

ALEC REED ACADEMY

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Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby - BSc (Hons), MA



23rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the midpoint of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share some updates on our progress and upcoming events.

Please click on this link for the latest academy newsletter:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/ECaB8aQmWFiYC7lq?ref=Link>

Key Dates

Please note that this half-term ends on **Thursday 23rd October**. The school will be **closed on Friday 24th October and Monday 3rd November** for staff training. Pupils will return to school on **Tuesday 4th November**.

Highlights from the Term So Far

It has been a busy and productive start to the term, with students engaging in a wide range of enrichment activities. We've held parent evenings for every year group, and I'd like to thank all those who attended. I hope you found these events helpful in understanding your child's academic progress.

Our **Year 6 into Year 7 Open Evening** was very well attended. I'm especially proud of the students who represented the academy—visiting families commented on how polite and articulate they were, which is a credit to our community.

Student Progress

Students have settled well into their routines and are showing great enthusiasm for learning. Staff have been impressed by their attitude, behaviour, and commitment.

- **Year 11** students have demonstrated real focus and determination to make this a successful year.
- **Year 6** are already working hard towards their SATs.
- Our new starters in **Nursery, Year 7, and Year 12** have settled in well, made new friends, and are contributing positively to the ARA community.

Our focus this term continues to be on **high expectations**—in behaviour, attendance, and uniform—and we're pleased with the progress so far. I encourage you to speak with your child about their school day and what they've enjoyed and learned.

'The Collins PiXL Award for Outstanding Progress' National Award Winners 2014



Mock Exams

Mock exams for **Year 11 and Year 13** students will begin in November. These are a vital opportunity for students to experience exam conditions, identify areas for improvement, and build confidence ahead of final assessments. Timetables and revision guidance will be shared shortly. Your support in encouraging good study habits is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

The Autumn Term will end on **Friday 19th December**, with students being dismissed at approximately **1:00pm**. Leading up to this, we have a number of exciting events planned, including:

- Vancols the School Photographers will be coming in on Thursday 13th November to take your child's photo, which you then have access to purchase in a range of products before Christmas. A reminder will be sent after the half term holiday
- Christmas concerts and dinners
- Celebratory events across the academy
- A special visit from Santa Claus to the Nursery, where he will distribute presents to the children

Further details will be shared closer to the time.

Academy Fields

The Kitchen Garden has been thriving, with students harvesting tomatoes, green beans, potatoes, and courgettes. Gardening Club members and our new Land-Based Studies BTEC students have enjoyed the experience of growing and sharing produce.

Work continues on the **Outdoor Learning Centre**, with two major projects underway:

- The **pond** is being reshaped and revitalised with a new liner, rockwork, safe pathways, and a beach area.
- Preparations for the **Outdoor Learning Hub** are progressing well, with groundworks underway and the classroom structure due to be installed in the coming weeks.

The addition of a toilet and indoor space will significantly enhance how the site is used. To make the space even more inviting, we'll be launching a student music competition in the new year, in partnership with the University of West London. The winning student will have the opportunity to professionally record their composition in the university's studios.



**ACADEMY FIELDS
OUTDOOR CENTRE
MUSIC COMPETITION**
COMPOSE THE SOUND OF THE OUTDOORS

Are you a budding composer or music producer?
We're looking for a 5-10 minute original background music composition to play in our brand-new Outdoor Centre at Academy Fields.

Theme:
Nature-inspired, ambient, and uplifting-- something that enhances the outdoor experience.

 **Deadline for Entries: Friday 13th February 2026**

 Open to all styles and skill levels.
Submit your entry as an MP3 audio file with a short description of your inspiration to:

 music@alecreedacademy.co.uk

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for your child's academic success and wellbeing. We ask for your continued support in:

- Ensuring your child attends school daily unless genuinely unwell
- Arriving on time with the correct equipment
- Scheduling medical appointments outside school hours where possible
- Avoiding term-time holidays, which will not be authorised

Using the MCAS Parent App

Since September, we've been using the **My Child at School (MCAS)** app as our central platform for student information and communication. Please ensure you are actively using the app to stay informed. Through MCAS, you can:

- View and update your child's profile
- Access attendance, assessment, and progress data
- See exam timetables and results
- Receive school communications
- View your child's timetable

If you need help activating your account, please contact the academy or speak to your child's teacher or Safe Worker.

Mobile Phone Use

I'd like to commend students for their excellent compliance with our mobile phone policy. Only a small number of phones have been confiscated since the start of term.

As a reminder:

- If a phone is seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the next school day.
- Repeated breaches may result in the student being required to hand in their phone daily to a senior member of staff.
- Please avoid contacting your child directly during the school day. Instead, contact the school office or your child's Head of Year or Safe Worker.
- The only exception is when a member of staff gives explicit permission for phone use.

Thank you once again for your continued support this half-term. We wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for the second half of the autumn term.

Kind regards

Phil Cosby
Principal & CEO