

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp

3rd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We are informing you of a significant change to our curriculum design from September 2027 onwards and invite you to attend an online parent forum on Wednesday 16th September 6.00-7.00pm for more detail. During this forum we will also be providing some tips with how to track homework in years 7 and 8 and what to expect.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39671858637727?p=exYkKY6uOKA0ONqhSA>

Meeting ID: 396 718 586 377 27

Passcode: us3wX2Rr

In summary, planning has commenced to return to a traditional 3-year key stage 3 (years 7-9) and 2 years key stage 4 (year 10 and 11). Our current model, whereby pupils choose GCSE options at the end of year 8, has proven very successful and rewarding for many children for a number of years. However, with guidance from the Department for Education, together with the revised national curriculum launching later this year, and feedback from policy experts, there are firm indications that a 3-year KS3 curriculum will become expectation for all schools.

On a national level, with careers evolving and becoming ever more competitive, it is critical that we help to ensure all young people have made correct and the very best-informed decisions for GCSE study- a 3 year KS3 curriculum will achieve this foundation.

Alcester Academy prides itself on acting in a timely matter to change and this is no different. Planning a smooth transition over a clear timeframe will ensure that your child continues to receive the highest standard of education as the curriculum evolves.

Despite the compulsory nature of this change, the staff team are highly motivated and excited to revise curriculum schemes that for the new model. Content towards the end of KS3 will allow pupils to be fully prepared to make their GCSE choices for year 10, and the curriculum design will ensure that options selected will not result in reduced learning time.

Please see the table below which summarises changes for each **current** year group

Year group	Impact
7	Pupils will study the KS3 curriculum until the end of year 9. KS4 will commence when pupils are in year 10.
8	
9	KS4 curriculum remains in place- no change to timetables.
10	
11	



As a reminder, aside from the compulsory subjects (English, maths, science, PE and religious studies), national curriculum subjects studied at KS3 are: art, DT, French, geography, history, IT, music and performing arts.

The online session on the 16th September will include more detail and provide an opportunity to raise any queries you may have, so do please wait until this point to reach out to us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mellors'.

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Cooke'.

Nick Cooke
Deputy Headteacher