

Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



8th December 2023

Dear all

It fills me with an immense sense of pride to bring you this week's Alcester Academy weekly bulletin. I can't quite believe that I am already nearing the end of my first term as Assistant Headteacher at Alcester Academy, and I can honestly say that they have been some of the happiest weeks of my career to date.

I want to thank all the staff, pupils, and other stakeholders for making me feel so welcome. This is a wonderful school with community at the heart, with everyone striving to support all pupils to be the best that they can be.

As part of my Assistant Headteacher roles and responsibilities, I am very



lucky to lead on a number of different areas including my passion which is 'Teaching and Learning.' Over the last 14 weeks I have visited lessons from all areas of the school and my goodness, the pupils

are incredibly lucky to experience high quality teaching which inspires, engages and encourages pupils to be stretched and challenged but most importantly develop a love of learning.

This does not happen by chance and staff at Alcester Academy take their own professional development very seriously by keeping up to date on the latest whole school pedagogy, curriculum updates, and collaborate together by working in 'action groups' which focus on all areas of the school development plan.



What's inside this week...

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Memorable Moments

Our Student Librarians talk about their roles

Year 7—How have you settled in at Alcester Academy?

Sports News

One area of the school that is always top of the priority list is staff and student wellbeing. It goes without saying that Christmas can be a beautiful, but challenging time of year for so many and it is important to always check on your loved ones and those that may be feeling lonely or have lost someone dear to them.

Throughout the month of December, staff and students look forward to opening an online *Alcester Academy Wellbeing Advent Calendar*, (courtesy of the mental health and wellbeing charity *Young Minds*), which encourages everyone to look after their wellbeing as they count down to the winter break.

These are the activities that we have all been participating in over the last week:

- ◇ **Positive Playlist**—Making a playlist of favourite festive tunes
- ◇ **Star Breathing**—Focusing on self care
- ◇ **In the Moment**—Using the 54321 grounding technique

- ◇ **Get Creative**—spending a minimum of 30 minutes doing something creative
- ◇ **Thank you**—writing a thank you card to a friend or teacher who has helped you this year



Action for Happiness is another wonderful wellbeing charity that release a wellbeing calendar every month throughout the year (and in a variety of different languages too!). The website has some wonderful advice to maintain a happy and healthy positive mental health. Please check out their website for more details and feel free to share the calendars with friends, family, and the wider community. [Happier Kinder Together | Action for Happiness](#)

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Memorable Moments

As part of our staff wellbeing, we very much enjoy sharing *memorable moments* with each other during a Friday morning briefing, which include personalised staff thank yous and pupil achievements.

If you would like to say thank you to a member of Alcester Academy staff that we can share with them in our next briefing then please email me at charliemckenzie@alcesteracademy.org.uk. There is nothing more heart warming than to receive a message of thanks and acts of kindness are proven to make people feel more positive and happier inside and out.



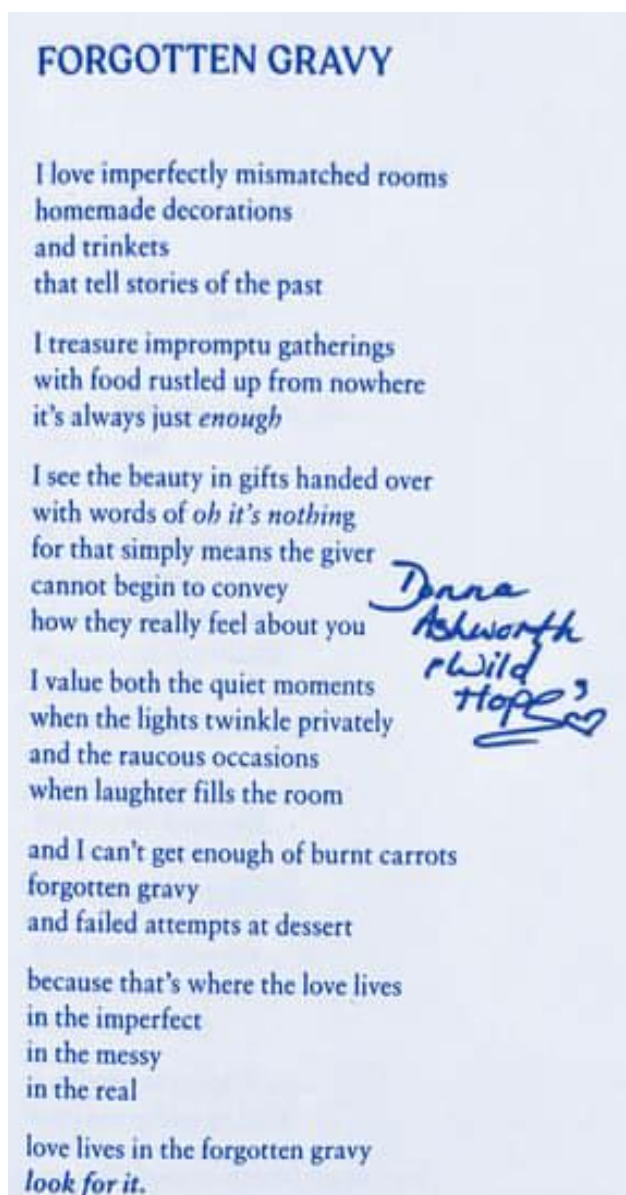
Forgotten Gravy

I would really like to share with you a poem by Donna Ashworth from her poetry book *Wild Hope*.

This poem was written for Christmas and any occasion where we can lose ourselves, trying to make things perfect.

Donna Ashworth writes about it...

To me, the love lives in the moments that will never make a picture perfect post on social media. Love lives in the forgotten gravy and the carrots that burned whilst we were taking each other in... look for it.





St Nicholas Night

Such a fabulous evening at St Nicholas' Night in Alcester. Thank you to our very own Rock Academy for their amazing performances and to many of our student volunteers helping out on stalls and representing the local Scouts and other organisations.



Sports Events

Excellent demonstrations of teamwork from our boys indoor rowing teams at the SW competition this week. Brilliant to see support across all year groups for all wearing the badge.



Student Cycling Success

A huge congratulations to our very own Jefferson who won the West Midlands Cyclo-cross championship on Sunday 3rd December. It is Jefferson's third regional title, this time in the Under 16 open category.



LRC brings Christmas alive through festive literacy!

I wish to extend my thanks to Mrs Hands and her fabulous librarians for bringing Christmas to life this December in the LRC. Festive literature and novels are on display to inspire our Alcester Academy readers to get into the Christmas Spirit. The LRC is such a special place where students can read quietly and focus on getting lost in their imaginations through literacy.

Finally, thank you so much for reading! I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to lead the bulletin this week and hope you have enjoyed this just as much as I have!

Have a wonderful weekend and do remember to take some time for your own wellbeing.

With very best wishes,
Miss McKenzie—Assistant Headteacher



Always fill your
own cup first

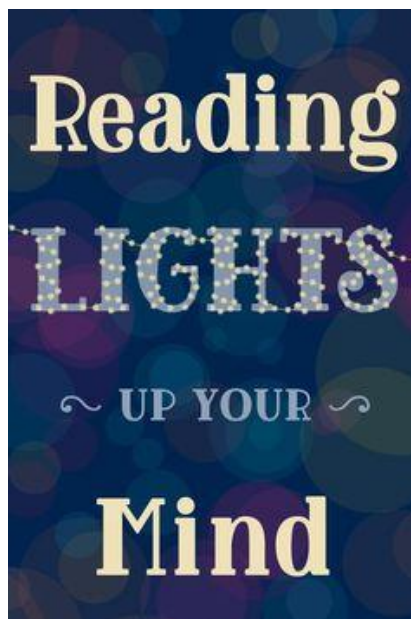
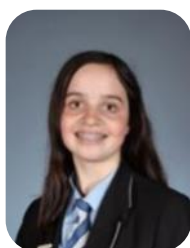
AND ALLOW THE WORLD TO BENEFIT FROM
THE OVERFLOW

Our Student Librarians talk about their roles and responsibilities. Read on...

Jess—year 11

I have been a Student Librarian since September 2021. I love being a Student Librarian and it is something that has helped me very much. I have formed many new friendships through the library, and I love helping people. Since I have been a Student Librarian, I have completed four librarian awards: First Award, Bronze, Silver and Gold. I hope to achieve Platinum before the end of year 11. By doing these awards I have learnt how to check out books, reserve and renew books, process books, help people with choosing books, technology and many more things. I have also learnt some valuable life skills such as how to communicate with people and deal with difficult behaviour. While being a Student Librarian I have helped to run the year 7 book club, which was very enjoyable and helped me to understand how to work with the younger students better.

The library is a safe place, it is usually very peaceful and is very good for getting work done. I would say that all the Student Librarians get on very well and that we are all very willing to help others out. We form bonds and I particularly have formed bonds with many of the younger librarians, as I have helped to train them and help them progress through their First Awards. I love being a Student Librarian, the people are amazing, the skills you learn are so valuable and above all, Mrs Hands always encourages us to do our best.



Jess—year 10

My role as a student librarian is to help in the library, we all do this by checking out renewing or receiving books back from students, putting away returned books, tidying up, and checking our designated sections for any out of place or damaged books - which we also try to mend. As student librarians we are around to help other students by finding specific books or helping them choose a good one. This really helps with confidence as you have to speak to people you don't always know. Another quality that being a student librarian teaches you is organisation, by having to remember to come every week it helps you learn how to stay organised. Another way that being a student librarian helps you is the certifications (first, bronze, silver and gold) that you work towards - you learn skills which will then help further on in life, such as customer service, desk duties and being responsible.



Molly—year 9

Since becoming a student librarian, I've found that it has expanded my knowledge and helped me to understand how useful and important a library can be. As part of our job, we arrange the books so that they are easier to find and more accessible to the students. We make sure that every part of the library is organised and help to decorate and create displays during different celebrations. We also have meetings once a month to decide on things like the bookfair so that students can buy books and stationery to help both the school and the library.



Rosie—year 9

As a student librarian I have loved all the opportunities that have been given to me. When we first start, we are trained by the older librarians, and this helps us to develop a close bond with them. The library is one of the most decorative places in the school, with its fun Christmas decorations and summer displays, it is a lovely place to have an exciting time with your friends and catch up with homework.



The MORE that you READ,
the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW.**
The MORE you LEARN,
the more **PLACES** you'll **GO!**
~ Dr. Seuss

Year 7 Autumn Term How have you settled in at Alcester Academy?

Hi—I am Amelie
Alcester Academy has really welcomed me in as a student and I feel I am going to really love it. There are so many different things that are amazing—teachers, lessons and trips. The incredible things I have enjoyed already are—the Blackwell trip, the school show and Summer School. I can't wait for my future here!



My name is Kaitlyn. I have really enjoyed how many friends I have made—so many!!! All the teachers are really kind and friendly. I enjoy every subject, each one for a different reason, but they are fun and enjoyable. Most of my friends I have made, I have made in the LRC.



I'm Will
My time at Alcester Academy has been brilliant. I have made new friends and I have been on fantastic trips, such as Blackwell Adventure. On the Blackwell trip I had lots of fun playing laser tag with my friends and YES... my team won 4:0. The teachers are really funny and make me laugh all the time. My start at the Academy has been brilliant and I think I have settled in really well.



I am Lily. I have enjoyed making new friends and going to new lessons. My favourite lesson is art because it is relaxing and I am starting my final art piece this term. Maths is also a favourite lesson, it's fun and if we are lucky we get to play bingo. I've enjoyed talking to my friends and having lessons with really nice teachers.

I'm Lydia and I am enjoying this term at Alcester Academy. In the first half term I have liked the trip to Blackwell Adventure, the canteen and learning new things in lessons. I have discovered that there are many clubs to join and they are great. I have joined in with BBC Young Reporters and archery at school. My favourite lessons are science, English and performing arts. I have found them very interesting and fun. I also go to the wonderful library at break time and lunch because I love reading. Thank you to all the teachers for helping year 7 settle in. Thank you!!



I am Harry. I think that so far Alcester Academy has been a really enjoyable place. I have loved all lessons like English, IT, maths, PE and DT and many more. I also think that all the staff are very friendly and are always there to support us and comfort us.



My name is Ava. I love Alcester Academy and I think I am beginning to fit in. All of the teachers are so lovely and kind. So far I have joined Rock Academy, Pop Band, archery and Art Club. I did a concert of Rock Academy and sang two songs Heaven's A Lie by Lacuna Coil, and Shadow of Love by The Damned. It was a great experience and I loved it. On St Nicholas' Night, I sang for the Pop Band at St Nicholas Church. I feel like I fit in now. Thank you!



SUPPORT YOUR YE TEAM—SILVA ORGANIX

We are SILVA Organix and we are this year's Year 10 Young Enterprise team.

This year we have decided to do terrariums and bamboo straws as our main product as sustainability is a big focus for our team. Each of our products are reusable or have been recycled.



We will also be selling Christmas cards. Alternatively, you can order via email please see email address below.

If you would like a terrarium or bamboo straws personalised or would like any further information, please email silvaorganix@gmail.com.

You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram and X where you can see what we get up to.

Our terrariums are recycled jars and are like a miniature world in your hands. To fit with this theme they are called 'Pocket Forest'. They can either be open top or closed top terrariums. The closed top ones are low maintenance and only need watering every few weeks.

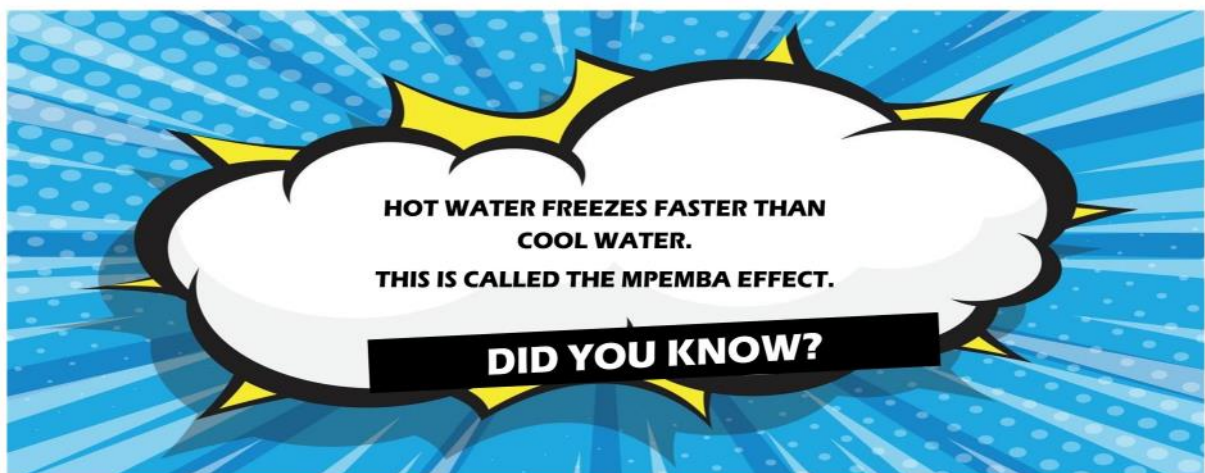
We would also like to ask that if you have any spare jars to please bring them into school.

Our bamboo straws can be reused and are better for the environment as they aren't single use like paper or plastic that harms the world around us. They are called "Pure Leaf" as they are 'pure' and are eco-friendly. If you are interested in buying our products we will be at the:

Thank you for all of your support so far, we really appreciate it. The SILVA Organix Team

**Temple Grafton Primary School
Christmas Fayre
on Friday 15th December
from 3.30 - 5pm.**







If your child would like a traditional Christmas lunch on either Tuesday 19th December or Wednesday 20th December, you can now pay in advance on the School Gateway.

Please note this is a separate payment item and cannot be made through the usual lunch payment system.

Payments/orders must be completed by **midday Sunday 10th December** to allow the catering team to meet their order deadline.

Please make a payment of either £3.50 for a full traditional meal and dessert, or £2.80 for just the main course.

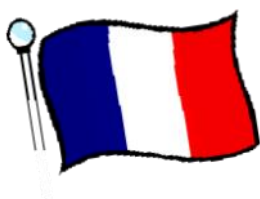
With regret, children cannot decide if they want a traditional meal on the day. When placing your order please ensure you note the following information within the comments section:

1. Which day you are paying for either Tuesday or Wednesday.
2. If you have paid for a dessert which would they prefer, a chocolate cracknel bauble or snowflake shortbread biscuit.
3. Any dietary requirements i.e. gluten free.

Please be assured that should your child not wish to have a Christmas dinner, there will be other food available.



November's Linguists of the Month



French

Tegan, Lottie,
Callum, Jess & Hope



German

Traviss, Riley, Milo,
Osian & Ben



Congratulations—Mrs Weatherley, Head of MFL

TEXTACADEMY

Report incidents of bullying, theft,
cyber issues, crime or anti-social behaviour



I'm being bullied - I don't know what to do -

textacademy to 07563130478

with your message

or

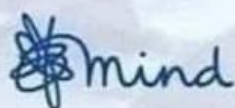
email your message to:

textacademy@alcesteracademy.org.uk

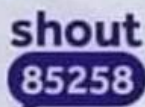
07563130478

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know
there's always someone you can talk to.



☎ 0300 123 3393
📞 Helpline
🌐 mind.org.uk



☎ Text SHOUT to 85258
📞 24/7 text service
🌐 giveusashout.org



☎ 116 123
📞 24/7 helpline
🌐 samaritans.org



☎ Text YM to 85258
📞 24/7 text service
🌐 youngminds.org.uk



☎ 0800 58 58 58
📞 Helpline for men
🌐 thecalmzone.net



☎ 0800 068 4141
📞 Under 35s Helpline
🌐 papyrus-uk.org

Careers News



Following Prince Henry's assembly last half term, year 11 students requested a visit. This afternoon we went for a tour of the school and were delighted to see so many familiar faces as we sat and chatted with last year's Alcester Academy students.

It was a delightful, informative visit and we are extremely grateful to staff for inviting us. Application forms for Prince Henry's will be available online before the end of term for those students wishing to apply.

- On Wednesday year 10 students participated in a workshop held by Cadbury College School Liaison Officer Lucy.
- The workshop was held to support students with creating their personal CVs in preparation for post-16 and future job applications. Students have then been given time during the school day in which to finalise their CVs in preparation for mock interviews being held in school next week.
- We sincerely thank everyone who has volunteered to support us with these next week.



Christmas Yule Log Competition

This week, the year 9 and year 10 Hospitality and Food groups continued a long-standing tradition, established by and tribute to the late Angela Cannadine, to take part in a Christmas Yule Log Competition.

I was hugely impressed by the standard produced by the students and the Senior Leadership Team had a tough job picking the winners! Well done to all that took part, fantastic effort!

Mr Tuckey



Epraise Facts & Figures

Student Leader board:

1	Noah	7RA	184 points—Third week at No.1
2	Alfie	7LX	180 points—First week at No. 2
3	Zachery	7KO	179 points—First week at No. 2
3	Chloe	7KO	179 points
5	Maddie	7KO	176 points
6	Ethan	7KO	171 points
7	Amber	7WI	169 points
8	Alex	8SI	164 points
9	Phoebe	7KO	162 points
10	Isabella	7RA	160 points

Top Students—this week:

1	Edward	8TY	22 points
2	Maisie	7RA	21 points
2	Will	7RA	21 points
4	Alfie	7LX	18 points
5	Harriet	9NE	17 points
5	Dylan	9SA	17 points
5	Jessica	7KO	17 points
5	Maddie	7KO	17 points
5	Michalina	7RA	17 points
10	Immy	9SA	16 points

Top Tutor—this week:

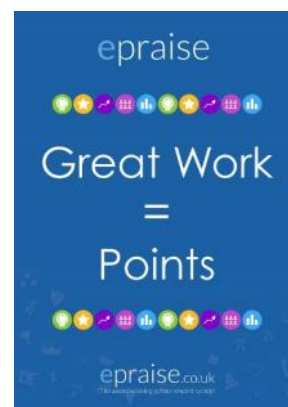
1	7LX	300 points
2	7RA	293 points
3	7KO	262 points
4	7TN	229 points
5	11MR	222 points

Top Staff—this week:

1	Mr Yarrington	539 points
2	Miss Lewis	383 points
3	Mr Rossiter	357 points
4	Miss Wincup	347 points
5	Miss Home	321 points

Top Subjects—this week:

1	English	946 points
2	Art	642 points
3	Maths	621 points
4	History	592 points
5	French	229 points



Dates for your diary this half term

Wednesday 13th December—Year 10 mock interview.

Thursday 14th December—Year 10 Parents' Evening. Online.

Monday 18th December—Year 9 Super Learning Day. Medical Mavericks.

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December—Rewards Trips.

Year 8 written reports out before term ends.

Friday 22nd December—Break up for Christmas at 12.40pm. One way road system in operation.

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children.

This is not an exhaustive list. Just a guide for you.



Educake Science

DID YOU KNOW?

With the new Educake software the science department is using you can set yourself questions to answer.

Watch the video that is posted in your Google Classroom for more information on this fantastic new resource.

Alcester Academy Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Autumn Term ends Friday 22nd December 2023 at 12.40pm

SPRING TERM 2024

School closed Monday 8th January 2024—Teacher training day

Spring Term begins Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024

Back to school Monday 19th February 2024

Spring Term ends (Easter) Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12.40pm

SUMMER TERM 2024

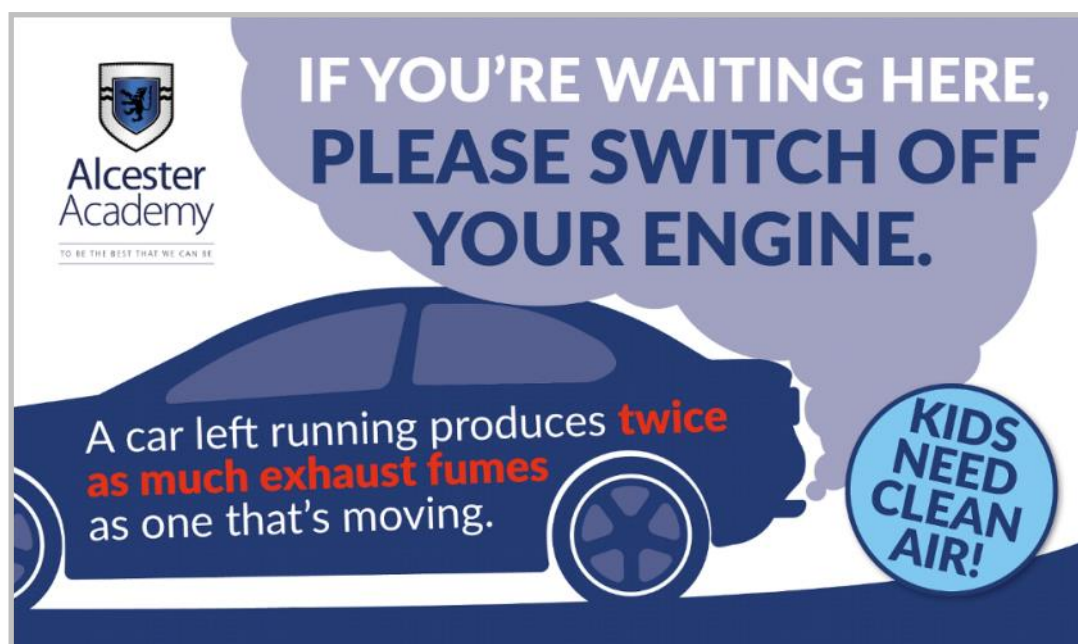
Summer Term begins Monday 8th April 2024

May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st May 2024

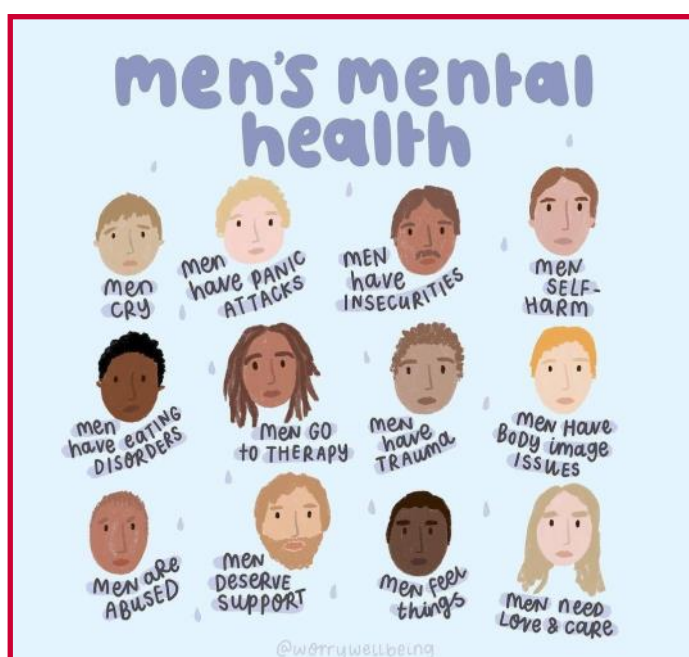
Back to school Monday 3rd June 2024

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2024 at 12.40pm



Extra Curricular Clubs

<p>Monday</p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Science Club KS3 S3</p> <p>Acoustic Group Music Hut</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Ornithology T4</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p><u>MORNING</u></p> <p>Morning Sports Club Gym</p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Young Enterpsie E6/5</p> <p>Pop Band Music Hut</p> <p>Game Design It</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>School Show Hall</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Chess/Board Game M4</p> <p>BBC Young Reporters E1</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>Rock Academy Music</p> <p>LGBTQIA+ club E4</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Environment Club E2</p> <p>Rock Band Music Hut</p> <p>Humanities Film Club Top of the Tower</p> <p><u>AFTER SCHOOL</u></p> <p>School Show HALL</p> <p>Art Club Art</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p><u>LUNCH</u></p> <p>Chess/Board Game M4</p> <p>Guitar Orchestra Music Hut</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>Rock Academy 10am-11.30am</p> <p>School Show 10m-4pm</p> <p>7th October 21st October 11th November 18th November</p>



Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance: 91.8%

Top tutors this week:

7RA with 97.1% attendance
 8GA with 96.7% attendance
 9BW with 88.9% attendance
 10SO with 98% attendance
 11MO with 93.7% attendance

Top House this week:

Greville with 93.7%

Our whole school attendance has dropped this week. If your child is feeling better towards the end of a bout of illness, please encourage them to return to school, as this can really support their attendance and minimize lost learning time. Thank you.

If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs Louise Hatcher, of the reason before 9.30am each day. This can be done through SchoolComms, by calling 01789 762285, or by emailing louisehatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Thank you.



"Attending school every day can help your child to achieve their aspirations, and the aspirations you have for them."


Year 11 Revision

Please find attached our revision timetable for this half term.
 Mr Cooke


Day	Core LUNCH	Core AFTER SCHOOL
Monday	Study Room M5	
Tuesday	Study Room S5	English
Wednesday	Study Room E2 Or Science	Science
Thursday	Study Room E2	Maths

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



HT 2 LUNCHTIME SPORT



- Lunchtime sports clubs to start w/b Monday 6th November on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- Lunchtime sport will follow a set timetable each half-term and run from 1.45-2.15pm (4:1)
- PE kit is not required to participate but you must have suitable footwear to be allowed into the gym

w/b	MONDAY - PE	TUESDAY - MO	WEDNESDAY - PW
6/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS3 Basketball
13/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS4 Basketball
20/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS3 Basketball
27/11/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS4 Basketball
4/12/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS3 Basketball
11/12/23	All Years Girls Netball	Y11 Indoor Football	KS4 Basketball

After School Sport



THIS WEEK'S SPORT:

W/B 11/12/23



Day	Extra-Curricular Club & Staff	Location
Monday	Year 7 + 8 Boys Basketball – PW	Gym
	Year 7 Netball v AGS	AGS
	Year 10 Rugby v King Henry VIII School (2.15pm KO)	Away
Tuesday	External Archery Coaching (Selective) – PW	Gym
	KS3 Girls Football – External coach	Field
	KS3 Boys Rugby – MO	Field
Wednesday	All years Girls Basketball – PW/PE KS4 Sport Studies Badminton and Table-Tennis – MO	Gym Hall
Thursday	No clubs - Year 10 Parents Evening	N/A

Please note that all outdoor practise will now
finish at 4.15pm due to the lack of light

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight:

Jefferson—Cyclo-Cross

Many congratulations to Jefferson in year 11 (Oversley) who continued his impressive performances within cyclo-cross last weekend. Despite the cold conditions Jefferson won the West Midlands Cyclo-Cross Championship in what is his third regional title. Even more impressive is that it was his first time competing in the U16 age group.



This week's sport roundup:

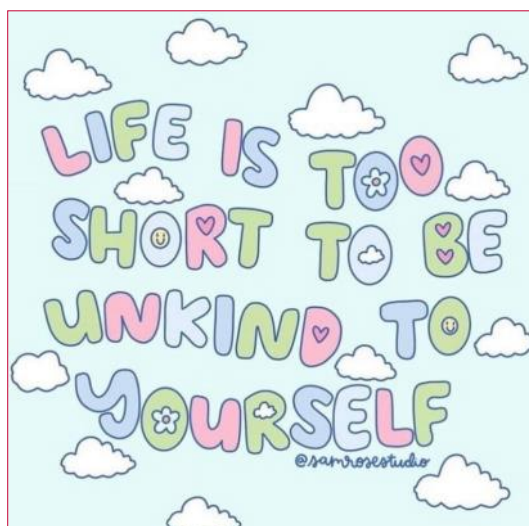
Year 10 and 11 Netball

Our year 10 and 11 girls went to play in the second of our friendly netball evenings at Alcester Grammar School. It is great to be able to use their sports hall on the dark nights and it is something we have done over the past few years. Unfortunately, we didn't win either of the games, but it was a fun evening none-the-less and gave the girls an opportunity to play in different teams.



Year 9 Basketball

Our year 9 Basketball team took on AGS in the SW Cup this week. Final score was 36-20 to AGS, but an encouraging second half gives us something to build on going forward. Defence was much improved and the team displayed their resilience throughout, well done to all who represented the school.



Teaching Assistant Level 3

Full Time

Working term time only (39 weeks to include 5 Teacher Training days)

Scale H range 14. FTE £27,334 starting salary. Actual pro rata £23,511.

Starting: As soon as possible

Closing date: Friday 19th January 2024 at 12 noon

Interviews: Week commencing 22nd January 2024

[ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

Learning Support at Alcester Academy

Working under the supervision of the SENCO and teachers, assist and support teaching and learning, working with individuals or groups, and assist in providing general care, safety and welfare for pupils.

The Post

This is a full time, term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) for an experienced teaching assistant ideally with an NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent). You will be working predominantly with a student with an EHCP but also other students with a variety of SEND needs.

We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of working with children with communication and interaction needs, including autism, though this is not essential.

This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

If you have any queries or concerns, please get in touch with

carihaynes@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application. Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding, equality of opportunity, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be required.



Pastoral Leader

Salary Scale K point 28 FTE £36,649 (Actual pro rata £31,751)

Closing date Friday 15th December at 12 noon

Interview date WC 18th December 2023

Job Description – Pastoral Leader

This is an exciting opportunity for a new role within the school. The Pastoral Leader will be directly responsible to the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes. Core Purpose of the Post: The role of the Pastoral Leader is to work closely with SLT to oversee students and be responsible for their welfare, attendance, attitude to learning and enjoyment of school. Much of the work is self-generating, and the post holder will be expected to operate within established procedures and guidelines and to prioritise day-to-day work. This is a full-time post starting at 8am until 4.30pm.

The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 15th December 2023

Interviews will take place during week beginning 18th December 2023

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy or wish to visit the school, please contact: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application. Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding, equality of opportunity, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check will be required.



[ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Will you be alone this
Christmas Day?
New to the area and want to
meet new friends?
If so, join us for the

*Alcester Community
Christmas Day Dinner*

Eric Payne Community Centre
off St Faith's Road
Alcester
B49 6AG
Monday 25th December 2023

CALL US OR EMAIL FOR YOUR INVITATION:
07414 851644 alcester-ccd@hotmail.com

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Can you spare an hour or two on
Christmas Day, or a few hours prior to
the big day? Call or email: 07414
851644 alcester-ccd@hotmail.com