December 2017

Alcester Academy NEWSLETTER

HEAD lines...

I believe this newsletter really demonstrates how Alcester Academy repeatedly goes above and beyond to deliver fantastic opportunities for our students to succeed. I know that teachers right across the academy love working here and this contributes to us being a school of choice in the local area.

Recently, we have been awarded a grant of £31,000 as part of the Skills for Employment initiative. This is an amazing sum of money to receive and will help us to provide scope for our students to explore opportunities within STEM industries. As a scientist myself, I am always keen for students to be given the opportunity to develop their career aspirations in this area. I am also looking forward to seeing how the Crest Awards develop and to seeing what our students are capable of within the CAD project. I believe this will further add to the focus we place on bridging the gap between education and industry – something that is often debated within the press.

Not only are we exploring careers in the STEM area, we have also been looking at the legal profession over the past term. Many of our Year 11 students have gained a valuable insight into the workings of the criminal justice system through the Bar Mock Trial activity. Having talked to the students involved and receiving feedback from Ms Hoskin, I know the students found this to be a really valuable experience in which they demonstrated excellent maturity.

Then to the Young Enterprise team. The team have worked with real determination under the guidance of Mrs Black. They have developed an excellent product and effective business model which I am sure will be judged positively when the competition concludes. We enter Year 10 students into this competition and they compare very strongly against the Year 12 students from other schools against whom they compete. I have to say that if this project was run as the *Apprentice*, Lord Sugar would have a very hard job firing any of our students!

I am immensely proud of the academy and everything we do. The few examples I have drawn upon here exemplify that we are a highly aspirational school. The recently released DfE performance tables rank us as 'well above average'. The highest category they award. Whilst this is a fabulous achievement, it is all of the other things we do that make this place special!

Have a fabulous Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Mr Paul Hyde
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

AUTUMN TERM 2018	
Autumn Term ends	Friday 22nd December 2017 at 12.30pm
SPRING TERM 2018	
School closed	Monday 8th January 2018 *Teacher training day*
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 9th January 2018
Half Term	Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February 2018
Back to school	Monday 26th February 2018
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Thursday 29th March 2018

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Geography Field Trip

Year 7 Geographers recently walked into Alcester in order to practice their field work skills. The students were investigating the function and services of the town, as well as looking at traffic and congestion. Whilst on the High Street, the students sketched the land use, carried out environmental and traffic surveys, and were fantastic at asking local people to complete a questionnaire. The information gathered will now be used in their new topic, which they are starting, on Place and Transport. The students were a credit to the school and worked hard in the cold weather. Well done!
Miss Cotterill

European Day of Languages

In September, the MFL department celebrated European Day of Languages 2017 with a fun-filled Year 8 Super Learning Day! The day saw our Year 8 cohort experience a variety of language-based workshops. They made traditional French crêpes with their choice of topping; competed in Alcester Academy's very own European Day of Languages Spelling Bee; went on a passport to Europe treasure hunt of phrases from ten different languages and had a taster of Polish. Students enjoyed celebrating in this special occasion with the MFL department. Special thanks to Miss Wincup, our Year 10 superstar helpers and former students Alex Mucha and Jo White for helping to make the day a success!
Miss Haines

Bar Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 18th November, a team of Year 11 students took part in a Bar Mock Trial Competition at Birmingham Crown Court. This is a new competition for Alcester Academy to enter and is open to students aged 15 to 18. We were, therefore, competing against sixth form students in the impressive surroundings of the Crown Court in Birmingham, in front of judges.
Many of these students had taken part in the Mock Trial competition in Year 9 so understood the procedures of court; however, now in Year 11, their workload has increased and it is a huge credit to these hard working students that they gave up lunchtime and after school time to create and rehearse their parts.
The Bar Mock demands two cases to be prosecuted and defended, one case of assault, and one of fraud and misrepresentation. Jessie Wickham and Millie O'Sullivan were prosecution barristers and Harriet Gwinnett and Eva Holt were defence barristers. Both sets of barristers created detailed and insightful speeches interrogating witnesses. Our first round against Shottery Girls' School was well fought with Lauren de Lancey in the role of the defendant, masterfully holding her own well and with the case being found in our favour. Scarlett McGourlay took the role of the defence witness, getting stuck into her character role admirably and answering questions confidently.
The second round against King Edwards' Handsworth was equally intensely argued, with Lauren again repelling fierce questioning from the opposing school's defence team.
Our third round saw the prosecution team in action against Queen Mary's Grammar School. Phoebe Lawrence and Libby Hale took the roles of prosecution witness one and two, again standing up to some searching questions from the opposition school. I cannot emphasise how difficult it is to stand up in a packed courtroom and respond to questions being fired at you that you need to respond to in character but these witnesses were fantastic.
As with all teams, there were official roles that were equally important to the team as a whole. Jade Banner was our Court Clerk, a role that involved directing the stages of the court proceedings, therefore allowing for a smooth running through of the case in court. Eve Cox stepped into the role of usher at the last minute, confidently moving witnesses around court and swearing them in. As this was a case in the Crown Court, this competition needed jurors and Alice Ashfield took the lead role within this team – the students took turns to join Alice in impartial cases, thereby allowing all students to see other schools in action. Alice and her jurors did a magnificent job, listening intently and conducting themselves with a maturity, confidence and self control that was sadly lacking in some other schools.
I would once again like to thank all the team for such an incredible experience. To watch these Year 11 students in the magnificent but daunting surroundings of a Crown Court, presided over by a judge and competing against sixth forms and colleges was something that will stay with me for a long time.
Ms Hoskins

Jessie, Millie, Harriet, Eva, Lauren, Eve, Scarlett, Phoebe, Libby, Alice and Jade recently took part in the Bar Mock Trial at Birmingham Crown Court.

Baked to perfection!

Ellie Watson with Princess Anne at the BNF Drummond Education Awards.

For a number of years The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) has run The Drummond Education Award scheme for GCSE and A-level to promote interest in and awareness of good practice in food and nutrition and to recognise and reward the achievements of outstanding students and their teachers in this subject area.

Former student Eleanor (Ellie) Watson is the winner of this year's BNF Drummond Education Award for GCSE Food Technology for the AQA group having achieved the highest possible score in her summer GCSE exam. Ellie was invited to the award ceremony which took place on the 14th November in London.

L-R - Mrs Mellors, Claire Theobald – former Head Girl at Alcester High School and Education Consultant at British Nutrition Foundation, along with Ellie Watson.

The award consists of a certificate presented by Guest of Honour Princess Anne at the Royal College of Physicians, a £50 prize for the student and a £100 prize for the school. It is hoped that the awards will inspire some of the winners to pursue a career in food and nutrition.
Currently Ellie has gone on to AGS to study a Level 3 Food course with a view to becoming a dietician in future years.
Alcester Academy is naturally extremely proud of Ellie and her achievements.

Calling all budding photographers…..

House Photography Competition

From the start of January until February half term, the Art Department is running a Photography Challenge. This is your chance to represent and win valuable points for your House. Can you capture that moment in time? Think about landscapes, portraits, nature or Christmas memories. Winners will be announced from each year group. Multiple entries are permitted from students.

For more information, pop in and see Mr Yarrington and Miss Nemeshanyi

Science Club

Science Club has been launched this term for our Year 7 and 8 students. There has been a great turn out every week and the students have done experiments such as making ice cream, bouncy custard balls, making slime and extracting DNA from fruit. We hope to continue in the new year. We have some lovely feedback from the students such as:

I really enjoyed the fun science experiments; how do you join the club?; Science Club is fun I come very Thursday.

Details of Science Club 2018 will be announced shortly.

Miss Taylor and Mr Arris

Ofsted Parent View Questionnaire

We would be grateful if as many parents/carers as possible could complete the online Ofsted questionnaire regarding your views of the academy. This can also be found with a simple web search called 'Parent View'. Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support.

Parent View
Your Child's School

Bah! Humbug!

A number of our Year 7 students attended a unique performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at the North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford on the 14th December.
The students behaved impeccably and were a credit to the academy. The staff would like to take this opportunity to thank them for such a pleasurable day out. Our students have also written their own reviews, some of which are below:

'The play 'A Christmas Carol' was thrilling and funny. The cast made the play unique by bringing modern aspects such as 'Sorry' by Justin Bieber, dabs, fidget spinners and Pokemon Go into a play set in the Victorian era. The play itself had music, sound and special effects that made it more dramatic.' Zoe Wood

'The performance was outstanding! I especially enjoyed the lighting. In the scene with the ghosts the element of thunder was shown mostly with flickers of lighting. I also thought the music was very magical and dramatic. In the quieter scenes, the music was gentle and in the loud scenes, the music was more dark and mysterious. One improvement could be to cast Tiny Tim as a child to make me feel more sympathetic about his struggles.' Izzy Mucci

'I think that the play 'A Christmas Carol' was very good because the acting was unique and humorous. No actors had a blank expression on their face which was great. I liked the flashing lights for the ghosts which made it very realistic. On the other hand, I didn't like the fact that there was no Bob Cratchit, Belinda or Master Peter because it changed the Cratchit story.' George Devonald

Special links with the RSC

The Performing Arts department are incredibly excited to have started links with the Royal Shakespeare Company. From our initial meeting we have already been fortunate to be the first school to trial their new online educational website. Our students were able to trial this and suggest ways which they would prefer to see it. We look forward to seeing their ideas come to fruition.

St Nicholas Night - Alcester - 6th December

It was another cold but successful St Nicholas Night this year.
Alcester Academy Rock Academy students came out in full force and performed beautifully in front of shoppers and stall holders.

Hair Rock Night

Alcester Rock Academy's Hair Rock Night was a great success!
"Fantastic performances from our talented rockers! Lots of amazing debut performances from our new members. Plus, our more experienced performers, seriously raised their game!"
Mr Badham

#love theatre day

The Performing Arts Department were delighted to take part in the #lovetheatreday on the 15th November. Check out @AlcesterAllstar to see the videos of the Alcester Academy staff and find out why they love going to the theatre.

Performing Arts News

School Production - High School Musical

The rehearsals for this year's school production of High School Musical are in full swing and it is looking to be another successful show, with a young and vibrant cast.
Our principal man John Clarke (Troy) and principal lady Sadie Cooper (Gabriella) pictured below, are leading the way in a S*tart of Something New*.
Please add these dates to your diary - Wednesday 21st March to Friday 23rd March 2018. Tickets will be on sale in the new year.

John and Sadie are in rehearsals for High School Musical.

Music Grades

Congratulations to the following students who gained the following music grades:

Jess Parghetter
Grade 6 - Musical Theatre

Mia Tovey
Grade 2 - Clarinet

Caitlin Jones
Grade 2 - Flute

Year 8 Performing Arts Trip *9 to 5* at the Palace Theatre

The Performing Arts department was fortunate again this year to have the opportunity of VIP tickets for Alcester Musical Theatre Company's show 9-5, which took place in early October. This enabled our students to have an all-access backstage tour, with the producer of the show herself.
Students were able to spend time in the lighting box, back stage, dressing rooms and look and touch the set and scenery. A valuable experience for all concerned.
The evening was completed by watching this very funny musical, which all the students enjoyed.

Pantomime - Year 9 Performing Arts students

Our Year 9 Performing Arts students are well on their way to performing their first productions. Three separate pantomimes will be performed to all Year 7 students on Thursday 21st December.
To prepare for their roles, our students were lucky to visit the Palace Theatre in Redditch last week and watch the professional panto of Snow White.
All students gained invaluable awareness of the type of acting involved within a pantomime and we very much look forward to their performances this week.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all the Year 7 and 8 students and parents/carers who have supported our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal this year. We filled an amazing 84 shoeboxes.

Well done!

Miss Wincup

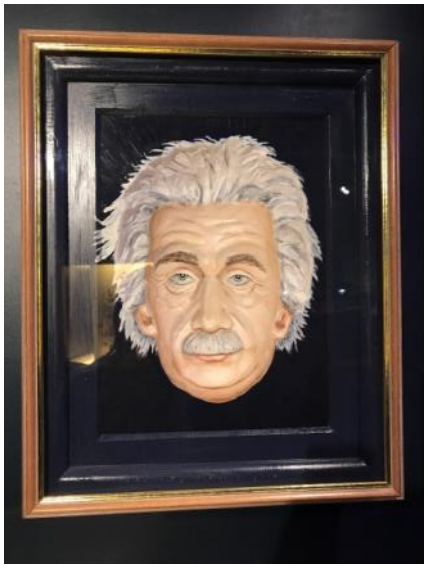
Science Revision Books

Science revision guides are currently available from the department.
Year 7 and 8 - £2.50
Year 9 Set 1 and 2 - £8.25
Year 9 Set 3 and 4 - £5.50
Tear 11 - 10 minute test books
Trilogy (combined science) - £3
Triple Science (3 books) - £6 in total.

Reminder for Christmas Holidays

Please remember to take all belongings home with you this holiday, including PE kits, coats and any other bags. If you have a locker please ensure that there is no food or drink left in there over the holidays. All uniform and PE kit should be named.

A MAD day out!



Year 9 and10 DT and Art students went to the RSC and the MAD Museum in Stratford upon Avon this term. They got an insight into different careers they could follow including costume design, how to build in blood Phials for gory scenes, designing sets for productions, acting, accessory making such as wigs and moustaches using real yak hair!
At the MAD Museum they had the opportunity to see automatas and other interesting design work. This was a great experience for the students which has given them lots of ideas for design work and possible careers.

Our Christmas Concert

Earlier this week we held our annual Christmas Concert at St Nicholas Church, Alcester. A fabulous time was had by all the students participating in the proceedings. Our student leadership team Sadie Cooper, Cameron York, Yasmin Lewis and Luke Morris compered the concert and introduced groups such as Alcester Academy Jazz Band playing an instrumental of Santa Baby, Alcester Academy Acoustic Group singing Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and Alcester Academy Rock Band playing Silver Bells.
Another highlight of the evening was A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens performed by John Clarke, Alex Wilson, Amber Norton, Tiago Costa, Lucas Jones & Joe Calverley. The carol, Silent Night, was sung solo by Year 7 student Abigail Cullen - well done! Carols such as Holly and the Ivy, We Three Kings and O come all ye faithful were sung by all who attended the night.
Thank you for supporting the event. Happy Christmas.
Mr Hall & Miss Sacco & Mr Badham

LRC News

Warwickshire Book Award

Warwickshire Book Award offers Year 7 pupils from schools all over the county the opportunity to read six shortlisted titles and review their favourites with their peers. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with students from other schools and promote the enjoyment of reading. The shortlisting for the 2018 award has been completed and the following books have been chosen:

The Hypnotist - Laurence Anholt
Lie, Kill Walk Away - Matt Dickenson
A Dangerous Crossing - Jane Mitchell
Where the World Ends - Geraldine McCaughrean
928 Miles from Home - Kim Slater
The Haunting of Jessop Rise - Danny Weston

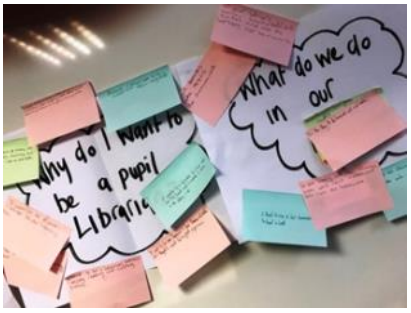
Students will be asked to cast their votes at the beginning of March. The winner is finally revealed at an exciting ceremony, where at least one of the shortlisted authors is present.

Congratulations Freija Guntripp on becoming an Accelerated Reader Word Millionaire!

Words read: 1,103,857

Student Librarians' Management Course

On Thursday 19th October the student librarians took part in a Student Librarians' Management Course, run by the Schools Library Service. The training is a fun introduction to the library and includes learning about stock maintenance and the Dewey Decimal System, customer care, team working and the work environment. All the students received a certificate of participation at the end of the session.



Accelerated Reader

The LRC and the English Department are encouraging pupils to develop a life-long love of reading with Accelerated Reader.

Did you know that Accelerated Reader (AR) produces an average of two years reading age growth, in just one year while promoting reading for pleasure? AR is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing your independent reading practice. With AR you are in control: you can choose books that are within your ability range so that you don't get frustrated or bored, you can take quizzes and earn points. All of our pupils, from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who are on the AR system, have been avidly reading and taking quizzes this term.

Scientific facts about reading books and how it could really improve your life:

Being a reader means you're more likely to learn something new every day. Professor Anne E. Cunningham discovered that reading frequently does actually make you smarter. Not only does it help you retain knowledge, but it helps you to remember that knowledge later on in life, filling your brain with new information. You never know when it may come in handy - when you've entered the Million Pound Drop in a few years' time, for instance!

People who read are more likely to be involved in the world around them:

Research shows that reading makes you more engaged in life around you, helping you to make the most of opportunities that come your way in life.

Reading can be therapeutic.

According to researchers, reading can help with any stress or turmoil occurring in your life. If you're going through a tough time or simply just need to chillax then try a new book.

Reading helps your memory.

Every time you read something new, your brain 'makes room' to fit it in. With these new spaces, you can take advantage of any new information. Good news when you have to revise for exams!

Reading helps to boost your analytical thinking.

Reading helps you to recognise various patterns that occur in writing. If you are looking for a law or medicine career, this is important!

Reading expands your vocabulary.

The more that you read, the more words you will come across. The more often you read these words, the more likely you are to understand them, and use them in your own writing and speaking.

Fiction books increase your ability to empathise with others.

A study done by the University of Buffalo in the United States, has concluded that using your imagination while reading fiction opens you up to new emotions and feelings.

People who read are more likely to get ahead when it comes to their careers and life in general.

Honor Wilson-Fletcher said that reading "opens doors and makes life easier". At the end of the day it doesn't matter what you read just remember how important it is to read, if you want to live a successful life.

Mrs Hands

Friendship Group Review

I started Friendship Group in 2016 along with Joe and Aaron. It became clear to me, this would become part of school I would try not to miss. Upon joining Friendship Group, I met Dotty, Autumn, Tom and Nathan. We met up in the food room on Tuesdays and Thursdays for weeks on end. One day, when the food room was occupied, we went down to Hub 1 where we saw a new light in Friendship Group. From that day forwards, we were in Hub 1.

Midway through Year 7, Friendship Group extended to Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Everybody was delighted that this change was made and we continued to come every day. Usually we cook on Thursdays. These things include beans on toast, spaghetti on toast and toasted teacakes. Occasionally, we ice biscuits and cakes.

In Friendship Group, we also have a habit of making our own friends. From the keychains we have made that have words revolving around friends, the worksheets we have on 'what is a friend?' Also, the biscuits in Year 7 when I made a mean David Tennant with icing and a biscuit and everyone chose different sweets for eyes and hair.

Another thing I enjoyed about Friendship Group is when we made little friends.

Little Friends' definition:

There are many different types of - Little Friends. Commonly made out of conkers, leaves and pinecones. These are the more common versions of little friends. They consist of having weird hairstyles made of leaves or pipe-cleaners and gogly eyes. There are also pinecones friends made of pinecones with sometimes conker feet, occasionally leaves and pipe cleaners. There are also the more rare friends consisting of waterbottles, glue, cardboard and other items. They can come with different names like 'Pippin' or 'A Water Bottle'.

Coming back from the school holidays, the one thing that was on my mind was, in capitals, 'WHEN IS FRIENDSHIP GROUP COMING BACK ON?!'. We were waiting for when we could come back to Friendship Group to relive the experience all over again; then, we got the news it was coming back I was extremely excited and went straight to Friendship Group. Later on that lunch time, we had some new Year 7s join; called Tom 2 and Hatty with a Y. Of course, I was excited for I was the only girl in Friendship Group for three quarters of last year. Later on this term, we had more and more people join. Amongst these, there were Scarlett, Beth, Oscar and Harry who joined, however Hatty, Tom and Oscar often come to Friendship Group.

It's been an interesting year this year with new people joining. It has been a bit of a shock for me and I agree for as the noise levels start rising, that's when I get extremely stressed for I don't like shouting (even though I shout when I get excited but quickly shut myself up).

Some memorable moments: when Anakin had her kittens one day at 1am and we were giving them nicknames.

AKA: Ginger Fringe/Smokey Bacon became Boo, Mini Annie became Cassian, Otis became Bluebelle, Bib became Pippin and Blacky became Black Betty. The competitions (that I unintentionally won all of them), and the Christmas Disco.

So that's been Friendship Group, a second home inside the school.

Thank you!
Josie Hancox
Year 8

Brave the Shave

I did Brave the Shave over the six week summer holidays and I raised £226 for Cancer Research. I thought I would do some thing nice because one day I was at my Granddads watching the news and it came on about cancer and how loads of people are getting cancer and some people I know had it. And I thought I might as well Brave the Shave because I saw it on an advert. I was worried that my hair was never going to grow back. But it did and when I went down when my hair was shaved I scared my brother and he said I looked different and started to touch my head. It comes with a sponsor form and a t-shirt and even a little money box to collect the money in. I have paid it all in and now I am waiting for a letter back. After a couple of weeks my brother said I should keep my hair shaved off again.

Evan Jones in Year 9

Jump In Trip

This week nearly 300 students participated in a Christmas trip to Jump In Trampoline Park in Warwick. A fun-filled day of jumping, bouncing and Christmas cheer was had by all!

We love Alcester – Young Enterprise

This year's Young Enterprise team has become an overnight sensation with their London New York Paris Alcester shopping bag. Working with their YE business advisor, Alison Lorimer, the team has forged links with the Alcester Chamber of Commerce through its chair, Sarah Bassett, in order to create a product that publicises the town centre. The eco-friendly shopping bag has become popular with local residents and the team is now well on the way to selling 500 bags before Christmas. The St Nicholas' Night fair was a huge success, with stocks selling out after two hours and now the students are looking to create a new design which will be on sale at the National YE Trade Fair at the beginning of March in Stratford. Watch this space for further developments!

The Skills Show

In November over fifty Year 9 students attended the Skills Show, which is the largest career and apprenticeship exhibition in the UK. Students had the opportunity to explore careers in five main industry sectors: construction and logistics, engineering and technology, health and hospitality, digital and business and creative and design. The have-a-go activities were particularly popular where students could try their hand at a wide variety of activities including TV production, a demolition simulation, virtual welding, floristry and 3D modelling. Employers from both local and national companies were on hand to give advice and discuss training and career prospects. Apart from the vast crowds at the NEC, the students found the day very informative and it has given many of them the confidence to explore new possibilities for their future education and training.

Alcester Ambitions Careers Fair

The whole school attended the third annual Alcester Ambitions Careers Fair which was held at the Academy in November. The aim of the fair, run in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council, was to showcase local businesses and organisations which can offer work experience, apprenticeships or other career opportunities. Twenty stands featured the work of employers and training providers who were on hand to discuss their jobs and the skills needed to work in their sector. We are very grateful that we receive such strong support from the local community.

Fast Tomato

Fast Tomato

Has your child taken the Fast Tomato survey yet?
Fast Tomato is an online career guidance programme for young people and is available to all students at the Academy. Years 9 and 10 have been exploring their career options by taking the Fast Tomato survey during tutor time, but all students from Year 8 upwards are encouraged to look at the site to broaden their knowledge of career choices.
If your child is interested in researching at home, simply search for Fast Tomato then key in the Academy code: ATCA. Students take a short psychometric questionnaire which gauges interests, attitudes and motivations. They are then offered career and education suggestions, which have been personalised for them. Students can research over 600 occupations, many with videos and case studies; follow links to specialist websites and gain access to independent advisors by email.
Please contact Mrs Black if you would like more information.

£31K Skills Challenge Grant

The Academy is delighted to report that it has been awarded a grant of £31K as part of Warwickshire County Council's Skills Challenge initiative.
We have designed an exciting and innovative project where all the funding will be invested in providing *extra curricular* STEM activities for students in Key Stage 4. Engineering clubs are being set up for students in Year 9, where, over the course of two terms, students will work on a project which will earn them a Crest Award. Year 10 students, who wish to pursue a career in engineering, will be able to apply for a place on a Solidworks CAD training course during the Easter or summer holidays. Students will be given more information about these unique opportunities after the Christmas holidays.

Year 7 Challenge Academy

Within a few days of our new Year 7 students starting at the academy, they all went off for a day of high ropes action and team building at the Challenge Academy near Wolverhampton. We had a great time, with new friendships being made and many individuals overcoming personal challenges that saw them completing climbing and assault courses at great heights.

Positively Mad – Year 10 and 11

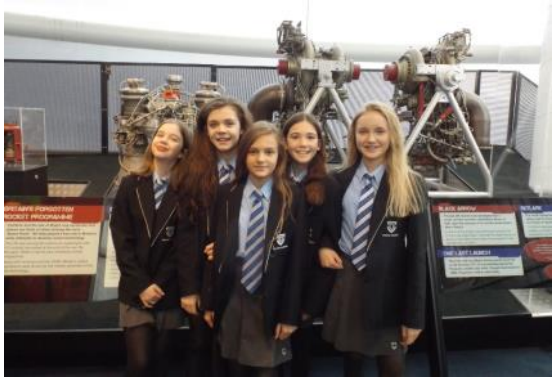
All students in Years 10 and 11 attended a Positively Mad workshop designed to help them learn more effectively for exams. The fast-paced, high-energy, highly interactive workshops gave them techniques to improve memory skills, increase self-confidence and help them review their work regularly in preparation for their exams.
The students had to work very hard practicing some new memory skills, but they seemed to learn a phenomenal amount of facts about Mohammed Ali in a very short space of time. It would be interesting to find out how much they can remember now…

World Challenge News

World Challenge students have been working really hard on their fundraising and have organised many events this term such as the Masquerade Ball, quiz nights, raffles, bingo and Christmas candy cane sales.
We had a successful training expedition to Cannock Chase during September, where the students took part in walking and camping activities and learnt about the importance of teamwork.
We are very excited at the moment as the flight details have just been released. It seems more real now.
We are very proud of the commitment and success of our World Challengers in their fundraising and would appreciate any support with their fundraising in the new year. Please contact the school at *admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk.* if you have any ideas to assist with the fundraising.

Year 7 Space Centre Trip

On Wednesday 22nd November, Year 7 students visited the Leicester-based Space Centre. We explored the space race and the history of exploration from the 1940s to the modern era, including looking at a full sized rocket and satellite. In the amazing Sir Patrick Moore theatre we journeyed through the night sky, visiting constellations and planets in the 3D show. An excellent day was had by all.



Marle Hall 2017

Earlier this term our Year 9 students went off to north Wales and the fabulous scenery of Snowdonia and Anglesey, for the annual trip to Marle Hall Outdoor Centre in Llandudno. A fabulous week was had, experiencing activities such as: gorge scrambling up water falls; coasteering which involved jumping along, over and off rocks next to the crashing waves of the Irish Sea; high ropes up in the trees at the centre; canoeing on a lake at the foothills of Snowdonia. Along with days out climbing the highest mountains in Wales, evenings were spent on team building challenges including getting all team members over a high wall, orienteering and of course taking part in Bingo Night. The students were brilliant, participating with lots of enthusiasm for every activity, showing great teamwork with each other and they should be very proud of their achievements.

Christmas Revision Calendar

ACCESS MATHS

December

1 Write these numbers in size order: 5, -5, 1, 0, -3	2 Write the largest 4 digit number using: 7, 9, 3, 5	3 Write in its simplest form: 28:84	4 Write this fraction as a percentage: $\frac{6}{20}$
5 Work out: 30% of £54	6 Write as a fraction: 0.045	7 Write these numbers in size order: 0.61, 0.6, 0.601, 0.16	8 Write down all the factors of: 36
9 Estimate: £19.65 x 395	10 Work out: $\frac{2}{5}$ of 400	11 Work out: $\frac{2}{7} + \frac{1}{5}$	12 Solve: $4x + 7 = 19$
13 Work out: 247 x 63	14 Expand: $d(d-4)$	15 Expand and simplify: $(m+3)(m+7)$	16 Change: $4500mm^3$ into cm^3
17 Simplify: $3p + 7q - p - 4q$	18 Write as a product of prime factors: 120	19 Solve: $3x + 4 = 5x - 6$	20 Work out: $1\frac{2}{5} \div \frac{3}{4}$
21 Write in metres: 530cm	22 Write correct to 2 decimal places: 5.4354	23 Work out: $(-3)^3$	24 Work out: 6.34 x 5.2

And Relax for Christmas Day!!

Find somewhere quiet to work! → Identify the topics you need to work on! → Practise in small chunks every day! → Ask for help if you are still unsure!

@accessmaths
www.accessmaths.co.uk

Christmas Revision Calendar

ACCESS MATHS

December

1 Factorise: $x^2 + 10x + 21$	2 Work out: 6.34×5.2	3 Simplify: $(2x^3y)^3$	4 6,10,14,18 Write the nth term:
5 Write in standard form: 0.00068	6 Change: $4500mm^3$ into cm^3	7 Solve: $6x + 4 = x + 17$	8 Simplify: $2p^3 \times 5p^4$
9 Estimate: £19.65 x 385	10 Factorise: $2xy + 12x^2$	11 Work out the fraction in between: $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{18}$	12 Solve: $4x + 7 \geq 19$
13 Simplify: $\frac{3x + 15}{12}$	14 Write as a product of prime factors: 720	15 Expand and simplify: $(3m + 3)(2m - 7)$	16 The nth term of a sequence is 3n+5. Is 108 a term in this sequence?
17 Simplify: $\frac{3n+4}{3} + \frac{2n-7}{4}$	18 Find: 63% of £180	19 Solve: $3(x+5)=2(x-9)$	20 Work out: $3\frac{2}{5} \div 1\frac{3}{4}$
21 Calculate the area of a semicircle with a diameter of 32cm	22 Make t the subject: $w = 3t + 11$	23 Write the value of: $64^{1/2}$	24 Rudolf, Vixen and Dancer share carrots in the ratio 4:5:7. Dancer get 18 more carrots than Rudolf. How many carrots did they share in total?

And Relax for Christmas Day!!

Find somewhere quiet to work! → Identify the topics you need to work on! → Practise in small chunks every day! → Ask for help if you are still unsure!

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME 2017-18
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, govern all requests for leave within term-time. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law.

The amended regulations removed references to 'holiday' and 'extended leave', as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. It is now clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The Government has not defined 'exceptional circumstances' as referred to in the 2013 regulations. It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service of Warwickshire County Council

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £80 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded 15,291 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2014/15. This is a decrease of 7,629 on the previous year. This is a positive outcome as it means that 3,814 more days of education were achieved.

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority

School Statistics

Attendance Percentages this term

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
96.8%	95.6%	96.4%	96.0%	96.5%

Well done Year 7 who continue to have the best attendance!
Miss Staniland

* SPORTS NEWS * * SPORTS NEWS * * SPORTS NEWS *

An active term in the PE Department

It's been a busy term of sport at the academy, with many notable performances. Highlights include:

- Poppy Fox-Rowe (Year 7) and Reuben Fearns (Year 7) both qualifying to run for Warwickshire in an Inter-County competition.
- The Year 8 Boys Table Tennis team winning the District Tournament and going on to represent South Warwickshire at the Level 3 School Games in the new year.
- The Year 7 boys footballers winning through to the quarter finals in their cup;
- The establishment of a new Archery Club at the academy.

The students have been fantastic this term and the PE Department would like to thank all students who have been involved with sport at the academy.

Here's to a successful 2018!

Follow us on Twitter: @AAcademy_PE

* SPORTS NEWS * * SPORTS NEWS * * SPORTS NEWS *

House Competitions

The House programme across all subjects continues to gather pace. There have been some great competitions on the sporting front as well as some fantastic entries in competitions ranging from musical performances to a Sewing Bee.
Current Overall scores are:

BILLESLEY	GREVILLE	OVERSLEY	RAGLEY
133	110	144	115

Year 9 Sewing Bee

Year 8 Water Rockets

If they weren't cold and wet when we started the 2017 Science Water Rocket House Competition, the Year 8 students were by the end! Braving the elements including strong winds and light rain, students spirits weren't dampened at all. They were all keen to test their painted, polished, adapted, stream-lined water bottle rockets and they didn't fail to put on a magnificent show.
In first place, for Billesley House, Louisa Harrison whose rocket flew an amazing 30m, beating last year's winner at 23.4m hands down!
2nd place - Riley McGowan Crockett , 15.58m Ragley
3rd place - Curtis Furlong, 13.7m Ragley
4th place - Oliver Taylor Torres, 12m Oversley

Extra points were awarded to the following students for producing rockets of exceptionally good design:
Tom Evans Ragley
Struan Carew-Cox Billesley
Imogen Heaps Greville
Kobi Harris Ragley
Ted Undrell Greville

Well done to all the Year 8's who took part! You've set a tough challenge to beat next year.