Alcester Academy Transition News



Dear parents, carers and students,

Welcome to our first edition of the Alcester Academy Transition News. Normally, at this time I would have the pleasure of visiting many of our future students at their primary schools to discuss some of our transition events and key information regarding the school. However, due



to these unusual times, and with the uncertainty surrounding when schools will be opened again, we thought we would keep in contact with you via this newsletter, to ensure your transition to Alcester Academy is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

First, we welcome you all to our successful school. Traditionally, we would be inviting you all to take part in our Induction day, which would involve you getting to know key information about the school, becoming familiar with members of staff and participating in a range of activities. But since we cannot do this in person at the moment, we are going to try and achieve this through the power of paper.

So, I hope that you will read this newsletter and take part in some of the suggested activities. We have included some information about key staff and some of their roles, that will hopefully make you feel more comfortable about your move to secondary school. Throughout this term we will endeavour to continue to communicate with you and send out another two editions of this newsletter.

As the Transition Coordinator, I look forward to meeting you all, but for now if you have any queries or questions regarding transition, please contact me at:

Cerihammond@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Things to look forward to in September:

- 1. Meeting your new Form Tutor
- 2. Meeting both old and new friends
- 3. Enjoying new subjects
- 4. Meeting your subject teachers
- Enjoying the chance to take part in a wide variety of extra curricular activities.
- Being part of a successful community .

Our School values:

Honesty and Integrity

Tenacity and Perseverance

Kindness and Compassion

Curiosity and Creativity

Respect and Tolerance

Can you think of any examples of when you have already shown these values?

The Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Year 6,

I'm writing to say how excited we are about seeing you very soon as Alcester Academy students. As I'm sure that you're old enough to understand now, things aren't very normal in schools at the moment and therefore I'm writing to you rather than seeing you at our first transition event.



Miss Hammond, our Transition Coordinator and the staff team at Alcester Academy will do absolutely everything possible in order to make your transition to our school as informative and worry free as we can. We have spent many years looking at the things that our new students are concerned about and we will help you lots to overcome these things such as getting lost around the school building, the amount of homework you might get and for what reasons we might issue a detention! We will update you regularly over the next few important months and make sure that we provide you with frequent opportunities to find out more about the school in order to prepare you for this very important move. Please don't spend time thinking about these worries. The next few months need to feel exciting for you all and we will help you just as much as we all can.

There are so many things that you can become involved in at the Academy. In order to make the most of your time with us, you might sometimes have to be brave and try new things. We know that the students who do this become really successful in their future lives.

I stand by a few simple rules Year 6:

- Always try your hardest. If you can do this for us, we can ask no more of you. We really appreciate those students who always give 100%.
- •Always tell the truth! Sometimes life as a young adult can be tough and sometimes things don't always go to plan. If you always tell us the truth, we will support you and help you through these times.
- •And finally, a really easy one! Smile! If you smile then instantly someone will smile back and hey...as easy as that you've made a new connection, a friend!

Lots of you will know children from your current school who are going to the academy with you. For a large group of you, you may be the only one, or you may be coming up to us in a very small group. Making new friends will be important to each other and so I ask that you look after each other and try to include new people at all times. We care about people at Alcester Academy and this will be an important value to consider over the next five years.

I can't wait to see you all safely just as soon as we can. Until then, stay safe, continue with your learning positively and try to help out at home as much as you can during this unusual time.

Best	wishes

Mrs Mellors Headteacher

What's been going on at Alcester Academy?

Despite these very strange times, both staff and students at Alcester Academy have been working hard and adapting to remote learning, demonstrating once again the great community we have here at Alcester Academy.

Students have been following their normal timetables at home, using Google Classroom, Seneca, ClickView and other online platforms. They have been producing some outstanding work and teachers have also been ensuring that all students receive clear instructions and effective feedback.

Below are some images of both students and staff hard a work at home, and some of examples of some of the brilliant work produced!

















Key Staff at Alcester Academy



Mrs S Mellors Headteacher

The Senior Leadership Team



Miss K Buckthorp

Director of Wellbeing

Oversees pastoral care & welfare of students including behaviour, attendance & safeguarding, trips & rewards.



Mrs W Woodman

Director of Studies

Oversees the curriculum, teaching & learning, student progress, achievement & data.

The SEND Team



Mrs A Bush SENCO



Miss A Butler
Teaching Assistant



Mrs J Clarke
Teaching Assistant



Mrs K Passantino
Teaching Assistant

Other staff you might see



Ms M Parker
Catering Manager



Miss R Bliss
Office Administrator/
Reception

The LSU Team



Miss K Buckthorp Director of Well-being



Mrs J Quirke

LSU Manager



Mrs J Bennett

Student welfare & support



Mrs K Jones

Student welfare & behaviour support



Mrs J Hodges

Attendance officer



Mrs P Hale

Careers & Enterprise

Pastoral support at Alcester Academy—The LSU

Our pastoral support at Alcester Academy will mainly come through your tutor who you will see every morning as part of your tutor group, where you will be with a group of year 7 students. They will get to know you well and you will get to know them . Tutor groups usually have about 25 students in and you will remain in that group for the whole of year 7.



We also have the LSU and this is an area where any problem can be solved...it may be something lost, or you may have forgotten something, you may not be feeling well, you may have fallen out with your friends or had an argument, you may be worried about something at home or school. The LSU is here to help and solve any issues you might have, our main job is to make sure that you feel happy and well supported at school. We are there when things are going well, and if things go a bit wrong, we can help you get back on track. LSU is open before school, during school ,including breaks and lunchtimes, and after school. Our LSU is staffed all the time. The staff based in the LSU are Miss Buckthorp (Director of Wellbeing), Mrs Quirke (LSU Manager), Mrs Bennett & Mrs Jones (Student support). All the staff based in LSU are also part of the designated safeguarding team at the academy. Miss Buckthorp is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school. Also part of the LSU team are Mrs Hodges who deals with all the attendance and Mrs Hale who is our Careers Advisor. We are really looking forward to meeting you all soon and are excited about you becoming part of our fabulous school.

Miss K. Buckthorp—Director of Wellbeing

SEND support at Alcester Academy



We understand that starting a new school can be very daunting for both students and their parents, but more so if you have special education needs or disabilities. So, to help provide a smooth transition from primary to secondary school, the SEND Department at Alcester Academy provide a range of resources and additional transition opportunities. Our dedicated SEND team includes SENCo Mrs Bush, Teaching Assistants (TAs) Miss Butler, Mrs Passantino and Mrs Clarke and SEND Office Assistant Mrs Lacey. TAs support lessons in all year groups and all subject areas, whilst also carrying out one to one mentoring for specific students, as well as individual and group interventions. Within the

maths, English and DT departments there are also subject specific Teaching Assistants. Miss Butler is currently the main TA to support year 7 lessons. Additional key people who work with us include specialists from SEND Supported; particularly Lucy Clarke, Autism specialist teacher and Claire Cole, Lead Consultant – Cognition and Learning/Dyslexia.

The SEND department run a number of clubs outside of lesson time including friendship group for fun lunchtime activities, homework clubs at lunch time and twice a week after school and handwriting club.

To help with transition we can provide children with visual timetables, maps, checklists and we are currently working on a video tour of the school should transition visits be limited due to Covid-19 social distancing. We hope to get to know and understand your children and their needs better through meetings with primary school SENCos and parents prior to the end of the summer term.

Mrs A Bush SENCO

We appreciate that starting secondary school can be a daunting experience, so we asked some of year 7s to provide some advice and reassurance.

'You don't need to worry because this a great school and if you have any problems the LSU is there for you' Paige, year 7



'Friendship club at lunchtime is a good place to make friends, it has Lego, white boards, board games and books. Also, if you are having any issues you can go to LSU and they will help. Don't worry about getting lost because you will have a map and teachers will help you around the school.' **Riley, year 7**

'Remember to have all your equipment with you and make sure you write down all of your homework in your planner.'

Sam, year 7



Alcester Academy

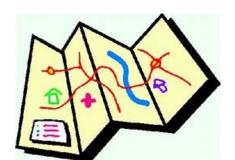
'It can be a little scary at first, but once you are settled in you will feel like you have been here forever.'

Faith, year 7

'Just be yourself and smile!'

Isobel, year 7





'Make sure you ask the teachers if you need help, because they are not scary! Also don't worry about getting lost, it's easy to get around. I have not got lost yet. You'll have fun here at Alcester Academy and you will make new friends.'

Ollie, year 7

To prepare for your first day, we would like to know more about you!

Create your own snapshot, containing key information about yourself. You can then bring this with you on your first day, so your peers and teachers can get to know you better. You can either fill in this sheet or make your own!





My name is:

A snapshot into my life

My birthday is:

Draw your family (there is even room for any pets you may have)

My hobbies are:







The things in life I like are:



My favourite subjects are:

The things in life I dislike are:



At Alcester Academy, I am most looking forward to...

You may have a few questions and concerns about starting at Alcester Academy. Below are some answer to common worries pupils have about beginning secondary school.

If you have any more questions you would like me to answer email me at:

transitionenquiries@alcesteracademy.org.uk

and I will do my best to answer them in the next newsletter!

I haven't done my homework or left it at home

Tell your teacher in the lesson if you have got the subject that day or find your teacher at break or lunchtime. You should not get a detention unless you have done this several times.

I don't understand the homework or classwork

Go and speak to your teacher as soon as possible. Don't be embarrassed to do this as you are probably not the only one! You could also check with someone in your teaching group.

I'm lost in the Academy

Remember you will have a map in your booklet. There will be lots of staff and students to help you during your first few weeks. You can also go to LSU and they will help you.

I'm late for school

Come into school as soon as possible and staff will guide you. If you are late, after 8.50am, please sign in at the Attendance Officer's office.

I've got a doctors or dentist appointment in school time

Ask your parents to write a letter to your tutor. When you arrive at the Academy you must sign in at the LSU and then go to your lesson.

I need to speak to a teacher

Go to their teaching room or speak to your tutor first thing in the morning about how to find them.

I need to phone home

Go to LSU and ask them if you can phone home.

(e.g. to say that a football/netball practice has been cancelled.)

I've missed my bus home

Go to LSU and they will phone your parents. Wait there for your parents to collect you - DO NOT wait outside.