

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

1st September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school letter

I hope that you had a wonderful summer break, and I take this opportunity to welcome you all back. The return to schools this week is as follows:

Year 7/11 Tuesday 2nd September.

Year 8/9/10 on Wednesday 3rd September and all year groups on Thursday 4th September.

All students should return in full school uniform.

- Socks may be worn with skirts in years 7 & 8 only, unless agreed by Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral), they must be black or dark grey without logos – these must be above the ankle and below the knee - white socks and trainer socks are not allowed.
- Socks worn under trousers must be black or dark grey without logos – white socks and trainer socks are not allowed
- In years 9, 10 & 11 tights must be worn with skirts - plain (not patterned) in black 60 denier+, (if your child is unable to wear tights for any reason, please contact LSU)

If you are new to Alcester Academy, I would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to you. I am delighted to report some phenomenal outcomes for our Year 11 cohort for 2025. 86% of students achieved a grade 4-9 in English and in maths also. This is a record result for the school. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the students every success with their post 16 choices and their exciting futures. We had a wonderful results day to celebrate with our families in August.

I'm writing with a few key headlines for information as we start the new term together.

Welcome new staff

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the following staff to the academy this year:

Mr A Rowberry; Lead Teacher for Religious Studies.

Mrs E Linford, Teacher of Media Studies and English.

We have also moved to a Year Head structure and the following staff will oversee specific cohorts:

Miss S Bartlett – Head of Year 7 SaschaBartlett@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Mrs J Bennett - Head of Year 8 JulieBennett@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Mrs J Austin - Head of Year 9/10 JaneAustin@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Miss Buckthorp will always oversee Year 11 matters and anything that gets escalated from other group groups.



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Year 7 Students

Year 7 students should go to the school hall when arriving to school tomorrow. They will not be required to bring their PE kits for their first day.

End of school

The staggered end to school will continue in order to maintain a safe environment for students on Gerard Road. If your child is able to walk home, we ask that they do this in order to alleviate the congestion at the end of the school day.

- Year 7/8 will leave at 3.22pm
- Year 9 will leave at 3.23pm and
- Y10/11 will leave at 3.25pm on the bell.

Can I kindly ask parents not to park on the solid white lines or on the pathways or keep engines running.

Cycle Safety

We encourage students to cycle to school but those students choosing to MUST wear a safety helmet.

Equipment for School

This academic year, students will have a weekly equipment check in tutor time. Please be sure that your child is ready to learn.

Friends of Alcester Academy

If you are able to give any of your time to support our PTA, we would love to see you. This can include just some time at our PTA events. Contact Friends@alcesteracademy.org.uk

BromCom

We will have write to you separately with details of our new parent and child apps and how this change will affect reports, praise and behaviour, and any relevant trip payments from this term. Please note that with this change we have made the decision to move away from E- Praise. More details will follow, but we are confident that the new software has significant capacity to provide more information and smooth communication across the school year.

What is your child learning?

Our new Curriculum Palettes will soon be uploaded to the school website under the 'Quality of Education' section. These will map the learning journey for each subject and the sequence of topics/themes so that you can keep up to date. Miss McKenzie will write to you separately shortly about the Personal Development Curriculum for 2025/26.

Homework

We will continue to use Google Classroom for setting HW. If you are unfamiliar with this, there will be a useful online parent forum on Thursday 2nd October 2025, 6pm. More details will follow.

Canteen – Miquill Catering

We thank Miquill for providing a new Snack Shack facility for September. Students can 'grab and go' from here without waiting for their rota place. With regret, the prices have increased slightly in the canteen to reflect those that we are all experiencing in the current financial climate. We have attached a poster for you.

Drop-ins

Drop-ins run every Wednesday 3.25-4.25pm. There is no need for an appointment. We may not be able to answer your specific query there and then, but we can most certainly take it away and find out and get back to you. Members of the Senior and Extended Leadership team will be on duty each week on a rota basis.

Social Media

We do have a strict social media policy in place for parents. Please refrain from posting negative comments about the school in the public domain. Thank you so much.

Lockers

Students can acquire a locker by asking at LSU. They will be asked to provide their own padlock and keep a spare key in LSU for emergencies.

Key dates for your diary (these will be advertised regularly in the weekly bulletin):

Term dates are on the website for you: [Alcester Academy | Term Dates](#)

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| Open Evening 2025 Thursday 25 th September | School closes at 1.35pm for all children to allow staff to prepare |
| Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening Thursday 16 th October 2025 | 4.00pm – 7.00pm LIVE in school |
| Year 11 Parents' Evening Thursday 23 rd October 2025 School Cloud | 4.00pm – 7.00pm Online |
| Year 11 Parent Forum – Revision/Core GCSEs Wednesday 5 th November 2025 School Cloud | 5.30pm - 7.00pm Online |
| Year 11 Mocks Start (Speaking Exams for MFL) Week of 17 th November 2025 | Timetable to be sent out to parents in advance |
| Year 10 Parents' Evening Thursday 4 th December 2025 | 4.00pm – 7.00pm Online |
| Year 11 Mock Results Evening Thursday 8 th January 2026 | 4.00pm – 7.00pm LIVE in school |
| Year 8 Parents' Evening Thursday 12 th February 2026 School Cloud | 4.00pm -7.00pm Online |
| Year 11 Core Mocks Week of 23 rd February 2026 | Timetable to be sent out to parents in advance |
| Year 7 Parents' Evening Thursday 19 th March 2026 | 4.00pm – 7.00pm LIVE in school |
| Year 8 Options Evening Wednesday 29 th April 2026 | 6.00pm - 7.30pm LIVE in school |
| Year 9 Parents' Evening Thursday 7 th May 2026 School Cloud | 4.00pm – 7.00pm Online |

Internal exam dates for Year 7 to 10:

Year 7 – Week of 2nd February 2026

Year 8 – Week of 12th January 2026

Year 9 – Week of 9th March 2026

Year 10 – Start week of 8th June wrapped around Year 11 GCSEs.

Please note, there are numerous events throughout the year, and we will write to you separately nearer the time to keep you up to date.

Contacting School

Your first point of contact should be your child's tutor, followed by the Year Head.
You can then find subject staff detailed on the website under 'Quality of Education'.

For other matters, the following might help:

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| Mrs A Bush, SENCo | AnitaBush@alcesteracademy.org.uk |
| Mrs L Hatcher, Attendance Officer | LouiseHatcher@alcesteracademy.org.uk |
| Miss C McKenzie, Assistant Headteacher T and L | CharlieMcKenzie@alcesteracademy.org.uk |
| Miss K Buckthorp. Assistant Headteacher Student well-being and pastoral care Designated safeguarding lead | KarenBuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk |
| Mr N Cooke, Deputy Headteacher | NickCooke@lcesteracademy.org.uk |

Health and Safety

As a reminder, we are a nut free school. We now have several children with highly serious airborne allergies to nuts and nut related products. Thank you for your care around this. Regular reminders will be issued.

I will continue to keep you all updated on matters each Friday in the weekly bulletin. These are always archived on the website under the News section for your reference.

Thank you all for your attention to the matters in this letter. Wishing everyone a superb start to term.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher