

Our Ref: JP/JAS

18th December 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to thank all parents who attended the Music, Arts, Dance and Drama (MADD) evening last Thursday. Wednesfield Academy is so lucky to have such a range of gifted performers across all year groups and we are very grateful for your support to make the evening possible. This will become an annual event, and if your child was not involved this year but you believe they would be interested in being part of the show next year then please encourage them to do so.

Attendance

It is such a pleasure to see that pupil attendance has increased at Wednesfield Academy this academic year. This is a result of the hard work of the parents who are ensuring that their child is in school and their clear communication when there is a medical appointment or other authorised absence. Year 7 attendance is currently 95.16% and year 8 attendance is 92.84%, both of which are above the national average. It is also important to congratulate all individual pupils with high levels of attendance, who will reap the rewards in the outcomes they achieve when they leave in year 11 and 13.

For those pupils who are currently not attending regularly and there is no clear medical reason and evidence, we will continue to work with the Local Authority who will pursue legal action. This is something that as a school we do not enjoy doing, but is necessary as it is a safeguarding issue if your child is persistently absent without reason. It also drains school resources with home visits and staff time, which we would prefer to invest in pupil learning and enjoyment.

Website – Languages

As a school we are blessed to be diverse with so many pupils from a variety of ethnicities and cultures. To assist with the usability of our website for those for whom English is an additional language, we now have a tab at the bottom of our website that can translate the text into different languages (see below). We are also looking to increase the number of languages that the webpage can be translated into, which will hopefully help our parents and pupils.



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Contact Info

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T: 01902 558 222
postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday: 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

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Vape Pens and E-cigarettes

As I know parents will have seen in the recent media, there are a number of dangers if children and teenagers vape. We have outlined these dangers to our pupils in assemblies, and appreciate this message being reinforced at home which I know is happening in nearly all cases. Some vape pens are repurposed to smoke drugs from and although we have not seen this at Wednesfield Academy, I wanted to make parents aware as we know we are not immune from these national issues. Hampshire County Council recently conducted research into vape pens and found some being sold with illegal products on the market that contain THC (the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis).

It is unfortunate that a very small minority of parents have not been supportive of this message, and have even asked for confiscated vape pens to be return to pupils so they can use them. We have tried to explain to these parents the dangers and cited the recent case at Newman RC College, in Oldham, where a “repurposed” vape resulted in a 13-year-old male pupil collapsing and being rushed to Accident and Emergency. E-cigarettes and vape pens are one of the fastest growing industries in the UK and are often marketed to appeal to children with bright colours and sweet flavouring. Many of the vape pens are not regulated and have a number of poisonous chemicals in them.

In addition, we would like to reinforce the message that it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s. [Youth vaping: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Thankfully, the vast majority of pupils at Wednesfield Academy have not and do not use vape pens as they understand the dangers. However, if you do ever have any concerns regarding your child though please do not hesitate to contact their Head of House and we can put support in place. As a school we have a very clear line on vape pens and the consequences are serious if a pupil decides to bring them into school, as we want children to be safe inside and outside of school.

Outstanding Library Books

As part of our programme to inspire pupils to read for pleasure, they are encouraged to borrow books from our school library. These books are loaned to pupils for a two-week period, after which time they must be returned to the library or renewed by our school librarian, Mrs Hickman. If your child currently does not have a reading book then please encourage them to borrow one from our school library which we have recently added a number of texts to. Our records show some children have not yet returned their library book. If this applies to your child, please could you ensure that this is returned at the soonest opportunity possible, so other pupils can gain the pleasure from reading that book. If the book is not returned, we will unfortunately have to bill parents as otherwise we will not be able to maintain such a well-resourced library.

WeDuc

We still have some parents who have not logged into their WeDuc accounts. If this applies to you please can you log in as soon as possible so you receive our communication. If you think that we do not have your most up-to-date contact details then please contact your child's Head of House, or if your child is in sixth form then please contact the sixth form office.

Examination Timetable

Further to the letter sent at the start of term with the provisional examination dates for this summer 2024, please also find attached with this letter the confirmed examination dates. If you have any queries, please call the school on 01902 558 222 or email: postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk.

Disabled Parking Bays

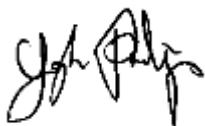
Please can parents not park in the disabled parking bays in the school car park. We have had parents and guests who hold a Blue Badge inform us that they were unable to park in these spaces as they were being occupied by non-blue badge holders. We appreciate it is a busy car park on collection, but these spaces must be available for those with disabilities. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

Wednesfield Academy would like to thank Mrs Dawn Everitt for her 25 years' service to the school. Mrs Everitt has worked tirelessly as a Learning Support Assistant and she has helped so many pupils over the years reach their goals. We all wish you the very best in retirement.

I would like to finish by saying that year 9-11 received a motivational assembly from ex-Olympian and World Champion 400 metre runner Daniel Caines (year 7 and 8 will have this assembly soon), who was taken aback by our pupils. Afterwards he commented that he had never received such a warm reception from a group of pupils and was very touched by their comments and enthusiasm. I know this will not be a surprise to you or the staff at Wednesfield but it is still so lovely to hear. I know that the residents of the care home to be visited by the year 11 prefects this week will feel exactly the same.

Have a great festive break if we do not speak to you before and as always thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips
Headteacher

