

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp

1st September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some quality time with your families. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and making sure that they have settled into the new term with enthusiasm and positivity.

We have an exciting term ahead, with lots of engaging learning opportunities. I'll write a few key dates for you in the first bulletin of the year next week. This will include a summary of the Sports Day in July and an overview of year 6 Summer school. For now, there are some essential updates for your attention outlined;

Ofsted-July 2026

I can confirm that the Report Card for Alcester Academy is not published just yet. We anticipate this being very soon and I'll keep you all updated.

Results 2026

The results are a particularly positive achievement for a cohort whose education was significantly disrupted during Key Stage 2 by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the students have worked hard throughout their time at Alcester Academy and have secured outcomes of which they can be proud. Students have also successfully secured their post-16 destinations, with many moving on to sixth form, further education, apprenticeships and other pathways.

The results reflect the determination and resilience of the cohort, as well as the support provided by staff, families and the wider school community.

Alcester Academy is proud of the commitment shown by its students and looks forward to seeing them continue to thrive in the next stage of their education and beyond. Good luck Class of 2026.

New Staff

I'm very pleased to introduce several new staff for 2026-27 as follows:

- Miss M Farmer – Teacher of PE
- Miss L Maryon – Teacher of English
- Mrs E Holmes – Teacher of Science
- Mrs J Laventine – Lee; Teacher of French
- Mr K Oakley - Cover Manager
- Mrs L Harvey - Teaching Assistant. Miss A Gruszczyska is now supporting in the SEND department also. Miss Ballinger got married over the summer and is now Mrs Cremin.

I hope that the students make our new staff feel very welcome.



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SCHOOL



Building Works

As reported in July, key works have begun around the school site. During the holiday, the bus turning circle was re-surfaced and fencing was installed around this area. A canopy has been erected adjacent to the science area in order to aid the flow of student movement around the school. We are waiting next for the update of all fire doors and the construction of a new building to replace the mobile classrooms. There will be some disruption to areas of the school whilst the fire doors are installed. We are adding fencing to secure the new Rock Academy area and parents/carers dropping off in this area will receive an update. Driving down the side entrance will soon, no longer be possible on security grounds.

Any contractor on the school site has been subject to thorough safeguarding checks, and we have a Project Manager overseeing all areas. Risk assessments are all in place as required.

Additional Pastoral Support

Each year group now has an identified year leader as follows:

- Year 7 – Miss Bartlett, SaschaBartlett@alcesteracademy.org.uk
- Year 8 – Mr Bowater, JamesBowater@alcesteracademy.org.uk
- Year 9 – Mrs Bennett, JulieBennett@alcesteracademy.org.uk
- Year 10 – Mrs Austin, JaneAustin@alcesteracademy.org.uk
- Year 11 – Mrs Marshall, debbiemarshall@alcesteracademy.org.uk

In the first instance, please contact your child's tutor with any queries and then please do, follow anything up with the appropriate year leader if needed. Miss Buckthorp, Assistant head teacher will continue to oversee this specific area of school life. KarenBuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

We aim to acknowledge any queries in the first instance within 24 hours.

Drop in

Parent/carers drop in continues every Wednesday 3.35-4.25pm. No appointment is needed.

SEND queries

There are now 35 students in the academy with EHCPs and over 170 children identified with needs in this area. If you need to get in touch with Mrs Ball, SENCo, please do so via SEND@alcesteracademy.org.uk Alternatively, please contact me head@alcesteracademy.org.uk We ask that you do not wait for communication if you feel that something needs addressing urgently. Thank you. We aim to host a parents/carers coffee morning once a term. The date for the first coffee morning will be confirmed shortly.

Uniform/equipment checks

As we begin the new school year, we would like to thank you for your attention to ensuring that your child has the correct school uniform. Your support helps our students start the year feeling prepared, proud, and ready to learn. Should there be any areas to address, we will be in touch as soon as possible.

School Attendance

Holidays in term time are not permitted, and we continue to want to work with you all in order to secure the best possible school attendance for your child. For any attendance queries contact LouiseHatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk, Family Support Worker.

Phones

Students should not have phones or devices out in school. Any phones seen will be confiscated. Phones should be in bags securely or lockers for the duration of the day. They should not be in blazer, or trouser pockets. We are attempting to stop children from getting phones out directly upon leaving school on road safety grounds this year. Taking photographs, recording and/or posting on social media is very strictly prohibited under safeguarding. Matters related to this will be dealt with seriously according to the school behaviour and safeguarding policies.

Social Media

If parents could refrain from posting anything negative about the academy on social media, I would be extremely grateful. As a school community, we don't generally have any issues with this, thank you all. We do have a strict policy around this for parents: [AA_Social_Media_Policy_for_Parents.pdf](#) (alcesteracademy.org.uk) Please do contact the school if you need to discuss any issue.

The school has a number of X accounts. The main one is @AlcesterAcademy, and Instagram is alcester_academytl

Many others are listed on the school website: <https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/news/twitter---facebook>

Other policies

All relevant policies can be found on our website: [Alcester Academy | Policies & Statements](#)

Nut Free

We are a nut free environment at school and ask that parents/carers respect this due to the severity of several conditions that students face in school. Thank you.

Homework

Attached to this letter is your son/daughter's homework timetable. All homework tasks will be listed on your child's Google Classrooms. For Y7 we will also provide a planner in order to aid organisation. There is no physical planner in Y8-11.

If you require some support in how to use Google Classroom to check this as a parent, we are providing an on-line session on Wednesday 16th September 6.00-7.00pm to demonstrate this. Separate details will be sent out about this.

What is my child learning?

- [KS3 Curriculum Palettes](#)
- [KS4 Curriculum Palettes](#)

The sequence of your child's learning is outlined in every subject area via our curriculum palettes. These can be found on the website and are highly comprehensive.

Financial concerns

In light of the growing concerns around the cost of living, please reach out to school if you are worried about any aspect of finance during the year. Direct any queries to LSU. We don't promise to be able to always help but we will try our best to work with you to support you. Updated national guidance of free school meals was sent out over the summer holiday. You can find this information here if you missed it: [Communication Area](#). We are asking for a school fund donation this year if you are able to manage this. This will be available on the Gateway app soon. Thank you.

Early finish

We will finish school at 12.40pm on Thursday 24th September 2026 in order to prepare for Open Evening. Thank you.

Key Dates

These will be published in the first edition of the bulletin for you.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you need anything further, please get in touch with the relevant person at school. Let's aim for a fantastic year ahead working together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Mellors'.

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher