

Our Ref: JP/VEH/JAS

12th January 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you all had a great festive break, and Happy New Year! We had some exciting news this week, as one of our Year 13 pupils was offered a place at Oxford University. This is the first time this has happened at Wednesfield Academy in the past 20 years and as a school we are immensely proud of them. It is an exciting time for the Sixth Form, as other pupils have been offered places at Birmingham, Nottingham and other excellent universities.

This letter has some key information for parents, and the latter part is relevant to Year 11 and 13 pupils only.

Careers Provision Development

Within school we are working hard with several external providers to ensure that all pupils have access to the best careers programme possible. As you will have seen from last term's newsletters, pupils in several year groups have already had opportunities to work with Warwick University, Aston University and Aberystwyth University as well as over 20 providers who attended our Pathways Event in November 2023.

This term that provision will continue to grow with labour market information assemblies in February, a whole school careers event in March, the opportunity for Year 8 to attend Worcester University, Year 12 to complete work experience and Year 9 pupils to take part in our Take Your Child to Work initiative in the summer term.

We understand the value of maintaining links with our Alumni, as well as utilising the experiences of our parents in supporting the careers programme in school. If you are a parent and are interested in supporting with careers education within school, we would love to hear from you by completing the survey <https://forms.office.com/e/KzWvraVTsv>.

Homework: ClassCharts

As a school we value meaningful homework and understand the positive impact that homework can have on your child's progress.

From Monday 29th January 2024 all homework tasks will be set on ClassCharts which will mean that as parents you will be able to view all homework set each week on the app, in addition to checking that your child has recorded this in their planner.

We hope that this will support you to continue to work with us to encourage your child to complete the tasks set and to help develop their independence.



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Free School Meals

Within school, we can work with the Local Authority to support your applications for free school meals. If this is something that you would like us to check on your behalf, please complete the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZwTCyaPDHT>.

It is important that we have the information for both parents to process your application. If your child has recently joined us from a school in a different Local Authority your free school meals claim will not automatically transfer across to Wolverhampton and you will need to complete the link above.

If your circumstances have recently changed and you would like us to support a new application, please complete the link above.

Data Collection

In the autumn term we shared correspondence regarding ensuring that the information we have for your child is up-to-date. This is vital especially in terms of safeguarding. We appreciate that it is quite a detailed document, but this is to ensure that our records are as accurate as possible. If there are some questions that you cannot answer or that you deem as unnecessary, please complete with N/A. We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to complete the information on the relevant link below if you haven't already done so:

Sixth Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/xx7v0uBYhy>

Year 11: <https://forms.office.com/e/5KS6rfMi0Y>

Year 10: <https://forms.office.com/e/DtfDZY6TLP>

Year 9: <https://forms.office.com/e/9BT8RPmMcU>

Year 8: <https://forms.office.com/e/A06g0JbgD3>

Year 7: <https://forms.office.com/e/1rWayh0LLH>

Behaviour

Behaviour across the school has improved and there is much more focus in lessons, but there is still work to do. The number of suspensions has reduced, which is a result of improved school systems and the excellent support from many parents in addressing any behaviour concerns. An important part of ensuring this continues to improve are the reintegration meetings if your child is suspended.

This allows the school and parents to discuss appropriate support for individual pupils and address the reasons for the suspension. These meetings are arranged with parents and aim to offer a united approach to support pupils.

Unfortunately, a small minority of parents still do not attend these meetings meaning that we are unable to form strong partnerships between home and school in these cases. It is then not surprising that although behaviour in school is improving, there is a direct correlation between repeat suspensions and the pupils whose parents do not attend the reintegration meeting.

Wednesfield Friends

The 'Wednesfield Friends' which is our parent and staff partnership group have been busy so far this academic year. In December 2023, the 'Wednesfield Friends' organised our Festive Market. We are pleased to announce that we raised £1,000 from this event. We have now donated money back into school and supported the PE department in funding new improved equipment. The group looks forward to providing further support to the performing arts department for this year's school show and the library for some of our pupils' favourite book collections.

Our next event is bingo which will be held on Thursday 1st February 2024 and please check our school's social media page for more information. This is an adult only event, and we would like to see as many parents there as possible.



The Friends' Group are recruiting new members. If you can offer ideas and would like to join us, please contact us via postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

School Intervention Police Officer (SIPO)

We are now fortunate to have a weekly visit from our SIPO. The SIPO is working with some of our pupils on a one-to-one basis and we are keen to promote this with parents. If you are concerned about your child and feel that they would benefit from speaking to our SIPO, please contact Mrs Bingham (Deputy Headteacher) via postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk or by calling the school.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to parents and carers who contact the House Office each morning when there is an absence and provide evidence for medical appointments. Last term, the school's attendance continued to increase.

We work very closely with the Local Authority and meet weekly with the Education Welfare Officer to discuss pupil attendance and punctuality. This week, we have been informed by the Local Authority that one set of parents at Wednesfield Academy, who were given a court date last half term, have now received their fine of over £450.

This is something we want to avoid, although it will happen when pupils are severely absent and there is no justification. However, as we have informed you in previous letters, parents are legally responsible for sending their child to school every day and it is a drain on resources when a child is severely absent without a valid reason. These resources would be used for investing further in the education of our pupils. Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that if a pupil is late after 9.00am, this affects their attendance, which can initiate action from the Local Authority. Pupils must be in school by 8:30am.

Extra-curricular activities

I am pleased to share with you the fantastic range of opportunities available for your child this term. There are 27 before or after school clubs on offer. There is no need to sign-up for the clubs in advance, just turn up! Information for all the extra-curricular clubs can be found on the school website: <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/wa-extra-curricular.pdf>

Day	What is the name of your Extra-curricular club?	Description of Club:	What time is the club running?	Who can attend the club?	Location:	Teachers running the club:
Monday	Japanese Club	Enjoy learning a new language	3:00-3:45pm	All pupils	3012	Mr McDermott
Monday	Badminton Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing badminton with others	3:00-4:15	All pupils	Sports Hall	Miss Morris
Monday	Year 8 Football Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing football with others	3:00-4:15	Year 8 pupils	Field	Mr Harris
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	After School Library Club	A quiet place to complete homework, read or borrow/return library books.	Tuesday - Thursday: 3pm-4pm, Friday: 3pm-3:30pm	All pupils	Library	Miss Hickman, Miss Mellaband and Miss Kapoor
Monday and Tuesday	Performing Arts Open Classroom	For students who are enthusiastic and enjoy performing arts to rehearse and create their own pieces	3:00 - 4:00pm	All pupils	Drama Studio (3014)	Miss Jones, Miss Cooper, Miss Nash, Miss Sether, Miss Passelle-Reid, Miss Morris
Tuesday - Friday	Before School Library Club	A quiet place to complete homework, read or borrow/return library books.	8:00am-8:25am	All pupils - pupils must have a library pass for before school club	Library	Miss Hickman, Miss Mellaband and Miss Kapoor
Tuesday	Year 10 + 11 Football Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing football with others	5:00-5:15pm	Year 10+11 pupils	Field	Mr Parsons
Tuesday	Homework Club	An invite only club for SEND pupils to gain extra support with completing homework.	3:00-4:00pm	Invite only	Success Centre	Mrs Cotterill and Mrs Carpenter
Tuesday	Business Enterprise Club	own business and working with real-life charities to fundraise for charitable causes.	3:00-4:00pm	Year 7, 8, and 9 pupils.	009	Mr Dhanoo
Tuesday	Girls Football	Enjoy learning new skills and playing football with others	3:00-4:00pm	K53 and K54	Field	Miss Long
Tuesday	Disney Club	Pupils will learn to be more vocal and confident in	3:00-4:00pm	All pupils	0251	Miss Webster, Miss Shabe and Mrs

Tuesday	Disney Club	Pupils will learn to be more vocal and confident in expressing themselves. It is a great place to debut and embrace their inner Disney self through song.	3:00-4:00pm	All pupils	0051	Mrs Webster, Miss Shatto and Mrs Lovegrove
Tuesday	Extra Art	The chance to learn more in the Art world, try out materials you wouldn't be able to use in lessons, finish class work or gain more knowledge in a subject you're interested in.	3:00-4:00pm	All pupils	C007	Miss Edwards and Miss Smith
Tuesday	K33&4 Film Club	K33&4 Film club is for anyone who wants to learn how to direct, edit and star in films.	3:00-4:00pm	K33 and K34	C006	Miss Bloom
Tuesday	K33 Basketball Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing basketball with others.	3:00-4:15pm	K33 only	Sports Hall	Mr Dunn
Tuesday	Rugby Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing Rugby with others.	3:00-4:15pm	All pupils	Field	Mr Jess
Tuesday and Thursday	Boxing Club	A boxing coach comes into school to teach pupils skills in boxing.	3:00-4:00pm	Invite only (speak to Mrs Bingham for more info)	Activity Studio	Boxing coach + Mrs Bingham
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	Before School Football	Enjoy learning new skills and playing football with others.	7:30-8:15am	All pupils	Reception	Mr Parsons, Mr Dunn, Mr Harris
Wednesday	Table-Top Club	For pupils who enjoy painting and playing Warhammer 40,000 as well as participating in other Table-Top games such as Trading Card games or Board Games.	3:15 - 4:15 pm	All Pupils	C011	Mr Copson, Mr Wilson, Mr Colles, Mr Gallagher, Mr Sibanda
Wednesday	Spurs club in C008	For students to complete Spurs homework (Maths homework) on computers.	3:00-4:00pm	Year 7 - 11	C008	Mr Owen
Wednesday	Punjabi Club	Communicate and have fun with others in Punjabi.	3:00-4:00pm	All pupils	3012	Mrs Olinway and Mrs Sanglan
Wednesday	V8 Cadets	Year 8 cadets join Blawich for their cadet programme.	2:00-5:00pm	V8 Cadets only	Meet outside De Maron	Mr Randall, Mr Boswell, Miss Hickman, Miss Mulford, Mr McDermott

Wednesday	K34 Basketball Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing basketball with others.	3:00-4:15 pm	K34 only	Sports Hall	Mr Harris
Wednesday	Year 9 Football Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing football with others.	3:00-4:15 pm	Year 9 pupils	Field	Mr Parsons
Wednesday	Year 7 Football Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing football with others.	3:00-4:15 pm	Year 7 pupils	Field	Mr Dunn
Wednesday	Netball Club	Enjoy learning new skills and playing netball with others.	3:00-4:15 pm	All pupils	MUGA	Miss Morris
Thursday	Maths Paper Society	Year 10 and 11 students can come along to work through maths exam questions in a relaxed environment where they can get teacher support to help improve their exam technique.	3:00-4:00pm	K34 only	3125	Miss Poynton
Friday	Hockey Club	Coaches from Blawich Hockey Club will teach you new skills in Hockey.	3:00-4:00pm	All pupils	Sports Hall	Mr Hill and Mr Parsons

Period 6 for Year 11 and Year 13

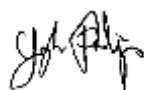
Period 6 will restart on Monday 15th January 2024 for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13. Pupils must attend the sessions they have been invited to. Pupils are also able to attend sessions that they have not been invited to.

It is crucial we make every minute count as we approach the new mock examinations that take place after February half-term. If you have any questions about Period 6, please contact the academy and ask for Mr Hill.

Thank you for your continued support and if your child does something outside of school that you would like the school to celebrate in the next newsletter then please let us know.

If you have any queries, please contact your child's Head of House or the Sixth Form Office by calling 01902 558 222 or email postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk and include your child's name and form group in the subject.

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips
Headteacher