

Our Ref: JP/JAS/IndHLearn

4th September 2025



Wednesfield Academy
www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

At Wednesfield Academy we want all our pupils to be successful, confident, and resilient. As we begin a new academic year, we would like to share with you our renewed approach to developing independence and explain how you can best support your child's learning at home. Throughout the year, we will be strengthening pupils' *attitudes to learning* and *independence* through three key initiatives:

1. Training and Supporting Independent Learners

- During **Personal Development time**, every pupil will take part in a *study skills programme*. This will help them understand how their brain learns and introduce them to *Wednesfield's five key study strategies* to boost memory and recall.
- Teachers across a range of subjects will embed and practise these skills within lessons.
- You can follow what pupils are learning through these links:
[Revision Resources - Wednesfield Academy](#)
[Curriculum - Wednesfield Academy](#)

2. Our New Home Learning Approach

Homework plays a vital role in consolidating classroom learning, building independence, and developing time management skills. Each week, pupils will receive purposeful home learning tasks tailored to their year group and curriculum goals.

Following consultation with parents (via Parent Forum) and staff, we have introduced the following structure:

- **All subjects** will set one home learning task per week with clear and reasonable deadlines.
- **Time expectations per subject:**
 - *Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):* Core (English, Mathematics, Science) – 30 minutes; all other subjects – 20 minutes
 - *Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11):* Core (English, Mathematics, Science) – 60 minutes; all other subjects – 40 minutes
 - *Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13):* 5 hours per subject
- All tasks will focus on **knowledge and retention**, directly linked to the curriculum.
- Several subjects use home learning platforms which tailor tasks to pupils. After feedback from parents this year this includes GCSE pod which will be especially used in English and Humanities.
- Pupils will record homework in their planners, and all tasks (including deadlines and submissions) will also be visible via **ClassCharts**.



Wednesfield Academy
Lichfield Road
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV11 3ES



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- To further support pupils, we will run a **fully staffed Home Learning Club** from Monday to Thursday in the ICT Suite 110/111, where pupils can access ICT facilities and additional guidance.
- Over the coming year we will also be developing our Pupil Share Point which will provide essential resources to support pupils learn at home.

3. Recognising and Supporting Pupils

We are committed to helping every pupil take ownership of their learning. While we are initially removing formal sanctions for incomplete home learning, our **expectations remain high**.

- During Personal Development time, pupils will be reminded of upcoming tasks and deadlines.
- Staff will work with pupils who find it difficult to meet expectations to understand and address any barriers.
- We will also celebrate pupils who consistently show positive attitudes and submit high-quality work through our rewards system.

How You Can Help at Home

- Regularly check **ClassCharts** to see what homework has been set.
- Encourage a consistent routine and positive approach to homework.
- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space for study at home.
- Provide the equipment they need (pens, paper, pencils etc).
- Review completed work, offering encouragement and guidance.
- Remind your child that Home Learning Club is available if they need additional support.
- Please contact us if:
 - Your child is struggling or overwhelmed
 - The work does not feel challenging enough
 - If you have not got access to the internet or equipment
 - You are experiencing difficulties accessing ClassCharts
 - You have concerns about the amount of homework, whether that be that you feel it is too little or too much.

We know that every child learns differently, and our staff are committed to offering the right support at the right time. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our pupils become confident, independent learners.

Dell Hour

As part of the trust being a 'Dell House' there are some added benefits that are available to pupils, which some may be interested in. Our pupils can now access exclusive 'Back-to-School' savings:

- Up to 10% OFF laptops, desktops and accessories
- 3% back in Dell Rewards on every purchase link
- Stackable savings on top of current offers

Pupils can claim their discounts here: <https://www.dell.com/en-uk/lp/students>

Please find attached a PDF with Back-to-School discount details that can be shared directly with your child.

Year 10 and 11 – GCSEPod

In our year of promoting independence Wednesfield Academy is launching GCSEPod, the award-winning revision website used by schools across the country. Pupils in year 10 and 11 will be



able to access GCSEPod's excellent resources for home learning as well as independent revision.

Why GCSE Pod?

GCSEPod has:

- 30+ subjects covering all examination boards.
- Pod videos delivering key information in 3-5 minutes.
- Check and Challenge self-marking quizzes.
- Personalised playlists to make revision more effective and manageable.
- Studies have shown regular users achieve on average 1.5 grades higher than non-users.

How to log in – Monday 15th September 2025 deadline

Logins have been created for all year 10 and 11 pupils. Please see the information and example below. The expectation will be that pupils need to have logged in, reset their password and tried a Pod video by Monday 15th September 2025. If there are any issues with this, please contact the school by emailing postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk FAO Mr Hill (Assistant Headteacher).

Please also be aware that teachers may utilise the homework feature meaning your child will be required to complete homework assignments. It is therefore essential that they can access the website. Usernames are the pupil's full name in lowercase letters with no spaces and no punctuation. Passwords are Password123 and pupils will be prompted to create their own secure password after they enter these details e.g.

Username: johnsmith

Password: Password123

You can access GCSEPod's login page following this link - <https://members.gcsepod.com/login>. Select 'Login as a Student' and **do not** select 'I'm new to GCSEPod.'

A bit more information about GCSEPod

- **Rewards and House Points** will be presented every two weeks to pupils with the highest usage. Please note that usage is closely monitored to identify insincere attempts to earn rewards; for instance, watching or revising content that does not match the pupil's subjects, sets or predicted grades. We ask for your support in ensuring pupils actively watch and engage with GCSEPod's resources to ensure prizes are rewarded to those who most deserve them.
- **Pods** are 3-5 minute award-winning videos which present key information in an engaging way. Pods can be watched online or downloaded. The Boost feature creates personalised playlists for topics that require more attention. Revising little and often over several weeks and months is much more effective than short term cramming. GCSEPod suggests 20-minute sessions of active revision followed by a short break.
- **Check & Challenge** are multiple-choice, self-marking quizzes. Progress can be saved at any time, but quizzes must be fully completed to collect diamonds. Two diamonds are awarded for correctly answering questions on the first attempt. One diamond is awarded for correctly answering questions on the second attempt. We recommend pupils use their scores to identify not only strengths but also gaps in their knowledge which they can then reinforce, for example by watching the relevant Pods.



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- **GCSEPod's Parent Quick Start Guide** is below. Please be aware that this original guide does not include recent updates made to the website and some sections may therefore be slightly inaccurate. We will share an updated guide if it becomes available. We will also share GCSEPod's guides, tips, and parent webinar dates throughout the academic year (<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:83024200-401e-4d06-803c-6a53d3859b1d>).

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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