Summer 2018

Alcester Academy NEWSLETTER

HEAD lines...

I am sure you'll be slightly surprised that our summer newsletter arrives with you in September. This is happening because of a server failure we experienced in the summer term. Consequently the academy was without our usually excellent ICT facility for much of the last week. We now have a new high specification server in place and believe we are in a better position than before.

I have taken the decision to re-write my opening Headlines and issue the newsletter now rather than let the work of the rest of the staff go to waste.

Last year certainly was a busy one. And a hugely successful one!

I have to congratulate all of the Year 11 students and staff on the GCSE exam results achieved in the summer. I know you will have seen some information about how schools across Warwickshire have performed; I believe we are right up there with the very best again.

Some of the highlights include our 83% achieving a grade 4+ in English and Maths. This is a massive achievement, particularly when considering the national average is around 60%. We were equally pleased with our grade 5+, coming in at 60%, again, around 20% higher than the national average.

We also experienced success right across the subjects we offer at the academy as reflected in our Attainment 8 score of 54. This means the average grade achieved in any qualification was a grade 5.4, well above the 'passing' grade 4. As a consequence of this performance, we believe our Progress 8 score will be above last year's outstanding 0.49 – that is to say students achieve on average half a grade higher at Alcester Academy than if they had attended an 'average' school. Needless to say, we are immensely proud.

Away from exams, we have welcomed our new year 7. They appear to have settled well – if there are questions, let us know. We have also welcomed years 8 to 11 back to the academy. I have been very impressed with the way students approached academy life this year. Punctuality and attendance has been fantastic – remember there is a rewards trip linked to attendance in the summer term. Uniform has been excellent too, with just one or two students needing to make slight changes.

Preparing the students for the year ahead, I have enjoyed delivering our 'welcome/welcome back' assemblies to the students. These are valuable opportunities to stress the academy expectations and offer advice as to how students can be successful.

The really important message this year is always give 100% and be honest. All too often students tell themselves they have given 100% when in reality they have coasted through a lesson. I am firmly of the opinion that in order to be the best that we can be, we have to challenge ourselves to always work hard. I believe, based on the lessons I've visited this week, that this advice has been taken well by all students.

I think it is fair to say it has been an excellent start to the new academic year. I now look forward to another hugely successful year!

Paul Hyde Headteacher

PE Activities

Monday 10th September	Year 7 Netball (4.30pm finish)
Monday 10th September	Year 8 Football (4.30pm finish)
Wednesday 12th September	Year 8 Football @ Henley (5.45pm return to AA)
Wednesday 12th September	Year 9 Football (4.30pm finish)
Wednesday 12th September	Year 8/9/10 Netball (4.30pm finish)

Dates for your diary

AUTUMN TERM 2018	
School closed	*Friday 26th October 2018*
	Teacher training day
Half term	Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November
Back to school	Monday 5th November 2018
Autumn Term ends	Friday 21st December 2018

Inside this issue:

Year 6 Induction 3

Celebration Evening 5

Open Evening 8

Sports Day 2018 10

With a change to school tradition, the annual school show will now take place in November 2018.

We are happy to let you know that our next school production will be Mary Poppins!

Auditions for our year 7 starters will take place in September.

Miss Sacco

Maths News

This has been a great year in the maths department, seeing a mass of successes for our students and some fantastic collaboration with our local primary schools. This year has seen a great success in the UK Maths Challenge, with our year 10 students achieving eight awards in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, and our year 7 and 8 students achieving a staggering 34 awards in the junior maths challenge. During the year we have seen the inter house Easter Maths Challenge take place across all year groups, with students displaying exceptional mathematical thinking skills and teamwork within their houses. We have also seen successes outside of our classrooms with the year 10 numeracy leaders delivering an 'introduction to algebra' training day at Dunnington Primary School where some of our finest mathematicians were described as "an absolute credit to your school".

Finally we got to enjoy the year 5 core curriculum induction day, as we hosted the biggest mathematical relay we have ever done with great success. Overall, a great year of mathematics across the school.

Mr Barker

Medical Mavericks

This term saw the return of Medical Mavericks, one of our favourite year 9 careers workshops. Students learned about the vast range of careers within the NHS and healthcare field. The sessions were completely hands on and included activities such as taking blood from a fake arm using a real needle; recording and printing an ECG and wearing a special suit which enabled the students to understand what it feels like when you are over 80.
The workshops were run by a medical student and a science graduate, who were able to talk about the vast range of opportunities available for students with good grades in maths, science and English at GCSE.
We were able to run this workshop due to a Skills for Employment grant, which we were awarded by Warwickshire County Council.

Year 6 Induction

Well, where did that year go then? July comes around so quickly and we were delighted to welcome another amazing group of students to the academy ready to start in September 2018. As usual, the day was packed with lots of new information and experiences for the students comprising of some theatrical dance sessions, drumming, learning to use a sewing machine, creating bunting in order to promote topical geographical issues to name just a few of the sessions that went on. The students had an extremely successful day and we are looking forward to seeing them in the new term.

Comments from some of them included:

- I've enjoyed making new friends and exploring. *Alfred from Coughton Primary*
- I enjoyed meeting new people and I really liked the art session. *Poppy from Bidford Primary*
- I really enjoyed the African drumming workshop. *Cobey from St Nicholas' Primary School*
- I thoroughly enjoyed the day and I'm looking forward to September. *Luke from Bidford Primary School*
- I enjoyed the lessons. *Charlotte from Salford Priors Primary*.

Year 5 Core Curriculum

We were delighted to welcome six of our feeder primary schools to a Core Curriculum Day recently where they experienced what it might be like to learn in a brand new secondary school environment. Many thanks to St Nicholas' Primary School, Coughton Primary, Temple Grafton, Salford Priors, Wootton Wawen and Great Alne for spending the day with us. The students had an amazing day experiencing some English, maths and science and finding out what a move to a secondary school might be like.
The children said:

◊ I learnt how to have fun at high school
◊ It was so fun
◊ I enjoyed maths, science and English
◊ I liked all of it
◊ I think that the academy is great!
◊ I enjoyed the welcoming teachers
◊ I enjoyed meeting the kind helpers
◊ I learnt a lot of interesting facts
◊ I enjoyed learning about the lifestyle of a year 7
◊ The teachers were friendly
◊ I have learnt that Alcester Academy is a good, fun school!

We look forward to possibly seeing these students in September 2019 as brand new Alcester Academy students!

Young Enterprise

Fast on the heels of their success in the South Warwickshire Awards in May, our Young Enterprise Team - We Love Alcester - won through the to the West Midlands finals after beating off all the competition from the rest of Warwickshire, including teams from King's High, Warwick School and a consortium of schools from Rugby. Besides the Best Company Award, they won Best Marketing and Best Financial Report. Although they did not win through to the national finals, the students came away with the Disney Award for Creativity and the Foundations for a Business Award at the West Midlands final. It was very pleasing to see that they were the most profitable company by a long way.

The team became an overnight sensation last Christmas with their London New York Paris Alcester shopping bag and went on to produce bags for Studley and Stratford-upon-Avon, which have been sold through online marketing, retail outlets and local markets and trade fairs. To date, they have sold almost 1600 bags and made a substantial profit which will be returned to shareholders.

Over the course of one academic year, the Young Enterprise Company Programme teaches students how to run their own business, through hands-on practical learning. Some students are inspired to become entrepreneurs and go on to work in their own businesses, others find that taking part in Young Enterprise has given them the confidence, knowledge and skills to succeed in a wide variety of careers. A new student company will be starting in September which will be open to all students currently in year 9.

Solidworks for Alcester Academy students

At the beginning of July, seven students took part in a three-day pilot course at the headquarters of Solid Solutions in Leamington Spa. The aim was to find out how easily they could learn how to use a 3D computer aided design package. They all did extremely well and three of the students passed the course at a level normally achieved by students in the second year at university. This course was generously funded by a Skills Challenge grant from Warwickshire County Council.

We hope that we will be able introduce the software in to the academy, so that all students can benefit from using it.

Head Boy, Head Girl & Senior Prefects

A closely fought head boy and head girl contest was recently held with voting taking place across the school for staff and students. We are delighted to announce our new team are:

John Clarke - Deputy Head Boy
Alex Wilson - Head Boy
Niamh Irvine - Deputy Head Girl
Ella Speirs - Head Girl

The remaining candidates have been promoted to the position of Senior Prefects and will take on some student leadership responsibilities across the school.
Our Senior Prefects are:
Chris Brewer, Charlie Furlong, Tom Holmes, Ella Forbes, Lilly Hands, Amber Norton and Sian Webster

Many thanks to all those that put themselves forward.

Miss Buckthorp

Celebration Evening 2018

At the end of June we held our annual Celebration Evening with the theme of Inspiration, which saw over 100 students receive trophies and awards based on their achievements over the last academic year. Awards were given out for subject attainment, effort, progress and students of the year.

We were treated to some great performances that showcased some of the work that students had done over the year and our *Film of the Year at Alcester Academy*, highlighting events and activities that have taken place.

Our year 10 students John, Alex, Niamh and Ella did an amazing job at hosting the whole evening. It was fantastic to see so many students involved in the performances including a drama performance by one of the year 9 English groups based on their inspirational heroes from history to the modern day. The choir performed *This is me* from the *Greatest Showman* and there was a superb singing performance from Abigail.

There was a fabulous display of all the textiles work in the fashion show and an amazing fast-paced dance duet from our year 10 dancers Grace and Sophie as well.

Many thanks to the parents/carers who attended the event and all the staff who helped put on another great evening.

Miss Buckthorp

Effort Award Winners

Alfie Cheatham	Year 7
Will Undrell	Year 7
Alice Webb	Year 7
Aiden Elvins	Year 8
Tom Evans	Year 8
Dan Hughes	Year 8
Dan Collings	Year 9
Scott Edgar-Hitchin	Year 10

Best Progress across the year

Orly Lanz	Year 7
Hannah Dorrington	Year 7
Rocco Mareri	Year 8
Katie Perks	Year 8
Billy Hitchman	Year 9
Candise Kings	Year 9
Nathan Heaps	Year 10
Lilly Hands	Year 10

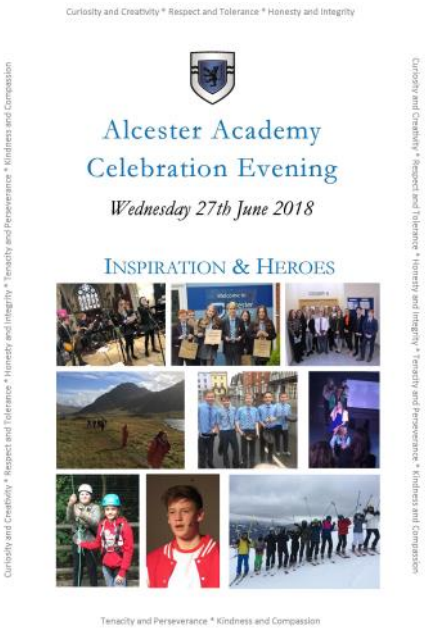
Students of the Year

Sofie - Year 7

Ollie - Year 8

Natalie
Year 9

Libby
Year 10



Tours of our local primaries and gigs

The School Rock Band and the Acoustic Group have had a very busy term touring our local primary schools.
They visited Bidford, Great Alne, Haselor, Dunnington and Temple Grafton. They were very well received at the venues.

Thank you to all the students that took part!

Mr Badham

Above: The Acoustic Group. Ready to play at Tudor Grange Primary School Haselor.

Our students performing at Alne Fest.

The School Rock Band perform at The Iron Road Summer Bash.

Word of the Week
vacances d'été (Fr.) Sommerferien (Gm.)

Meaning: summer holiday
Context:
Nous vous souhaitons de bonnes vacances d'été!
Wir wünschen Ihnen schöne Sommerferien!
We wish you lovely summer holidays!

LRC News by Mrs Hands

Accelerated Reading

Lots of reading has taken place in school and I am proud to say that our total number of word millionaires is now 24. They have each been given a certificate, a badge and a book. We also have a year 8 pupil that has read more than 5 million words since he started here in year 7 – a fantastic achievement for which he received the LRC Award on Awards Evening. Well done.

Pupil Librarians

Pupil Librarians play an important role in the day to day running of the school library and help with a variety of tasks. Mrs Hands, Diana, Kathryn, Rhys, Kiah, Mia, Anais, Matt and Rocco look forward to welcoming Apprentice Helper, Isabelle, to the Pupil Librarian Team in September.

Twitter account

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

Alcester Schools' Book Award

This year twelve of our year 8 pupils, along with pupils from Alcester Grammar School and St. Benedict's School, committed themselves to reading five books for the Alcester Schools' Book Award.
The award was launched at Alcester Academy on World Book Day. In May Alcester Grammar School hosted a writing workshop with one of the authors, Catherine Barter. The pupils then voted for their favourite books and a final ceremony was held at St. Benedict's School, where the pupils took part in a very competitive quiz about the books, along with a couple of activities.
The pupils voted 'Running on the Roof of the World' by Jess Butterworth as their overall favourite book.

Summer Reading

If you need some inspiration for some summer reading we have suggested book-lists available for each year group in the English and LRC curriculum areas on the VLE. Printed copies are also available from the LRC.

Please note that the books listed are suggested reading and therefore parental guidance is still essential in selecting books which will be suitable for each individual at each stage.

We value your opinions

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

Give Ofsted your view on your child's school

Tutor Pencil Case Amnesty

Please return all tutor pencil cases to the LSU as soon as possible.
No questions asked!

Science Revision Guides

If you have any revision books you no longer require please bring them into the academy and hand them in at reception. Many thanks.
Miss Burgess

Would you like to know what your child is learning?

Staff are currently updating their long term curriculum plans and these can be found on the academy website. Follow the Curriculum tab and select 'Subject Long Term Plans'.

Coming soon

Parents and students will be able to find recommended reading lists in the new student planner next academic year.

There will be an expectation that students will read a number of books from this list throughout the academic year. More information to follow next year.

Operation Christmas Child 2018

As a school we would like to invite you to participate in Operation Christmas Child in 2018, an amazing project organised by Samaritan's Purse that delivers gift-filled shoe boxes to children around the world. Everyday boys and girls around the world are facing war, poverty, disease and natural disaster.

Participating in Operation Christmas Child is simple, yet incredibly powerful. Last year, due to the collective efforts of thousands of individuals, churches, schools, and other organisations, over 11 million boys and girls in more than 100 countries received gift-filled shoe boxes.

Please could we ask for any empty shoeboxes to be saved over the holiday and brought to T1 in September. If you have any unwanted gifts, brand new books, toiletries, toys etc we would be really grateful if you could donate these too. Have a lovely summer!
Miss Wincup & Miss Nemeshanyi

HOW College Taster Day

Twenty-seven year 10 students took up the offer of a taster day at Heart of Worcester College on either the Redditch or Bromsgrove campus. The day provided a welcome break at the end of exams and gave a real insight into college life. Students were able to choose from a wide selection of college courses, including business, engineering, sport and hair and beauty. The taster gave the students some experience to help them choose between the many options on offer for their education, once they have left Alcester Academy next year.

HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

Performing Arts students put on a show!

Our year 8 Performing Arts students are just phenomenal. The students recently put on performances for their musical theatre assessment piece from Chorus Line.
Chorus Line is a musical, centred on seventeen Broadway dancers auditioning for spots on a chorus line.
Songs such as "I Can Do That" and "What I Did For Love" were superbly performed in front of an invited audience of parents/carers.
Well done!

Miss Sacco

Fast Tomato

Fast Tomato

If any students find that they are at a loose end over the summer holidays, they could always do themselves a favour and visit *www.fasttomato.com* using the academy sign up code: ATCA. This website enables them to investigate careers, school subjects, expected salaries, job profiles and so on. Some students have been using this website already and many parents have said that it enables them to start a useful conversation about careers with their children. Please let me know if you find it helpful. *Mrs Black*

Mock Interviews

By the end of term, all year 10 students will have participated in the mock interview programme. With the assistance of local employers, business people and college staff, each student has completed an application form, been interviewed and received constructive feedback on how well they performed at an interview. Our aim is to ensure that students are well prepared when they attend school or college interviews that count next year.

Sports Day 2018

RAGLEY
GREILLY

RAGLEY

OVERSLEY
GREVILLE
BILLESLEY
1st
3rd

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

Sports Day 2018

Under some intensive weather conditions the culmination of our sporting year, Sports Day, took place with its usual combination of competition, camaraderie and school spirit. With the top field looking a touch arid, competition was again fierce across the age groups with Ragley eventually winning out. As always the students threw themselves wholeheartedly into all of the events and the support from the spectators was phenomenal. A number of momentous performances occurred this year with Greville breaking three relay records but a special mention must go to Poppy in year 7 who broke a 28 year old record by 20 seconds in the 800m posting a time of 2m 40.3s.
Many thanks to all students who took part and made the day a great success!

OVERALL	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	POSITION
BILLESLEY	282	304	210	97	893	3rd
	3rd	3rd	3rd	3rd		
GREVILLE	300	314	160	156	930	2nd
	2nd	2nd	4th	2nd		
OVERSLEY	330	240	220	92	882	4th
	1st	4th	1st	4th		
RAGLEY	269	327	214	163	973	1st
	3rd	1st	2nd	1st		

House Competition 2018

The House programme continues to go from strength to strength with a record number of competitions going on this year across all subjects. There have been some great examples of endeavour and commitment in activities including a penny race, photography, basketball, castle building, poetry and panto performance.

It gives me great pleasure to announce:

Winners	Ragley (1280 points)
2nd	Billesley (1233 points)
3th	Greville (1215 points)
4th	Oversley(1209 points)

School Games Silver Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that Alcester Academy PE have achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2017/18 academic year.
The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.
Our sporting highlights this year include success at the Level 3 School Games (District level) for both our tennis and table tennis teams
With an increasing number of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make our competitions possible.
As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.
We look forward to applying once again in 2019! *Mr Powell*