

Alcester Academy NEWSLETTER

March 2018



HEAD lines...

It does not feel like a term since our last newsletter – perhaps a reflection of what a busy term it has been.

I am delighted to say that the academy has rapidly become the school of choice in the local area. Each year we receive applications for students to join us as our new year 7 students. This year we have received a record number of applications, to the point where we have over 70 students on our waiting list. It is great to be an oversubscribed school and is a reflection of the excellent teaching that takes place here. I believe our popularity is also a credit to the students who attend the academy too, as they are the ones who give visitors such a positive impression of the academy. Thank you to all parents who regularly praise us and speak positively of their experiences of us in the community.

Continuing on the note of celebrating success, we have recently held our very first PE Awards Evening. During the evening we praised students for their sporting performance in lessons, at extra curricular events and in our many teams. The event was very well attended and parents and students had a fantastic time. Our guest speaker, Kristian Thomas, was truly inspirational and left all of us feeling as though we could be the next batch of Olympians... even those of us too old for this to be a realistic ambition. We are now considering what other specialist awards evenings we may look to run in the future... perhaps an art exhibition?

As the term draws to a close and the summer exams become ever closer, I do urge all year 11 students to attend as many of our out of hours sessions as they possibly can. We have a number of sessions during

the Easter holiday and will continue to support in the new term through after school, lunchtime and Saturday School sessions. I know

for many students they rely upon their parents to transport them to and from the sessions. I offer my sincere thanks to all parents who support in this way.

I finish by wishing everyone a very happy Easter. I am sure staff and students (including year 11s) will find some time to relax and recover from a busy term. We very much look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 16th April.

Paul Hyde Headteacher

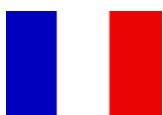


Word of the Week Pâques (Fr.) Ostern (Gm.)

Meaning: Easter

Context:

Joyeuses Pâques! (Fr.) Frohe Ostern! (Gm.) Happy Easter!



Dates for your diary

SPRING TERM 2018

Spring Term ends (Easter)

Thursday 29th March 2018

SUMMER TERM 2018

Summer Term begins

Monday 16th April 2018

May Bank Holiday

Monday 7th May 2018

Half Term

Back to school

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018

Monday 4th June 2018

School closed

Friday 29th June 2018

Teacher training day

Summer Term ends

Friday 20th July 2018

Inside this issue:

Ski Trip 3

Mock Trial 4

Parliament Trip 7

*Dunnington
Maths Visit* 9

*PE Awards
Evening* 12

Young Enterprise Trade Fair

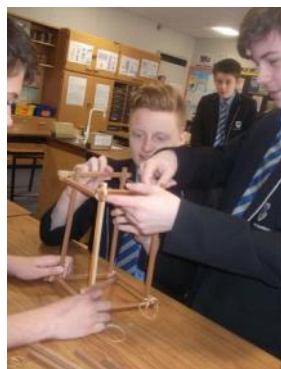
Our young entrepreneurs from *We love Alcester* took their famous shopping bag range to the Young Enterprise National Trade Fair in Stratford on Saturday 10th March. The students are taking part in a national competition to see which team can run the most successful business for the academic year. At the trade fair, the students had to display and sell their products and also face a battery of questions from a panel of judges. Our best wishes go to the team for the area final, which takes place in May, when they will have to present a financial report and give a presentation.



Science Engineering SLD

This term we had a science super learning STEM day for year 9.

Students were off timetable for a day and took part in building bridges, towers and constructing a balloon car. The students talked to engineering professionals including the Bloodhound project team, who currently have the fastest land speed record, and



bio-medical graduates who demonstrated robotic arms and artificial hearts.

The feedback from the students was that they didn't realise how many different options there are in engineering and how it can be used in everyday life and just how important maths and science subjects are.

Miss Taylor

Clare College Cambridge Team Visit

An enthusiastic team from Clare College, University of Cambridge, visited the academy as part of their annual access tour in Coventry and Warwickshire. The aim of the tour is to encourage most able students to have high aspirations and apply to Cambridge, and other leading UK universities. The students from Clare spoke informatively about the vast range of pursuits, both academic and social, open to students at university and also about funding your degree and the application process. Students in years 9 and 10 were able to talk to the current students about the value of a university education and the opportunities they could expect after life at university.



Year 9 and 10 pupils became roving reporters on Thursday 15th March when the English department joined with schools across the country to participate in BBC School Report. Our BBC mentor, Simon Eley was on hand to offer support and guidance. One team of reporters went out into the community to research and then write about the closure of Alcester's Grieg Hall, while another pair of journalists interviewed head teachers about the benefits of having a school dog. Our technology correspondent met with a local expert to discuss the positive and negative effects of console and computer gaming.

The year 8 photographers took plenty of pictures which have helped to bring our stories to life.

Due to the tight deadline to stick to, the news room was a hub of activity all day and sometimes the recording technology proved to be a bit of a challenge! Nonetheless, the hard work and dedication of all the pupils paid off and all their work was published on line before the end of the school day.



High School Musical Production - Review

From Wednesday 21st March to Friday 23rd March 2018 the school put on their very own version of Disney's High School Musical.

Students, parents and former students said that it was very well performed and quite enjoyable. The songs were well carried out and so were the dances throughout the show. Music to accompany the songs was performed by a live band made up of current students, a former student, Mr Hall and Mr Badham.

In the play, Troy Bolton (played by year 10 John Clarke) is the star athlete at a small town high school. Troy

develops a crush for brainy nerd Gabriella Montez (played by year 11 Sadie Cooper) at a karaoke party on New Year's Eve. After the holidays Troy and Gabriella don't 'stick to the status quo' and audition for the school musical Juliet and Romeo written by Kelsi Neilson (played by year 10 Amber Norton.)

They both discover a new talent, singing, and earn themselves a call back. Annoyed, Sharpay Evans (played by year 11 Lauren Delancy) tries to sabotage their chances of being the lead in the show. Both Troy and Gabriella struggle to attend the call backs as the



basketball league final and science decathlon are at the same time.

All in all it was a great night out at Alcester Academy!

Mya Faulkner Year 8

Ski Trip 2018

Another highly successful and enjoyable ski trip took part during the February half term with Miss Buckthorp, Mrs Hoskin, Mrs Kirby, Mr Jones and excited group of students ranging from year 7 to year 11. After a smooth crossing of the English channel, a viewing of the *Sound of Music* film and a peaceful coach journey, save for a 3.30am rendition of *Sweet Caroline* from some nocturnal year 11s, we arrived in the beautiful resort of St Michael in Austria on the Saturday. We were met with just so much snow and amazing skiing conditions, the best conditions the resort had seen for 25 years according to the locals.

We stayed in a lovely hotel at the foot of the mountains and a mere five minute walk from the gondola that took us up into the clouds and the ski slopes.

The students had five hours of tuition per day, which, on the back of three trips to the Snow Dome before leaving the UK, meant that the rate of progress was magnificent. It was truly heart warming to see students who began their skiing adventure with fear, skiing confidently and expertly down blue and red runs by the end of day two. Many dared to tackle the black run; some inadvertently and unwittingly chose the airborne route through the trees. Some created magnificent domino effects when skiing into line too quickly and misjudging their stops, whereby a dozen students would topple slowly over. However, the level of skill acquired throughout the week was

admirable, even in some quite tricky conditions on day four when a fresh fall of snow left the pistes full of moguls. Towards the end of the week, all tackled the competitive slalom course, flying down the hill, against the clock, producing some excellent results in the three categories. It was clear to see that the Winter Olympics were not just in Sochi.

We also had some fantastic trips outside the resort; one afternoon saw us all in the beautiful city of Salzburg where the students had a truly memorable time exploring the old city. A trip to the local swimming pool during one evening gave the students the opportunity to experience swimming outside in sub zero temperatures which all took advantage of, much to the amusement of the locals who wisely left the students to enjoy the pool on their own.



Two nights saw a hotly contested session of bingo with our master of bingo, Mr Jones, drawing students from all years with the lure of Austrian chocolate.

It was a great trip and hopefully provided the students with memories and ski skills that will last a lifetime. There was much hilarity and good natured banter but my personal highlight was to see how well the students got on, helping each other out both on the slopes and off, mixing all ages from year 7 to year 11 together in a wonderfully cohesive mass of teenage goodness.

Mrs Hoskin



Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 10th March, a team of year 9 students took part in a Mock Trial Competition at Worcester Magistrates' Court. These incredibly hard-working students have worked every week since January to get together a case that was tried in the court, meeting on a Friday lunchtime to perfect their roles within the team. Each student took on a prosecuting or defence role, arguing the case against rival schools in a bid to find the defendant either guilty or not guilty. Three students also took the role as Magistrates, deciding on the fate of the defendant based on the evidence put forward by the prosecution and defence teams. This year, for the first time, we had a court artist, Sofia Lakin, who produced a fabulous image of the court in progress, having only a couple of hours to do so.

Our day started very well with the prosecuting team pitched against Droitwich Spa High school. Prosecuting lawyers, the incredibly poised Anna Rand and Kayla Botha, gave the defendant and defence witness a thorough grilling, to the extent that the defence witness crumbled completely and agreed to everything put to him.

Our magnificent prosecution witnesses, Tiggy Bamford and Millie Melliard, were confident and calm under questioning, so calm in fact that the opposition ran out of prepared questions. Completing this dynamic prosecuting team was a brilliantly organised legal advisor, Kacie-Mai Sallis, who did a superb job with not as much preparation time as the rest of the team. Our formidable magistrates' bench, comprising Ami Kabrian, Simon Reynolds and Lauren Thompson, almost managed to produce the only guilty verdict of the day, foiled at the final moment.

The second round saw us facing Studley High; the dynamic duo of Ollie Short and Jonathon Wickham further reduced the opposition to quaking in their school shoes. Ollie delivered killer questions that gave the prosecution witness very little opportunity to speak (always good in court) and had the judges nodding in approval. Jonathon then followed with the use of dramatic pauses that had most of us on the edge of our seats. Our defendant, Katy Barley, did a fabulous job being an indignant witness who could not possibly be



guilty of carrying a bladed article in a public place without reasonable cause and Cameron Temple as her "friend" helping to defend her, admirably, meaning that the not guilty verdict was assured.

I absolutely loved working with this wonderful set of pupils. They were enthusiastic and informed from the outset, arriving in my room without prompt, every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime and working with an enquiring mind that made this competition so much fun. Although not placed, the team performed with professionalism and an impressive grasp of court etiquette and ruling. Thanks go to parents as well for giving up a Saturday to transport the pupils to court. We will be back for the Bar Mock in 2019.

Mrs Hoskin

World Book Week Activities

All of our 23 tutor groups took part in a Bumper Book Quiz.

Well done to all entrants. It was a tough quiz but there were lots of correct answers and I thought your knowledge of children's literature was fantastic. Thank you to form groups and form tutors for supporting this event.



Winners

Year 7

7TA - Overall Winner of the whole school competition. Team *Superstar* were the winning team within the form.

7WI - Some fantastic book covers, Hatty, Oscar G, and Chloe C - thank you and well done.

Year 8

8PW - Winner of the Year 8 competition.

Year 10

10RO - Winner of the Year 10 competition. Team, *How hard is this quiz?* won within the form group.

Miss Lawrence

LRC News from Mrs Hands

Matt Dickinson visits the Library

We had an author visit on Friday 9th February. Matt Dickinson, who is also an award winning Director/ Cameraman for National Geographic TV, Discovery Channel and the BBC came into school to work with some pupils from years 9 and 10. While he was here he had a working lunch in the library with our Pupil Librarians and the pupils taking part in the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award. Matt showed them some footage and talked to them about his journey to reach the summit of Everest, and the books that he has subsequently written based on his adventures. The children and staff who attended Matt's workshops found them to be engaging, informative and very enjoyable, provoking much discussion.



Accelerated Reading

We have ten new Word Millionaires so far this year! They have each been given a badge, certificate and a book. Congratulations go to: Florence Matricardi, Daisy Long and Rowan Allen from year 8, and Freija Guntripp, Owen Davies, Jude Wilson, Richard Udall, Abigail Cullen, Gabrielle Baker and Grace McConnell, all from year 7.

Twitter Account



The LRC has its own twitter account, please follow us for all our latest news:
@AA_LRC_Library

World Book Day becomes Alcester Academy Book Week

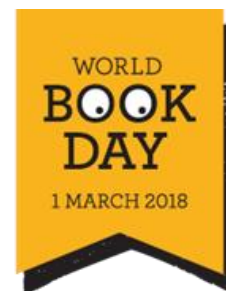
This year the school celebrated World Book Day with a Book Week! Lots of bookish activities took place across the week: Some pupils took part in a sponsored read to raise funds to buy new books for children who are in hospital; a tutor quiz took place; there was a *Where's Wally* treasure hunt around the school; and a *Guess the teacher's book-shelf* competition.

The library catalogue and issuing system has recently been upgraded to become a Reading Cloud which was made possible by the donations made on World Book Day, when the children were able to come into school either in their own clothes, or dressed as book characters.

We also held a Scholastic Book Sale in the LRC and managed to raise enough money to have some exciting new books for the library as well!

A very big thank you to all parents, pupils and staff who supported this week, it was very much appreciated.

All pupils from years 7 to 10 were given a World Book Day voucher which entitles them to either a free World Book Day book, a book for £2.50, or £1 off a book of their choice at participating bookshops. Please note that due to the snow that fell on World Book Day, the tokens are now valid until 31st March 2018.



Warwickshire Secondary Book Award 2018

Eleven of our year 7 students have been reading and completing activities around books from a shortlist drawn up by the School Library Service. On Monday 19th March our pupils voted for their favourite book and the result was sent over to be counted in with the choices made from all the other Warwickshire schools that have been taking part. On Tuesday 27th March we attended the celebratory final event at Avon Valley School, Rugby. Owen Davies from Year 7 won first prize, a WH Smith voucher, for his entry into a competition to write a blog about the book award and the winning book was announced as *Lie Kill Walk Away* by Matt Dickinson. The children also got to meet the author Geraldine McCaughrean who wrote *Where the World Ends*, which has been shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Award 2018.



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.



GCSE Science Live

gcse science
live!

This term, a group of year 10 students travelled to Symphony Hall in Birmingham to see GCSE Science Live. Accompanied by Miss Burgess and Mrs Crabb we watched many famous scientists share their love of science presenting to thousands about their careers.



Dr Kate Lancaster talked about the development of nuclear fusion

Dr Kate Lancaster talked about the development of nuclear fusion, an almost limitless energy solution, that could someday solve the world's ever growing demand for energy a problem that will affect us in the near future.

We were also amazed to have Professor Robert Winston, a medical doctor and distinguished TV presenter talk to us. As well as the great lectures we were also given some great exam tips and advice on how to approach questions in our GCSEs.

Tom Holmes Year 10 student

Matilda Review

On the 24th January forty lucky students got the chance to go and see Matilda the Musical live on stage in London.

The coach ride took about three hours to get there due to heavy traffic. After a quick pit stop at a service station we were all buzzing with excitement and singing at the top of our voices. Finally we reached the outskirts of London and saw many of the great landmarks. The streets and roads of London were packed with cars and we sat in a row of cars for the last stretch of the journey. We were growing impatient and every theatre we saw, we asked if that was the right one. Until Miss Sacco finally told us that we were there. We all clambered out and breathed the fresh air. The theatre looked huge and inspiring and had a giant poster of Matilda above the entrance. As we walked into the theatre, we were handed our tickets.

Matilda is about a little girl who loves to read and is incredibly smart; despite this her parents have banned books from entering the house. Instead they encourage her and her brother to watch the television. At the age of five Matilda is placed into the school of Crunchem Hall with the dreaded Headmistress Agatha Trunchbull or Miss Trunchbull to the students. Then the problems start. With Matilda's determination and some help from her friends she begins to fight back against her unkind parents and the evil Miss Trunchbull. The songs that went along with the play were energetic and full of life. They were also at a quick tempo which made them all the more exiting.



As we began the journey home, we were all worn out by the day's adventures. We were less excitable. Amidst our tiredness we saw many spectacular sights of London some of which include: Wembley Stadium, the former BBC Headquarters and the Palace Theatre.

Overall, we found this play exciting and spectacular. The little star Matilda was extremely talented as well as brave to stand in front of such a huge audience.

*Written by Louisa and Imogen
Year 8 students*

West End Trip for our students

Year 10 and year 11 performing arts students had a very busy fun filled West End theatre weekend in February. Highlights of the trip were the stage combat session and going to the Queen's Theatre to watch Les Miserables.



Parliament and Westminster Abbey Visit

In February a group of 29 students visited the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, in order to find out more about how a democracy works and to explore the historical and contemporary links between the Abbey and Parliament.

The visit started with a tour of the Parliamentary Estate, including the House of Lords, the Queen's Robing Room, the Central Lobby and Westminster Hall, the last remaining part of the original Palace of Westminster. The students then took part in a workshop in the education centre: here they learned about how general elections are run, from becoming a candidate and writing a manifesto to voting and forming a government. Their time there was rounded off by a visit from local MP Nadhim Zahawi who held a brief question and answer session with the students.

A short walk to Westminster Abbey gave them the chance to experience for themselves the setting for many



MP Nadhim Zahawi with our students on their trip to London.

national events, including royal weddings, coronations and memorial services. After looking at the Coronation Chair, the unique English architecture, Poets' Corner and the tombs and memorials, the students gained a

deeper understanding of how monarchs, writers, scientists and ordinary people have influenced and shaped the society we have today.

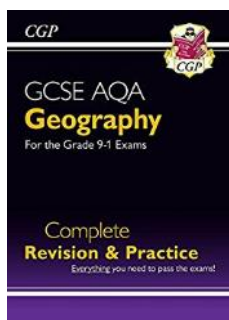
Mr Groom

GCSE Geography Study Day

On Thursday 22nd March, all 35 year 11 Geography students visited the Apollo Victoria theatre, London to take part in an AQA study day. Whilst there the students listened to presentations from examiners and outstanding geography teachers and took part in a number of workshops and Q & A sessions. The students received excellent tuition and came away with lots of inspiring revision resources.

The students were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Miss Cottrill



NCS The Challenge



Representatives from The Challenge, the summer programme for Year 11s, will be in the academy at lunchtime on 20th April to collect outstanding application forms and to answer any questions. Please see Mrs Black if you would like an application pack.



Doctors Show

Just before the February half term year 11 history students visited the Palace Theatre in Redditch to watch the Doctors Show. This was a memorable and informative play about the history of medicine that will definitely help the students to remember vital information for their medicine exam. There was also an exam workshop led by a principal examiner that gave the pupils invaluable insight into how to tackle a variety of exam style questions. The pupils were a credit to the school and a good day was had by all.

Mr Rossiter



Pancake Race 2018

The wet weather did not deter those wanting to flip their way across the finish line at Alcester's annual Pancake Day Race.

Year 7 students from Alcester Academy took part in the races and those who managed to cross the finish line the fastest were given a certificate and chocolate Easter egg from the High Bailiff.

Results:

Girls: 1st Poppy * 2nd Hatty * 3rd Lola

Boys: 1st Richard * 2nd Marcus *

3rd Dylan

Thank you to all the students who took part.

Miss Wincup



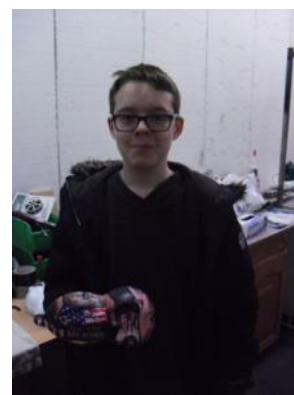
Mrs Whiting Retires – News from our Primary Feeder Schools

We were recently delighted to be able to represent Alcester Academy on the occasion of Laurie Whiting's early retirement after her many years loyal service to Bidford Primary School. To mark the occasion, fond memories of experiences at Bidford Primary were collected from former students in a book and this was presented to Mrs Whiting with some flowers on behalf of all of the children, from Alcester Academy, who she has helped to support over the years. We wish her a relaxing and fulfilling retirement.

Jasper Foster, Daisy Tranter and Will Perkins with Laurie Whiting.



Work Experience at Bold Hydrographics



For my work experience placement I went to Bold Hydrographics in Alcester for one week.

Before I started I had two visits. This was so I could familiarise myself with where it was, the people I was going to work with and the building. This was important to me so I didn't struggle finding where things were and what I had to do. On my first morning I felt excited but a little bit nervous as well. I was greeted by James, the boss, with a big smile and he was friendly so it put me at ease.

I was given lots of responsibilities from sanding and preparing items ready for painting — to making cups of tea!

I had to wear special protective clothing when I went into the painting booth.

It was a good experience for me as I now understand more about the work place, being on time and working as a team member.

I enjoyed it all and I learnt a lot about the process of hydrographics.

Nathan Heaps

Engineering Challenge at Seco Tools



Once again we were invited to take part in the annual engineering challenge at Seco Tools, along with students from Studley and St Benedict's schools. The visit gave the students the opportunity to look round a modern, global, innovative company and explore the career opportunities available in the engineering and manufacturing sectors. Eleven students from the academy in years 8 and 9 competed to run the best production line for assembling 3-pin plugs. Congratulations go to Natty Cox for being on the winning team and also to Issy Shephard who won the puzzle challenge set for her by Richard Jelf, the CEO of Seco Tools.



Alcester Academy student Natty Cox was on the winning team and Issy Shephard won the puzzle challenge.



Dunnington Primary Maths Visit

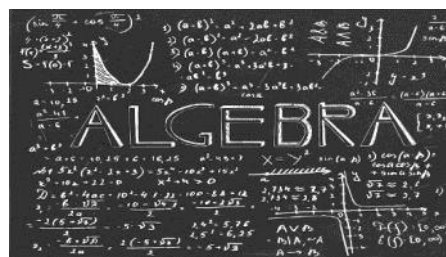
Learning beyond the classroom is an important part of enhancing our teaching and learning, and recently our year 10 numeracy leaders did just that by conducting a visit to Dunnington Primary School. The aim of the session was to introduce the cohort of year 6 students to the world of algebra and give them a taste of what was to come as they approach their lead up and transition to secondary school. Transitions from primary to secondary school have been linked to underachievement, not only in this country, but internationally, with students making little to no progress in the bridge between year 6 and year 7 in their mathematics.

The aim of establishing the links with Dunnington are reinforced with a key focus of ensuring that the time spent between students completing their SATS and entering into their summer break is spent efficiently. This is achieved by ensuring that they are delivered a curriculum that will enable them to transfer into the secondary mathematics syllabus having gained confidence, understanding and the skills to advance their own progress during this key time. We hope that this collaboration will support formal and on-going links in this area. During the lead up to the visit the numeracy leaders and myself had

planned and prepared three algebra-based tasks in groups of two that they would be delivering to a small group of students for 10-15 minutes in a carousel style activity, these included solving equations, substituting values into an expression and collecting and simplifying algebraic terms. After a small introduction everything was left in the hands of our numeracy leaders to explain, demonstrate and question, along with the Dunnington students.

The numeracy leaders conducted themselves in such a mature way and really showcased their fantastic mathematical skills. They also had an 'easy manner' with which they coached the Dunnington students in their learning. The students made an impressive set of extension questions on the spot for some of the higher achieving students in the group; this showed a great awareness of mathematical thinking and instruction towards the progression of the topics involved.

In regards to day itself, it was a great success, Sheila Mellor, the year 6 teacher and Assistant headteacher at Dunnington Primary said "from the moment your pupils entered our classroom, they had our pupils hooked, it was a real pleasure to be in a classroom where everyone was smiling in



the obvious enjoyment and buzz about their learning. An absolute credit to your school." Something we didn't expect was the impact this would have on our numeracy leaders, they spent the whole journey talking about how to approach the topics involved and how impressed they were that all of the students had flourished in each of the tasks they had prepared, a real credit to themselves. We are now hoping to conduct a further visit after the year 6 students complete their SATS and look forward to creating further links with Dunnington Primary School in the future.

Mr Barker

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 - Week Ending 23.3.18

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
95.8%	96.1%	95.5%	96.1%	96.0

Well done Year 8 and Year 10!

Miss Staniland

Alcester Academy meet the Super League Champions

On 17th February, a group of students travelled with Mr and Mrs Powell and Miss Burgess to the University of Worcester to see home side Severn Stars take on the reigning super league netball champions Wasps. There were definitely split loyalties amongst the party with Mr Powell's niece playing for Stars and Miss Burgess being a huge Wasps fan. The game showcased some of the brightest stars of English netball with Wasps players Natalie Haythornthwaite and Jade Clarke, as well as Stars defender Jodie Gibson, selected to represent England at the Commonwealth Games in April on the Gold Coast in Australia.

Wasps took an early lead in the game due to the amazing shooting by George Fisher. However, the Stars team hung in through some determined defending and brilliant shooting by Ellie Cardwell. The balance of the game continued to swing backwards and forwards throughout the first half. At half time Alcester Academy were invited to a shoot off

on court against Tudor Grange. Our representatives Leah Wood and Tiggy Bamford did us proud and took a 10-6 victory.

The 2nd half saw Wasps take control and use all their experience, as player-coach Tamsin Greenway took to the court. The noise level rose as Alcester Academy took control of the large drum and helped to boost the support. For the away fans that just increased the volume of the allez allez across the court. With 67 England caps to her name Tamsin used all her skills to push Wasps into the lead. Her seemingly telepathic communication with shooter Rachel Dunn lead to the away team taking the game 64 - 52.

After the game, all the students and Miss Burgess (of course) joined the Wasps squad on court for photos. The players also signed a flag for the school to display. Thank you to assistant coach Melanie Mansfield for arranging for the photo and to Clive Jones for taking them.



Photo courtesy of Clive Jones

Alcester Schools' Book Award 2018



Alcester Schools' Book Award takes place annually between Alcester Academy, St. Benedict's and Alcester Grammar School. Books are chosen to appeal to a range of readers and abilities. Five titles have been shortlisted and the award was launched on World Book Day, Thursday 1st March, at Alcester Academy. Twelve of our year 8 pupils have committed themselves to reading the five books and will take part in various activities around the shortlisted titles over the coming weeks, including an author event at Alcester Grammar School. After voting for their favourite read, the final event will be held at St. Benedict's on Thursday 17th May 2018.

Continued from page 12



Year 7 RUGBY
JIMMY LEWITT, NATHAN WHITE & OLLIE SATCHWELL



Year 8 FOOTBALL
TOM EVANS, SAM ROSSITER & ADAM HAERLE



Year 9 NETBALL
TIGGY BAMFORD, LEAH WOOD & CHLOE HANCOX



Year 10 NETBALL
CHLOE BRACEWELL, LILLY HANDS & GRACE CONNOLLY

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PE Awards Evening 2018

The first Alcester Academy PE Awards took place recently with pupils being nominated in 21 categories as the Player of the Year. Joining us for the evening was Olympic medal-winning gymnast Kristian Thomas who presented the awards and delivered a truly inspiring address that touched everyone present.

The event encapsulated the superb attitude and commitment that the students of the academy have towards their sport and it was fantastic to see such a wide array of sporting talent on show. Well done to all winners and nominees and thank you for making the evening so special!

	AWARD	NOMINEE 1	NOMINEE 2	NOMINEE 3
1	7 RUGBY	JIMMY LEWITT	NATHAN WHITE	OLLIE SATCHWELL
2	7 FOOTBALL	ZACH TAYLOR	HARRISON TYRER	AARON MILES
3	7 NETBALL	ELLIE-ANNE LIGHTFOOT	HANNAH BROTHERTON	AMELIA CROXALL
4	7 BASKETBALL	WILL UNDRELL	ALFIE CHEATHAM	DYLAN COLLETT
5	7 GIRLS FOOTBALL	BETH GRAHAM	SIENNA-MEI FAIRBROTHER	POPPY FOX-ROWE
6	7 BOYS XC	REUBEN FEARNES	RICHARD UDALL	JOEL MILNER
7	7 GIRLS XC	HANNAH COLWELL	POPPY FOX-ROWE	HATTY POLL
8	8 FOOTBALL	TOM EVANS	SAM ROSSITER	ADAM HAERLE
9	8 GIRLS FOOTBALL	LUCY HATHAWAY	MYA FAULKNER	MIA JINKS
10	8 BASKETBALL	CHARLIE DARBY	JUDE GREENWOOD	JACK GARVIE
11	8 NETBALL	LAUREN HUNT	OLIVIA LEWIS	FLO WILLIAMS
12	8 BOYS XC	FIN BROOKES	SAM MALIN	BILLY MORRIS
13	8 GIRLS XC	LUCY HATHAWAY	ERIN PERKINS	KARLA PERKINS
14	9 FOOTBALL	BRANDON MILES	LIAM YORK	OLLIE DAWSON
15	9 BASKETBALL	BEN ASHFIELD	CHARLIE WATSON	GEORGE GRIFFITHS
16	9 NETBALL	TIGGY BAMFORD	LEAH WOOD	CHLOE HANCOX
17	10 BASKETBALL	DYLAN HARRIS	MORGAN SEWTER-WHITE	MAX THOMAS
18	10 NETBALL	CHLOE BRACEWELL	LILLY HANDS	GRACE CONNOLLY
19	11 BASKETBALL	JACOB WEBB	OWEN JONES	MATT VANCE
20	11 BOYS STAR	BENJI BARLEY	CAM YORK	LUKE MORRIS
21	11 GIRLS STAR	ALICE LEESON	YASMIN LEWIS	GRACE HALE
Winners are highlighted in yellow				



**Year 11 BOYS STARS—
BENJI BARLEY, CAM YORK & LUKE MORRIS**



**Year 11 GIRLS STARS—
YASMIN LEWIS & GRACE HALE**

More photos on page 11