

Our Ref: JP/JAS

26th February 2026



Wednesfield Academy
www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope your child has had a good start back this term. Just a reminder if you are emailing postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk; please can you ensure that you include your child's full name and form, and when known also include the name of the member of staff the enquiry is for. This way we will be able to attend to the matter as swiftly as possible.

Scholastic Book Fair - Monday 16th - Thursday 19th March 2026

We are excited to announce that Wednesfield Academy will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from Monday 16th March to Thursday 19th March 2026. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to explore a wide range of books and engage with reading in a fun and engaging way. The Book Fair will feature a variety of books for all ages, from graphic novels to exciting novels, non-fiction, and activity books. Whether your child is an avid reader or just beginning to explore the world of books, there will be something for everyone.

Key Information:

- Dates: Monday 16th March to Thursday 19th March 2026
- Location: School Canteen
- Times: During break time every day.

To make a purchase, pupils will be given a [wishlist](#) (on this link) to complete during their visit. Parents can then pay for the chosen books online at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay>, and the books will be quickly delivered to the school for your child. Once payment has been made online, pupils must return the payment reference slip to the library to receive their books. To ensure your order is processed in time, please make sure the payment reference is returned by Thursday 19th March 2026.

For Year 7 and 8 pupils who receive free school meals, they are eligible to order one book free of charge. This will be ordered by the school directly, and no further action is required from you. This event is a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading. Thank you for supporting literacy and the love of reading at Wednesfield Academy.

World Book Day – Fancy Dress

A reminder that World Book Day is Thursday 5th March 2026. If your child returns a Fancy-Dress Competition consent slip to the library, they can attend school in their costume. Please can you make sure this costume is appropriate for school and is clearly based on a character from a book.

If your child has not completed a Fancy-Dress Competition consent slip to the library, they must attend school in their normal school uniform.

All pupils must bring their normal school bags and equipment for the day (please find the original letter on this link - <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/World-Book-Day-Fancy-Dress-Letter-2026-LH2024.pdf>).



Wednesfield Academy
Lichfield Road
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Wednesfield Academy



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Reporting Absence

This is a reminder that all pupil absences must be reported to the House Office on the day of absence via:

- Weduc/Matrix Academy Trust app
- Telephone call
- School postbox email.

If an absence is due to long-term illness or a medical appointment, medical evidence should be provided as soon as possible to ensure the absence can be authorised.

Good attendance is essential for your child's progress, wellbeing and academic success. Regular attendance helps pupils:

- Keep up with learning
- Build positive routines
- Maintain strong relationships with teachers and peers.

Missing school can have a significant impact on both achievement and confidence. Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote good attendance. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the House Office.

National Evidence: Attendance and GCSE Success (March 2025)

A recent report from the Department for Education, "The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year" (March 2025), presents clear national evidence showing how strongly attendance is linked to GCSE outcomes.

The evidence is irrefutable: better attendance is directly linked to higher GCSE performance, particularly in achieving Grade 5 or above in both English and Mathematics.

Key findings include:

- Pupils with 95–100% attendance were 1.9 times more likely to achieve Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics than those with 90–95% attendance.
- Even relatively small drops in attendance (from 95–100% down to 90–95%) can nearly halve the chances of passing both core subjects.
- Pupils with 80–85% attendance were 3.4 times less likely to achieve the Grade 5 benchmark compared to those in the top attendance band.
- Pupils with less than 50% attendance were nearly 10 times less likely to achieve Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics.

The report also found that moving up just one attendance band (approximately 10–20 additional school days across the year) can increase the likelihood of achieving expected grades by up to 10%.

What This Means for Your Child

Attendance matters — every single day:

- 95% attendance = up to 9.5 days missed
- 90% attendance = around 19 days missed (almost four weeks)
- 85% attendance = over 28 days missed (about six weeks)
- Below 80% = missing the equivalent of a full school term or more

In Year 11 especially, even a few missed days can make a measurable difference to outcomes.



How We Can Work Together

- Please ensure your child attends school every day unless genuinely unwell.
- Always avoid booking holidays during term time.
- If your child is struggling to attend, contact us as early as possible so that we can offer appropriate support.

Moderation Afternoon – Thursday 12th March 2026

A reminder that, as per our school calendar, on Thursday 12th March 2026 the school will close to all pupils at 12.40pm for moderation afternoon of the GCSE and A-Level mock papers. Pupils in receipt of free school meals will be able to collect food from the canteen at this time before they depart. The school calendar can be found on the following link - [Calendar » Wednesfield Academy](#).

Finally, please do look at our newsletter (click this link - <https://bit.ly/3MuGRHP>) if you have not had a chance already, it shows the fantastic achievements from so many of our pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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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