

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

14th April 2026

Good morning Parents/Carers

Welcome back after the Easter break. I hope that you managed to have some quality family time over the bank holiday weekend. It was lovely to see a few days of sunshine too! I'm writing with a few key updates for you regarding this term as follows.

GCSEs for Year 11s-impact on the school

GCSEs begin next week in full for our Year 11s starting with MFL speaking and Art/Photography. As the written exams begin, we will revert to 3:2 days. Your child/ren can explain the implications of this to you as needed.

For many years now, we have successfully run an alternative timetable for Year 11s during their main exam season. This involves key subject staff, taking essential revision for the students directly before their exam. This creates a lot of additional preparation by those staff involved. It will mean that if your child is in Years 7-10, they may not have their regular subject specialist teacher during the exam season for individual lessons prior to the written exams in that subject area. Suitable work is set by the regular teacher in order that there is limited disruption to learning for students in Y7-10. We have operated this in the past very effectively, and I hope that your child/ren will benefit from this when they reach Year 11.

Year 11s do not get study leave any longer. School attendance is expected right until the last examination.

The staff team will continue to give additional revision sessions throughout the exam season, with many sessions starting at 8.00am on the morning of specific exams. I'd like to thank the staff team for this continued commitment and wish Year 11s all the very best for the next few months.

Behaviour

This week's 'Back to Basics' focus is on equipment and we have asked that the students return with all essential items required to support learning. Thank you.

In the majority, our students are an absolute credit to the school and you all as parents/carers. Staff are becoming increasingly concerned however about a growing number of students who are refusing to follow reasonable, or adjusted instructions. This disruption can cause significant time for teachers away from learning, and it remains our absolute intention that poor behaviour will not disrupt others. Staff and Governors have spent time discussing a continued positive focus on behaviour in school. There are going to be some Behaviour Policy adjustments this term, and we will write to you separately about these. We feel that it will be useful to students to know exactly what is expected and the consequences of meeting these expectations or choosing not to. Concurrently therefore, we are talking to the students about the Rewards system in school. This also needs an



update and we feel that good behaviour should be rewarded in order to motivate the students further.

Whilst the start and end times of the day won't alter, we are trialling the slightly shorter lunch time again in order to reduce the number negative incidents that tend to build up towards the end of lunchtime.

The new internal school day times are as follows:

8.48am Warning Bell
8.50am – 9.10am Tutor Time
9.10am – 10.10am Period 1
10.10am – 11.10am Period 2
11.10am – 11.45am Break
11.45am – 12.45pm Period 3
12.45pm – 1.45pm Period 4
1.45pm – 2.25pm Lunch
2.05pm Settle Bell
2.25pm – 3.25pm Period 5

Uniform

Thank you for attention to uniform over the break. I hope that the students will enjoy the comfort of the new summer uniform as temperatures increase this term. I'm certain to jinx that now, aren't I? Whilst the weather is cooler presently, jumpers can still be worn underneath blazers with the shirt and tie option.

Social Media

We do have a clear social media policy for parents/carers. This can be found on our website. [Social Media Policy for Parents 18.3.25.pdf](#) I'd like to remind parents/carers to avoid posting negative comments on social media about the school, staff or leadership, and I'd encourage you to reach out in person in order to address any specific issues. Thank you in advance of your support with this. Negative comments can often have an adverse impact on staff well-being and motivation.

Mobile Phones

In line with recent government guidance, all mobile phones should be switched off and kept in lockers or bags for the duration of the school day.

School Food

In partnership with our caterers, Miquill, we'll be keeping an eye out for the latest consultation around school [Government scraps high-sugar food from school menus - GOV.UK](#)

What is your child learning this term?

Please refer to the Curriculum Palettes on the school website for KS3 and KS4. These show the sequence of your child's learning in all subjects.

I would also like to highlight our upcoming PSHE/ RSE Parent and Carer Curriculum Consultation Evening that will be taking place on Tuesday 5th May. You will be invited to come along to hear insights into next academic year's planning and invited for your thoughts and feedback of the sequencing of delivery to pupil's whole school. Communication regarding this his event with follow soon.

SLT Drop in – Wednesday 15th April 3.25-4.30pm

SLT are available to discuss any area of the recent DfE consultations with you on Wednesday, as required [20.3.26 Bulletin Alcester Academy White Paper.pdf](#) There is no appointment needed.

Some key dates for your diary this term:

Week One

- Week of 13th April – Year 8 Option Taster lessons (in class time)
- 14th April – Year 9 Vaccinations
- 16th April – RS Walking Talking Mock Y11

Week Two

- Week of 20th April – Year 11 MFL speaking Exams start followed by Art exams
- 25/26th Bronze D of E weekend (Saturday / Sunday)

Week Three

- Wednesday 29th April – Year 8 Options Evening LIVE. 6.00 - 7.30pm
- 29th May – Junior Maths Challenge
- Friday 1st May – School Closed TEACHER TRAINING

Week Four

- Monday 4th May - School Closed MAY DAY
- 5th May – Year 11 Geog release day
- 8th May – Sport CAMNAT resit day Y11
- 8th May – Y9 SLD Enrichment
- 8th May - Gloucester Rugby Trip

Week Five

- Written GCSE exams start – 3:2s
- 11th May – Year 10 Worcester University Day
- 14th May – Y7/8 Tennis Slam
- 14th May - Year 9 Author Trip to K.E.S

Week Six

- 19th May – EDI trip Y9
- 20th May – Y8 Holocaust Awareness Day
- 20th May – Rock Academy Supporting 'Lazy 50' Grieg Hall
- 21st May – Sustainability Wildlife Conversation Trip and Year 7/8 Tennis Slam
- 22nd May – Paris trip leaves

(This is not an exhaustive list).

I'll continue to keep you updated on school matters via the weekly bulletin each Friday. This week will feature our recent, fabulous Sports Awards evening, and Mr Moffatt, Head of PE will be updating you.

As always, if you need to reach out to us about anything this term, please do.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Mellors". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a small dot over the 'e' in 'Mellors'.

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher