

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to inform you that year 9 students will be taking part in an author event to be held at King Edward VI School on Thursday 14th May 2026, where we will be welcoming Jonathan Stroud.

Jonathan Stroud is the author of several internationally bestselling and award-winning novels, including the *Bartimaeus* series, *Lockwood & Co.* (now adapted into a number-one Netflix series), and *The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne*. During his visit, Jonathan will speak to students about his writing and career, and there will be an opportunity for questions.

This event is being organised collaboratively through the Three Rivers Alliance in conjunction with the Starford Literary Festival, allowing students to benefit from a shared enrichment opportunity with partner schools.

The trip will leave school at approximately 11.00am and return to school during the lunch break. As this is an Alliance wide event, I would appreciate all students in full school uniform, shirt, tie and blazer.

If you would like your child to attend, we require a contribution of £5.00 which covers transportation and a basic snack and drink upon arrival. Payment needs to be paid through the 'School Gateway' by Thursday 30th April 2026, you will also need to tick your consent noting any relevant medical information, please comment N/A if there are no medical notes

Please note that in the event of the student causing concern at school or developing a poor attendance record, they may be withdrawn from the trip. In this event, monies may or may not be fully refunded, although the school will endeavour to recover as much money as possible.

Parents may also wish to purchase books for their son/daughter in advance of the event. Jonathan Stroud will sign and dedicate books on the day for students who pre-order (see attached). The following titles are available:

- *Lockwood & Co.* – £9.99
- *The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne* – £7.99



To guarantee that books are signed and dedicated, orders need to be placed by 24th April 2026 using the QR code in the attached flyer. Orders can still be placed up to 21st May 2026, but books ordered after 24th April may not be signed.

We are very pleased to be able to offer this opportunity and hope it will be an enjoyable and inspiring experience for our Year 9 pupils.

Yours sincerely

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

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

**For all trips and visits, the headteacher, with support of governors will risk assess each individual case as needed based on behaviour and medical needs at the time of departure.*