

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp

16th September 2026

Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer

Welcome to Year 11. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 11. Having previously served as a Year 11 tutor here for many years, I am thrilled to have the privilege of guiding the entire year group through this final, crucial academic year here. They have made a wonderful start to Year 11 and I am hopeful of the great things to come.

There is no hiding the fact that Year 11 brings its own unique set of challenges. With GCSE preparations, mock exams, coursework deadlines, and big decisions about post-16 options on the horizon, the pressure can sometimes feel intense for both students and families. There will be moments of stress, fatigue, and self-doubt. However, I want to reassure you that your child will be fully supported throughout this process. As an LSU team, with the support of Miss Bartlett in careers and the SLT, we will provide pastoral care, academic interventions, and emotional support needed to navigate these hurdles successfully. We firmly believe that with the right guidance, every single student can manage these challenges and achieve their personal best.

A strong partnership between home and school is vital this year. Please never hesitate to reach out to me or your child's form tutor if you have any concerns, no matter how small. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Let's work together to make this a memorable and successful year for our students.

- The initial point of contact is the relevant Tutor, and all their details are on the school's website.
- My email is debbiemarshall@alcesteracademy.org.uk
- Miss Buckthorp (Assistant Headteacher) continues to oversee all year groups and Heads of Year as part of her SLT Role Karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk

1. 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 techniques 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 A- D – **by beginning of November**
- **Art and photography:** coursework deadlines are the **end of the Autumn Term**
- **Media Studies:** First full draft by **Tuesday 20th October.**
- **Sport: Unit R185 - Performance and Leadership:** **Friday 9th October**
- **Performing Arts:** unit 1 and 2: **Friday 24th October**
- **Food: NEA 1:** unit 1 **Thursday 23rd October**
- **English: Spoken language:** **Thursday 23rd October**



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1. 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.

2. 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.

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.

3. Post 16 events

As students begin making important decisions about their next steps after Year 11, we strongly encourage families to attend as many sixth form and college open events as possible. These events are an invaluable opportunity to explore different courses, facilities and environments, speak to staff and current students, and help your child make an informed decision about where they would like to continue their education.

There is no limit to the number of Post-16 applications a student can make, and we recommend applying to at least three providers: a realistic first choice, an aspirational option in case results are better than expected, and a back-up choice in case things do not quite go to plan. Keeping several options open now gives students greater flexibility when GCSE results are released.

The majority of Year 11 students have now had a one-to-one meeting with Miss Bartlett our Careers Adviser, helping them explore their interests, possible career pathways and Post-16 choices. Further appointments will take place over the coming weeks.

Please take some time to look through the open events listed below and encourage your child to attend those that may be of interest. Exploring all the options now is an important part of making the right choice for next September.

4. Personal Development sessions

These take place during Thursday 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 **live in school 4-7pm: Thursday 22nd October**
- Year 11 parents' revision and preparation for exams virtual forum: 5.30-7pm, Tuesday 3rd November
- Year 11 mock French and German speaking examinations: 9th – 13th November
- Year 11 mock examinations: 24th November-11th December
- Mock results' night- live in school: Thursday 7th January 4-7pm

5. Year 11 Prom: Save the date

The prom is booked for **Thursday 24th June 2027**. Invitations will be based on good attendance and behaviour throughout the year. More details to follow.

Finally, good luck to the Geographers off to Blencathra this week for their field work. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to you.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Marshall'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

Mrs Marshall
Head of Year 11 &
Head of Science