

Our Ref: JP/JAS

11th December 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you are well and that you have managed to avoid the winter illnesses. There is a lot of information in this letter to avoid having to send multiple correspondence. If you have any queries please contact your child's Head of House, or the Sixth Form office if your child is in year 12 or 13, by calling 01902 558222 or emailing postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk.

Festive Market

We would like to thank all parents, pupils, staff and members of the community who made this evening possible. Last Thursday evening the school had a fantastic attendance at our annual Festive Market, with more stalls and attendees than the previous year. This would not have been possible without the Wednesfield Friends parents' group which we are so lucky to have at the school. We are looking forward to further events next term and will be keeping you updated.

Lockdown

The pupils conducted themselves in an exemplary manner during the school's first lockdown drill, and their excellent conduct was noted by multiple staff. Although the eventuality of an unwanted intruder is highly unlikely, especially with the new buzzer and fencing at the front of the school, it is still something we unfortunately must be prepared for in order to keep all pupils, staff and visitors safe. We will be doing one further trial lockdown before the end of the term to ensure the small refinements we have made after feedback from the first drill are acted on. Although we always want to inform pupils and parents in advance, we will not be able to inform the pupils of which day this will be on, as we must ensure the school can go into lockdown to immediately without notice.

Thursday 21st December 2023 (last day of Autumn term)/Monday 8th January 2024 (first day of Spring term)

As outlined in previous correspondence, the last day of this term (Thursday 21st December) will be a 12.40pm finish for all pupils. Pupils will be registered by their form tutor before departing for a well-deserved break. The first day back on Monday 8th January 2024 is normal timings for all pupils, and they are expected on school site by 8.25am. The school phone lines and postbox will shut at 2.00pm on Friday 22nd December, so any voicemails and emails will be responded to when we return in January. Most importantly, please be aware that all pupils can wear Christmas jumpers over their school uniform on the last two days of this term (20.12.23/21.12.23).

Turing Trips

All pupils selected for the funded trips to Sweden, Italy and Peru have now been informed of the exciting overseas opportunity. As outlined in previous letters from the trust, all pupils' attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning must be of the highest standard in order to attend. There is the team building day for the year 10 pupils going to Italy on Tuesday 12th December 2023 which has been communicated with parents and if there are any queries regarding these trips the best way to get the answers needed is to email the Wednesfield Academy postbox address, as the house and Sixth Form offices may not have the information.



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Boxing Club

Next term we will be running a boxing club after school, where an external boxing coach registered with England Boxing will come in to provide the sessions for the pupils. This will be non-contact, and the coach will be teaching footwork, balance and basic defence and striking techniques. If your child is interested in attending these sessions please can they email Mrs Bingham (Assistant Headteacher) from their school email account or you can email the school postbox address. This will enable us to know the numbers of pupils to accommodate for this club.

Music Art Dance and Drama (MADD) Evening – Thursday 14th December 2023 – doors open 5.30pm, 6.00pm start and approximately 8.00pm finish.

Since term began in September, pupils from across all years have been rehearsing and creating their pieces ready to showcase at this year's MADD Evening. There is a wide range of work, from year 11 examination pieces to year 7's first instrumental performance. The pupils have enjoyed the process and are excited to share with their peers, staff and parents. Tickets will be sold by the Wednesfield Friends group and are £2.00 cash on the door. It is open to parents of those performing and any pupils who want to attend and watch their friends. Unfortunately, due to the size of the venue it cannot be open to all. The money raised will be used by the group for events such as the school quiz which took place earlier this term with a number of staff, parents and members of the community attending and the school disco attended by a number of pupils last month.

School Production - Little Shop of Horrors

The school production has been announced, the pupils have been cast, and rehearsals have begun. After the success of Grease in the summer Wednesfield Academy's next school production is Little Shop of Horrors on 18th and 20th March 2024 at Dormston Theatre. For many pupils this is their first musical production and they are looking forward to showcasing their talent; others are experienced in Wednesfield's productions and are excited to perform in a principal role. We also are proud to announce we have a backstage crew who will be helping with set most importantly helping our art department create a giant Venus Fly Trap! This is open to all to come and watch and more information will be communicated next term on how to purchase tickets.

Year 11

GCSE/BTEC Examinations

We do not anticipate any year 11 pupils missing their summer examinations, but it is important to inform all parents that they will be charged for any examinations missed. It is an obvious but important message to give that if the pupils do not attend their examinations they will fail in that subject, which will have a serious detrimental effect on their future studies and careers opportunities. Please refer to the letter previously sent for the provisional examination dates and examination boards (<https://wednesfieldacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/JP-Year-11-Examinations-Letter-06-09-202399.pdf>).

Period 6

The last period 6 session this term will be on Friday 15th December 2023. The sessions will then resume on Monday 15th January 2024, and there will be some changes to the period 6 classes so that they are focused on the subject areas your child needs to develop in. There will be a letter sent at the start of next term providing more details.



Revision Guides

Please ensure that your child has the revision guides for each of their subjects, as these are an excellent resource for their examination preparation. The revision guides have been provided by the school for all pupils who are in receipt of free school meals or have been in receipt of free school meals in the last six years. However, if this does not apply to your child and you are not in a financial position to purchase the revision guides then please contact your child's Head of House and we will look to support you where possible.

Sixth Form Application Deadline

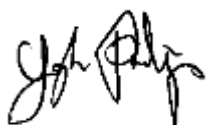
For all pupils in year 11 wanting to apply for the Wednesfield Academy Sixth Form please be reminded that the deadline is Friday 12th January 2024, which will come around quickly. If parents or pupils have any questions please ensure you speak to Mr Hill (Assistant Headteacher) or Miss Brough (Sixth Form Co-ordinator) before the end of term and they will assist you. Please click on the following link for the application form - <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/sixth-form/>.

Year 11 Career Advisor and Post-16 Studies

If your child has not applied for college or sixth form yet, and they are unsure on the post-16 path they want to pursue, please contact your child's Head of House. We have now doubled our career advisor capacity as a school and will be able to book your child in for another appointment. It is pivotal that all pupils have applied for a college, apprenticeship or sixth form before 31st January 2024, and some deadlines are before then. It is also vital for all pupils to apply for more than one destination so that they have multiple options after receiving their GCSEs.

We hope all pupils enjoy the first school panto which will take place on the last day of term. Pupils will have the opportunity to see performing staff in a very different light! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips
Headteacher

