

# Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Good morning. Welcome back to the last half term of this academic year. I'm not really sure where the year has gone! It is always a very busy final half term. I'll be certain to add some of the key dates for you all in the bulletin on Friday as an aide memoire.

I am writing to you regarding a few key changes to be aware of as we enter this part of the summer term.

## Changes to the School Day Timings

From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June, we will be adapting the internal school day timings in order to make tutor time and break time slightly longer as follows. This is a trial for the summer term, and we will be sure to collect student feedback before making any definitive decisions for September. All students will have the chance to continue to buy food at either break time and/or lunchtime. There are no changes to the start or end times of the school day. Students were updated on these changes in full today in whole school assembly.

The slightly staggered end to the school day for Years 7-9 continues. This is helping with a safe exit on Gerard Road such a lot. Thank you for your support with this.

A typical 4:1 day:

<b>Tutor</b>	<b>8.50-9.15</b>
<b>P1</b>	<b>9.15-10.15</b>
<b>P2</b>	<b>10.15-11.15</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>11.15-11.45</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>11.45-12.45</b>
<b>P4</b>	<b>12.45-1.45</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>1.45-2.25 (settle bell@ 2.10)</b>
<b>P5</b>	<b>2.25-3.25 (staggered for Year 7-9)</b>



### **Staff Updates**

We welcome Ms Kirkmartin to the English team this half term, and welcome Miss Nemeshanyi back from her maternity leave.

### **Year 8 Options**

Mr Hollis will write to parents very shortly to confirm option choices for September 2025.

### **Learning Support Unit**

Following the early retirement of Mrs Quirke at the end of last half term, we will be making some staff changes in LSU in readiness for September. LSU staff will be assigned to year groups in the future as Year Leaders. We hope that this will support parents and students with clear routes to gain support when required. More detail will follow soon. We are all very excited about this.

### **Science Refurb**

The site team have worked tirelessly over half term in order to continue the refurb of our science labs. They are looking incredible, and I have asked the students to show their thanks and respect for the improved facilities.

### **What is your child learning this half term?**

Our long-term plans are always available on the website for your interest and reference. You can find these under each subject area under the 'Quality of Education' tab. The long-term plans will shortly be replaced by our learning palettes. Staff have been working very hard on these all year.

### **Uniform**

Students should no longer wear a jumper to school in this warmer weather. With regret, many students have been choosing to wear this instead of their school blazer. Thank you for your attention to uniform over half term. We have noted a decline in standards of late and your support around this is received warmly. Miss Buckthorp sent a very detailed email about the uniform standards on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

As a reminder, there is a new PE kit style for Year 7s in September 2025. Price and Buckland have worked very hard on this for us and provide a very efficient service for parents. For parents in existing Y7-10, you may replace items with the new design as required now. Pre orders are being taken online [Alcester Academy | Price & Buckland](#)

The NSC in Alcester will stock these items much later on in the summer term.

The existing PE kit is absolutely acceptable for students to wear for as long as is needed whilst we make this transition.

### **School Attendance**

Thank you for your continued commitment to positive school attendance. Let Mrs Hatcher, Attendance Officer know of any known absence(s) in advance. Mrs Hatcher will also continue to conduct safe and well checks on my behalf as needed. These are especially important surrounding a school holiday where we will not see students for an extended period of time.

## **Year 11 Exams**

Year 11 exams continue in earnest now and we therefore continue to follow 3:2 days. Once Year 11 exams are completed, Year 10 mocks begin.

## **Training Day**

School is closed on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June for staff training.

## **Parking**

I encourage you to take great care when parking outside school please. Do not leave engines running, park on white lines or grass verges. The amount of traffic building up continues to cause me great concern. Alcester Schools have a traffic summit in early June to discuss this with the MP. I'll keep you posted.

## **Want to be a New School Governor?**

We are seeking to appoint a new school governor. If you are interested, more details can be obtained from the Chair of Governors, Mike Dean; [mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk)

### **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](mailto:mikedean@alcesteracademy.org.uk), or get in touch with the Academy office [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

*Mike Dean—Chair of Governors*

## **Smart Phones**

New Year 7s for September 2025 will be discouraged from needing a smart phone at secondary school. Smart Phone Free Childhood have been supporting our recent work around this.

I do urge you to monitor phone use at home, and check phones from time to time please on safeguarding grounds.

## **Vaping**

I was delighted to hear that disposable vapes are now banned from being sold in shops. We do not tolerate vapes being brought in to school or used in school at any time. This includes school visits and residential trips.

## School Show

We are delighted to announce that the school show for November 2025 will be Grease.

Auditions will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. More details to follow shortly on how students can participate. These will take place in the school day.

Rehearsals will start in September- and will take place Tuesday and Thursday after school 3.30pm – 5.30pm. With 4 Saturdays 10.00am - 4.00pm.

- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November

It is the expectation that students who would like to take part are available at these times.

## Open Water Swimming

As the weather changes for summer, please chat to your son/daughter about the dangers of embarking upon any open water swimming. Whilst we are very lucky to be close to several sources of natural water, the temptation to swim in hot weather is a perilous risk. The Royal Life Saving Society publish some very useful advice: [Open Water Safety Tips](#)

## Friends of Alcester Academy

The Friends of Alcester Academy will be at the Street Market on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June. If you haven't managed to donate a bottle for the stall, we would be extremely grateful.



I hope that this letter continues to keep you involved in the key aspects of school life. Please contact us at school if you need any further information or support over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Mellors  
Headteacher