

# Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp  
Assistant Headteacher: Miss Charlie McKenzie

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Families will be aware that recent years have seen a growth in individual schools working increasingly closely together with the aim of sharing good practice and improving the quality of education for students. The benefits of such collaboration are notable, and it is clear that when educational institutions successfully unite for a common purpose, students, staff and the entire school community benefit.

As a single academy trust, Alcester Academy has long recognised the benefits of collaboration, and we write now to inform you of an exciting development in our work with local secondary schools.

We have agreed, with some of our neighbours, to form a mutually supportive alliance of five schools. Alcester Academy, Alcester Grammar School, King Edward VI School in Stratford upon Avon, Shipston High School and Stratford Girls Grammar School have come together to form a supportive and developmental alliance of schools.

Each school is successful in its own right and enjoys a distinct identity and ethos. However, the five schools share important qualities and values. All promote and achieve academic success, and all value and promote the development of the whole child, enabling young people to grow academically and as independent and confident young adults. By working together for our students, each school will be strengthened in its development of the curriculum and wider opportunities for young people.

It is important to state clearly that this proposal is not the formation of a Multi- Academy Trust (MAT). Each of the schools creating this alliance value the individuality we offer and will remain Single Academy Trusts at this time. Participating schools retain their distinct mission statements whilst sharing a common commitment to provide the best education for the children in our care.

We believe that parents/carers value the choice provided by schools with individual identities and we do not wish to be absorbed into a Multi Academy Trust. There is no intention to change the existing identity, independence, and autonomy of each partner school.

We do, however, recognise the benefits of collaborative working and mutual support. School leaders have been doing this successfully for some time. The alliance formalises these links and gives us all the benefits of collaborative working without narrowing educational choice within the local community.

The schools involved are similar in size, and each serves families across South Warwickshire and the wider local area. Mutual support and discussion in recent years has demonstrated that the shared



values and synergies between the schools has been beneficial in positive school development, and this new relationship will benefit students in all schools in the alliance.

Each of the partner schools is currently rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, and are demonstrably well led, managed and governed; the schools are financially and educationally secure. This has been a relationship grown carefully over time, providing confidence in the decision to proceed to the shared commitment of the alliance.

In conclusion, the benefits of schools working together are substantial. From sharing resources and knowledge to fostering a sense of community, improving financial efficiency, and addressing educational challenges, collaborative action creates positive change. By working together, we can bring further benefit to all of our students.

Further information accompanies this letter in the form of 'frequently asked questions' which provides useful explanation and reassurance. In summary, families will see very little change in the usual operation of the school whilst students will benefit from our collaborative work. You are welcome to contact the school if you have further questions. Please direct the to [head@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:head@alcesteracademy.org.uk). We trust that the information provided here conveys both a clarity of purpose and a sense of excitement at this unique opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mellors', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Mellors  
Head teacher