

# Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers

Good morning. I'm writing to you as we complete the first week of mock examinations. The students are now getting used to their schedule as far as we can mimic this for the summer GCSE exam series. An average Year 11 student will have around 21 exams to complete from May onwards. Each mock exam has been sandwiched with key revision and preparation sessions, and, in the vocational subjects, controlled assessments are still continuing despite mock examinations taking place right now. We are really in the height of one of the busiest periods in Year 11 for our learners.

For those students who have been hit by the winter virus, we wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them back in school on Monday. Many of our students have shown great resilience this week despite feeling under the weather and this must be totally applauded. I hope that they get the rest needed over the weekend. During these mocks, March mocks and again in the summer, there is no study leave awarded. Students will remain in school until their very last exam with an alternative timetable running especially for Year 11s in order to keep thorough preparations in place throughout the summer GCSE season.

Next week's exam schedule looks like this:

WEEK 2	1-Dec-25	Mon	AM	History Paper 1 Germany/Asia	2hrs (2hrs 30)
	1-Dec-25	Mon	PM	Maths Paper 3 Calc	1hr 30 (1hr 53)
	2-Dec-25	Tue	AM	English Language Paper 1 - Creative reading and writing	1hr 45 (2hr 12)
	2-Dec-25	Tue	PM	RS Paper 1 Christianity & Judaism	1hr 45 (2hr 12)
	3-Dec-25	Wed	AM	Combined Science Chemistry Seperate Chemistry	1hr 15 (1hr 34) 1hr 45 (2hrs 12)
	3-Dec-25	Wed	PM	French Reading/Listening Foundation French Reading/Listening Higher	40 mins/35 mins 1hr/45 mins
	4-Dec-25	Thur	AM	English Language Paper 2 - Writers' viewpoints	1hr 45 (2hr 12)
	4-Dec-25	Thur	PM	German Reading/Listening Foundation German Reading/Listening Higher	40 mins/35 mins 1hr/45 mins
	5-Dec-25	Fri	AM	Geography Paper 2 Human	1hr 30 (1hr 53)
	5-Dec-25	Fri	PM	Computer Science Paper 2 Computational Thinking	1hr 30 (1hr 53)

Over this week, we have noticed a growing number of students who have found keeping up with the exam schedule extremely hard. This has been quite different to previous years in our experience. As parents, please can I ask that you continue to support us with monitoring the mock exam timetable from home, being sure that the students are eating well and sleeping thoroughly too. As examples, we had several students tell parents that they are allowed to revise from home. This is absolutely NOT the case. All exams need to be completed in line with the timetable and we are offering no



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catch-up opportunities. This will be the same in the final summer series. We will continue to work on building even more resilience with this year group.

If you need anything over the next few weeks, please do contact one of SLT.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mellors', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Mellors  
Headteacher

