

Our Ref: NCA/JAS/Wednesfield House System

28 February 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

As you will already be aware from a letter back in January, we are putting in place a House System. This letter gives you advance information about how this will operate when it comes into operation on Tuesday, 18 April 2023.

So that staff can be trained on the new House System, Monday, 17 April 2023 will now be an additional staff training day, meaning the academy will be closed to pupils.

What is a House System?

Every pupil will now have a Head of House, a Pastoral Leader who really gets to know the pupils in their house well. The Head of House will be supported by a House Team, dedicated to the welfare of your child. The House Office will be the first point of contact for parents. Assistant Heads of House will support pupils with their attendance and punctuality.

Every Form Group will be allocated to one of four Houses, all named after castles in the West Midlands:

House name	Colour of Tie	Head of House	Assistant Head of House
Warwick	Red	Mr Joss (new member of staff starting in April 2023)	Miss Nash
Tamworth	Yellow	Mr David	
Kenilworth	Green	Mr Solway-Blower	Mr Harris
Dudley	Blue	Miss Batten	

Why are we making this change?

Although Wednesfield Academy has been improving in several ways, this change will be an integral part of improving the overall Ofsted grading of Requires Improvement following the recent inspection. Your child's House will be the first point of contact if you have any queries regarding all aspects of academy life. There will be a House Personal Assistant in each of the House offices to respond to your enquiries and communicate information home.

We will provide further details of how to contact each House office soon. In the meantime, can I remind all parents/carers not to email staff directly as these emails will not be responded to. All emails into the academy must be sent to enquiries@wednesfield.uwmat.co.uk.



Wednesfield Academy
Lichfield Road
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV11 3ES



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Wednesfield Academy



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School uniform (this is the same information that has been previously communicated)

As outlined in the letter on 13 January 2023 all **blazers** will be paid for by Matrix Academy Trust and completely **FREE** to all pupils. In addition to supplying everyone with a blazer, the academy will also be supplying, without charge, a **new school tie**. The tie will be in one of four coloured stripes named above. As Year 11 pupils will only wear their new blazers and ties for their final four months, we would be grateful if pupils can return these items before the end of term so that we can use them to support our pre-loved uniform shop.

The academy **trousers and skirts** will also be changing colour to black from September, which is the same for all Matrix schools. Black is often easier to source and cheaper to buy. Pupils may continue wearing grey trousers or skirts until you need to replace them. However, if you are purchasing new trousers or skirts, please buy them in black and not grey. Images of the types of skirts and trousers that are acceptable forms of uniform are available on our new academy website. This uniform will be much more cost effective than the previous uniform.

With the cost of living in mind, **PE kit** from September will also be changing to a plain black t-shirt, shorts and sports socks. These will be unbranded items so you will be able to source them from any sports shop or supermarket. If you need to buy new PE kit before September, please buy items in plain black.

Advance notice of future changes

We are also currently reviewing the detention system so that we can support parents by giving them a minimum of 24 hours' notice for all after school detention. We will provide more information about this soon, along with details of a new parent Class Charts app to see your child's attendance and any positive and/or negative behaviour points.

Behaviour policy reminders

We wish to remind all parents/carers that any pupil who is caught with a vape in the academy will be suspended for a lengthy period.

We also need to make it clear that if any pupil sets off our fire alarm whether that be on purpose or by poor behaviour (e.g. using a prohibited item in the toilets which sets off the fire detector, play fighting and knocking it), will now resort in a 15-day suspension from the academy. The increase in days is because our fire detection system is there to protect the health and safety of us all. When triggered, it causes the whole academy to evacuate, wasting precious learning time and resources.

Thank you for your support. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Phillips (Associate Headteacher) who has recently joined Wednesfield Academy from one of our Trust schools by calling 01902 558222.

Yours faithfully

Mrs N Carpenter
Headteacher



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