Alcester Academy Weekly BULLETIN

9th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon, and happy new year again to you all. I hope that you've been wrapped up warm this week!

The staff started their week on Monday with a joint Three Rivers Alliance training event, at Stratford Girls' Grammar School with keynote speaker, Sue Cowley. Sue is an author of thirty educational books and addressed over three hundred staff on the topic of Adaptive Teaching at the shared event. Feedback from the session was highly positive. Adaptive Teaching remains a focus area for 2025-26 with all five Alliance schools, and has featured on our own Improvement Plan for two years now. www.suecowley.co.uk

Good Luck Year 8s

We are sending our support to year 8s who sit exams next week. Wishing them all the very best.

Cold Weather

We are encouraging students to be sure to wear a coat to school during this cold spell. Various warm areas are open for students during the school day, but coming to school and going home again are of key importance. I've actually seen students in only short shirt sleeves at 3.25pm!

Road Safety

Please can I ask vehicle drivers to be as safe as possible when collecting children. Thank you. A silver extended cab style of vehicle was observed on Tuesday after school, parking on the parish grass verges and causing damage to the ground. This is an area where the parish have asked vehicles not to park with respect.

What's inside this week

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Parent Information

'What I wish my parents or carers knew…': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza has published a paper this week that might be of interest to you all. I cannot recommend reading this enough. Please try and take the time to. I've also added it to the safeguarding sections of the school website for future reference.

Landmark Junk Food Advert Ban

Landmark junk food ad ban to protect kids' health GOV.UK

Starting Tuesday 6th January, a ban on television and online advertisements for unhealthy food and drinks will be in effect until 9pm.

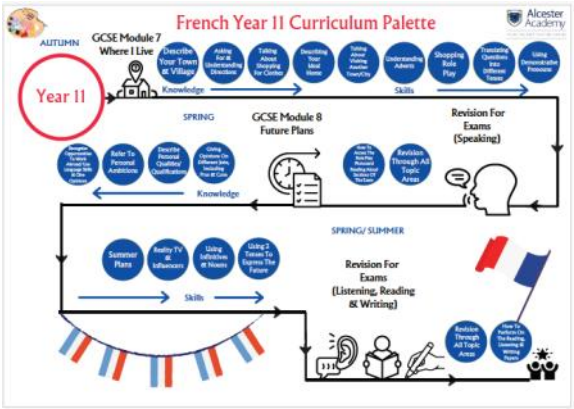
Minister for Health, Ashley Dalton, said:
'*We promised to do everything we can to give every child the best and healthiest start in life. By restricting adverts for junk food before 9pm and banning paid adverts online, we can remove excessive exposure to unhealthy foods—making the healthy choice the easy choice for parents and children. We're moving the dial from having the NHS treat sickness to preventing it, so people can lead healthier lives and so it can be there for us when we need it.*'

Well done to students taking examinations

Congratulations to KS4 students who took external exams this week in Number and Measure for maths, and Sport.

KS4 Palettes

The KS4 curriculum palettes for year 9, 10 and 11, have now been finalised and will be appearing on the website over the next week.



Please see the website for the KS3 palettes for year 7 and 8 that were launched before Christmas. www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/ks3-curriculum-palettes

Thanks to year 11 parents

We appreciated seeing so many of you last night at the final ever parents' evening! Do get in touch if anything remains unclear, or indeed, if you need any further support in the run up to the summer 2026 exams. Many thanks to our Post 16 colleagues for joining us in order to support future critical student decisions.

Ofsted Parent View

Please keep adding your views as you get chance if you haven't already. Huge thanks.
Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View

And, looking ahead to next week, we have a police careers drop in planned on Monday lunchtime, some superb virtual reality workshops around the perils of knife crime, our regular Friends of Alcester Academy PTA meeting and more Snowdome sessions! This is followed by the KS4 West End experience next weekend.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend ahead.

Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

Important Student Update from Alcester Council

The council have highlighted to me that they are experiencing considerable problems with ongoing vandalism at Jubilee Fields.

For example, during the last week, the grounds staff have had to deal with broken beer bottles, discarded aerosol cans, burnt paper, and worst of all, dog mess smeared all over the seats.

This is clearly unsustainable, and staff should not be made to deal with this.

The youth shelter was erected many years ago to provide a place for young people to meet but the council are now considering its future.

I will share this report with the pupils on Monday and I've been asked to explain that unless this behaviour stops, the shelter will have to be removed.

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SPRING TERM 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*

Bromcom Positive Points Leaderboard
2nd January—8th January 2026

Top Positive Point Students:

1	Eva	10KI	Ragley	14 points
2	Alizee	10YA	Greville	12 points
3	Will	10KI	Greville	11 points
3	Min-Seo	10GA	Oversley	11 points
3	Jess	10YA	Ragley	11 points
3	Poppy	8SA	Ragley	11 points
3	Tom	10YA	Billesley	11 points
3	Bob	10GA	Ragley	11 points
3	Daniel	10GA	Oversley	11 points
3	Asa	7LX	Greville	11 points

Top Positive Point House:

1	Oversley	442 points
2	Greville	415 points
3	Ragley	408 points
4	Billesley	378 points

Top Positive Point Tutor Group:

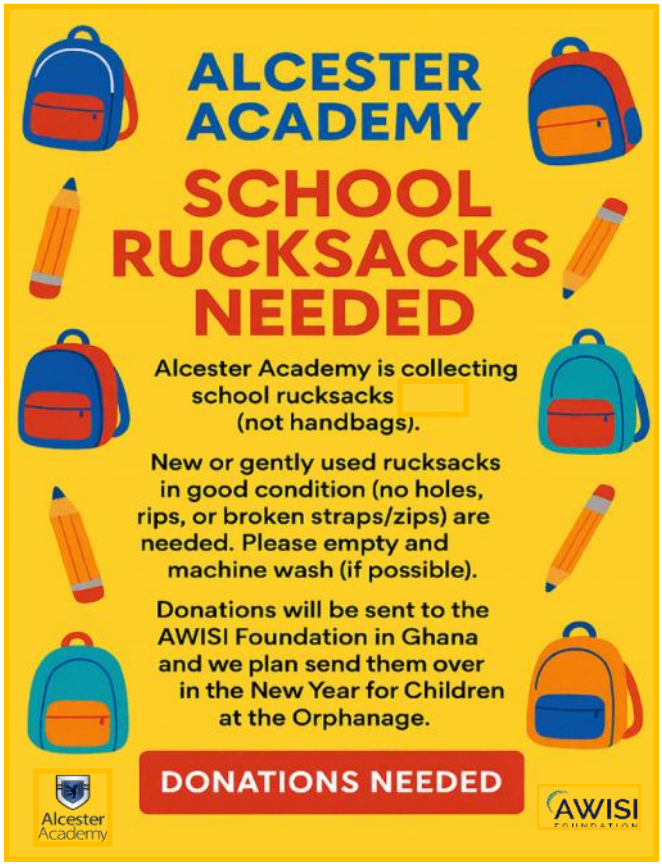
1	10GA	107 points
2	8MO	103 points
3	8SA	100 points
4	10YA	99 points
5	8BI	95 points

Top Positive Point Subjects:

1	English	623 points
2	French	233 points
3	Science	206 points

Top Positive Point Staff:

1	Miss Lewis	509 points
2	Mrs Weatherley	233 points
3	Mr Yarrington	206 points



Attendance 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 parents are asked to review the data collection form on MCAS. If you need to make changes, please do so via MCAS or email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

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.

Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are pleased to share the Spring Term Extra-Curricular Clubs timetable, which will begin next week. Students can sign up via MCAS on Bromcom if they haven't already done so. We would encourage parents and carers to support us by encouraging their child to take part in at least one club next term and make the most of the opportunities available. *Miss Sacco*

Key Dates for 2026

Monday 12th January	Year 8 exams start in classes.
Weekend of 17th January	Performing Arts West End Trip.
Monday 19th January	Year 9 Super Learning Day. 'Trust Me'.
Wednesday 21st January	Year 7 Humanities Super Learning Day.
Thursday 22nd January.	Year 8 and KS4 German Super Learning Day.
Tuesday 27th January	Online Parent Forum on KS4 Reading at 6pm.
29th/30th January	Year 11 Performing Arts Controlled Assessment.
Friday 30th January	Family Bingo Evening. PTA.
Monday 2nd February	Year 7 exams start in classes.
Friday 6th February	Year 11 Poetry Live trip.
Wednesday 11th February	Year 11 Doctors Show trip.
Thursday 12th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening. Online.

This is not an exhaustive list of events. I'm certain there will be others to add or communicate about.

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 after the a19th August 2024.

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 each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each 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 be 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.

Attendance News

Whole School Attendance this week: 95.4%

Top Tutors this week:

8MO with 100% attendance

8RW with 100% attendance

9AN with 100% attendance

9SO with 100% attendance

11GO with 100% attendance

Data from Tuesday 6.1.26–Thursday 8.1.26

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

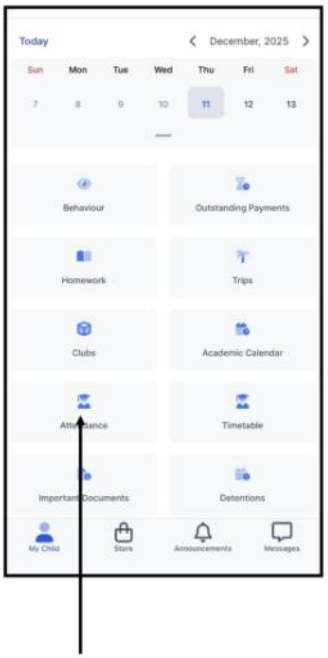
We kindly ask parents and carers to remind students who are leaving for appointments during the school day to come to the office a few minutes early so they can sign out promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms Louise Hatcher—Attendance Officer

Transition to MCAS for All Absence Reporting

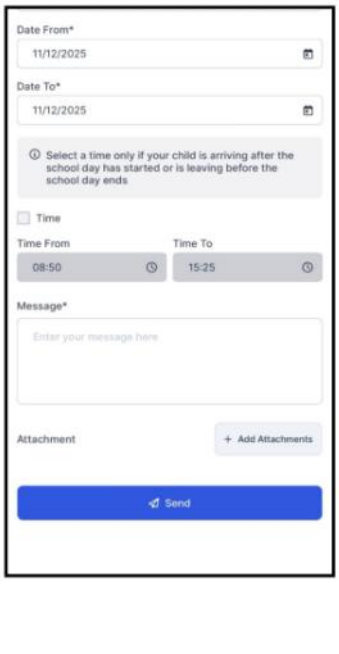
We are continuing to transition to reporting all absence (including illness and appointments) through the MCAS app. It is a simple process and allows you to see the absence has been logged almost immediately.

Below is a guide to how this is done:



Click on the attendance option.

Click Report an absence.



Complete the absence form and press send.

Examination Invigilators

£13.68 per hour, claimed monthly

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 30th January 2026

Interviews: TBC

Start date: As soon as possible for training

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Broad Description

The ability to work in a team, under direction, and to communicate effectively are essential. Invigilators will be required to conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ and the Academy's regulations and will play a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination process. Alcester Academy runs a number of examination series during the academic year and would expect flexible availability during these times, dates available on request. Applicants must be available for at least 5 sessions (morning/afternoon) per week during internal and external exam seasons throughout the academic year.

The Application Process

This should be by completed application form emailed to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk - we do not accept CVs.

Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.
We do encourage interested candidates to come and visit the school before making an application.

If you have any questions with regard to this vacancy, please contact head@alcesteracademy.org.uk. We look forward to receiving your application.

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.

Alcester Academy

Teaching Assistant

Full Time. Working term time only.

(39 weeks including 5 Teacher Training days)

Scale F range 6-11.

Immediate Start.

Closing date: Friday 23rd January at 12 noon. Interviews: TBC

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

This is a term time only post working 39 weeks per year (incl. 5 teacher training days) as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience of planning and running intervention sessions with children and monitoring progress within these. Alongside supporting a range of special educational needs specifically neurodivergence, including autism, ADHD and dyslexia. This is a temporary post for 12 months in the first instance with a view to becoming permanent after this period.

The Application Process

Please complete an Alcester Academy application form which can be found on our website https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/academy-information/vacancies. A written statement in support of your application will be accepted but we do not consider CVs. Please send your completed application to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 23rd January 2025. Interviews TBC.

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. Alcester Academy reserve the right to appoint before the deadline for a suitable candidate. We reserve the right to follow up references provided in person.

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.

Alcester Academy

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Spring Term Sport—Update

Welcome back to what is set to be another brilliant term of sport at Alcester Academy. As always, please keep an eye on the bulletin each Friday for the sports offer for the week ahead.

This is also shared with students each Friday morning in tutor time. All extra-curricular sport clubs both at lunchtime and after school will begin next week, beginning Monday 12th January.

Weekly Sports Round up

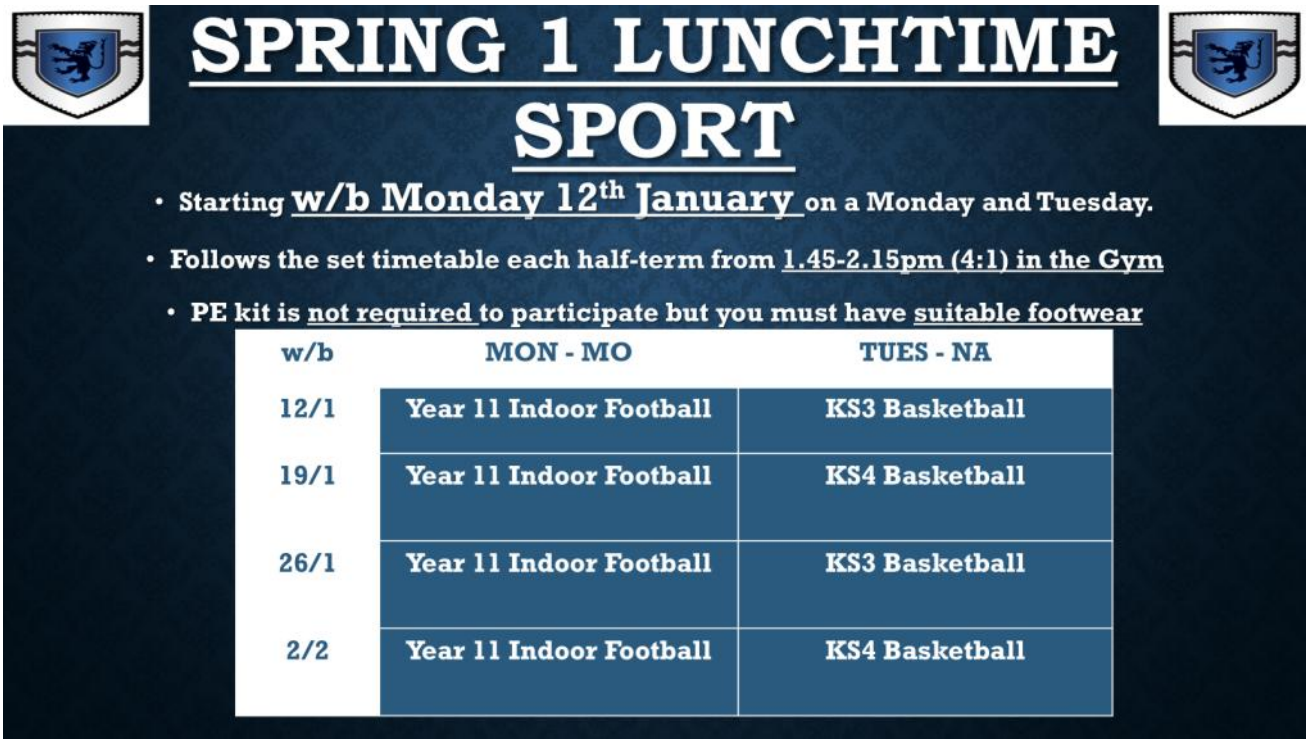
Year 11 Basketball District Semi-Final v AGS

Our year 11 team were drawn in the South Warwickshire basketball cup against current holders AGS this week. Our team showed incredible fight to keep the match competitive throughout and improved upon both their skills and their tactical awareness throughout the match. Congratulations to AGS who came out victorious in a fiercely contested match and progress to the final.

Mr Moffatt—Lead PE & Sports

* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Lunchtime Sport



Next Week's After School Clubs and Fixtures

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

ALCESTER YOUTH CHOIR

IS LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC, MUSIC LOVING 8 - 14 YEAR OLDS TO JOIN OUR GROUP!

LOVE TO SING?

THEN COME ALONG ON THURSDAYS FROM 6-7PM!

WE COVER POP, ROCK AND MUSICAL CLASSICS!

MAKE NEW FRIENDS, DEVELOP YOUR PERFORMANCE SKILLS AND HAVE FUN!

Please email alcesteryouthchoir@gmail.com to sign up or for more information

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FOR UNDER 18s

Calling all nature lovers, photographers and curious explorers!

Join our Nature Photography Challenge to discover, record and celebrate Alcester's amazing wildlife and habitats.

This could be wildlife, plants, trees, insects or landscapes from around Alcester

OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 TO AUGUST 2026

Submit your best photos and the winners will feature in the 2027 Alcester in the Wild Calendar.

info@alcester-tc.gov.uk

ags Alcester Grammar School

Sixth Form Subject Sampling Evening

Thursday 6th February 2026

Join us for an evening where you can sample six different subjects and get a real feel for our school and curriculum

SCAN ME

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

sixthform@alcestergs.com

Birmingham Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5ED

AbilityNet

Free digital skills training
Everyone Welcome
No need to book
Free Tea/Coffee and Biscuits included

Delivered by Matthew Quarless, trainer at AbilityNet
10:00 - 11:30 In the Function Room
Alcester Unionist Club, 46 High St. B49 5AB

Wednesday 25th February 2026 Session 1
Getting to know your Smartphone or Tablet;
Using a computer for documents

Wednesday 4th March 2026 Session 2
How to access Public Services eg Gov.UK;
How to manage your health online

Wednesday 11th March 2026 Session 3
How to shop online;
How to bank online

Session delivered by Jared Anderson
10:00 - 11:30 In the Function Room

Wednesday 18th March 2026 Session 4
Staying safer online

During the AbilityNet Sessions
Well Connected Computer Group drop-in sessions will be taking place in the Lounge as usual
Every Wednesday 09:30 - 11:30

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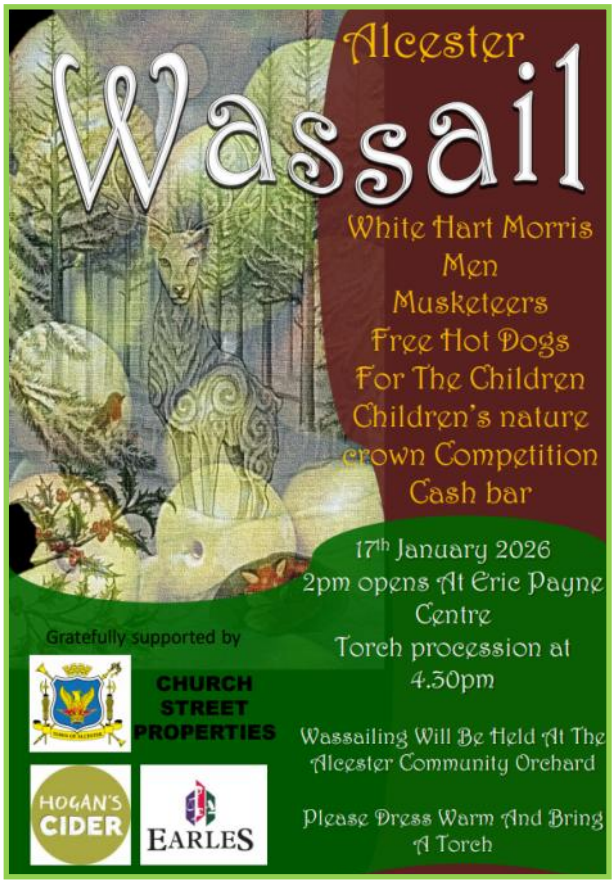

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