



Wednesfield Academy

Prospectus

'Changing Lives,
Shaping Futures'

2024 - 2025



A PROUD MEMBER OF MATRIX ACADEMY TRUST

Education **Without Exception**

I am very proud to be the CEO of the Matrix Academy Trust. It is truly a privilege to work with like-minded, hard-working colleagues who are all focused on delivering the Trust's vision.

Our vision is simple: every child deserves an exceptional education. We make this happen by doing the things which really make a difference. Working smartly means we have staff who want to work here. It ensures we have the capacity to care for every pupil, providing them with the best possible education – without exception.

A great school is one people want to work at and one parents want to send their children to. No matter how great our schools might be, we never rest on our laurels. We are restless in our efforts to keep improving and we instil this in our young people.

Welcome to Matrix Academy Trust.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Lynsey Draycott".

Lynsey Draycott



Matrix
Academy Trust



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to our prospectus in which I hope you will find all the information you require about our school.

We build our school ethos around our motto of “Changing Lives, Shaping Futures” which shows our focus on ensuring that our pupils become highly successful citizens in a 21st century world. Our day-to-day practice is tied closely to our “Team Wednesfield” values of:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Pride
- Opportunity
- Success

We endeavour to ensure that our community shows these values in everything that they do.

As an oversubscribed school we are striving to improve provision for our pupils on a day-to-day basis and we will never stop our clear focus on continuous improvement. We have amazing learning spaces with subject specialists in every curriculum area.

As Headteacher, I value the committed staff that we have and appreciate the hours of dedication that they provide to ensure that pupils are successful and have a range of opportunities beyond the school.

Come and see for yourself our amazing school, our fabulous young people and our committed staff. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr J Phillips | Headteacher

CHANGING LIVES, SHAPING FUTURES



ADMISSIONS.

The number of intended admissions in September 2024 will be **180.**

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 years without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied.

- 1.** Children in Public Care (looked after children) & previously looked after children. A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.
- 2.** Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students qualify for a sibling claim.
- 3.** Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child.
- 4.** Where a member of staff has been employed at Wednesfield Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage / or the member of staff has been seconded to support another school within the Matrix Academy Trust.
- 5.** Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line.



**Visit the school website
for a full breakdown and
descriptions of our
admissions criteria.**

APPEALS.

Parents/carers whose children are refused admission to the school have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The necessary forms and information should be obtained from the Appeals Board, Bloxwich Academy, Leamore Lane, Walsall, West Midlands WS2 7NR to whom completed forms are returned. Please mark the envelope Admissions-Appeal.

**Appeals, in respect of Year 7 intake for
September 2024, should be lodged by
Friday 12th April 2024.**



WAITING LIST.

Until 31st August 2024 parents may enquire about their child's position on the Waiting List by contacting the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team on 01922 710 257.

INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS.

In the Autumn term, Year 7 parents/carers will be invited into school for a settling in evening. During this evening there is an opportunity to meet Form Tutors, Heads of Houses and the Leadership team to discuss the transition of your child from primary to secondary school. We are always keen to see parents/carers about any aspect of a child's education. It is vital that appointments are made to ensure that you see the appropriate person. Whenever you contact the school, please give the name of your child's Form Tutor, Form group and Head of House.

PROGRESS EVENING.

One Progress Evening is arranged for each year group during the school year. You will have the opportunity to make an appointment with your child's teachers. You will be informed of the dates and they will be published on the school's website. It is expected that all parents/carers will attend Progress Evenings.

MOST ABLE.

We believe that everyone should aspire to achieve as highly as they can. To this end, although pupils are stretched at Wednesfield Academy regardless of their academic potential, some activities are targeted specifically at more able pupils, including competitions, stretch activities, visits to and talks from university staff.

The school has links with the full range of universities including many in the Russell Group such as Oxford and Birmingham. Highly able pupils are offered alternative curriculum provision through a range of extension opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES

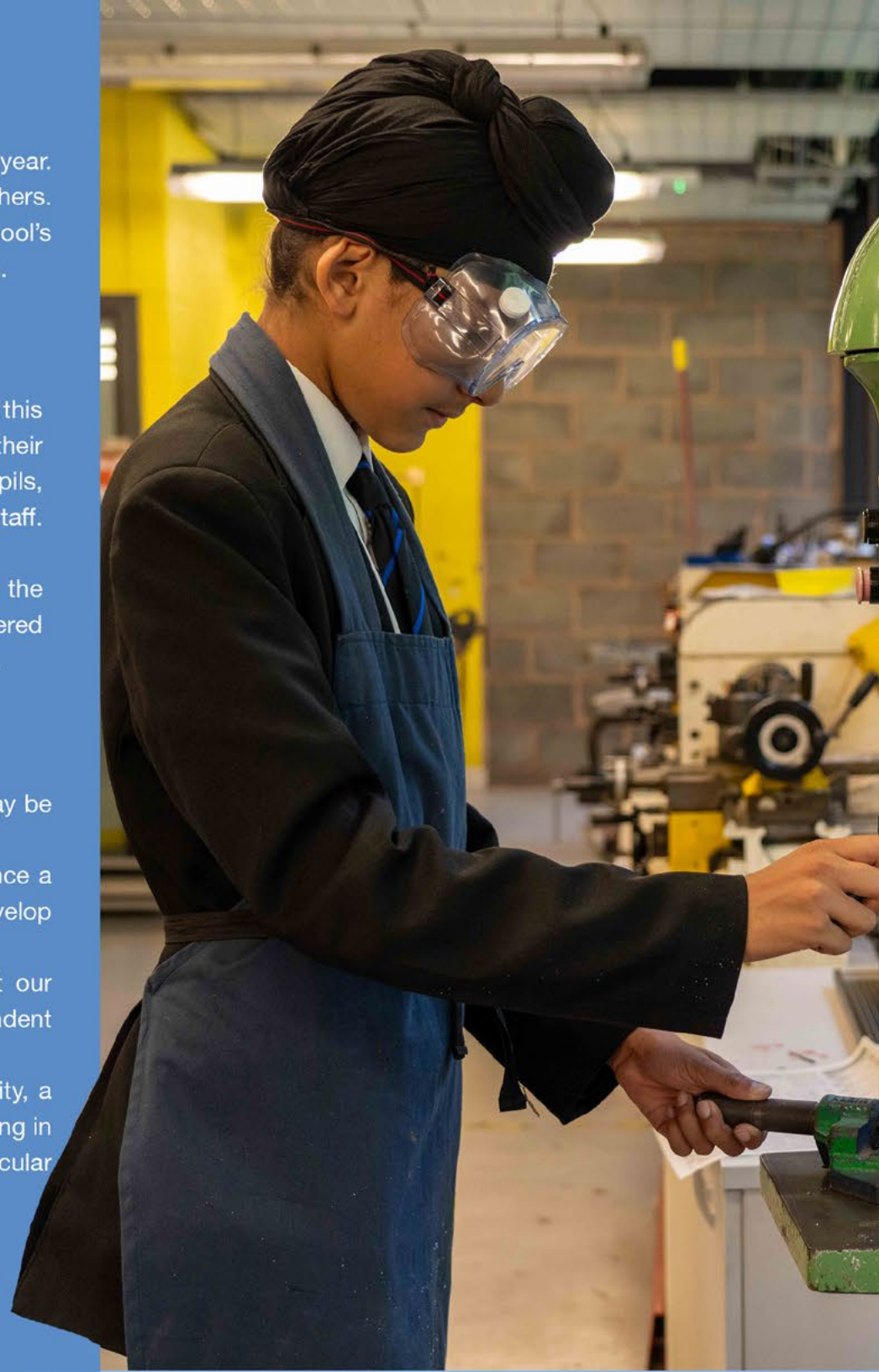
We endeavour to build experiences into our schemes of learning. This may be through field studies, trips, outdoor learning and residential.

We have an extensive enrichment programme where pupils can experience a range of activities alongside leadership positions within our school to develop their cultural capital.

We build pupils aspirations through the gold standard experience that our students receive through our careers programme and access to an independent careers advisor.

Students from Years 7 through to Year 9 can join the Children's University, a charity which works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children, by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school.

We take pride in our community links working in collaboration with Wednesfield in Bloom and contributing to local community projects and competitions.



REPORTS.

Effort, homework and attainment grades are issued termly to parents/carers to keep them informed of their child's progress. A summary report is sent home at the end of each year. If, on any occasion, you do not receive a report, you should immediately let your child's Head of House know.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROVISION.

Wednesfield Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of all abilities. Whatever ability, each child is encouraged to reach their potential.

Recognising that some children may require extra support, there is a range of provision on offer to match individual children's needs. The SEND Coordinator has the responsibility of ensuring the Code of Practice is implemented. All staff take responsibility for meeting the additional needs of the pupils that they teach. Parents/carers are fully involved in the process of monitoring their child's progress. The school encourages active involvement of parents in the learning of all children, understanding that regular communication plays a vital role in the success of each individual. Pupils with additional needs experience a range of teaching strategies including reading withdrawal, small group work and in-class support.

LEARNING SUPPORT.

Provision is made for those pupils with learning difficulties or additional needs by the Learning Support Team. This occasionally may take the form of extraction from some lessons for additional help in literacy and numeracy. At other times specialist staff will support teachers in the classroom, or provide materials to supplement the teacher's work. Where special needs of a registered disability are identified, every effort is made to make special provision for pupils within the resources available. Children with specific learning needs may be invited to attend a range of clubs both before and after school to boost weaknesses in areas as specified by the Code of Practice.

PASTORAL CARE.

The pastoral organisation of the school is dedicated to the development of pupils' social skills, attitude, academic progress and their personal welfare. All staff are involved in this work. In particular, Form Tutors are directly responsible for the progress of their tutees and work closely with Heads of House who lead the teams of Form Tutors within each House group. We expect pupils to do well and to 'be the best they can be' at Wednesfield Academy and there is a positive reward system for academic achievement and effort.

The school's first priority, over and above all other responsibilities, is the welfare of pupils. If staff are concerned about the welfare of any pupil, parents/carers are usually the first to be contacted. If the concerns are sufficient to suggest that there is the possibility of abuse, then staff will contact the appropriate Child Protection Agency, usually Children's

If the school has any concerns regarding any pupil with reference to safeguarding, we will always make a referral to Children's Services.

The school is aware that this occasionally causes problems in relationships with parents/carers. But if the school is concerned about a pupil there are procedures which we must follow to ensure their safety. All matters of concern regarding the welfare of the pupils are recorded in the school files and these are available to be seen by parents.

We do share information as part of our multiagency agreement with Health Services, Police, Children's Services and other agencies where appropriate.

SCHOOL SECURITY

We aim to keep all our pupils safe. There are CCTV cameras around the school. CCTV images may be used from time to time to ensure the safety of pupils, visitors and staff and the protection of Wednesfield Academies grounds and contents.

Parents/carers are asked to contact school first if they wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff, and on visiting school report directly to Reception. We will act to ensure Wednesfield Academy remains a safe place for pupils, staff and other members of the community. People who threaten or assault anyone in the school, or persist in abusive behaviour, will be asked to leave the premises and we will request that the Police prosecute.

DISCIPLINE

In any large organisation there must be rules and regulations. These are kept to a minimum, but always there should be courtesy and consideration for the needs, convenience and safety of other people. The school rules are set out in the school's behaviour policy. Discipline is firm and consistent on the basis that children respond to the high expectations placed upon them. When a consequence is given it usually consists of a reprimand, detention, referral to Head of Department, referral to Head of House, Senior Pastoral staff or a warning letter. We operate a 24 hour notice 20-minute detention to support behaviour and learning.

On rare occasions, a senior member of staff is involved and parents/carers may be invited to the school to discuss particular problems. A variety of strategies are used to improve behaviour. However, in serious or persistent cases of indiscipline, suspension from school will result.



Our curriculum provides pupils with the **knowledge and experiences** which will **interest and empower** them to **thrive in the workplace** and make informed contributions to our **democratic society**.



The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which builds on previous learning for all students. All students will follow a sequential learning journey from Years 7 to 11, with the opportunity to continue their studies in our thriving sixth form.

Subjects are taught in specialist suites of rooms by subject specialist teachers to ensure that provision is of the highest quality.

In the early phase of their education, pupils follow a curriculum that develops knowledge and understanding in the following subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Citizenship, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Food, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Performing Arts, Social and Health Education, Physical Education, Religious Education and Technology.

As pupils progress into Year 10, they will study examination subjects with a wide range of GCSE and Vocational qualifications to choose from.

The structure of our curriculum therefore ensures that pupils are challenged to achieve the highest possible grades and to progress onto a destination of their choice.

At 16, pupils can choose to progress onto our sixth form, where a breadth of courses and teacher expertise ensures that students gain the qualifications and develop skills to progress on to their chosen pathway at 18.

What we offer at GCSE level:

- **Art**
- **Business**
- **Childcare**
- **Citizenship**
- **Computer Science**
- **English Language and English Literature**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **History**
- **IT**
- **Mathematics**
- **Media**
- **Music**
- **PE**
- **Performing Arts: Dance**
- **Performing Arts: Drama**
- **Psychology**
- **Science - Triple and Combined Sciences**
- **Sociology**
- **Sport**
- **Travel and Tourism**

WEDNESFIELD VALUES.

At Wednesfield Academy, we recognise how important your child's future is and we reflect this in our school vision of "Changing Lives, Shaping Futures". We focus hard on helping your child to make their dreams come true and are dedicated to doing everything possible to ensure that they succeed. We see your child as an individual and work hard to meet their needs academically, personally and socially.

The school bases its work around five common values which we place at the very heart of our community and are each assigned to one of our four 'Houses':

Wednesfield Values



Respect

We respect ourselves, others and the school

Resilience

We work hard, always try our best and never give up

Pride

We are proud of ourselves, our school and our achievements

Opportunity

We are positive and make the most of our opportunities

Success

We celebrate the achievements of everyone



UNIFORM.

Pupils must always wear school uniform when in school and their appearance should be appropriate to a working environment. Shirts must be tucked in, top buttons fastened and ties tied so that 6 stripes are visible underneath the knot. Coats are not to be worn around the school building. Our ties and badges are stocked by Clive Marks at their schoolwear store.

Pupils are permitted to wear a wristwatch and one pair of plain studs in the lower earlobe. Piercings must be taken out prior to all PE lessons and sporting activities. Any other jewellery worn may be confiscated and placed in the school safe for collection at the end of the day.

Make-up in years 7 and 8 is not allowed. Make-up in years 9, 10 and 11 is to be discreet and natural-looking if it is to be worn at all. False eyelashes are not permitted, nor are fake tans.

Natural nail varnish is permitted but false nails are also not allowed. In the event of a make-up/nail varnish infringement, pupils will be asked to remove their make-up and or nail varnish in their house office.

Extreme Hair colour and high fashion cult hairstyles are not permitted. Shaved heads (grade 2 or shorter) and shaved eyebrows are not permitted. Any cult and other extreme hairstyles or body marking/piercing is banned.

SCHOOL UNIFORM.

- Black blazer with school badge
- White polyester/cotton shirt
- School tie (*House Colours*)
- Black school trousers (*not skinny fit or 'drainpipe' style*)
- Black school skirt (*knee length*)
- Black tights (*not patterned*)
- Black school shoes (*no canvas pumps or trainers*)
- School bag large enough to fit an A4 file

PE KIT.

The compulsory items for every PE lesson are:

- Navy or black PE Top
- Navy or black PE shorts, leggings or track pants
- White socks
- Sports trainers or boots depending on the activity.

You may also purchase optional items:

- Navy mid-layer jumper

The Headteacher's decision on uniform (including hairstyles, makeup, nail varnish and jewellery) is final.





ATTENDANCE.

We expect your child to attend every day. If a child does not attend school they will not learn. All parents/carers of a pupil who will not be attending school through illness, etc are required to telephone the school office before 9.00am to give the reason. If no valid reason is shared, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. By law only the school can authorise an absence. Pupils are registered at 8.30am every morning.

The Local Authority's Educational Welfare Service investigates unexplained absences. It is essential that pupils attend school regularly. We believe that school attainment and success are closely linked with regular attendance. Dental or medical treatment should be arranged after school, or during school holidays. If your child's attendance is below 90% they will be monitored by the Education Welfare Service. If, for very exceptional circumstances, you need to request absence from school for your child during school time you should apply to the school, 8 weeks prior to the known absence, by letter. Once this has been returned to the school, the school will confirm whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

We do NOT authorise holidays during the school term time. Research has found that two weeks absence can seriously affect examination results. By taking time off school for holidays parents are encouraging their child to fail. Cheap holidays will reduce the academic achievement of your child.

EXPECTATIONS.

At Wednesfield Academy, the expectation for our pupils in both behaviour and achievement is extremely high. We expect pupils to be polite, orderly and considerate of others and of property.

High standards of behaviour are expected in and out of classrooms. This ensures all pupils can learn effectively and maximise their progress. No one has the right to spoil other pupils' learning. A positive, caring atmosphere based on an ethos of mutual respect provides a working environment where youngsters can reach their full potential. We need your support to ensure that we work in true partnership to support your child.

HOMEWORK.

All pupils will be expected to do homework. The amount set will be appropriate to the age and different needs of pupils. Homework will be logged in pupils' planners so parents/carers can monitor weekly tasks.

SPORT.

Sport is a very important and vibrant part of pupils' lives at Wednesfield Academy. The school's philosophy is to provide opportunities for all at a level appropriate to pupils' abilities in a wide range of sporting activities. Our intention is that all pupils enjoy their Physical Educational experience and develop self-respect, teamwork, confidence and the sporting competence they need to participate in physical activity out of school hours and in later life.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR.

All pupils are encouraged to develop an interest and participate in the wide range of activities which take place outside the normal school timetable. We encourage all pupils to actively involve themselves in extra-curricular activities. We expect every child to be involved in at least one extra-curricular activity. A copy of the Extra-Curricular Programme is available on the school's website. This programme is updated each term.

A wide range of clubs and activities take place after school. There are many sporting activities in which the pupils may participate and the school takes part in competitions with other local schools. Summer Schools, weekend trips and Holiday Schemes are also available.

In Key Stage 3 pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum from the areas of games, gymnastics, swimming, athletics and outdoor adventure activities, whilst also following a course in health-related fitness.

During Key Stage 4 pupils are able to select the activities they wish to pursue including traditional competitive team games and fitness and health-based activities.

Wednesfield Academy operates an extra-curricular sports programme including a range of competitive and non-competitive activities in which all pupils are encouraged to participate. We encourage competition in sport and regularly enjoy success in a range of sporting activities at district levels. We hold an annual Sports Day (weather permitting) in the summer term.

When a pupil regularly attends extra-curricular activities they may have the honour of being selected to represent the school. To achieve success in sport, and all areas of life, it takes dedication and commitment. This is something Bloxwich Academy strives to instil in its pupils through sport.

OUR FACILITIES

- Multi-purpose Sports Hall
- 2 Football Pitches
- Dance Studio
- Fitness Suite



TEACHING AND LEARNING.

At Wednesfield Academy we are passionate about ensuring that our pupils receive consistently high standards of teaching and learning across all curriculum areas. We strive to deliver lessons that are engaging, challenging, active and meaningful whilst supporting our pupils' individual needs. Through effective feedback, we encourage our pupils to be reflective and independent learners, taking a lead in their own progress. To make sure that teaching and learning is as high quality as possible, all teachers are involved in regular training programmes and support.

Our passion for creating a climate for effective learning also goes beyond the classroom, with regularly set home learning that extends students' learning opportunities and trips and visits which deepen understanding. We aim to inspire our pupils to be the best they can be, supporting them to develop a lifelong love of learning.

ASSESSMENT

At Wednesfield Academy, we appreciate the importance of assessment. Our staff assess students in line with our four teaching cycles, this allows colleagues to identify which areas of the curriculum students need further support and development with.

Our expectations are high. All students will receive a working at grade three times a year. To reach this working at grade teachers use test information, lesson time and other assessment strategies to reach this holistic outcome. Our assessments refer to key steps in our curriculum plans which have been mapped against end of Key Stage 4 or end of Key Stage 5 expectations.

At Key Stage 3 we also use Accelerated Reader to support pupils with reading as well as giving teachers access to this information in order for work and resources to be appropriately planned.



ENRICHMENT

We are proud of the variety of enrichment activities provided at the school. These are essential tools in engaging all pupils with continued learning outside of the classroom and give further opportunities to accelerate progress.

Enrichment sessions take place on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm, with students choosing from an extensive programme.

Students can choose to engage in many of the practical offers such as sports clubs, where they not only increase their skill levels and keep active, however also have the opportunity to represent the school and compete against other schools!

We have a range of trips beyond the academy, such as international visits including New York. These provide amazing opportunities for students to experience new cultures. Wednesfield Academy is a fully licensed Duke of Edinburgh Award centre.

Participating in our Enrichment programme is a key aspect of being a Wednesfield Academy pupil. Investing time beyond academic studies is of great benefit in developing into a fully rounded young person. Trying something new, meeting different staff and pupils is all part of the experience of being a valued member of our academy.

EXAMINATION POLICY.

The school enters pupils for GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications. Although in a very few cases it may not be considered appropriate to enter pupils for external examinations, it is the school's policy to enter all pupils who have completed the course. We will endeavour to enter any pupil who is fluent in reading, writing, speaking and listening in any language for a GCSE in this language. Year 12 and 13 students sit exams in May and June.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

Religious Education takes place throughout the school. All pupils are given the opportunity to discover Christian heritage and beliefs as well as exploring the central elements of other world faiths, on the grounds of conscience. Religious Education is an important part of the school's cultural and moral education. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education and acts of collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Please contact the Headteacher in writing to request withdrawal.

SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS.

Appropriate and responsible sex education is an important element in preparing pupils for adult life. Parents/carers are the key figures in helping their children to cope with physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings.

The teaching offered by the school will complement and support the role of parents/carers regarding this topic. However, some parents/carers may not feel able to discuss sexual matters fully and freely with their children and because of this the school has a clear responsibility to ensure that pupils are adequately prepared for adult life. The physical aspects of sexual behaviour are covered within the teaching of Science. This begins in Year 7 and various aspects are taught throughout the first three years. Emotional and health aspects of sex and relationships are addressed in the PSHE programme for Years 7-11 through lessons.

We work hard to promote e-safety with all our pupils. The disadvantage and advantages of electronic information sharing is covered in lessons and assemblies.



SIXTH FORM.

Our Sixth Form offers the opportunity to study a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, providing students with the qualifications required to follow their chosen career path.

Our Sixth Form Leadership Team take an active role in school life and are our very best representatives. This Team of Head Students, Deputy Head Students and Ambassadors are a vital link with the younger year groups, supporting the House system and providing mentoring in lessons.

Students are expected to wear smart business wear as their uniform. A wide and varied enrichment programme is provided to support the development of wider key life and employability skills. We are very conscious that universities, apprenticeship providers and prospective employers look for the wider expertise a student possesses that not only complements academic attainment, but also enhances their growth into confident adults, as our motto says: Learners today, Leaders tomorrow.



Visit the Matrix Academy
Trust dedicated careers
site for more information

www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk/careers

COURSES AVAILABLE AT SIXTH FORM

A LEVELS

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

VOCATIONAL

- Business
- Childcare
- Criminology
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Media
- Performing Arts
- Sport



BICYCLES.

No cycle may be brought on to the premises unless it is mechanically safe and pupils who cycle will be expected to have attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency. All reasonable care will be taken, but the responsibility for the safety of cycles and accessories will remain with the owners. Cyclists are advised to padlock their cycles. Cycling helmets are recommended. We promote cycling by the provision of a cycle shelter and a cycling proficiency course. Electronic Scooters are not permitted on site or to be used to travel to school as per the law.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

Pupils eligible for free school meals will receive funding for their daily lunch. Many other opportunities are provided to support pupils academic achievement and additional learning resources are provided to enable independent access. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to apply for free school meals for their child. If any support is required with this process, please contact the school reception who will be able to assist.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY.

The belief that everyone deserves to be treated equally, including having the same opportunities, is central to everything we do at Wednesfield Academy. There are many events throughout the year to promote the school's culture of equality and diversity.

MENTAL HEALTH.

We work hard to promote positive Mental Health for all our pupils. We engage in important activities that promote positive Mental Health such as exercise, talking to friends and family and being creative.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.

If you wish to make a complaint about the school, in the first instance, you should contact the Headteacher in writing. Your complaint will be investigated following the Governors' Complaints Procedures, a full copy of which is available at the school and on the school website.

EMERGENCY CONTACT.

Please ensure that emergency telephone numbers (*work phone number, mobile phone numbers etc*) are kept up to date. Notify any changes of address, telephone, emergency contact, etc to the school office immediately. Schools are required by law to have two emergency contacts per child.



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