

Our Ref: JP/JAS

22nd January 2024



Wednesfield Academy
www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all year 11 parents who attended Parents' Evening last week. It was really positive to hear from parents that they preferred the online booking system. We will be looking for future Parents' Evenings to go online so that it is easier for parents to attend around work and other commitments. There will still always be the option for parents to contact their child's Head of House or Sixth Form lead to request meetings in school if they have matters that they would rather discuss in person.

This letter outlines some key updates for pupils. As with previous letters, there is key year 11 and 13 information at the bottom of the letter, so please do not miss this if it applies to your child. I would like to thank parents for their communication with the school via the Postbox email address. When emailing Postbox, it is really helpful if parents can ensure their child's full name and form group (or house) is in the subject area so we can get the message to the relevant staff as quickly as possible.

Wednesfield Friends Bingo Evening

We are excited to advertise our upcoming 'Wednesfield Friends' event. We are hosting our first ever bingo night on Thursday 1st February 2024 from 6.00pm onwards. This is an adult only event and we hope to see as many parents, carers and members of the local community there as possible. There will be prizes, refreshments and a raffle.

Apps – Information on the Legalities and Dangers

We realise the pressures that parents/carers feel from their children when it comes to internet usage and apps, particularly social media and gaming apps. Information about age ratings and reasoning for these can be found at the following link and can be used to start meaningful conversations between you and your children about their internet usage
<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>.

Did you know that Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok and Twitter all have an age 13 rating on them, meaning that children under the age of 13 should not have access to accounts on these platforms.

For more information about how to keep your children safe online, visit the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>. It is crucial that pupils do not make themselves vulnerable online and if you ever have concerns that you think the school can help with then please contact your child's Head of House or the Sixth Form office.



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Photography Competition

We are writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for all pupils. Matrix Academy Trust are launching a trust-wide competition and we would like to encourage Wednesfield Academy pupils to enter.

The chair of trustees Sir Mark Aspinall has been invited to have his photograph taken to be placed in the Victoria Law Court in Birmingham. Sir Mark has over 20 years' experience in Law across banking, financial, media, NHS, Government and FTSE corporate sector and is currently a Judge and a Governor of a Local Authority Primary School.

We would like to take this opportunity to see your very best photography work and give you the opportunity to have your work hung in the law court for years to come. See below details on how to get involved with our Matrix photography competition.

Submission Criteria: You can submit up to three portrait style images, each image can be of the same or a different subject. Your images should be saved in jpeg format. Images should not be altered or edited, we want to see your original photograph. Cropping is allowed. Images should be sent with your full name, form group, school name and a short write up to explain your style of image. Submit your images to photography@matrixacademytrust.co.uk.

Submission Deadline: Sunday 18th February 2024. Speak to your media/creative arts teacher for help and guidance.

Prize: The winning submission will be chosen by Sir Mark Aspinall and Mrs Draycott (CEO Matrix Academy Trust). The winner will receive £150 and the opportunity to take the commissioned image in to Victoria Law Court in Birmingham. The winners photograph of Sir Mark Aspinall will be proudly hung in the court. The oldest image currently hanging in the court is over 180-year olds. This is a chance to take a photograph that will be seen in court for many years to come.

It would be fantastic to see as many submissions as possible from Wednesfield Academy and in order to showcase those with a passion for photography, we will ensure all submissions are celebrated regardless of if they win the final prize or not. If you are interested in entering this competition, please find more information here <https://matrixacademytrust.co.uk/photography>. Alternatively, in school your child can speak to Miss Bloxam, Miss Edwards or Mrs Bingham.

Year 11 and 13 (also useful information for year 10 and 12)

It is great to have so many parents supporting their child with their revision and preparation for this summer's examinations. As explained to the pupils, no question is too small and all their teachers and staff want to ensure that they gain the best grades possible this summer.

If you want to know the examination timetable, then please look on the following weblink to the school website [Exams - Wednesfield Academy](#). If you require information on the examination boards your child is studying, revision guides or key information for Mathematics and English GCSE revision, please look at the letters that have previously been sent out on this weblink [School Letters - Wednesfield Academy](#). If you do have any queries though, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House or the Sixth Form office by calling 01902-558222 or emailing postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk.

We have been working hard in the school to ensure that pupils are receiving appropriate and independent advice and guidance regarding careers. Our two independent careers advisors and our colleague from Connexions have been working with us with over 75% of Year 11 pupils



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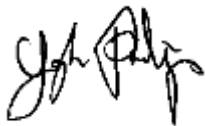


having had a careers interview since September. The remaining pupils will have been seen before February half term and this will enable the team to conduct follow up interviews if required before moving onto Year 10 and 12.

If you and your child would like further support with their applications for college, Sixth Form or a different post 16 provider please email the postbox.

On a final point, we encourage all pupils to wear a coat to and from school, as temperatures are currently very low. Many pupils also like to go outside at break time and sit outside at lunchtime and it is really important that they stay warm and do not get ill.

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips
Headteacher



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