

# 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> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we are now well into the spring term of year 11, I wanted to write to you with information and key dates. It is quite an extensive read, so do dedicate some time with your child to discuss also. As ever, if there is something that you feel we have missed after reading this letter, do get in touch. Of particular importance is the Stratford High School post 16 application deadline of this Friday.

## Summer exam dates:

Please see the following information from our exams team:

- *The first summer exam is on Thursday 8th May (German) followed by the first whole cohort exam: Monday 12th May – English Literature.*
- *Last exams will be on Wednesday 18th June, but some students may finish earlier that week depending on subject choices.*
- *Students are officially on roll until the last Friday in June.*
- *All students have to be available on Wednesday 25th June - JCQ Contingency day in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom.*
- *GCSE Results day is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August*

Subjects are currently working on exam entries, and we will begin to form official summer exam timetables along with a candidate booklet later this term - these usually are sent out by Easter time.

Please be aware that Alcester Academy does **not** operate exam leave but instead creates an alternative timetable during the examinations (more information to follow after Easter). As per usual year, students will be expected to attend school until their last examination.

## Core mock exams and Saturday school:

Year 11 will also be sitting further mock examinations in English, maths and science from the 3<sup>rd</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We will aim to communicate results of these exams quickly. These exams are a final opportunity to demonstrate exam technique in a formal setting before the summer series.

The core mocks will also be supported by two Saturday schools which include a foundation languages session with a focus on the upcoming speaking exams. Please see the schedule below and invites will be sent out prior to each date:



MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL



	<b>Session 1: 9-10.30</b>	<b>Session 2: 10.45-12.15</b>
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Science	Maths
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	English	French and German speaking exam preparation (foundation students only)

#### **French and German speaking exams:**

Do note that we have two separate dates for these: 7-8<sup>th</sup> April and 28-29<sup>th</sup> April. We will write to you once scheduling has been completed. These will be the actual GCSE assessments.

#### **Post 16 applications:**

Do please check with your child that their post 16 applications have been completed - we have some students who are yet to do this. **Do note that Stratford High School have a deadline this year of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.** Please remember that it is not solely the school's responsibility to ensure applications have been made, but we always offer support via [careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk](mailto:careerzone@alcesteracademy.org.uk).

#### **Revision:**

We remain proud of revision uptake across the cohort, but there has been a reduction in pupils taking the opportunities when needed most. We are particularly concerned about science uptake given the number of sessions that are on offer. Please do discuss the importance of attending with your child. The committed science department have created a list of sessions below which can also be found on your child's Google Classroom. We will be expecting attendance to rise:

#### **Science revision:**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Groups invited</b>
Wednesday lunchtime: 29/1	Miss Radbourne	Groups 3, 4 and 5
Friday afterschool: 31/1	Miss Radbourne and Ms Hirji	All groups
Wednesday lunchtime: 5/2	Miss Tandy	Groups 1 and 2
Friday afterschool: 7/2	Miss Tandy and Mr Gaskell	All groups
Wednesday lunchtime: 12/2	Mrs Marshall	Groups 3, 4 and 5
Friday afterschool: 14/2	Miss Taylor and Ms Hirji	All groups
Wednesday lunchtime: 26/2	Mr Gaskell	Groups 1 and 2
Friday afterschool: 28/2	Miss Radbourne and Miss Tandy	All groups

In addition, Biology clinic Monday lunch week A and Chemistry clinic Tuesday lunch week B are available for all students. I am sure you will agree this is an extensive offer that must be made use of. Please see our overall revision offer attached - we are halfway through week A currently.

Students should also now be working through their independent revision at home- we recommend 3 x 20-minute bursts every day. This will increase once homework and coursework is completed in key subjects.

#### **Religious Studies**

We have written to you this week regarding your child's GCSE entry status for this course. Mrs Kowal is also running additional sessions on Thursday lunchtimes to support pupils. Thank you for supporting and embracing our decision to offer a GCSE qualification for religious studies this year.

## Assessments for music, performing arts and food courses

Please see the table below for key dates:

<b>Music</b>	Today and 13 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Performing arts</b>	6-7 <sup>th</sup> February, 3-4 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Food- practical exam</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Art/photography exams</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> April-1 <sup>st</sup> May

Expect individual communication to follow if required. In many cases, parents have already been contacted.

### Prom

You will shortly be receiving our prom letter - a rite of passage for all the work and time your child has spent during their education so far. Do read this letter closely as we do have a criteria. Prom date is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Wow - lots of information, so do reach out if you need any clarification.

Kind regards



Mr N Cooke  
Deputy Headteacher