

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



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

15th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 letter

Overall, we are delighted with how the year group has settled in for what will be their final year of study here at Alcester Academy. There is a real hunger to succeed with this cohort, and we are excited to support their progress this year- it was lovely to acknowledge our first 'stars of the week' in assembly last Friday.

We wanted to update you on the year 11 offer for your child along with some key reminders to maximise potential. This is quite a detailed letter, so you may wish to print off or store for regular use.

1. Attendance:

Sadly, attendance for the year 11 cohort last week was not strong. As good attendance is directly linked with progress and GCSE grades, if required, please could you have a clear conversation with your child about good attendance habits- we will always support in school when children are unwell. Punctuality is also a concern- making sure that your child is at school by 8.45am is critical- especially now that core learning takes place in tutor time in year 11.

As in previous years, we will only allow those students with 95% attendance or higher to attend the prom - this is an end of year event that celebrates your child's dedication to school. You can track your child's attendance via the MCAS app and do reach out if you require support. On Friday, Year 11 attendance was just 87.1%. Our Attendance Officer will prioritise this year group for calls and visits without apology.

2. Coursework Subjects:

This year, we are stressing that all coursework is completed by Christmas where appropriate. This is to ensure that your child can focus purely on exam technique in the spring term. Many option courses will have earlier deadlines which are listed below- discussing and highlighting these with your child will be important:

Design and Technology- wood and textiles: sections 1-4 by the end of November: Research, Design Brief & Specification, Design ideas, Development work and modelling.

Art and photography: coursework deadlines are the end of the Autumn Term

Media Studies: Component 3: creating media products by Wednesday 17th December

Sport: Unit R185 - Performance and Leadership: Friday 24th October - Internal deadline for all Performance and Leadership Coursework tasks (Submission on Google Classroom)



Sport Exam: Wednesday 7th January | Morning, Duration: 1h 15m: R184/01, Contemporary issues in sport

Music: Component 1 resubmission. Task 2: 3 pieces of practical work submitted by Wednesday 22nd October. Task 1 - Styles portfolios submitted by Wednesday 3rd December

Performing Arts: unit 1 and 2: Friday 24th October

Food: NEA 1: food science experiment: Monday 27th October

3. Super 6 Booklet and Resources:

Please find attached our 'Super 6' booklet that has been co-written by Alcester Academy staff to offer guidance on revision techniques and preparation habits. Your child will be given a printed copy before half term. **We recommend 3 short bursts of 20 minutes revision each day.**

Do also check with your child that they have everything they need for this year. For example: calculator, revision guides and equipment.

4. Revision and Intervention Sessions:

We are currently scheduling sessions for next half term in readiness for mock examinations. Currently, we plan to offer Saturday morning school sessions in the second half of November- subjects and times to be confirmed. Sadly, we cannot factor in any other commitments your child may have during the times offered- do note that we do make adaptations if your child is involved in school production rehearsals on these days.

We will also publish a revision timetable before half term for lunchtime and after school sessions- attendance will be highly recommended. There is a clear link between performance and taking part in extra sessions that must not be ignored. Mr Palmieri's maths clinic (open to all) and geography drop ins (for those children aspiring for grade 7+) have already started.

5. Post 16 Events

Do find attached a list of open events for post-16 providers. Attending these events are important in supporting applications and considering choices after GCSEs- the more applications the better. We encourage children to opt for 'aspirational, realistic and back up' routes when choosing their next steps. There are lots of dates to digest here and we do our best to ensure that there are minimal clashes with our own events. **Post-16 places and grade points for entry are increasingly competitive, and we will raise this throughout the year.**

6. Personal Development Sessions

These take place during Wednesday tutor time and are a statutory element of the curriculum in preparing your child for their next steps. Pupils cover key topics that include emergency lifesaving skills and extended coverage of careers and post-16 application support that will support them throughout this crucial year and beyond.

Key Dates

Year 11 parents' evening School Cloud 4.00pm-7.00pm: Thursday 23rd October
Year 11 parents' revision and preparation for exams virtual forum: 5.30pm-7.00pm, Tuesday 4th November
Year 11 mock French and German speaking examinations: 17th-21st November
Year 11 mock examinations: 24th November-12th December
Mock results' night- live in school: Thursday 8th January 4.00pm-7.00pm

As ever, please reach out if you would like additional support or further clarification. You will be aware that this is a crucial and a unique year in your child's education and we are here to support throughout.

Kind regards

J. Mewson Nade K. Bentley Camkentee

Senior Leadership Team

