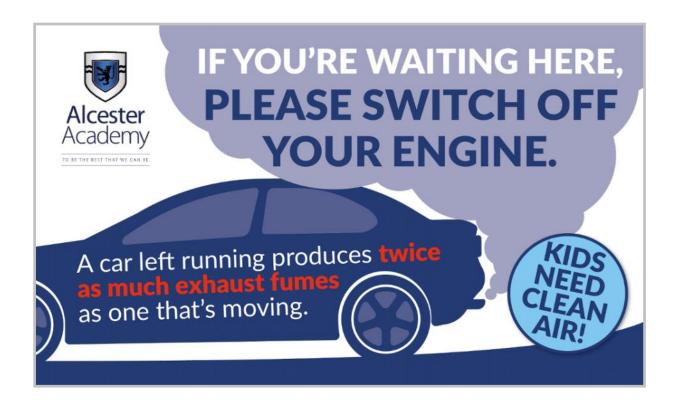
Mr Badham and our Rock Academy will be pitched in their usual spot by the Town Hall too. Thanks to all our musicians for their hard work towards this. They will be performing from 2.15pm.

Year 11s are in school tomorrow for a science Saturday School. Thanks to staff for giving up their time for this again, and to Mrs Sandells and Miss Bishop for last weekend. Whilst very tired now, the 11s are showing true commitment and resilience through these last few exam weeks. We are very proud.

Wishing you all a restful weekend ahead.

Best wishes

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher



Paris & Disney Magic: A Half Term to Remember

Over May half term, students from year 9 and 10 spent four days in Paris, France. We stayed at the Château de Grande Romaine in Lesigny, a small village 15km from the centre of Paris.

We had some sunny weather and thoroughly enjoyed our visit. Students took part in a range of activities at the centre and enjoyed some freetime when they could play football, pool, go swimming or just relax. In addition, we spent a busy day in Paris climbing the Eiffel Tower, enjoying a cruise on the Seine and shopping for souvenirs in Montmartre.

On Sunday we visited both of the Disney parks and had an amazing time on the rides and shopping.

A fantastic time was had by all and I look forward to next year's trip with our current year 8/9 students. Please could I thank all students for their exemplary behaviour and to the accompanying staff: Miss Bayliss, Mrs Laventine-Lee and Miss Gruszczynska.

Mrs Weatherley—Head of MFL









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Dates for your diary

June 2025 Pride Month at Alcester Academy

Tuesday 10th June 2025 Rock Academy Primary Tour starts

Tuesday 10th June 2025 Year 10 exams start

Thursday 12th June 2025 Year 7 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 18th June 2025 Year 8 Big Bang trip

Wednesday 18th June 2025 Year 9 Nanotechnology Conference

Friday 20th June 2025 Year 9 vaccinations

Monday 23rd June 2025 World Music Day

Monday 23rd June 2025 Year 5 Open Morning

Tuesday 24th June 2025 Year 8 geography trip to Cheddar Gorge

Thursday 26th June 2025 Year 5 Open Morning

Thursday 26th June 2025 South Warwickshire athletics

Thursday 26th June 2025 Year 11 Prom Night

Monday 30th June 2025 Auditions for the school production of Grease!

Tuesday 1st July 2025 KS2 Literature and Numeracy morning

Wednesday 2nd July 2025 Year 6 Induction Day

Thursday 3rd July 2025 Sports Day

Friday 4th July 2025 Wimbledon trip

Monday 7th July 2025 Geography department trip to Bristol

Thursday 10th July 2025 Celebration Evening

Friday 11th July 2025 D of E Bronze assessed expedition

July 2025 Planning of September 2025 Reward Trips

These diary dates are subject to change.

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Year 10 Visit Richard Bertinet's Cookery School

Our year 10 students had a truly unforgettable experience on their recent trip to the Richard Bertinet Cookery School in Bath. On arrival, I personally was thrilled to meet the famous award-winning baker himself, Richard Bertinet!

The highlight of the visit was a hands-on pâtisserie masterclass where students learned to create a selection of classic French treats. From delicate macarons to perfectly layered mille-feuille and a beautifully presented French apple tart, the class worked with precision and enthusiasm to produce some stunning results. It was an inspiring opportunity for our students to develop their practical skills and deepen their understanding of professional baking in a real-world setting. The experience not only supported their GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition studies but hopefully will inspire a passion for patisserie that the students can explore further.

A big thank you to Richard Bertinet and his team for their warm welcome and expert guidance—it was a fantastic trip and we look forward to returning in the future.

Mr Tuckey







THE BERTINET KITCHEN
Cookery School





Young Enterprise Team Celebrates Roaring Success at Safari Park

Following the recent success of our Young Enterprise team, *Endangerlings* they were invited over half term to West Midlands Safari Park as VIP guests for the day.

Students based their trade stand next to the 'conservation station', where they sold products to members of the visiting public. They also took over the craft room, where parents and children could learn how to play the game before they made any purchases. The students were fully in the spirit of 'tiger takeover week', dancing with staff and getting their faces painted throughout the day.

Following a veritable feast for lunch, the team pitched their products to the Safari Lodge Management Team, who were considering purchasing the games for lodge customers. After a nail-biting question and answer session, the team were delighted to learn that the park wished to purchase 34

games, one for each of the lodges. They were over the moon!

After an afternoon of rides, the students were given a private tour of the animal enclosures which was the perfect end to a perfect day. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Managing Director, Joanne Hammick, and her team for creating such a special day. *Miss Bartlett*





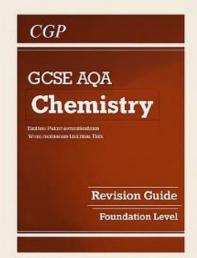


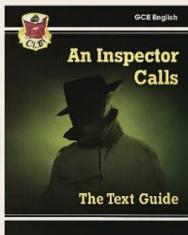


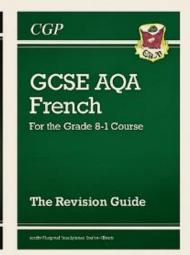




WANTED-REVISION GUIDES







When you have completed your courses, please consider donating your revision guides to the school.

In return you will receive entry into a prize draw that will take place in leavers assembly. You receive 1 entry per subject.

Books should be handed in to Mrs Marshall in S6 by break on Monday 16th June.

Year 7 STEM Challenge: Race to the Line







The Race to the Line STEM challenge has been a highlight for our year 7 students, immersing them in the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Over the past two years, students have enthusiastically collaborated in teams to design and build their own cars, fostering creativity and teamwork.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, Calgavin and SJG International, for their generous support over these two years. Their involvement has been instrumental in bringing

real-world industry insights to our students, enriching their learning experience.

The challenge ended with a race on the playground and was a memorable event. The entire year group

> gathered to cheer on their peers, creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere. As each race was timed, the excitement and competitiveness grew, making it a truly enjoyable morning. A special well done to the winning teams! Next stop, the regional finals.



Miss Wincup







Alcester Academy Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2025

School closed Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day

Summer Term ends Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm

AUTUMN TERM 2025

School closed Monday 1st September

Teacher training day

Autumn Term begins

Years 7 and 11 only

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Years 8, 9 and 10 only

All students back

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Thursday 4th September 2025

Half term Monday 27th – Friday 31st October 2025

Back to school Monday 3rd November 2025

Autumn Term ends Friday 19th December at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2026

School closed Monday 5th January 2026

Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half Term Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026

Back to school Monday 23rd February 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

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Inspiring Futures: Year 10 Students Experience Life in Sixth Form at AGS

Raising aspirations is something that as an Academy we feel is imperative in order to help students to 'be the best they can be'. Yesterday, a selection of year 10 students were invited to Alcester Grammar School to participate in year 12 lessons for the day as part of The Three Rivers Alliance.

After a warm welcome from Mr Gill, Head of Aim High, students were able to attend pre-selected subject lessons alongside year 12 students. The lessons were challenging however, I was extremely proud of our students engaging and asking questions about the topics studied. The staff and students thoroughly embraced us being part of the class and have given those involved a valuable insight into curriculum choices available.

Lunchtime was an opportunity to mix informally with year 12 students and ask questions about student life as part of the AGS community, before speaking with Mr Slater, Head of Sixth Form. Mr Gill and Mrs Perry, Careers Lead closed the visit which has left students feeling excited about post-16 decisions next term.



I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mrs Thorpe and all staff involved. It was clear how much time and effort had gone into making our visit as productive and informative as possible and I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity you have offered our students.

Miss Bartlett









Lead Teacher of RE

Starting September 2025

MPS1 £31,650 - MPS6 £43, 607

Closing Date: Friday 11th July at 12 noon

Interviews: Week commencing 14th July 2025

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

A vacancy has arisen to become the Lead Teacher of RE within a high performing and friendly school. Alcester Academy enjoys a strong reputation locally and nationally because of our caring ethos and excellent academic performance. This is an exciting role for the right candidate and will require passion and energy for the subject.

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. Students in Year 7 and 8 currently study Religious Studies and then all students spend Year 9 and 10 continuing with their KS4 studies (AQA). At present, the majority of Year 11s complete a full GCSE in RE.

Applicants will be considered from all points of experience, including newly qualified teachers. If you feel that Alcester Academy could be for you, please contact the Headteacher, for an informal discussion, or simply complete the application form.

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

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 11th July, with interviews taking place week commencing 14th July 2025. Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate.

Alcester Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for appointment to this post. For shortlisted candidates, please be aware that online searches may be done as part of due diligence check.



Epraise Leaderboard—for the past 7 days

Top Students—past 7 days:

1	Lucas	7WI	Oversley	19 points
1	Tom	7WI	Ragley	19 points
3	Dylan	10MA	Oversley	17 points
4	Oscar	9YA	Ragley	15 points
4	Teddy	7TN	Ragley	15 points
4	Rose	7TN	Ragley	15 points
4	Ellie	7WI	Greville	15 points
4	Austin	7WI	Ragley	15 points
4	Zac	7WI	Greville	15 points
10	Theo	7WI	Greville	14 points

Top House—past 7 days:

1	Ragley	612 points
2	Oversley	528 points
3	Greville	497 points
4	Billesley	491 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

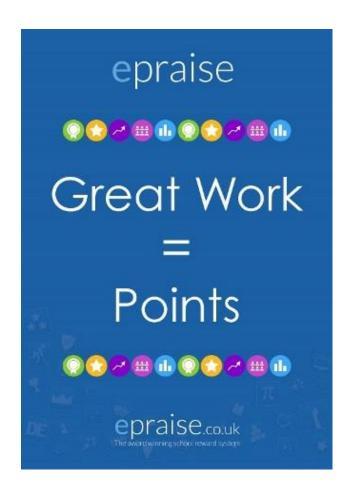
1	English	485 points
2	Maths	347 points
3	Science	165 points
4	Art	154 points
5	DT	146 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

1	Miss Wincup	274 points
2	Miss Lewis	240 points
3	Mrs Hirji	216 points
4	Mr Martin	183 points
5	Mrs Gorner	168 points

Top Tutors—past 7 days:

1	7WI	287 points
2	7RA	180 points
3	7LX	150 points
4	7TN	136 points
5	7KO	132 points



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Could You Be Our Next School Governor?

Alcester Academy is seeking committed individuals to join our Governing Body

Our Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and share a common goal: to ensure every student at Alcester Academy receives the highest quality education and support. Working closely with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, and staff, Governors provide strong strategic direction and help shape the school's future.

We are proud of our welcoming, inclusive, and positive school ethos, and we believe that a strong Governing Body plays a vital role in sustaining this environment.

You don't need experience in education—just a willingness to contribute, learn, and make a difference. While the time commitment is flexible, we ask Governors to attend at least four meetings per term.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Mike Dean, Chair of Governors, at mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk, or get in touch with the Academy office admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Mike Dean—Chair of Governors

SUMMER OPEN MORNINGS AT ALCESTER ACADEMY



Monday 23rd June and Thursday 26th June 2025



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

Summer Open Mornings

Summer Open Mornings offer a pre-bookable guided tour of the school at 9.30am or 11.35am, with a member of the SLT. To book a guided tour call the main office on 01789 762285 or alternatively email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The school will also be holding
Guided Open Mornings in the Autumn term.
Respectfully, we ask families to book either a
Summer Open Morning or an Autumn Open Morning.

Alcester Academy Gerard Road, Alcester B49 600 Tel: 01789 762285
Email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk
Website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk



Extra Curricular Timetable

Summer 2025

Monday

Lunchtime

Pride Group- E4
Acoustic Group- Hut
ART- A1 & A2



Tuesday

Lunchtime
Pop Band- Hut
ART- A1 & A2
Mr Palmieri's Maths Clinic
ALL YEARS- M1
Board Games - H3
After School

European languages club -L2

Wednesday

Lunchtime

Orchestra - Hut ART- A1 & A2 Chess club- M3 Introduction to Media-E5 Public Speaking - H2 <u>After school</u> Cooking Club -

Alternate weeks Introduction to Spanish - L1 (Summer 2)

Thursday

Lunchtime

Young Enterprise- IT3 Rock Band- Hut Photography Club - A1 Lego club - S4 Warhammer club Y8- H5 ART- A1 & A2

After School

Art Club (GCSE only)- A1 & A2 Musical Theatre Club - Drama History Film club -H1

Friday

Lunchtime

STEM/Science- T2 Year 11 Year book-H4 ART- A1 & A2

Endangerlings Game Club - PE 1

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week is 92.2%

Top tutors this week:

7LX with 95.1% attendance 8SO with 97.1% attendance 9TU with 96.7% attendance 10BW with 97.4% attendance 11HE with 97% attendance If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Ms Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 8.30am each day.

This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Thank you, *Ms Hatcher*



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

Notice for Parents

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that Alcester Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

Alcester Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.



If a pupil is ten minutes late to school or lessons each day, they will miss seven days of learning over a year.



DfE data shows that pupils with more than 95% attendance achieve better GCSE results!

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected 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. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to <u>each parent of each absent child</u>, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means <u>each</u> parent will receive 2 invoices 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted.
 Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): A
 penalty notices will not be issued, and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal
 Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

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

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

This Week's Sport:

U13 Girls South Warwickshire Tennis Slams

Well done to our U13 girls who were selected to represent the Academy at the South Warwickshire Tennis slams. We were unfortunate to have a tough draw in the pool which led to us only progressing through to the 7th v 8th play off. It was pleasing to see the girls really grow in confidence throughout the tournament and rally back to win their play off match under pressure.



U13 and U15 Boys Tennis v Stratford

Our boys' teams were looking forward to their LTA match versus Stratford as it is usually a closely fought contest. This year proved to be no different with some fantastic tennis on show from both teams.

Both our U13 and U15 teams started their fixtures strongly and were on points after the four rounds of singles matches for both age groups. It was all to play for as the teams progressed to play doubles knowing that only one victory was needed in order to take the fixture to a championship tie break.

Our U15s unfortunately lost both doubles matches handing Stratford victory. Our U13s were all ties at three matches each and went on to play a championship tie break to decide the fixture. The match was decided with Stratford winning the tie break. In a close contest both of our age are looking forward to working hard to improve their doubles play for the remainder of the school season. Well done to all representing. Mr Moffatt



* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

After School Sport



THIS WEEKS SPORT: W/B 9/6/25



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 9 Super 6 Athletics – PE/NA	Stratford
Tuesday	Year 8 Super 6 Athletics – MO/NA	Stratford
Wednesday	All Years Tennis - MO All Years Cricket - NA	Courts Field
Thursday	Year 7 Parents Evening – No clubs	

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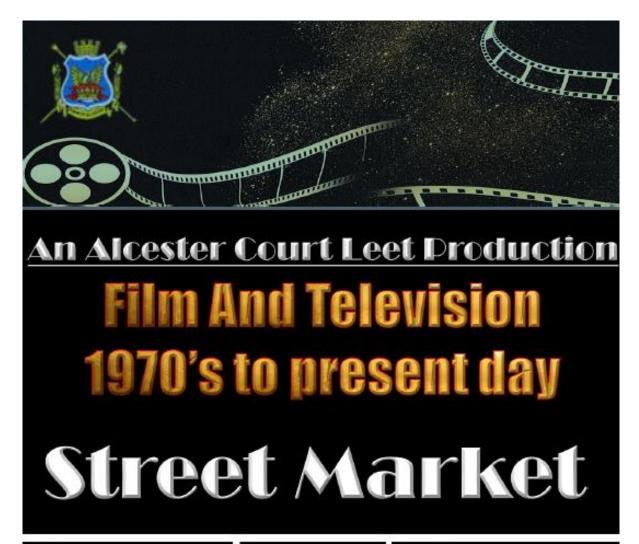
CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY







CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Date:

8TH JUNE 2025

Time:

IPM-5PM

Location:

ALCESTER HIGH STREET

Sponsored by: Alcester Moorfields Trust









CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



#SALUTEOURFORCES

Saturday 28 June



Leamington Spa, CV32 4AA



For further information visit: warwickdc.gov.uk/armedforcesday





















