

Our Ref: JP/JAS

7<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Wednesfield Academy  
www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope this letter finds you well. If you have any queries regarding the matters below, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House or the Sixth Form Office by calling 01902-558222 or by emailing [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk).

### Social Media

We continue to work closely with our local Police, and they have shared important information with the school regarding social media. As you all will be aware there are a whole host of social media platforms which have been developed which people can use to "talk with strangers". There may be a possibility that if your child has changed their age on their devices, they will be able to gain access to these and other social media platforms which are beyond their "real age". Can I advise, if you are not already, you are checking the actual age your child is on their devices and the apps they have on their phone. We know that many of our parents carry out regular checks on their children's phones, this is a reminder of how important it is.

You are likely to have seen in the news the dangers of excess screen time for children. To help prevent screen time having a negative impact on your child we recommend four steps you can take to protect your child:

1. Set parental controls on devices
2. Agree rules on screen time
3. Talk to your child about staying safe online
4. Encourage off-screen activities

Please see the below information on how to set parental controls:

Microsoft devices (Windows computers and Xbox)

- Getting started with Microsoft Family Safety: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/account-billing/getting-started-with-microsoft-family-safety-b6280c9d-38d7-82ff-0e4f-a6cb7e659344>
- Family-friendly gaming for everyone, Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

iPads and iPhones

- Use parental controls on your child's iPhone or iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android phones

- Manage devices, apps and screen time: <https://support.google.com/families/topic/7336331>
- Get started with Family Link: <https://support.google.com/families/answer/7101025?hl=en>



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#### Fire Tablet

- Set up parental controls on your Fire Tablet:  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GG2LBLEF5V2T8XUX8>

#### PlayStation

- How to set up family accounts on PSN: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/playstation-family-account-set-up/>
- How to set up parental controls on PlayStation consoles:  
<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

#### Nintendo Switch

- Nintendo Switch parental controls: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>
- Nintendo Switch support pages: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Search/Search-299117.html?f=147397-3958-143-42>

#### Local Police Partnership

The Police have sent the following information to be advertised to parents:

*Catch 22 are offering three free online awareness sessions for parents and carers to learn more about county lines and criminal exploitation.*

*The free County Lines Awareness Webinar is aimed at parents and carers to gain an understanding on the important issues surrounding county lines, the impact that it can have on young people and their families, and the support that is available to young people. The session will cover:*

- *County Lines, child criminal exploitation (CCE) and financial exploitation*
- *Stages of recruitment*
- *Push and pull factors*
- *The National Referral mechanism*
- *The psychological impacts*
- *Social media*
- *Debt bondage*

*Parents and carers need to register below to sign up for the sessions (they just need to attend one)*

*19<sup>th</sup> February 12:00-13:30: <https://ow.ly/o1EL50UQWKr>*

*20<sup>th</sup> February 12:00-13:30: <https://ow.ly/HHpC50UQWKp>*

*20<sup>th</sup> February 18:00-19:30: <https://ow.ly/OAHX50UQWKq>*

#### Holocaust Memorial Day and Year 12 History Visit to Poland

For Holocaust Memorial Day, the school held tutor-led discussions, providing an opportunity for reflection and a chance to challenge hatred in society. Year 12 History students participated in a live webcast, listening to a survivor's testimony alongside thousands across the UK. These activities inspired our pupils to oppose hatred, intolerance, and antisemitism.



The year 12 History students also took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, including a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, where they learned about the Holocaust's significance. They will share their experiences with the wider school community through assemblies, helping to educate others on the Holocaust and the importance of challenging prejudice and discrimination.

### **National Maths Challenge**

Forty Year 9 and 10 pupils participated in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Intermediate Mathematical Challenge on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The UKMT is a leading British charity committed to promoting the education of young people in mathematics. This challenge offered a unique and stimulating experience, helping to boost pupils' confidence and inspire them to excel. Wednesfield pupils achieved three silver awards and twelve bronze awards, with all participants receiving a certificate for taking part in the challenge. Further National Maths Challenge opportunities will be available for other year groups during the summer term.

### **Uniform Reminders**

At Wednesfield Academy, our uniform expectations are made clear to pupils through assemblies, information on our website (<https://wednesfieldacademy.com/uniform/>), as well as reminders in letters and pupil planners. If a member of staff informs a pupil that their uniform is incorrect, it will need to be rectified by borrowing the correct uniform from our Success Centre until the pupil has their own. It is important to note that uniform discrepancies may not always be immediately noticed, but this does not mean they are acceptable, and they will still need to be corrected. We greatly appreciate your support in helping maintain high standards. I would also like to remind our female pupils that skirts should be of a reasonable length, with the guide being knee length. Skirts should not be rolled up or altered in any way.

### **Rewards Information**

At Wednesfield Academy, we have developed a robust rewards system that recognises pupils not only for their academic achievements but also for their efforts in all aspects of school life. Pupils can be acknowledged on a subject level, house level, and across the school, ensuring that all contributions are celebrated. We focus on tangible rewards, which has led to the best response from our pupils, fostering a sense of motivation and pride. This term, we have taken an exciting step by allowing pupils to vote on the location of their rewards trips, giving them a direct voice in the decision-making process. Our pupils' feedback is invaluable, and we actively welcome their constructive input. This has led to meaningful adaptations in our rewards system, helping to drive the success of our pupils and their continued achievements.

### **Wednesfield Friends**

Our Parent Teacher Association, 'Wednesfield Friends,' is always on the lookout for new volunteers to help provide our pupils with enriching experiences and strengthen our connection to the wider community. Through events such as our Christmas and Summer Fairs, the Wednesfield Friends play a vital role in enhancing school life and fostering a sense of togetherness. This term, we are particularly excited about 'Wednesfest', an event planned for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, which will be open to our Year 9 and 10 pupils. It promises to be a fantastic occasion, and the more parents we can involve, the better it will be. We truly value the support of our community, and we encourage anyone who is interested to join us in making this event a success. Please contact Mrs Bingham (Deputy Headteacher) by calling 01902 558222 or via [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) if you are interested.



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### **Year 10 and 11 Half-Term Revision Sessions**

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated staff who have arranged half-term revision clinics for students in Year 10 and 11. Pupils have received individual letters if they have been requested to attend.

If there are any questions about half-term sessions, please contact Mr Hill (Assistant Headteacher) on 01902 558222 or via [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) if you are interested.

### **Half-Term Hockey with Bloxwich Hockey Club**

We are delighted to be able to inform all our pupils of an opportunity to play sport during February half-term free of charge to all Wednesfield Academy pupils.

Bloxwich Hockey Club are running free half-term sessions from 10.00am–12.00pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025. These training sessions will then be followed by a tournament of games on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February (6.00pm – 8.00pm) and all sessions are taking place at Willenhall EACT, Furzebank Way, WV12 4BD.

Bloxwich Hockey Club are currently in school every Friday afternoon running free sessions via Mr Hill who is Head Coach at the Hockey Club in his spare time. More details can be found out about the club here: [www.bloxwichhockey.co.uk](http://www.bloxwichhockey.co.uk).

Please be aware that Bloxwich Hockey Club is a separate organisation to Wednesfield Academy and Matrix Academy Trust, but we wanted to ensure parents and pupils were aware of this.

### **Extra-curricular**

Over 770 different pupils have attended an extra-curricular club so far this year which is a fantastic number of pupils engaging in enriching activities. We offer over 20 different clubs throughout the week and all the information can be found on the school website.

We offer a range of sports clubs, homework clubs, performing arts as well as the Combined Cadet Force and Duke of Edinburgh. Every morning Form Tutors share the list of club opportunities available that day for pupils.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

As stated in the Attendance Policy, the school gates close at 8:28am each morning to allow pupils time to get to form ready for the register at 8:30am. If pupils arrive after 8:28am they will receive a 20-minute breaktime detention that day. We promote excellent punctuality so that pupils are prepared for the workplace and lifelong study and employers will want punctual employees.

Although we are appreciative when parents and carers inform the school reception when their child is running late, I want to highlight that 'traffic' will not be accepted as a reason for the pupil not to receive a detention at breaktime. We advise that parents and carers always check traffic updates and allow enough time to take traffic into consideration. Pupils who arrive late to school due to traffic will be given a breaktime 20-minute detention. Pupils who arrive after 9.00am will receive a 60-minute detention the following day and pupils who arrive after 10.00am will be given a 2-hour detention to catch up on the missed learning the same day.

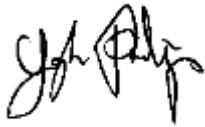
Yet again, we share the fantastic news that Wednesfield Academy's attendance is increasing! For another half term Wednesfield's attendance is above the National Average for secondary schools in the country. This is thanks to every parent and carer who encourages their child to attend school every day possible and to all pupils who show resilience when coming to school even when they are not feeling 100%.



We take attendance very seriously at Wednesfield Academy and work very closely with the Local Authority to ensure excellent attendance. We want to remind parents and carers that if your child is absent from school they must contact the school every day the child is absent. We thank all parents and carers to work with us to put their child's education first and communicate with us effectively.

During the last week of half term, pupils with excellent attendance will be entered into a draw to win up to £75.00 in vouchers. Through our celebration week Wednesfield Academy will be giving out a whopping £1000 in Amazon and Sainsbury's vouchers to pupils with excellent attendance. We want to remind all parents, carers and pupils that our prize draw starts again every half term. Therefore, if you missed out on the draw this half term you, ensure you are in school every day until Easter and you can be back in with a chance of winning!

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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