Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke

Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp

17th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 11 Students

Year 11 Updates November 2026

I am writing to you to provide some key updates as we head into mock exam season. This can be an intense period for your child, so do reach out if any support is needed. We continue to be incredibly proud of the year group and hope that they find the mock examinations a useful process in their preparation for summer examinations.

Prom - Thursday 24th June

Last Friday we had the pleasure of introducing Year 11 to this year's Prom criteria as outlined below. This is booked for Thursday 24th June at Wooton Park. Prom is a wonderful chance for the students to celebrate their time at Alcester Academy with the staff and their friends, and we hope that many of the students will be able to join us for the evening.

The criteria for the prom is as follows:

- Attendance of 93% and above measured from 2nd November 2026
- Positive engagement in revision sessions / intervention
- Completion of all coursework within deadlines
- Sitting all mock exams and summer exams to the best of my ability
- Good behaviour
- Positive ATLs at each reporting window

Mock Examinations and Equipment - Monday 23rd November - Friday 11th December

We also look forward to the formal written mock exams that begin on Monday 23rd November. Students have been reminded of the exam processes and the importance of preparation. You can help your son/daughter by ensuring that they are exam ready with the correct equipment as a minimum.

- 2 black pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Highlighter and eraser are also suggested

These must be in a clear pencil case or zip lock plastic bag. Students will be allowed to bring a water bottle into the exam, but it must be totally transparent with no label on, and a sports cap type is recommended.

Students should arrive to the gym at the start of the exam which is 8.50am for morning exams and 1.25pm for afternoon exams. They will then receive a short pre-exam briefing from staff. If your son/daughter has any access arrangements, we encourage them to check where they are going from the gym as this may change from exam to exam.

Please ensure your child is well rested during the mock exam season alongside attending and completing revision. Please note that the next two Saturdays are open to all students and invites are always sent out in advance of the sessions. English (9.00-10.30 - Saturday 21st November), maths (9.00-10.30 – Saturday 28th November), and history (10.45-12.15 28th November).

The revision timetable which runs until December is below - there are not many sessions remaining before exams are underway, so attendance is crucial:

Day	Lunchtime Sessions	After-School Sessions (3:30 – 4:15 PM)
Monday	Maths — Open Door Exam Practice RE- 7-9 Practise	
Tuesday	French — Listening Skills (foundation) Geography — 7–9 Club History – Mock Prep	English — Whole-Cohort Mock Prep
Wednesday	Maths— Open Door Exam Paper	French — Listening Skills (Higher)
Thursday	German — Speaking Booklets Sport- ICT3	Science – 12th Physics, 19th Biology, 26th Chemistry Art — Y11 Open Studio
Friday	Geography — Revision Passport	

Mock Results' Night- Thursday 7th January 2027 4.00pm -7.00pm
and CAMNAT Sport Exam - Wednesday 6th January 2027

Please note that the examinations will be followed by mock results night on Thursday 7th January 4.00pm-7.00pm - this is an important evening where your child will receive their mock results in the school hall and then visit their teachers. Mr Cooke will write to you next month about booking appointments for this event via Schoolcloud. There will also be an array of key post-16 providers attending the evening to support with applications and exploring what courses are on offer- this really does focus your child to consider next steps and how to meet course requirements.

If your child studies sport as an option, do be aware that their external exam is to take place on the morning of Wednesday 6th January 2027.

References for Post-16 Applications

Following the recent open events with post-16 providers, some students are now able to begin making their applications. As always, my recommendation is that they apply for their preferred first choice, alongside an aspirational application and a back-up should they not achieve their expected grades next summer. This gives our students the best chance of securing a course that they are genuinely interested in pursuing.

Following the application, you will likely receive a reference request from the provider. This is an automatic response from the provider, and I wanted to inform you of the process we follow at Alcester Academy. Stratford-Upon-Avon College use a generic response to applications which will specify their reference must be completed. Please do not ask staff to complete these as the college will liaise directly with me in due course.

For many years now we have not sent out references until students have received their mock GSCSE grades in January. This, along with the support from their tutors, allows us to provide the most accurate reference for your child therefore allowing them the best chance of a successful application. All local providers are aware of this process and will contact me directly to make the requests in the spring term. Please do not send reference requests directly to your child's tutor. With each student likely making three applications, the system we have created means that your child will have one generic reference for all applications which will contain all the required information. Please ensure that your child uses the following email address in relation to references careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the cast and crew of Matilda all the best for the production run this week. It is looking and sounding amazing.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need us.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Marshall
Head of Year 11