

# Alcester Academy

## NEWSLETTER



### HEAD lines...

As the end of the school year approaches, I reflect on a very busy and successful year.

In terms of school successes, I have been delighted to receive recognition of the academy's achievements in the form of SSAT Awards for academic attainment and progress. This is in recognition of our results secured in last years' GCSE exams. We are confident that we will achieve similar results in the summer. In fact, attainment and progress has been fantastic in all year groups this academic year, a real reflection of the quality of teaching that takes place throughout the academy.

It is not all about results, though. We have also enjoyed some fabulous examples of success beyond the classroom – many of which are shared throughout this newsletter. Of note this term, is our hugely successful Sports Day, where students competed in their houses, demonstrating talent and excellent attitudes in every single event. We have also held our annual Celebration Evening where we have recognised

the success of students from all year groups - in the classroom and beyond. There have also been a number of rewards trips. In short, it has been very busy, but also a very enjoyable term.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming the academy's new year 7s during our induction day. Every single individual had a great day and really settled in well to life at the academy. Our current students stepped up brilliantly, as did our teachers, to support this day and make it memorable for our new students.

I would also like to welcome newly appointed staff, who will join us in September. We welcome our Interim Headteacher, Mr Wright, who I know will do a fabulous job in leading the team through the autumn term. We also have three new teachers joining; Miss Watson (English), Miss Bishop (History) and Miss Tandy (Science). In our non-teaching team we welcome Mr Parker as our science technician. I know they will all be made to feel very welcome.

With staff joining, we also have a

few leavers. Mr Seager leaves the maths team, having delivered five exceptional years of service and results placing us in the top 10% for maths. In our non-teaching team we say goodbye to Mrs Black (Careers and Enterprise) and Mrs Crabb (Science Technician). Both Mrs Black and Mrs Crabb have supported the academy magnificently and leave a legacy of excellence. I wish all three the very best of luck in their next ventures. Without being self-indulgent, this is the last newsletter I will contribute to at Alcester Academy. I want to thank every member of our staff, parents and students for their support over the past six years. It is not often that I agree with Ofsted but I do agree with their quote that the academy is a 'special place'. On that note I will close confident in the knowledge that the academy is in a strong position for the next stage in its progress.

*Mr Paul Hyde, Headteacher*



### Dates for your diary

#### SUMMER TERM 2019

Summer Term ends Friday 19th July 2019 at 12.40pm

#### AUTUMN TERM 2019

School closed Monday 2nd September 2019

Teacher training day

**Autumn Term begins**

Years 7 and 9

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Years 8, 10 and 11

Wednesday 4th September 2019

School closed

Friday 25th October 2019

Teacher training day

Half term

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2019

Back to school

Monday 4th November 2019

Autumn Term ends

Friday 20th December 2019 at 12.40pm

### Inside this issue:

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## A message from the Chair of Governors

The most awesome task facing the governing body of any school is the appointment of a headteacher so when the appointment is shown to be highly successful it gives great satisfaction. Paul Hyde's success as headteacher is clearly shown in the results achieved. But he delivered success in many other ways too, not least in the strong reputation Alcester Academy has within the local community, certainly in learning but also in the behaviour of students and their ability to contribute to the worlds they enter when they leave the academy.

As Governors we wish Paul every success in his new challenge, whilst at the same time applying ourselves to the massive task of recruiting a headteacher to continue and increase the success of Alcester Academy.

*Mike Dean  
Chair of Governors*

## Services to the academy

The staff and students wish to thank Cath Leeson for her years of dedicated service as a governor. Cath will step down from her term as governor at the end of this year.

If you are interested in becoming a school governor please contact Mike Dean, Chair via the school website.

[Message from the chair of governors](#)

## Year 5 Core Curriculum Day 2019

We were delighted to welcome 177 year 5 students to the academy recently for their annual Core Curriculum Day. This included St Nicholas' Primary, Coughton Primary, Great Alne Primary, Bidford Primary, Salford Priors Primary, Temple Grafton Primary and Dunnington Primary. The students enjoyed sessions in English, science and maths whilst getting used to a secondary school day and a new campus. Many thanks to parents and schools for supporting this.



## Goodbye Mr Hyde & Jazzy

It is with great sadness that I write this piece as we say farewell to Mr Hyde after six years of dedicated service to Alcester Academy.

During this time, Mr Hyde has played a pivotal role in the development of the school. His drive towards impeccable standards across the entire school has ensured that children leave us with the very best possible outcomes for their own futures, whilst generating amazing memories of their time at school.

We will certainly miss Mr Hyde's hands on approach and visible presence around the academy each day. The students and staff are also bidding farewell to their beloved school dog Jazzy of course. She will certainly be missed around the place for sure. Equally, assemblies will not quite be the same without Mr Hyde's anecdotal stories of his training and running progress! Note to self – I must find time to take up an interesting hobby in the summer holiday!

In writing this piece, I was keen to capture some of the student's memories of their time with Mr Hyde:

*'Mr Hyde has made the academy a safe place for students.'*

*'I think that Mr Hyde has done countless things for the school.'*

*'Your marathons have inspired me to run my academic marathon.'*

*'He always has a smile...which brightens up everyone's day.'*

*'Mr Hyde has ensured that the academy is the best that it can be.'*

I'm sure that you will join with me in wishing Mr Hyde the very best for his own future success as he joins Waverley School in Birmingham as Executive Headteacher. Waverley is a much larger campus hosting children across the entire educational age spread. I know that Mr Hyde is looking forward to the challenge that this role will bring.

Many of the staff will maintain contact with Mr Hyde and will be keen to learn about his new adventures as a valued friend and not just a colleague. We consider ourselves very lucky to have worked alongside Mr Hyde over these years. I have no doubt that it will take some time to get used to not seeing him around school each day in September. One of the students actually acknowledged that they will miss his bad jokes most!

To finish with an Ofsted quote might surprise a fair few of you however it is very apt indeed:

*'Pupils love their school...and the special place that it has become.'*

March 2019

Thank you Mr Hyde. All the best. We will miss you and Jazzy lots.

*Mrs Sarah Mellors, on behalf of students, staff and parents of Alcester Academy.*



**Thank you Mr Hyde! All the best! We will miss you and Jazzy lots**

## Maths Department News

It has been another 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 great successes in the UK Maths Challenge, with our year 7 and 8 students achieving a staggering twenty awards in the Junior Maths Challenge, one student Romano Mareri in year 7 achieved the highly coveted Gold Award and secured the 'best in school'. We would like to extend our congratulations to all students involved and look forward to seeing what they can achieve next year.

During the year we have seen the Easter inter house maths challenge take place across all year groups, with students displaying exceptional mathematical thinking skills and teamwork within their houses in our Coca-Cola maths challenge, various other inter

house competitions have taken place including the helicopter challenge to the well known maths relay.

We have also seen successes outside of our classrooms with the year 10 numeracy leaders delivering an 'introduction numerical fluency' training day at St. Nicholas Primary School where some of our finest mathematicians were described as "incredibly helpful" towards the year 6 SATS preparation. Finally, we got to enjoy the year 5 induction day, as we hosted the biggest mathematical relay we have ever seen with 177 students displaying exceptional teamwork and problem solving skills, and it proved to be a brilliant day for all involved. Overall, another great year of mathematics across the school.

With the end of a year comes another year of farewells and this year we have said goodbye to our fantastic group of year 11s, after completing numerous

Saturdays schools, lunchtime revision sessions, mock exams and finally the maths GCSE exams this summer. We would like to again wish them all the best with their future endeavours into further education and the workplace, we could not be more proud of their efforts this year. Sadly this year we also say goodbye to one of our maths teachers. Mr Seager has been with us now for 5 years and has been an integral member and leader of the department and we wish him all the best as he moves onto the next part of his journey.

And finally, we would like to extend our thanks to all of the support that has been given to our students this year in mathematics, we look forward to starting a new year and a well deserved summer holiday for all.

*Many thanks,  
The Maths Department.*

Alcester Academy

## Open Evening

Tuesday 17th September 2019 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm



The Staff and Governors of Alcester Academy warmly invite you to our:

### Open Evening

Tuesday 17th September 2019 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

### Guided Open Mornings

Monday 16th September to Friday 20th September  
9.30am to include a SLT Q&A session

Alcester Academy is happy to open its doors to prospective parents for Open Week 2019. Respectfully we ask families to book just one tour at their convenience during this week. We regret that we can only offer tours of the school on the dates advertised. Please call the main office on 01789 762285.

'Students are unfailingly polite. Their attitudes to learning are entirely constructive, because they understand how the academy helps to prepare them for their future lives. They are very proud of their academy.' *Ofsted 2015*



**Winner**  
Maths teacher  
or team of the year

Alcester Academy, Gerard Road, Alcester, B49 6QQ \* Tel: 01789 762285 \* Email: [admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk) \* Website: [www.alcesteracademy.org.uk](http://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk)

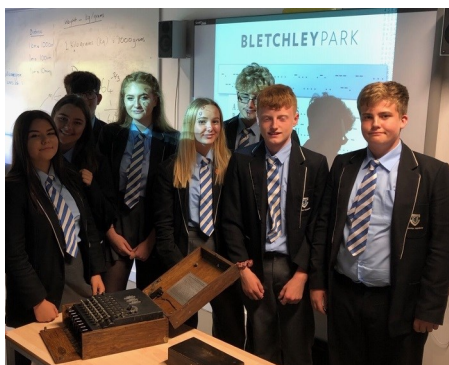
## Enigma Code Breaking Session

On Thursday 4th July, a selection of year 9 and 10 pupils had the rare opportunity to meet and use the Enigma machine as it was on tour around the UK.

The tour made a stop at North Bromsgrove High School where our students headed over for a code breaking session that concluded with a chance to use the machine. This Enigma machine was the exact one that was used in the film 'The Imitation Game' and was used by Benedict Cumberbatch himself!

The students were gripped throughout and were a fantastic representation of Alcester Academy. The Bletchley Park staff member, Tom, who ran the session was thoroughly entertaining and commented on our excellent students.

*Mr Seager*



## Science Plea – Can you help us?

We are looking for any of the following items to help support the practical activities in science next year:

- Newspapers
- Old towels
- Other fabric pieces
- Insulation material (like the stuff you put under laminate floor)
- Toy cars (especially pull back ones).

Please bring along to the department. Thank you.

*Miss Burgess*



## Year 6 Induction Day at Alcester Academy

We were delighted to welcome 135 new year 6s in for their induction to secondary school on Thursday 27th June 2019. The children had an amazing day getting to know their new class mates and year 7 tutors followed by experiencing some really superb sample lessons.

We were very grateful to spend the time getting to know the new students and very much look forward to welcoming them in their brand new uniforms in September.

Wishing them all a lovely summer break!

*Mrs Mellors*



## Head Boy, Head Girl & Senior Prefects 2019

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:

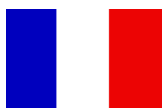
Simon Reynolds - Deputy Head Boy  
Liam York - Head Boy  
Lexie Dilks - Deputy Head Girl  
Alisha Johns - Head Girl

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:  
Alex Walters, Chloe Hancox, Tiggy Bamford and Emily Sharper.

Many thanks to all those that put themselves forward.

*Miss Buckthorp*



**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!

## Harry Potter Trip

Just a few weeks ago we were lucky enough to go off to the Warner Bros Studios in London where the Harry Potter films were filmed. We saw all the sights...the cupboard under the stairs, Gryffindor common room, the Great Hall at Hogwarts,

We went on the Hogwarts Express, Diagon Alley, through the Forbidden Forest, went on the night bus and in the house at Privet Drive just to name a few and even got to go on broomsticks & dress up as our favourite characters for the trip!

It was a magical and amazing day that brought all the films and books to life.

*Miss Buckthorp*



## Celebration Evening 2019



At the beginning of July we held our annual Celebration Evening, which saw over 130 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 highlighting events and activities that have taken place.

Our year 10 students Simon, Liam, Alisha and Lexie did an amazing job at hosting the whole evening. It was fantastic to see so many students

involved in the performances including a performance by the year 9 and 10 Boys Choir singing *We Will Rock You*, a fantastic tap dancing number from *Mary Poppins Returns* and a performance by students from all years called *Our School* which reviewed all the things that have happened during the year.

Finally, there was a fabulous display of all the textiles work in a fashion show.

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

*Miss Buckthorp*

### Effort Award Winners

Finn Green	Year 7
Emmeline Cox	Year 7
Henry Cook	Year 8
Hannah Brotherton	Year 8
Lochie Craig	Year 9
Issy Shephard	Year 9
Joseph Bird	Year 10
Kathryn Beaver	Year 10

### Best Progress Winners

Cobey Higgins	Year 7
Chloe Searle	Year 7
James Webb	Year 8
Mayzie-Rose Hands	Year 8
Matthew Honor	Year 9
Abbie Stringer	Year 9
Dan Collings	Year 10
Poppy Beattie	Year 10

## Students of the Year



Eve - Year 7



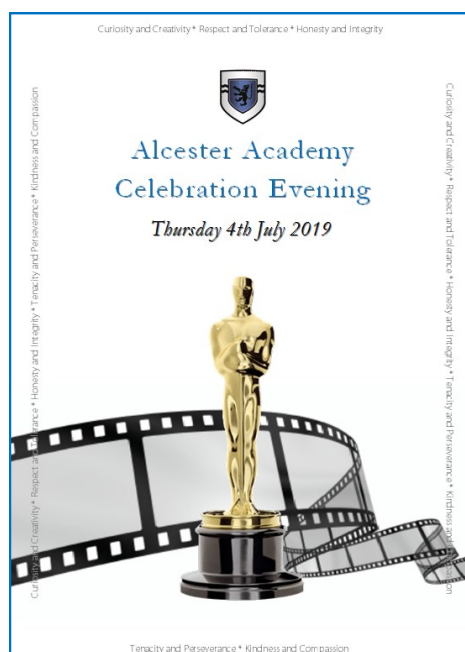
Beatrice - Year 8



Mya -  
Year 9



Anna -  
Year 10



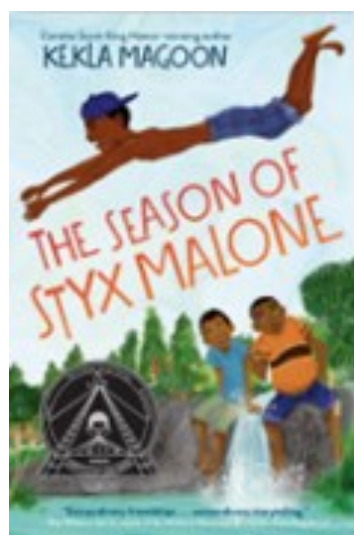


Do you need inspiration for some summer reading?  
Try these....



### **Aurora Rising – Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff**

A group of misfits embarks on a wild-goose chase across the galaxy in this high speed thriller that's impossible to put down. Monsters, conspiracies and friendship – this book has it all.

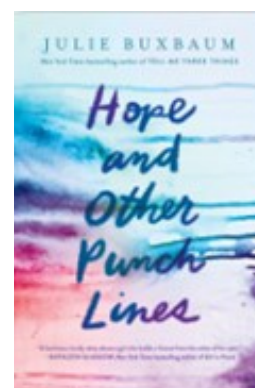


### **The Season of Styx Malone – Kekla Magoon**

Brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene idolize their older neighbour, Styx. So when Styx convinces them to join in his schemes to “trade up” — including trading their baby sister for fireworks — they’re eager to say yes. Although it’s both funny and dark, the core of this novel is about growing up and the complexity of human nature.

### **Shouting at the Rain – Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Delise has lived with her grandmother ever since she was abandoned by her mother as a baby. Now she’s struggling with her best friend’s abandonment, too. In fact, she feels like her entire life is a storm about to hit.



### **Hope and Other Punch Lines – Julie Buxbaum**

When Noah recognises Abbi as ‘Baby Hope’ from a famous photo taken during the September 11 terrorist attacks, he feels like fate brought them together. With some convincing, Abbi agrees to help Noah find answers about that tragic day and the photo that made her famous.

**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.**

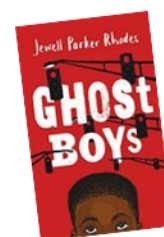
## LRC News

### Alcester Schools' Book Award 2019

Ten of our year 8 pupils, along with pupils from Alcester Grammar School and St. Benedict's school, committed themselves to reading the five books for the Alcester Schools' Book Award. The award was launched at Alcester Academy on 12th February. In May Alcester Grammar school hosted an author event with local author Helen Watts. Voting for their favourite books took place and a final ceremony was held at St. Benedict's School, where the participants took part in a very competitive quiz about the books, and a couple of activities.

*Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes was voted as their overall favourite book.

ASBA 2020 is already in the process of being organised!



### Accelerated Reading

Lots of reading has taken place in school and I am proud to say that our total number of word millionaires for this year is twenty-six!! They have each been given a certificate, a badge and a book. Georgia Cutting, Matthew Cook and Harry Baylis have all become multi-millionaires in just one year! A total number of 98,279,363 words have been read and the most quizzed book was *Room 13* – Robert Swindells, which was “a very good book”.

### New Student Librarians

Student Librarians play an important role in the day to day running of the school library and help with a variety of tasks. We have been busy recruiting new Student Librarians and the team looks forward to welcoming five new student librarian apprentices from our current year 7 cohort when we come back to school in September.

### W9BA - Y9 Book Award – with the Schools Library Service

This award is aimed at year 8 pupils who will be moving up to year 9 in September 2019 – I have a group of eager students waiting to take part. A longlist of ten books that have been published in the last year, has been selected by the Warwickshire Schools Library Service Team. During the week beginning 23rd September the students will take part in a 'Longlist speed dating event' students from all across the county will decide from this event which four books will make up the W9BA shortlist! They will then be given two months to read the books and vote for their favourite – the overall winner will be announced online in December 2019.

### Scrabble Club



A new club - Scrabble Club - will be starting in September in the LRC on a Wednesday lunchtime. Keep an eye on the library door in September for further details.

### Twitter account

The LRC has its own twitter account, please follow us for all our latest news: @AA\_LRC\_Library  
*Mrs Hands*



## Year 5 Inter School Book Quiz



On 16th July Miss Bartlett and Mrs Hands, with help from Chloe, Tiggy and Natalie in year 10 and Bea in year 8, held our first annual inter-school book quiz.

Year 5 pupils from St. Nicholas Primary School, Bidford on Avon Primary School and Temple Grafton Primary School battled through six rounds of general knowledge, multi choice and picture questions – with a break for doughnuts and squash at the halfway point!

Congratulations go to everyone who took part as it was a very close finish, but this year the shield and trophy went to Temple Grafton Primary School with their team who were aptly named *The Book Worms*.



## A request from the Art Department

We would really appreciate any donations of glass jars for water when students paint.

Also, we desperately need any old t-shirts/old shirts which could be used as overalls.

Thank you.

Mr Yarrington and  
Miss Nemeshanyi

## House Competitions 2019

It has been another great year of house competition across the academy this year with scores as close as ever.

It gives me great pleasure to announce this year's winners are Ragley by a point from Billesley in second, Oversley third and Greville in fourth.

Billesley	Greville	Oversley	Ragley
470	436	454	471



## We value your opinions

We would be grateful if as many parents and 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 - 'Parent View'. Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support.



**Give Ofsted your view  
on your child's school**

## Rewards Trips



Rewards Trips Day saw over 350 students go off to Alton Towers, Drayton Manor, Umberslade, West Midlands Safari Park, and a day out in London where the students visited the London Eye, went on a Thames river boat cruise and a visit to London Dungeon. A fabulous time was had by all of our students!

### Umberslade Visit

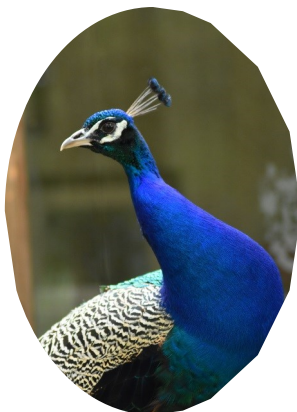
On rewards trip day a group of intrepid year 7 and 8 adventurers, accompanied by Miss Burgess and Mrs Jones, ventured off to the beautiful setting of Umberslade wood.

After making our acquaintance with the stunning peacock strutting around the grounds, the students got stuck into the low ropes course. During the day we experienced a whole variety of activities including zip wire, archery, assault courses and orienteering.

The students even tried the huge tree climb with Eve in year 7 breaking the record for the fastest to the top.

It was a wonderful day and so good to see our students supporting and encouraging each other.

*Miss Burgess*



## London Trip

*Great views from the river cruise with our year 9 & 10's on their day out in London.*



## West Midlands Safari Park Trip

*Safari Park fun.*





## Sports Day 2019

Sports Day 2019 was, as ever, a fitting celebration of sport at the academy to finish off what has been a busy and successful year. The students acquitted themselves with their usual blend of skill, camaraderie and school spirit. With the top field looking glorious this year (after last year's desert!) the students threw themselves wholeheartedly into all of the events and the support from the spectators was phenomenal. Records tumbled left, right and centre and a special mention must go to our two Warwickshire athletes Poppy in year 8 and Caleb in year 9, who broke five individual records between them. Poppy 800m, 300m and Long Jump, Caleb 800 and 300!!

Congratulations to RAGLEY who managed to retain their crown this year and, as always, many thanks to all students who took part and made the day a great success!

OVERALL	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	POSITION
BILLESLEY	271	216	162	190	839	3rd
	2nd	3rd=	4th	3rd		
GREVILLE	281	242	213	134	870	2nd
	1st	1st	2nd	4th		
OVERSLEY	193	230	178	209	810	4th
	4th	2nd	3rd	2nd		
RAGLEY	226	216	270	216	928	1st
	3rd	3rd=	1st	1st		

## School Statistics

### Attendance Percentages - Week Ending 12.7.19

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
96.4%	96.0%	96.1%	95.9%	95.7%	95.7%

Well done year 7 you have the best attendance! Miss Staniland

## SPORTS NEWS \*\* SPORTS NEWS \*\* SPORTS NEWS

## Summer PE @AA

National School  
**SPORT  
WEEK****Race for Life**

As part of National School Sports Week nearly 200 students took part in a 5K Race for Life to help raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

As it stands we have raised just over £3500 for this amazing charity and thanks must go to all students who ran as well as those who contributed through our non-uniform day. Well done!

**SUPER 6 ATHLETICS****ARCHERY****CRICKET****POPPY & CALEB  
WARWICKSHIRE  
ATHLETES****SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE ATHLETICS****LEVEL 3 GAMES****SLAMS TENNIS****ROUNDERS**