

Our Ref: JP/JAS/

26<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Wednesfield Academy  
www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank all pupils who helped with Open Evening. They were a credit to the school and many parents commented on their conduct and attitude. The below letter contains useful information for parents, and if you have any queries please email [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) or call the school to speak to your child's Head of House on 01902-558222.

### **Reading**

The National Literacy Trust believes that parents and carers are children's first role models and have a strong influence on their reading habits and ongoing learning. We believe that all teachers, parents and pupils have a role to play in supporting and developing the child's skills. Our aim is to ensure that pupils can communicate effectively in today's competitive society. This month we have launched our Read Aloud programme during form time in which pupils are reading a range of ambitious texts from a variety of authors. The school library contains a wealth of books of all genres for pupils to borrow and our school librarian, Mrs Hickman, is always on hand to suggest books to pupils who are unsure of what they should read.

Here are some strategies that we encourage our parents and carers to engage in to support reading at home.

- Reading at home can include listening to your child read, reading with them, or simply making sure they are given the opportunity to read independently.
- Encourage your child to read a range of materials such as newspaper articles and non-fiction texts as well as fiction.
- Graphic novels and autobiographies can often engage even the most reluctant of readers.
- Test your child when they have spellings to learn and encourage them to look up definitions of unfamiliar vocabulary.
- Ask questions about what your child is reading and encourage them to use the school library.

### **Attendance**

I want to remind you that pupils should be in school every day. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot attend school, then parents/carers should call school every day that the child is absent. Medical evidence should be sent to [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) for the absence to be authorised, and please ensure you include your child's name and form. If a pupil's attendance falls below 90%, the Government deem this as persistently absent and parents/carers risk being fined by the Local Authority. I would also like to take the opportunity to share with you a letter from Dr Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer of England on mild illnesses and school attendance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance>.

### Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular activities began on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Our full program can be found on the school website: <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Extra-Curricular-1.pdf>. All extra-curricular activities are free, and pupils do not need to sign up in advance; pupils can simply turn up at the allocated room and enjoy the activity.

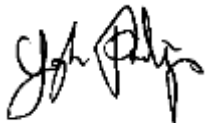
### Year 11 baselines

Year 11 pupils will receive a sticker for each of their subject books. These stickers will show pupils baseline grades as well as how they are doing in their subjects. These baseline grades are what Wednesfield Academy expects the pupil to achieve as a minimum and we aspire for our pupils to exceed them. Baseline grades are based on Fischer Family Trust (FFT) predictions. FFT processes the National Pupil Database to set predictions based on how similar pupils nationally performed in the subject last year (similar pupils are defined as similar prior attainment, gender and month of birth).

### Advanced Notice

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the last day of the autumn term, the school will close at 12.40pm to all pupils. On the last day of the spring term (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024) and the last day of the summer term (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024) Wednesfield Academy will shut at the normal time of 3.00pm.

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips  
Headteacher

