

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp

16th September 2026

Dear Year 8 Parent/Carer

As we prepare for the exciting challenges of the upcoming academic year, I am writing to introduce myself as the new Head of Year. Having worked closely with many of your children last year I already know what a fantastic, capable, and vibrant group of young people they are.

As we transition into this crucial next stage of their secondary education, my ultimate goal is to ensure that all students in our year group have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

To make this vision a reality, my leadership will be rooted in high expectations, consistent accountability, and the protection of valuable learning time.

The majority of our students consistently exceed expectations, and they deserve a calm, focused, and purposeful environment in which to learn.

To achieve this, our pastoral and tutor teams will be focusing heavily on tackling the issues that cause a loss of learning time. We will be taking a proactive, firm, and consistent approach to:

- Punctuality and equipment: Ensuring students arrive to all lessons on time and ready to learn with the appropriate equipment.
- Classroom Behaviour: Minimising disruptions so that teachers can focus entirely on teaching, and students can focus on learning.
- Respect for Sanctions: Ensuring that when mistakes are made, consequences are taken seriously, reflected upon, and learned from.

We will also be closely monitoring progress and behaviour data to implement targeted interventions where needed, while equally finding new and meaningful ways to celebrate and reward students who consistently make the right choices.

Exceptional pastoral care and academic success cannot happen without parental support; it requires a strong, unified partnership between the school and home. From day one, we will be making it clear to students that they are responsible for their own choices and standards.

To help us embed this ethos, we ask for your consistent support with the following:

- Reinforcing Accountability: If your child receives a sanction or a negative behaviour point, please discuss it with them at home. Supporting the school's boundaries sends a powerful, unified message that standards matter.
- Open Communication: One of my primary goals this year is to continue to build strong, positive relationships with our families.

If you have concerns, or if there are changes at home that may affect your child's well-being, please reach out to us early. Your child's tutor is a great first point of contact, all their details are on the school website.



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SCHOOL



My email is Jamesbowater@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Miss Buckthorp (Assistant Headteacher) continues to oversee Heads of Year as part of her SLT role
Karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk.

SLT also offer weekly drop ins on a Wednesday at 3.30 – 4.30pm.

I am incredibly excited about the journey ahead and am fully committed to demanding the very best from—and for—your children. Thank you in advance for your continued support, partnership, and shared commitment to making this year a resounding success.

Yours sincerely

James Bowater
Head of Year 8