

Our Ref: JP/JAS

16th July 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

We are so proud of Wednesfield Academy pupils' recent achievements, of which the list is endless. The pupils have put on a superb production of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', performed in another excellent Music, Arts, Drama and Dance (MADD) Evening to staff and parents, a range of pupils won a number of awards at the school's new awards evening and the sports teams have competed successfully in a number of recent sports fixtures. This list of achievements is by no means exhaustive, with so many other accomplishments, such as the recent Year 12 school trip to Peru through the Turing Scheme. Wednesfield Academy also entered a number of pupils for Mensa tests for the first time this year, and six of our pupils have qualified for the prestigious organisation, that only accepts pupils with an IQ in the top 2% of the world's population. Well done to all involved!

With the summer holidays about to start, please read this letter which contains information regarding the end of term and next academic year. If you have any questions 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.

End of term and next academic year (2024-25)

As outlined in the letter sent to parents on 3rd June 2024, the last day for this half term is Thursday 18th July 2024 and it will be a normal finish time of 3.00pm. Please be aware that the Autumn term 2024-25 will start for Year 7 and 12 (along with Year 11 Prefects who will help assist the Year 7 pupils) on Wednesday 4th September 2024, and for all other year groups on Thursday 5th September 2024.

Summer school will take place for the new Year 7 pupils from Monday 19th August until Wednesday 21st August 2024 and a letter has previously been sent out regarding this.

Attendance

As part of the Department for Education strategy around working together to improve school attendance, a new National Framework relating to Penalty Notices for school absence will come into effect from 19th August 2024.

These reforms are the next phase in the Government's plan to improve school attendance following the pandemic which has seen a worldwide rise in absence and persistent absence driven by broken habits of attendance, and new and exacerbated barriers like mental ill health.

Penalty Notice Fines for unauthorised absences will be brought under a National Framework to help tackle inconsistencies in their use. A Penalty Notice Fine to parents and carers must be considered if a child misses 10 sessions of unauthorised absence from school in a 10-week rolling period. Alongside this, Penalty Notice Fines will go up to £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days for the first Penalty Notice issued) and £160 if paid within 28 days. Any second Penalty Notice issued within three years to the same parent for the same child will be at a flat rate of £160.



Wednesfield Academy
Lichfield Road
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV11 3ES



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If absences continue within a three-year period of the first Penalty Notice being issued, alternative enforcement will be imposed. Penalty Notices may be issued if the criteria are met of 10 unauthorised sessions of absence within a 10-week period as set out in the National Framework.

The new legislation applies from Monday 19th August 2024. You can read more about the new legislation in the Department for Education's Working together to improve school attendance statutory guidance found here: [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_GOV.UK.pdf).

We would like to draw your attention to section 190 of the document which states changes to Penalty Notices. A Penalty Notice can be issued to parents by the Local Authority when parents request time off school for pupils during term time and for 10 sessions (i.e. 10 half days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent for a leave of absence. This means that if four siblings take leave of absence during term time, this would result in each parent receiving four separate fines. The first time a Penalty Notice for leave of absence, or for irregular attendance, the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days. The second time a Penalty Notice for leave of absence, or for irregular attendance is given, the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child within 28 days. The third time an offence is committed for term time leave of absence or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued – the case will proceed straight to the Magistrates' Court. Fines will be up to £2500 per parent, per child. If found guilty in a Magistrates' Court, this can show on a parents' future DBS certificate as "failure to safeguard a child's education".

Uniform

Please find on the following link all information regarding the Wednesfield Academy school uniform (<https://wednesfieldacademy.com/uniform/>). All pupils will need to ensure that they are in the correct school uniform and have listed equipment. If pupils arrive to school without a school bag and their equipment, and there is not a valid reason for this, then they will receive a consequence for not being prepared for their learning.

Please take time to look at the appropriate shoes, trousers and skirts on the weblink if you are unsure. If pupils wear uniform that does not comply with the examples then they will be given appropriate school uniform. In the unlikely event that a pupil wore incorrect uniform to school, and then refused to borrow the correct uniform, then this will be addressed by following our behaviour processes.

Results Days – A-Level Thursday 15th August 2024 and GCSE Thursday 22nd August 2024

If your child is in Year 11 or 13 then please see the two Results Days letters attached. There has also been a letter sent to all parents of pupils in Year 10 and 12 who have sat examinations this summer, and how the pupils are to collect their results. Please remember that if it is not possible for your child to collect their results, you will need to submit a letter in writing to provide the following information:

- The full name of the person who will be collecting the results
- The relationship to the pupil: this must be a family member.

Another pupil will not be permitted to collect the results. The person nominated to collect the results must bring photographic ID otherwise the results will not be able to be collected.



WEDUC

WEDUC is the system through which we communicate all news and letters to parents. This is also the platform through which you can make payments to your child's account for food and trips.

It is important that you regularly check your child's WEDUC account to ensure that it has a positive balance. If a pupil is in a minus balance, they must bring a packed lunch and a refillable water bottle. Only a sandwich will be provided, if a pupil's balance is in minus and a pupil has no food with them. Unfortunately, we will not provide food for break if an account is in a negative balance. If you have any difficulty with your child's WEDUC account, please contact your child's House Office or postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk.

Water Safety and Railway Safety

Rail Safety

During the holiday, please be mindful of the safety of your child around railways. Network Rail shared the details that follow in the light of Harrison Ballantyne's tragic death: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/railway-safety-campaigns/trespass-campaigns/>.

Network Rail advise that trespassing on the railway network is extremely dangerous and endangers not only the lives of those on the track, but also passengers, railway staff and the general public.

Many people - especially young people - fail to understand the danger they put themselves and others in, when they make the choice to stray onto the rail network. As summertime approaches, Network Rail are already reporting an increase in the number of incidents. Incidents we are seeing involve children and young people:

- Hanging around on station platforms and crossing the tracks.
- Walking along the railway lines.
- Throwing stones at trains.
- Placing objects on the railway lines.
- Using the railway as a playground.

Key Messages

Trains are always running on the railway and can differ in times meaning that you can never predict when a train will pass. The Electricity is ALWAYS switched on around the railway. Always Stop, Look and Listen before using a Level Crossing. Please discuss this most important information with your child to keep them safe.

Finally, we want to thank parents for their support this year. We were pleased to receive the positive Ofsted monitoring report, which although monitoring visits cannot result in a change to the overall grading, recognised the improvements the school has made and the substantial input from pupils and parents.

Have a fantastic summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again in September 2024.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Phillips
Headteacher



Remember to follow us on social media.

Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3pV9Fhm>

Twitter: <https://bit.ly/43tYv0J>

Instagram: <https://bit.ly/30mrbEP>



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