

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

5th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! And a warm welcome to our new Year 7 parents/carers especially. I hope that you all had a safe and restful summer break. The summer seems to have arrived just in time for a return to school. See the information on the adjustments to uniform for this week later in this letter as a result of the current warm spell.

I am writing to you with a few updates that might be of use to you as we begin this academic year. As ever, I will keep you updated thereafter in the Friday weekly bulletin, and in separate communications where required.

GCSE Results 2023

I am absolutely delighted to report a superb set of GCSE results yet again this summer. Here are a few headlines for you all:

- 86% of our students left with a grade 4+ in English and maths (79% in 2022). This is a significant increase
- 94% of students left us with a 4+ in English, (83% in 2022) and 86% with a 4+ in maths (82% last year)
- 80% of students left us with a 5+ in English (68%)
- 63% of students left us with a 5+ in maths
- 64% of students left with a 4+ in combined sciences
- One of our students left with the highest grade for their art exam nationally! Wow!
- Our highest performing student identifying as female left with 7 x grade 9, 3 x grade 8s and a 7
- Our highest performing student identifying as male left with 5 x grade 9, 2 x distinction* and 4 x 8s

I am extremely proud of all of the students and once again thank the staff and governors for supporting their five-year journey with us. It goes without saying, that strong partnerships with parents help our journey enormously.

New staff

I know that you will join with me in welcoming some new staff to the school this year as follows:

- Miss Charlie McKenzie, Assistant Head teacher
- Mrs Adele Gorner, Teacher of English
- Miss Jess Lee, Teacher of English
- Mr Ryan Silvester, Teacher of maths
- Miss Dominique O' Sullivan, Teacher of maths



- Mr Mark Tuckey, Teacher within DT
- Mr Simon Gaskell, Teacher of science
- Mrs Gill Lewis, Teaching Assistant

Do not forget that Miss Burgess, Head of science is now using her new married name, Mrs Marshall. As is our School Business Manager, Mrs Haynes. Many congratulations to them both!

Updates over the summer

Our site team have worked incredibly hard over the summer to:

- Deep clean, and renovate every set of student toilets
- Decorate the gym and add new, vibrant lighting
- And, we have moved to the Cloud with our IT provider, Concero
- Further to some of the national headlines about Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete issues in some schools, I have added a separate communication about our position at the academy to this communication. The safety of the children here is always paramount.

Uniform and standards of dress

In light of the hot weather suddenly appearing this week, the students need to return to school in PE kit. I hope that this offers them some additional comfort in the high temperatures. Separate details will be sent out about the arrangements for trips on Friday for Y8-11 students.

Full school uniform should then be worn from Monday 11th September. Thank you for the huge investment that you have all made in terms of standards with uniform. If we have any cause to speak with you about individual uniform items, we will aim to do this by the end of the first full week back. We will hold pre-loved uniform sales throughout the academic year again and will give you advanced notice of when these will be each time. We are always very grateful to receive any good quality uniform items that become too small.

Homework

Just a reminder that all HW is posted on Google Classroom. There will be a Parent Forum on-line on **Wednesday 27th September** 6pm to show or remind parents how to view HW. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

Parental Drop-In

This continues each Wednesday 3.25-4.25pm. Please report at school reception upon arrival.

Communication with school

Parents should contact your child's tutor in the first instance please. If you have misplaced the tutors email address, please contact admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk and we can arrange for a reminder to be sent. We will be writing to all parents very shortly to release a new parental code of conduct. This outlines our response times to you within the school day.

Home-Academy Agreement

We will shortly be sending home key school information electronically to you. Please read this through thoroughly and you will be asked to sign the home-school agreement in order to support us at school and complete a general consent form. This will then be completed via a google link. Failure to sign the home-academy agreement will mean that your child is not able to attend PE fixtures or school trips. And failure to sign this might suggest that you do not support the school with regard to standards, policies and safeguarding. If this is the case, please reach out to hold a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Student behaviour outside school

Our Academy Behaviour Policy covers conduct whilst travelling to, and from school and any negative behaviour that might bring the academy into disrepute.

https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/files/AA_Behaviour_Discipline_Policy_23.pdf

All Academy policies can be found on the school website.

Use of smart phones

Please support us in reminding students that the use of phones within school is prohibited. Students should refrain from taking photos, and/or recording students or staff at any time. This carries a serious sanction for all students. It is, and will always be, my highest priority to safeguard the students whilst in our care.

What is your child learning?

Every subject publishes their long-term plans for each year group on the website. At any moment throughout the academic year, you can see what your child is learning

<https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/quality-of-education/curriculum>

Attendance

Please do not ask to take holiday during term time. This will be declined and could incur a fixed penalty notice. Reward trips are linked to positive attendance and behaviour. I do hope that the students have a glorious day on Friday if they are out on a trip.

Year 7 and 8 finish time

We do release Year 7 and 8 students at 3.23pm each day in order to ease corridor congestion.

Canteen prices

With regret, there have been some increases in the canteen prices over the summer. The free school meal allowance has been increased as a result from £2.30 to £2.50. We are in the process of looking at tenders for the best future supplier for the students.

Save the date – useful diary dates:

- Wednesday 13th September - Year 11 Blencathra meeting 6pm (trip 20-22nd September)
- Thursday 14th September - Friends PTA Meeting On line 7pm

- Friday 15th September - Year 7 Blackwell Court Trip
- Monday 18th September – Open Week 2023
- Monday 18th September – Photos for Y7-10
- Thursday 21st September – Early finish at 1.30pm for ALL students to support preparation for Open Evening
- Monday 25th September – Y9 Super Learning Day ‘Working for Marcus’
- Tuesday 26th September – European Day of Languages
- Wednesday 27th September – Parent Forum on line 6pm regarding Google Homework
- Thursday 28th September - Year 7 Super Learning Day ‘My Mate Fancies You’
- Friday 29th September – AGS visit to Year 11 assembly. Post 16.
- Tuesday 3rd October – Y11 CV workshop
- Friday 6th October – SGGs visit to Year 11 assembly (girls)
- Monday 9th October – Year 9 trip to Skern Lodge
- Thursday 12th October - Friends PTA Meeting On line 7pm
- Friday 13th October – Stratford College visit to Year 11 assembly. Post 16.
- Wednesday 18th October – Y8 theatre trip to see Matilda
- Thursday 19th October – Year 7 ‘Meet The Tutor Evening’ 4-7pm LIVE HALL
- Friday 20th October – St Benedict’s visiting Y11 assembly. Post 16.
- Monday 23rd October. Y11 visit to Worcester University.
- Tuesday 24th October – Year 8 Super Learning Day. ‘Bully 4 U’
- Thursday 26th October – Year 11 Super Learning Day ‘Calling It Out AND Year 11 Parents’ Evening School Cloud 4-7pm
- Friday 27th October – STAFF TRAINING DAY. SCHOOL CLOSED. HALF TERM.

Note, this list is not exhaustive. Aladdin rehearsals will be planned by the performing arts team.

Other Parents’ Evening dates for 2023-24 are:

- Thursday 14th December 2023 - Year 10 Parents’ Evening SCHOOL CLOUD
- Thursday 8th February 2024 – Year 8 Parents’ Evening SCHOOL CLOUD
- Thursday 18th April 2024 -Year 9 Parents’ Evening SCHOOL CLOUD
- Thursday 29th February 2024 – Year 11 Parents’ Evening LIVE (Mock Results)
- Thursday 2nd May 2024 – Year 8 Options Evening LIVE
- Thursday 23rd May 2024 – Year 7 Parents’ Evening SCHOOL CLOUD

I think that encompasses all of the reminders to date. Please contact us at school if you have any concerns at all. We would much prefer that you raise anything rather than worry at home. Working together will always support the progress and welfare of the students. This matters a great deal to me, as Headteacher and the rest of the staff at Alcester Academy. I can always be contacted head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

As a senior team these are our areas of responsibility:

- Mr Cooke, Deputy headteacher oversees all matters related to the Curriculum
NickCooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk
- Miss Buckthorp, Assistant Headteacher continues to oversee Personal Development, and safeguarding KarenBuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk and,

- Miss McKenzie, Assistant Headteacher oversees matters related to progress and reporting CharlieMcKenzie@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

This is very general. Naturally, you can contact SLT with regard to all matters as needed.

Here's to a great academic year ahead. I look forward to working with you all very much indeed.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Mellors
Headteacher