

Our Ref: JP/JAS

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

We are excited to welcome all pupils back to school after the summer holidays. As outlined in the letter sent to parents on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the return arrangements are as below:

- Year 7 and 12 (along with Year 11 Prefects who will help assist the Year 7 pupils) return on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at normal time.
- Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 return to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at normal time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents of the Year 11 and 13 pupils from last year. We were delighted to see improved results at GCSE and A-Level, and this is not possible without the support from those parents.

### **School Site**

Over the summer there has been building work taking place. Two new classrooms have been constructed, as well as a conference room above reception. Some of the work is still taking place in reception, and we want to make parents aware that for a short period of time at the start of term the layout in reception may be different while this work is completed.

### **HMRC**

Over the summer HMRC wrote to all secondary schools asking that they share information regarding Child Benefit for parents of 16 to 19-year-olds. Please click on the following link if you believe you may be entitled to this benefit - [Child Benefit when your child turns 16 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-when-your-child-turns-16). If you have any questions please direct them to HM Revenue and Customs and not Wednesfield Academy.

### **Parent Forum**

As an action from the extremely helpful feedback from the Parent Forum group, we will be continuing with online Progress Evening appointments for Year 7-10. For Year 11 and sixth form the appointments will still be booked online but the Parents' Evenings will take place in person so that the pupils' mock papers and examinations can be shown to parents. Further to the feedback from the group, if a parent is struggling with the school website and with finding the information they want to access, please can you email [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) so that we can ensure all information for parents is easily accessible.



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If any parents would like to join the Parent Forum group, then please do not hesitate to email the school postbox address so that you can be sent the relevant information. There are three meetings per academic year, and the dates for this year are below at Wednesfield Academy at 5.00pm:

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

### **Free School Meals**

If you have not yet done so, please ensure that you have completed the Microsoft Forms linked to this message so that Wednesfield Academy can check your eligibility for free school meals. As communicated previously, if you have been eligible before and your child has joined us from a school within Wolverhampton you will not need to reapply. If your child has joined us from a different local authority, you will need to complete the Microsoft Forms link. If your circumstances have changed and you would like to see if you are now eligible, please complete the form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ZwTCyaPDHT>

If we are already aware of your eligibility you do not need to complete the link; this is for parents whose children are new to school or for parents with a change in circumstance.

### **WeDuc (Matrix) App**

We operate a cashless system within school and you will need to use the WeDuc (Matrix) app to load money onto your child's school dinner account, so that they can pay for any food and drink at break and lunchtime (this does not apply for pupils who are in receipt of free school meals) and any trips and visits we may offer for your child. Communication is also sent out to parents via this app. If you do not use the app, and require assistance in getting it set-up, then please contact Mrs Williams (Administrative Assistant) at the school by emailing [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) or calling 01902 558222. This is our main means of communication between school and home, therefore we would encourage all parents to have access to it.

### **Attendance**

Last academic year we saw a 3.4% rise in whole school attendance, when compared to 2022-23. This is a result of the hard work from pupils, parents and staff.

For children to achieve in school they need to be present. This was seen in the GCSE and A-Level results this year, where those pupils who did not regularly attend without any justifiable reason did not achieve. In contrast, Wednesfield Academy had a number of pupils achieving well at both GCSE and A-Level. Of particular note was a Year 11 pupil who achieved 7 grade 9s, 1 grade 8 and a Level 2 Distinction\* at GCSE, and a Year 13 student who obtained A\*, A, A at A-Level.

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 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 as outlined in previous correspondence. 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. 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](http://www.gov.uk)).



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".

### **Year 6 Open Evening and School Calendar**

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 there is the Year 6 Open Evening at Wednesfield Academy and on this date, as in previous years, pupils will finish school at 12.40pm. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and you would like them to collect a lunch on this date then please email the school postbox address. A number of children will be invited back to assist with the Open Evening which runs from 4.00 – 7.00pm, and if this applies to your child then they will receive a letter.

Please see the picture of the 2024/2025 academic year below for Wednesfield Academy, which can also be accessed on the following link - <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/calendar/>.



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SEPTEMBER 2024							OCTOBER 2024							NOVEMBER 2024							DECEMBER 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

JANUARY 2025							FEBRUARY 2025							MARCH 2025							APRIL 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

MAY 2025							JUNE 2025							JULY 2025							AUGUST 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- School Holidays
- Training Day

- Public Holiday

**Autumn Term 2024**

Term Starts: Wednesday 4th September 2024

Half Term: Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Term Ends: Friday 20th December 2024

**Spring Term 2025**

Term Starts: Monday 6th January 2025

Half Term: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

Term Ends: Friday 11th April 2025

**Summer Term 2025**

Term Starts: Monday 28th April 2025

Half Term: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Term Ends: Friday 18th July 2025



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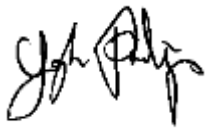
## **Uniform**

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.

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.

Finally, if parents ever want to find letters previously sent, then they can be found on the following link on the website - <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/school-letters/>.

Yours faithfully



Mr 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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