

Our Ref: JP/JAS

14<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Dear Parent/Carer

This letter will hopefully provide you with the necessary updates on a range of areas of the school. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House or the Sixth Form office by calling the school on 01902 558222 or emailing [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk).

### **Personal Development**

At our school, we are committed to the ongoing personal development of our pupils through a variety of sessions that complement our curriculum, ensuring they receive well-rounded support beyond the classroom. We have worked closely with school nurses to provide essential health education, delivered impactful knife crime workshops to promote safety and awareness, and hosted mental health and self-esteem sessions featuring the band *The Entitled Sons* to inspire and empower pupils.

In addition, our enrichment programme has offered a wealth of opportunities, including educational trips and visits that broaden horizons and enhance learning. Our Sixth Form students have recently returned from an enriching experience in Morocco, while 45 pupils are set to embark on an exciting trip to Paris this weekend with PGL. Alongside these experiences, we continue to provide a strong extracurricular programme with regular sports fixtures, dedicated examination board revision sessions, and insightful talks with university providers, all designed to support our students and pupils in their academic and personal growth.

The PSHE curriculum is a vital part of our school's commitment to developing well-rounded, informed, and responsible young people. Through engaging and age-appropriate lessons, we equip pupils with essential life skills, covering topics such as mental health, relationships, personal safety, financial literacy, and career preparation. These lessons help pupils navigate real-world challenges, make informed decisions, and build resilience. By fostering open discussions and providing practical guidance, our PSHE curriculum ensures that every pupil feels supported and prepared for life beyond school. You can access our PSHE curriculum and all things Personal Development related following the link <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/personal-development-2/>.

### **Careers**

An important element of our Personal Development programme is Careers. We are extremely proud of our careers programme and the increasing number of events; guest speakers and links being made with external providers. This is an area of the school we are always looking to develop. If as a parent/carer you are in a position to support our careers programme please click the link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/KzWvraVTsv>

If you are an ex-pupil and would like to join our growing alumni, please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/9sqBODgtSR>

If you have any links to external providers who are able to enhance our programme even further, please email [postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk) FAO Mrs Hayward.



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Lichfield Road  
Wednesfield  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV11 3ES



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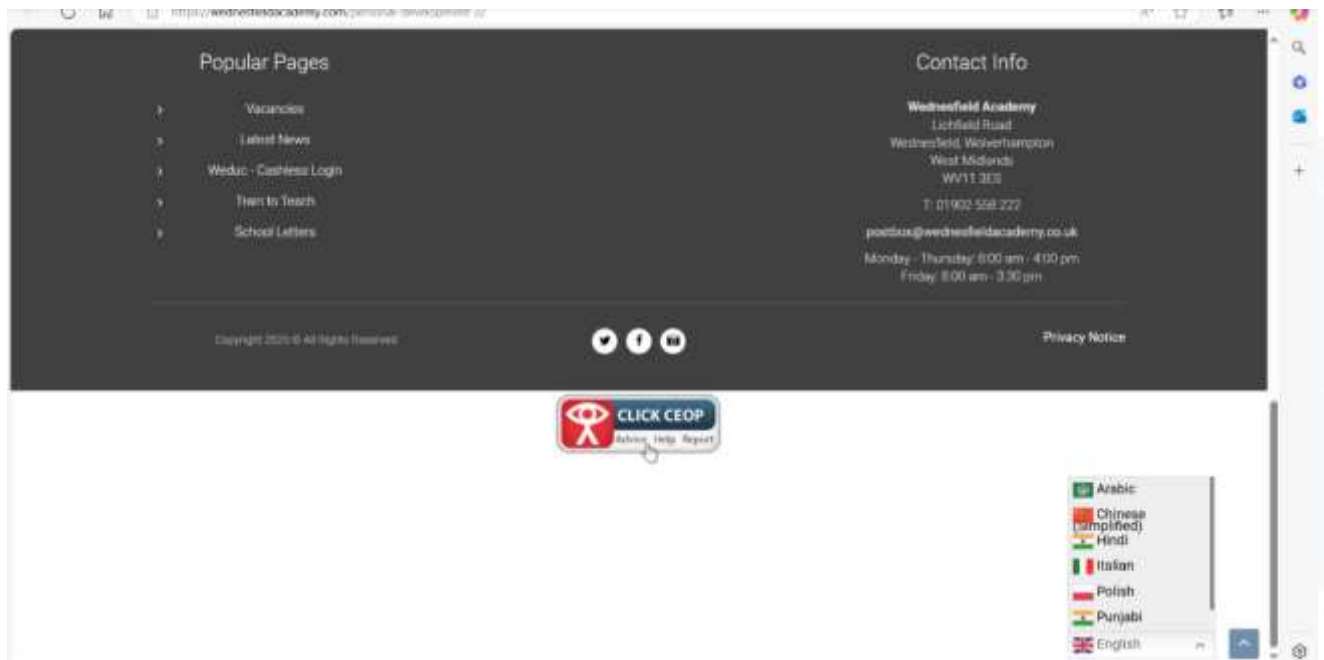
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### English as an Additional Language (EAL)

We are proud to support our pupils who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL) and celebrate the linguistic diversity within our school. If your child speaks and writes another language, please inform us by telephone or email, as we may be able to enter them for GCSE or A-Level examinations in their home language. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to gain an additional qualification, recognise their language skills, and enhance their future academic and career prospects.

Please also be aware that there is a language tool on our website in the bottom right-hand corner. This can be used for parents to translate the information on our webpage.



### New School Gym

There is exciting news for Wednesfield pupils, that the brand-new school gym is now officially open! This week, pupils have had the chance to try it out in small groups before school, and the enthusiasm has been contagious. The brand-new facilities are already being put to good use, helping students get energised and ready for their day ahead. Year 8 and Year 10 pupils will be the first to use the new gym facilities in their PE lesson, but all pupils will have access to the gym before and after school.

While the gym is off to a fantastic start, more details will be shared once the final pieces of equipment arrive. We look forward to Gym Club being added to the extra-curricular programme, offering even more opportunities to get active before and after school.

### Examination Coursework

As a school, we take the use of plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence for any examination coursework very seriously. Plagiarism is the act of using another person's ideas or work and pretending that it is your own. Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.



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Should a pupil have plagiarised the work of others or used AI to help them write their examination assessments, the examination board will be contacted. Under JCQ regulations, Instructions for Completing Coursework, it is not permitted to use either to assist with coursework as it must be the candidate's own work. If you wanted to read further information about the JCQ regulations, please look on their website on the following link: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations/>.

**The consequences for a candidate's failure to meet the regulations are:**

- The candidate could be disqualified from that examination unit which would affect their overall grade for that subject
- The candidate would have to complete the whole unit again and re-submit. The work that had been completed using plagiarised work or AI would be disqualified.
- The pupil will receive a behaviour sanction in line with our policy and parents will be contacted and informed in writing of the malpractice that has been committed and the seriousness of this.

We now have Plagiarism and AI detection software in school that will be used in the future to support with the detection of the use of plagiarism and AI in examination coursework.

**Parent Support**

We are grateful for the fantastic parents and carers that Wednesfield Academy has. We would just like to kindly remind everyone that our staff operates on an appointment-only basis when meeting with parents or carers. This ensures that we can give each interaction the necessary time and attention. We ask that you do not arrive at the school expecting to meet with a specific member of staff without a prior scheduled appointment. Staff are often engaged in teaching or other important duties, and last-minute meetings can disrupt the flow of the school day. We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation in arranging appointments ahead of time.

It is also important to remember that while we always strive to be accessible, there may be times when it is not possible to speak with a member of staff during the school day. Our priority is to focus on the educational needs of the pupils and attend to any welfare-related issues that may arise. As such, we ask that parents refrain from demanding immediate meetings or conversations during the school day, as these may not always be feasible. Please be assured that we will work with you to schedule a time to address any concerns you may have.

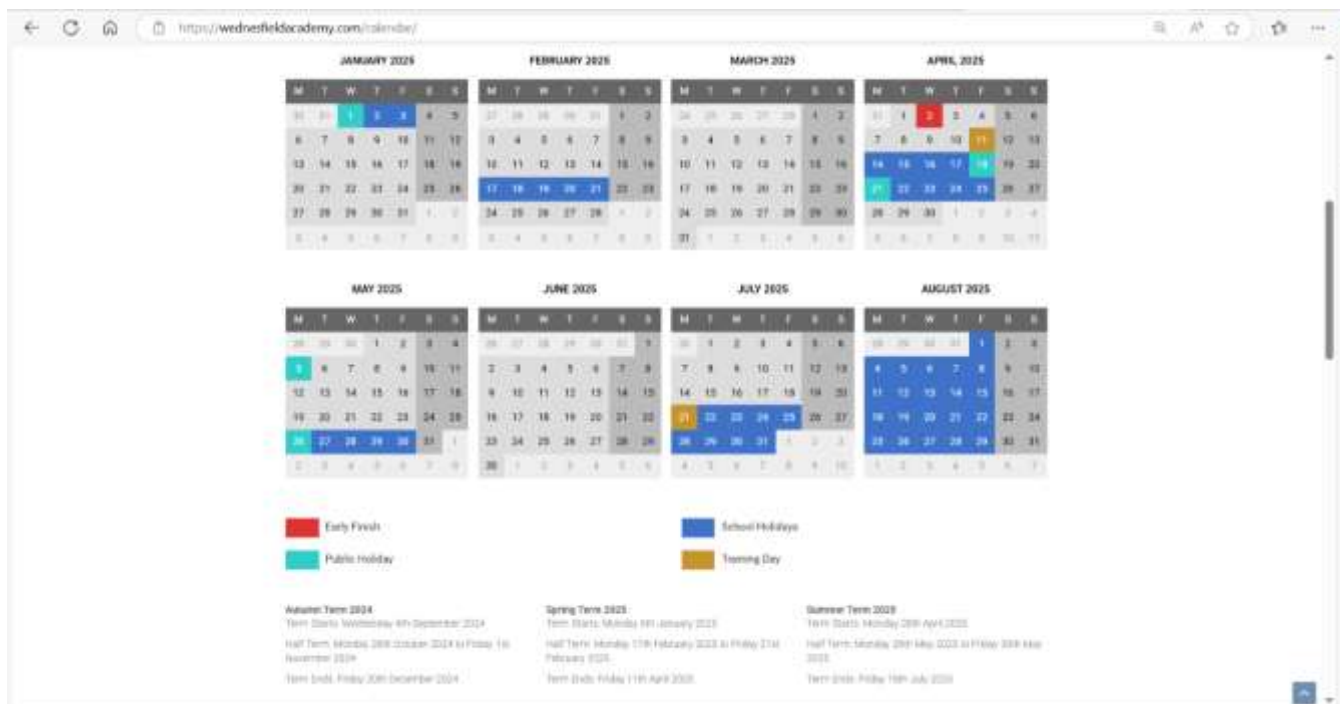
We also want to take a moment to remind all parents about the importance of respectful communication, which happens nearly all the time. We ask that all interactions with staff remain courteous and professional. Confrontational, aggressive, or offensive behaviour will not be tolerated. If any staff member is spoken to inappropriately, we may terminate the meeting or call. Unfortunately, there have been a small number of cases where staff have been threatened and abused, and we have had to ban parents from the school premises in severe cases.

We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and respectful educational environment, and we appreciate your help in fostering these values. Thank you for your cooperation, we need our staff and prospective applicants to want to teach at Wednesfield Academy and provide the best opportunities and education for your children.

**Calendar Dates**

As communicated previously, we have a moderation afternoon on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, and all pupils will finish at 12.40pm on this date. Please also be aware the last day of term is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025, and it will be a full school day with a normal finish time of 3.00pm. Below is a picture of the calendar, which can also be accessed on the following link to our website - <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/calendar/>.





### sQuid

We are including the following information again on the sQuid payment system, in case you did not see the push notification sent to all parents. A new development communicated from sQuid is that they are going to be actioning a clause in their contract to bring the £10.00 charge for a withdrawal of funds forward at their discretion with immediate effect.

We can only apologise for the inconvenience this causes and can assure you we will be pursuing legal action with the support of Reach More Parents/WeDuc against sQuid. In the meantime, if you have a balance of £10.00 or more continue with the immediate withdrawal of all funds and we will transfer any charges you incur over to your child's catering account automatically.

If you have less than £10.00, please be assured that we will be transferring the full balance over to your child's catering account as you will not be able to complete a withdrawal through sQuid. We are disgusted at the behaviour of sQuid and completely understand your frustration, but we will ensure the collapse of this business does not affect any of our parents. Please bear with us whilst we make the arrangements to transfer over £10.00 charges and balances below £10.00.

To be clear, if you have a balance of over £10.00 you must withdraw this money, as any money over £10.00 we would not reimburse as it can be taken out. For example, if you had £12.00, sQuid will take £10.00 leaving you with £2.00, but we would only reimburse the £10 charge taken from your account, but not the £2.00 as you could have claimed this back. Once again, we are so sorry for the inconvenience. sQuid initially informed the trust that this would not happen until a much later date, but brought it forward to be actioned immediately without any notice.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Phillips  
Headteacher

