Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN



 9^{th} May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Thanks to Mr Moffatt, Head of PE for taking the reins last week with sports updates. It was a tremendous edition and once again, can I say how proud we were of all of our sports award winners before Easter.



Care was given to provide some safeguarding guidance around this activity.



<u>Ice bucket challenge | Donate or</u> <u>fundraise | Mind - Mind</u>

In national statistics published, 1 in 6 people in the last week experienced a mental health problem.

Welcome...



...to Mrs Laventine Lee who is now here to teach Miss Heitmuller's classes during her maternity leave. We hope that Mrs Laventine Lee will be very happy with us.

Warwickshire News!

You may have seen the recent headline that put Alcester Academy ranked 6th for attendance out of all of the secondary schools in Warwickshire. I thank you all as parents for supporting this national drive so effectively with us.

Focus on Mental Health Awareness Month

Miss McKenzie led a whole school assembly this week around mental health awareness week. This included some reminders about useful strategies for the students to use in their daily lives. Miss McKenzie nominated all staff and parents to participate in the MIND ice bucket challenge that has been revived again.

Young Enterprise—Endangerlings

Can I take this opportunity to formally congratulate *Endangerlings* on winning the regional finals of their event last week competing against sixth formers, yet again! This is a superb achievement and I'm looking forward to the next competition round at Warwick University next week. The team achieved three of the awards available on the night! This is just incredible.







What's inside this week...

Page 3 VE Commemorative Service

Page 7 Could You Be Our Next School Governor?

Page 15 Sports News

Rock Academy Refurb Fund

I can confirm that we have now reached the £20,000 target to refurbish the new Rock Academy premises. This is just fantastic. Thank you to all of our sponsors and especially a significant anonymous donation that was generously received very recently. We will list all known sponsors in time. Planning permission has been submitted and we are waiting for the next stages. We will be sure to keep you all updated.

Science Work—The Wolfson Foundation Grant

Work has begun in earnest with the grant that we were recently awarded. Over Easter, Miss Tandy's lab had some initial developments completed. This has begun to make a huge difference already. As have the new lab stools and our new display cabinet. Thanks to Mrs Passantino, technician for her continued hard work on this project.









MFL Paris Trip 2025

Thank you to parents for attending the final information evening on Wednesday. Not long to go now!

Year 8 Options Evening

It was a joy to see so many year 8s and parents last Thursday at Options Evening. The presentation, podcast and PPT can be found on the website if needed. <u>Alcester Academy | Options</u>. The deadline for all option returns is 14th May.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Smartphone Free Childhood









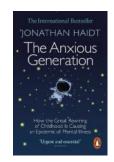
On Wednesday evening, we welcomed Charlotte Ashton, Consultant Paediatrician Sam Ibbs, and tech expert Chris Warren to school, all representing Smart Phone Free Childhood for an information evening about the dangers associated with smart phones.

Thank you to those families who were able to attend, especially year 6 parents. We will continue to develop work around this topic in the future.

For September 2025, all year 7 and 8 children will actively be discouraged from needing a smart phone for education purposes.

If you could not attend the information session, the team recommended a few resources for parents as follows:

- To watch the documentary *The Social Dilemma*. The Social Dilemma | Netflix Official Site. This highlights the changing landscape of technology and social networking.
- The Anxious Generation.
 A great book aimed at parents.
 ISBN:
 978-1-8020632-7-1



The Healthy Selfie. A book aimed at children and teenagers.
 ISBN: 978-1-0687950-0-8



- Website: The health professionals for safer screens <u>Health Professionals for Safer</u> <u>Screens - Our campaign</u>
- Contact Smart Phone Free Childhood to be added to their mailing list or volunteer to help: <u>sfccowarks@gmail.com</u>
- Finally, we are all urged to sign the Parent Pact: <u>Smartphone Free Childhood Sign the Parent Pact</u> in order to protect our children and lobby for national changes in the law at the highest level.



VE Commemorative Service—Alcester Division

I hope that you enjoyed the national celebrations on Monday that were televised.

These have continued throughout the week in earnest. You have to admit that we do organise some fabulous events in the UK!

Last night, Miss Buckthorp and I were extremely proud to be part of the Alcester Division of the Royal British Legions VE service on Centenary Fields to include the lighting of the beacon. Several students joined us to read poignant passages in order to begin to mark this 80th anniversary event.

Our crochet club members have completed this wonderful wall hanging that will be displayed in Alcester library. Thank you all, and especially Georgia in year 10, for organising the production of this beautiful piece.











Congratulations to Cllr David Henderson

On behalf of the school, I'd like to offer my congratulations to Cllr David Henderson on the occasion of accepting the office of Mayor at the Mayor Making event on Tuesday this week. We wish David a successful term in office this year and were also delighted to hear that Cllr Gill Forman was elected as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Forman is a former governor of the school. We offer our thanks to the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Mike Bowe.

Good luck year 11s

As GCSEs begin in full, we wish all year 11s the very best for this exam season. The Alternative Timetable now begins for all students. I wrote to you before Easter about this. If your child is in years 7-10, they may incur some cover in lessons whilst subject specialists deliver key sessions to our year 11s prior to exams. This has worked very successfully for a number of years at the school. All students benefit from this over time. I thank the staff for doing this as it means planning revision, and suitable cover content for classes.

On Tuesday, this all began with a geography super learning day to include our staff panel.



The leavers' hoodies arrived recently, and we enjoyed seeing our year 11s receiving these. Thank you to Mrs Matthews, site supervisor, for buying every year 11 student a motivational pen to help their exams get started positively. Such a kind gesture!













Good luck year 6s

We are wishing our incoming year 6s all the best with their forthcoming SATs next week.

Summer Open Mornings 2025

We are delighted to open our doors to prospective parents this term again. Please see details of how to book here:

Bon Voyage!

To our 96 year 9 students as they head off on their residential trip to Newquay next week. We wish everyone a safe, and exciting week ahead. Watch X for a day by day account of activities @AlcesterAcademy

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 6QQ Tel: 01789 762285
Email: admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk
Website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk

In sad news...

I know that lots of you will be very sad to hear that Mrs Quirke will retire from the Academy at half term, after many years of extremely loyal service to the school. Mrs Quirke has been a wonderful support to many families over time, helping so many of our students. We will all miss her very much indeed. I will write to you again at the end of term about this, but I am aware that lots of you will want to offer your own personal thanks to her.

And finally, Mr Anderson will lead the bulletin next week on IT Safety.

Wishing you all a great weekend ahead.

Mrs Sarah Mellors—Headteacher

Year 11 students should now follow the extra revision sessions within their copy of the alternative timetable.

We thank them for their excellent revision class attendance across the school year.

Mr Cooke

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



Epraise Leaderboard—past 7 days

Top Students—this week:

1	Georgia	10MO	Ragley	62 points
2	Arturo	10SA	Billesley	43 points
3	Darcy	0BW	Ragley	41 points
4	Dylan	10SA	Oversley	37 points
5	Finn	10BW	Billesley	31 points
6	Fleur	10PL	Greville	28 points
6	Natasha	10BI	Greville	28 points
6	Dylan	10MO	Ragley	28 points
9	Harriet	10MO	Billesley	27 points
10	Jessica	10BI	Greville	26 points



Top Tutor—past 7 days:

1	11MR	354 points
2	9GA	250 points
3	10MO	241 points
4	9PA	239 points
5	10BI	226 points

Top Staff—past 7 days:

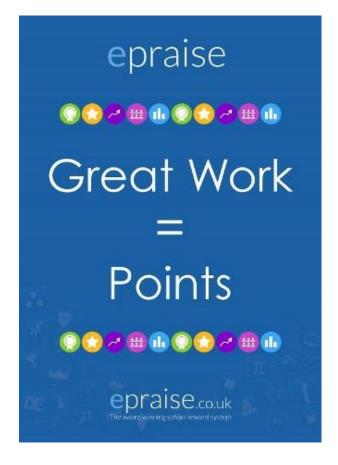
1	Mrs Hirji	312 points
$\overline{2}$	Mrs Gorner	261 points
3	Mrs Weatherley	244 points
4	Miss Lewis	227 points
5	Mrs Mellors	211 points

Top Subjects—past 7 days:

•	-	-	_
1	English		584 points
2	Maths		481 points
3	Science		395 points
4	French		272 points
5	History		137 points

Top House—this week;

1	Billesley	1330 points
2	Oversley	1315 points
3	Ragley	1310 points
4	Greville	1292 points







Dates for your diary:

Monday 12th May Year 9 Newquay trip until Friday 16th May.

Thursday 12th June 2025 Year 7 Parents' Evening. SchoolCloud

Alcester Academy Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2025

Half Term Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025

Back to school Monday 2nd June 2025

School closed Friday 27th June 2025—Teacher training day

Summer Term ends Friday 18th July 2025 at 12.40pm

RSE Consultation 2025

Please review our consultation on the Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy. This is an opportunity for you to share your views on this aspect of our curriculum.

To participate, please visit our website: www.alcesteracademy.org.uk.

You can also find the Department for Education's statutory guidance on RSE here:
Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education - GOV.UK

If you would like to share any feedback, please contact us via email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk. Thank you.







Please follow *Endangerlings*, your Alcester Academy Young Enterprise Team, on track for our Midlands finals!

This would mean the world to us to maximise our potential in this competition!

Thank you. All socials. @endangerlings

Attendance Updates

Whole School Attendance this week is 95.1%

Top Tutors attendance this week:

7RA with 97.5% attendance 8RO & 8AN with 100% attendance 9GA with 97.5% attendance 10BW with 97% attendance 11GO with 97.2% attendance If your child is absent from school, please inform the Attendance Officer, Mrs 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, Mrs 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.

Casual Driver

Casual Driver Required Hourly Rate £13.74

Closing date: Friday 30th May at 12 noon

Starting: As soon as possible

ADVERT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Post

Driver required to transport students in years 7-11 from addresses in Alcester and Bidford to Alternative Education Providers in Warwickshire. Morning and afternoon collections required. Timetable of requirements will vary.

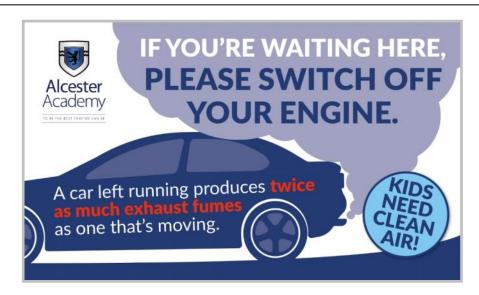
Relevant driving skills and valid licence allowing the post holder to drive a "D1" size vehicle is essential. The successful candidate will need to be prepared to complete a minibus diving test organised by the Academy.

Application Process

Interested applicants should hold a clean driving licence and be subject to a full DBS check. Could suit retired person. Please email the school if you are interested, with a full CV admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

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.





* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Student Spotlight Aaron and Dylan—Rugby

Congratulations to year 11 rugby players Aaron and Dylan who recently picked up the U16 Player of the Year and Most Improved Player awards at the Alcester RFC end of season awards.

Both students have worked incredibly hard to develop their technical and physical attributes this season and the award brilliantly recognises the hours and commitment both have put in both on and off the field, well done and many congratulations.





Will—Athletics

Congratulations to Will in year 10 who has been representing Alcester Academy at the Warwickshire School's Athletics Association Combined Events Championships, at the Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton this week. Will, as a competitor of the Inter-Boys age



group will be up against athletes in both school years 10 and 11 and I look forward to sharing his successes with you in next week's bulletin.

This week's sport U15 Boys Tennis v St Thomas Moore

The tennis season got underway this week with our U15 boys taking on St Thomas Moore School from Nuneaton. Well done to our four U15 players who represented the school during this fixture against strong opposition. The boys learned tremendously from the competitive fixture and look onwards and upwards to their remaining LTA School's tennis league season. Congratulations to Dan (year 9) on our teams only victory on the afternoon coming in the seed 2 singles match.









* SPORTS NEWS * SPORTS NEWS *

Summer Sport

Summer sports clubs are well underway in the PE department. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for clubs advertised a week in advance and on the notice board outside the changing rooms in PE. There is no need to sign up for any clubs apart from Archery, you are free to turn up at 3.25pm that afternoon. Competitive fixtures will be following in summer term in athletics, cricket, tennis and rounders.

Next week's Sport timetable



THIS WEEKS SPORT: W/B 12/5/25



South Warwickshire District Athletics Trial	Stratford School
Archery (Bowmen of Alcester) – Selected group	Gym
U15 Rounders Tournament	sggs
U13 and U15 Boys and Girls Tennis v Arnold Lodge TBC	Courts
All Years Cricket	Field
Year 7 and 8 Rounders	Field
	Archery (Bowmen of Alcester) – Selected group U15 Rounders Tournament U13 and U15 Boys and Girls Tennis v Arnold Lodge TBC All Years Cricket



Young Minds Matter—Mentor Job Advert

Are you committed to improving the mental health and well-being of young people in Warwickshire and Coventry? YMM is looking for Mentors paid and voluntary, who have a genuine connection with young people and a strong desire to create positive change. As a Mentor, you'll play a crucial role in supporting and guiding young people towards improved mental health and overall well-being. Join our team and help us cultivate a nurturing community focused on support and personal growth for young individuals.

What do our Mentors do?

Mentors at YMM engage in weekly 1:1 sessions with young individuals who require support, providing them with a compassionate ear, empathetic listening, and encouragement to navigate challenges by developing effective coping strategies. Serving as positive role models, Mentors empower young people to build resilience and thrive, creating a safe and nurturing environment where young people can explore their strengths, overcome obstacles, and realise their full potential.

Could you be a YMM Mentor? If you live in the West Midlands, want to help young people and are:

- Self-aware
- An excellent listener
- Non judgemental
- Ideally over 25 years old
- Reliable
- Able to use standard office software and have access to a computer
- Able to commit up to 6 hours a day during term time (in one day or possibly split over two days) in a local school

..then you have the ability to become an excellent mentor.

What we provide and what you gain:

- A bespoke induction training programme which will give you the knowledge and practical skills you need to work safely with students
- Ongoing skills development through work shadowing and online courses
- Peer support from our cohort of more experienced mentors
- Opportunities to get involved in other YMM initiatives
- Skills development with ongoing training that can boost your career
- Monthly 1:1 supervision sessions with a fully qualified British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy (BACP) accredited counsellor, to help you develop your skills and address any emerging needs of the young people you support.
- Reimbursement for travel expenses
- The opportunity to work in a rewarding role

If you're interested or want to find out more, visit our website at ymm.org.uk or get in touch with Claire at info@ymm.org.uk.

To apply, download the application form from ymm.org.uk and send it, along with a short covering letter, to info@ymm.org.uk.

Calling all Aspiring Alcester Academy bakers!

CALLING ALL ALCESTER CACADEMY ASPIRING BAKERS!

Get ready to unleash your creativity in our exciting baking competition, themed by

'MARVELLOUS CREATIONS

inspired by the magical world of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Design your traybake masterpiece Draw up a design idea and describe your marvellous creation.





SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY BY 12TH MAY:

The winning designs will be selected to bake their creations on Friday, 16th May at school.

SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT:

Present your baked masterpieces at the Alcester Food Festival in the Memorial Town Hall, 17th May. You will be competing against other schools in the local area such as AGS and Benedicts

PRIZES:

The winners will be awarded a luxury food hamper from Hillers!

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY





NEW referral route for our children and young people's social groups

Groups are safe spaces for 7–18 year olds to connect with others, talk about different topics, and take part in activities without the need to mask.



Scan the QR for more details and to refer.

(024) 7601 2333 casspartnership.org.uk navigation@casspartnership.org.uk







CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY







CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

