Wednesfield Academy

Prospectus

2027 - 2028

A PROUD MEMBER OF
MATRIX ACADEMY TRUST

Education **Without Exception**

I am very proud to be the CEO of the Matrix Academy Trust. It is truly a privilege to work with like-minded, hard-working colleagues who are all focused on delivering the Trust's vision.

Our vision is simple: every child deserves an exceptional education. We make this happen by doing the things which really make a difference. Working smartly means we have staff who want to work here. It ensures we have the capacity to care for every pupil, providing them with the best possible education – without exception.

A great school is one people want to work at and one parents want to send their children to. No matter how great our schools might be, we never rest on our laurels. We are restless in our efforts to keep improving and we instil this in our young people.

Welcome to Matrix Academy Trust.

Lynsey Draycott
CEO

Matrix
Academy Trust

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to our prospectus where I hope you will find all the information you require about our school.
We build our school ethos around our motto of "Changing Lives, Shaping Futures" which shows our focus on ensuring that our pupils become highly successful citizens in a 21st century world. Our day-to-day practice is tied closely to our Wednesfield values of:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Pride

We endeavour to ensure that our community demonstrates these values in everything that they do.

As an oversubscribed school, we still strive to improve provision for our pupils on a daily basis. Our clear focus is always on continuous development.

We have amazing learning spaces with subject specialists in every curriculum area. As Headteacher, I value the committed staff that we have and appreciate the hours of dedication that they provide to ensure that pupils are successful and have a range of opportunities beyond the school.

Come and see for yourself our amazing school, our fabulous young people and our committed staff. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr J Phillips | Headteacher

ADMISSIONS

The number of intended admissions in September 2027 will be **180**

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 years without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion. Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied.

1. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children) & previously looked after children. A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.

2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form pupils qualify for a sibling claim.

3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child.

4. Where a member of staff has been employed at Wednesfield Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage / or the member of staff has been seconded to support another school within the Matrix Academy Trust.

5. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line.

Visit the school website for a full breakdown and descriptions of our admissions criteria.

APPEALS

Parents/carers whose children are refused admission to the school have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The appeals process is started by completing, signing and returning the Admission Appeals form via the school website. Do not send any supporting documentation to the Local Authority.

Appeals, in respect of Year 7 intake for September 2027, should be lodged by Friday 9th April 2027.

INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS

In the Autumn term, Year 7 parents/carers will be invited into school for a settling in evening. During this evening there is an opportunity to meet Form Tutors, Heads of Houses and the Leadership team to discuss the transition of your child from primary to secondary school. We are always keen to see parents/carers about any aspect of a child's education. It is vital that appointments are made to ensure that you see the appropriate person. Whenever you contact the school, please give the name of your child's Form Tutor, Form group and Head of House.

PROGRESS EVENING

One Progress Evening is arranged for each year group during the school year. You will have the opportunity to make an appointment with your child's teachers. You will be informed of the dates, and they will be published on the school's website. It is expected that all parents/carers will attend Progress Evenings.

MOST ABLE

We believe that everyone should aspire to achieve as highly as they can. To this end, although pupils are stretched at Wednesfield Academy regardless of their academic potential, some activities are targeted specifically at more able pupils, including competitions, stretch activities, visits to and talks from university staff.
The school has links with the full range of universities including many in the Russell Group such Birmingham University, and to Oxford and Cambridge. Highly able pupils are offered alternative curriculum provision through a range of extension opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES

We strive to integrate enriching experiences into our curriculum through fieldwork, educational visits, outdoor learning, and residential trips. Our extensive enrichment programme offers pupils a wide variety of activities, as well as opportunities to take on leadership roles, all aimed at enhancing their cultural capital.
We raise pupils' aspirations through a planned careers programme, which includes access to an independent career's advisor, helping them to make informed choices about their futures.

Pupils also have the opportunity to participate in national initiatives such as the National Maths Challenge, MENSA and The Brilliant Club, which challenge and inspire high academic achievement and critical thinking beyond the classroom. We are proud of our strong community partnerships, including our collaboration with Bentley Court Care Home and involvement in local community projects and competitions.

REPORTS

Attitude to learning and home learning grades as well as a progress grade in KS3 (towards, at or beyond) are issued termly (via the Matrix App) to parents/carers to keep them informed of their child's progress. If, on any occasion, you do not receive a report, you should immediately let your child's Head of House know.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROVISION

Wednesfield Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of all abilities. Whatever their ability, each child is encouraged to reach their potential.

Recognising that some children may require extra support, there is a range of provision on offer to match individual children's needs. The SEND Coordinator has the responsibility of ensuring the Code of Practice is implemented. All staff take responsibility for meeting the additional needs of the pupils that they teach. Parents/carers are fully involved in the process of monitoring their child's progress. The school encourages active involvement of parents in the learning of all children, understanding that regular communication plays a vital role in the success of each individual. Pupils with additional needs experience a range of teaching strategies including reading withdrawal, small group work and in-class support.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Provision is made for those pupils with learning difficulties or additional needs by the Learning Support Team. This occasionally may take the form of extraction from some lessons for additional help in literacy and numeracy. At other times specialist staff will support teachers in the classroom or provide materials to supplement the teacher's work. Where special needs of a registered disability are identified, every effort is made to make special provision for pupils within the resources available. Children with specific learning needs may be invited to attend a range of clubs both before and after school to tackle weaknesses in areas as specified by the Code of Practice.

PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral organisation of the school is dedicated to the development of pupils' social skills, attitude, academic progress and their personal welfare. All staff are involved in this work. In particular, Form Tutors are directly responsible for the progress of their tutees and work closely with Heads of House who leads the teams of Form Tutors within each House group. We expect pupils to do well and to 'be the best they can be' at Wednesfield Academy and there is a positive reward system for academic achievement and effort.

The school's number one priority, over and above all other responsibilities, is the welfare of pupils. If staff are concerned about the welfare of any pupil, parents/carers are usually the first to be contacted. If the concerns are sufficient to suggest that there is the possibility of abuse, then staff will contact the appropriate Child Protection Agency, usually Children's Services.

If the school has any concerns regarding any pupil with reference to safeguarding, we will always make a referral to Children's Services.

The school is aware that this occasionally causes problems in relationships with parents/carers. But if the school is concerned about a pupil there are procedures which we must follow to ensure their safety. All matters of concern regarding the welfare of the pupils are recorded in the school files and these are available to be seen by parents.

We do share information as part of our multiagency agreement with Health Services, Police, Children's Services and other agencies where appropriate.

SCHOOL SECURITY

We aim to keep all our pupils safe. There are CCTV cameras around the school. CCTV images may be used from time to time to ensure the safety of pupils, visitors and staff and the protection of Wednesfield Academies grounds and contents.

Parents/carers are asked to contact school first if they wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff, and on visiting school report directly to Reception. We will act to ensure Wednesfield Academy remains a safe place for pupils, staff and other members of the community. People who threaten or assault anyone in the school, or persist in abusive behaviour, will be asked to leave the premises and we will request that the Police prosecute.

DISCIPLINE

In any large organisation there must be rules and regulations. These are kept to a minimum, but always there should be courtesy and consideration for the needs, convenience and safety of other people. The school rules are set out in the school's behaviour policy. Discipline is firm and consistent on the basis that children respond to the high expectations placed upon them. When a consequence is given, it usually consists of a reprimand, detention, referral to Head of Department, referral to Head of House, Senior Pastoral staff or a warning letter. We operate a 24 hour notice 20-minute detention to support behaviour and learning.

On rare occasions, a senior member of staff is involved, and parents/carers may be invited to the school to discuss particular problems. A variety of strategies are used to improve behaviour. However, in serious or persistent cases of indiscipline, suspension from school will result.

Our curriculum develops key **knowledge**, essential life **skills** and **values** combined with **enriching experiences** that enable them to thrive in their chosen career path and make a **meaningful contribution** to modern society

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum which builds on previous learning for all pupils. All pupils will follow a sequential learning journey from Years 7 to 11, with the opportunity to continue their studies in our thriving sixth form. Subjects are taught in specialist suites of rooms by subject specialist teachers to ensure that provision is of the highest quality. In the early phase of their education, pupils follow a curriculum that develops knowledge and understanding in the following subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Computing, French, Geography, History, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Religious Education, Technology.

Personal, Social, Health and Relationship Education is delivered through our Personal Development curriculum from Years 7 – 13.

As pupils progress into Year 10, they will study examination subjects with a wide range of GCSE and Vocational qualifications to choose from. The structure of our curriculum therefore ensures that pupils are challenged to achieve the highest possible grades and to progress onto a destination of their choice.
At 16, pupils can choose to progress onto our sixth form, where a breadth of courses and teacher expertise ensures that pupils gain the qualifications and develop skills to progress on to their chosen pathway at 18.

WHAT WE OFFER PUPILS TO STUDY IN KEY STAGE 4:

GCSE SUBJECTS:

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- English Language and English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Psychology
- Science - Triple and Combined Sciences
- Sociology

VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS:

- Childcare
- Health and Social Care
- IT
- Media
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Sport

ALL PUPILS STUDY CORE PE, WHICH IS NON-EXAMINED.

WEDNESFIELD VALUES

At Wednesfield Academy, we recognise how important your child's future is and we reflect this in our school vision of "Changing Lives, Shaping Futures". We focus hard on helping your child to make their dreams come true and are dedicated to doing everything possible to ensure that they succeed. We see your child as an individual and work hard to meet their needs academically, personally and socially. The school bases its work around three common values which we place at the very heart of our community and are each assigned to one of our four 'Houses'.

UNIFORM

Pupils must always wear school uniform when in school and their appearance should be appropriate to a working environment. Shirts must be tucked in, top buttons fastened and ties tied so that 6 stripes are visible underneath the knot. Coats are not to be worn around the school building. Our ties and badges are stocked by Clive Marks and Crested Schoolwear.

Pupils are permitted to wear a wristwatch and one pair of plain studs in the lower earlobe. Piercings must be taken out prior to all PE lessons and sporting activities. Any other jewellery worn may be confiscated and placed in the school safe for collection at the end of the day.

Make-up in years 7 and 8 is not allowed. Make-up in years 9, 10 and 11 is to be discreet and natural-looking if it is to be worn at all. False eyelashes are not permitted, nor are fake tans.

Natural nail varnish is permitted but false nails are also not allowed. In the event of a make-up/nail varnish infringement, pupils will be asked to remove their make-up and/or nail varnish in their house office.

Extreme Hair colour and high fashion cult hairstyles are not permitted. Shaved heads (grade 2 or shorter) and shaved eyebrows are not permitted. Any cult and other extreme hairstyles or body marking/piercing is banned.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Black blazer with school badge
- White polyester/cotton shirt
- School tie (House Colours)
- Black school trousers (not skinny fit or 'drainpipe' style)
- Black school skirt (knee length)
- Black tights (not patterned)
- Black school shoes (no canvas pumps or trainers)
- School bag large enough to fit an A4 file

PE KIT

The compulsory items for every PE lesson are:

- Navy or black PE Top with logo*
- Navy or black PE shorts, leggings or track pants with logo*
- White socks
- Sports trainers or boots depending on the activity.

You may also purchase optional items:
Navy mid-layer jumper (no hoodies)

Further uniform guidance is available on our website.

THE HEADTEACHER'S DECISION ON UNIFORM (INCLUDING HAIRSTYLES, MAKEUP, NAIL VARNISH AND JEWELLERY) IS FINAL.

ATTENDANCE

We expect your child to attend every day. If a child does not attend school they will not learn. All parents/carers of a pupil who will not be attending school through illness, etc are required to telephone the school office before 9.00am to give the reason. If no valid reason is shared, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. By law only the school can authorise an absence. Pupils are registered at 8.30am every morning.

The Local Authority's Educational Welfare Service investigates unexplained absences. It is essential that pupils attend school regularly. We believe that school attainment and success are closely linked with regular attendance. Dental or medical treatment should be arranged after school, or during school holidays. If your child's attendance is below 90% they will be monitored by the Education Welfare Service. If, for very exceptional circumstances, you need to request absence from school for your child during school time you should apply to the school, **2** weeks prior to the known absence, by letter. Once this has been returned to the school, the school will confirm whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

We do NOT authorise holidays during the school term time. Research has found that two weeks absence can seriously affect examination results. By taking time off school for holidays, parents are encouraging their child to fail. Cheap holidays will reduce the academic achievement of your child.

EXPECTATIONS

At Wednesfield Academy, the expectation for our pupils in both behaviour and achievement is extremely high. We expect pupils to be polite, orderly and considerate of others and of property. High standards of behaviour are expected in and out of classrooms. This ensures all pupils can learn effectively and maximise their progress. No one has the right to spoil other pupils' learning. A positive, caring atmosphere based on an ethos of mutual respect provides a working environment where youngsters can reach their full potential. We need your support to ensure that we work in true partnership to support your child.

HOMEWORK

All pupils will be expected to do homework. The amount set will be appropriate to the age and different needs of pupils. Homework will be logged in pupils' planners so parents/carers can monitor weekly tasks.

SPORTS

Sport is a very important and vibrant part of pupils' lives at Wednesfield Academy. The school's philosophy is to provide opportunities for all at a level appropriate to pupils' abilities in `a wide range of sporting activities'. Our intention is that all pupils enjoy their Physical Educational experience and develop self-respect, teamwork, confidence and the sporting competence they need to participate in physical activity out of school hours and in later life.

OUR EXCELLENT SPORTS FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Multi-Purpose Sports Hall
- Extensive playing fields and sports pitches
- Hard-court multipurpose games area
- Activity Studio
- Modern Dance Studio
- Fully Equipped Fitness Suite

EXTRA CURRICULAR

At Wednesfield Academy, we believe education extends well beyond the classroom. We actively encourage every pupil to take part in our extensive extra-curricular programme, designed to spark new interests, build confidence, and nurture talents. In fact, we encourage every child to be involved in at least one extra-curricular activity as part of their personal development. Our broad and varied programme offers something for everyone—from sports and performing arts to academic clubs and creative pursuits. A full timetable of activities is available on our school website and is updated every term to reflect seasonal opportunities and pupil interest.
Performing arts clubs provide an outlet for creativity and self-expression, whether through drama, music, or dance. The annual school musical is a real highlight of our school calendar providing pupils to become involved in acting roles and behind the scenes. Pupils also have the opportunity to showcase their talents at our MADD (Music, Art, Dance and Drama) events that take place during the year.

Our extra-curricular sports programme promotes both competitive and non-competitive participation, encouraging every pupil to find joy in being active. From district-level success to our eagerly anticipated annual Sports Day, sporting achievement and healthy competition are celebrated across the school.

Pupils who show commitment and passion in their activities may be given the honour of representing the school. Through this, they learn valuable life lessons in dedication, resilience, and teamwork—qualities we are proud to develop in every child.

Wednesfield Academy is a fully licensed Duke of Edinburgh Award centre providing pupils from Year 9 onwards the opportunity to progress through the suite of awards.

Wednesfield Academy has its own Combined Cadet Force.

At Wednesfield Academy, we are proud to offer an environment where every child can thrive, both in and out of the classroom.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Wednesfield Academy we are passionate about ensuring that our pupils receive consistently high standards of teaching and learning across all curriculum areas. We strive to deliver lessons that are engaging, challenging, active and meaningful whilst supporting our pupils' individual needs. Through effective feedback, we encourage our pupils to be reflective and independent learners, taking a lead in their own progress.

To make sure that teaching and learning is as high quality as possible, all teachers are involved in regular training programmes and support. Our passion for creating a climate for effective learning also goes beyond the classroom, with regularly set home learning that extends pupils' learning opportunities and trips and visits which deepen understanding. We aim to inspire our pupils to be the best they can be, supporting them to develop a lifelong love of learning.

ASSESSMENT

At Wednesfield Academy, we appreciate the importance of assessment. Our staff assess pupils in line with subject curriculum plans, which allows colleagues to identify the areas of the curriculum where pupils need further support and development. Our assessments refer to key steps in our curriculum plans, which have been mapped against end of Key Stage expectations.

Our expectations are high. All pupils will receive an individual progress report three times a year, which informs them of their progress in each subject based upon their starting points and predicted grade.

To reach this judgement on a pupil's progress, teachers use test information, lesson time and other assessment strategies to reach this holistic outcome.
At Key Stage 3, we also use Accelerated Reader to support pupils with their reading, as well as giving teachers access to this information so that work and resources can be appropriately planned.

EXAMINATION POLICY

The school enters pupils for GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications. Although in a very few cases it may not be considered appropriate to enter pupils for some external examinations, it is the school's policy to enter all pupils who have completed the course. We will also endeavour to enter any pupil who is fluent in reading, writing, speaking and listening in any accredited GCSE language. Year 11 and 13 pupils sit their external examinations in May and June.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education takes place throughout the school. All pupils are given the opportunity to discover Christian heritage and beliefs as well as exploring the central elements of other world faiths, on the grounds of conscience. Religious Education is an important part of the school's cultural and moral education. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education and acts of collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Please contact the Headteacher in writing to request withdrawal.

SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form offers the opportunity to study a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, providing pupils with the qualifications required to follow their chosen career path.

Our Sixth Form Leadership Team take an active role in school life and are our very best representatives. This Team of Head Pupils, Deputy Head Pupils and Ambassadors are a vital link with the younger year groups, supporting the House system and providing mentoring in lessons.

Pupils are expected to wear smart business wear as their uniform. A wide and varied programme of enrichment activities is provided to support the personal development of each individual and also develop key employability skills. We are very conscious that universities, apprenticeship providers and prospective employers look for the wider expertise a pupil possesses that not only complements academic attainment but also enhances their growth into confident adults.

COURSES AVAILABLE AT SIXTH FORM

A LEVELS

- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Design Technology
- Economics
- English Literature
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

VOCATIONAL

- Childcare
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Media
- Performing Arts
- Sport

BICYCLES

No cycle may be brought on to the premises unless it is mechanically safe and pupils who cycle will be expected to have attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency. All reasonable care will be taken, but the responsibility for the safety of cycles and accessories will remain with the owners. Cyclists are advised to padlock their cycles. Cycling helmets are recommended. We promote cycling by the provision of a cycle shelter and a cycling proficiency course. Electronic Scooters are not permitted on site or to be used to travel to school as per the law.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

At Wednesfield Academy, we believe every child deserves to feel valued, respected, and supported. Equality of opportunity is at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that all pupils—regardless of background—can thrive and reach their full potential.

We are proud to foster a culture of inclusion and celebrate the rich diversity within our school community. Throughout the year, we host a variety of events that reflect these values, including our vibrant Culture Day, our Black History Month Celebration Evening, and the work of our dedicated LGBTQ+ Ambassadors, who help to promote understanding and inclusivity across the school.

Through these events and initiatives, we aim to create a welcoming environment where every pupil feels a sense of belonging and is empowered to be their authentic self.

COMPLAINTS

If you wish to make a complaint about the school, in the first instance, you should contact the Headteacher in writing. Your complaint will be investigated following the Matrix Academy Trust Complaints Procedures, a full copy of which is available at the school and on the school website.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Pupils eligible for free school meals will receive funding for their daily lunch. Many other opportunities are provided to support pupils academic achievement and additional learning resources are provided to enable independent access. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to apply for free school meals for their child. If any support is required with this process, please contact the school reception who will be able to assist.

EMERGENCY CONTANT

Please ensure that emergency telephone numbers (work phone number, mobile phone numbers etc) are kept up to date. Notify any changes of address, telephone, emergency contact, etc to the school office immediately. Schools are required by law to have two emergency contacts per child.

MENTAL HEALTH

We work hard to promote positive Mental Health for all our pupils. We engage in important activities that promote positive Mental Health such as exercise, talking to friends and family and being creative.

In school we offer a range of support including referrals to our Mental Health Support Worker and our School Counsellor. We work closely with Reflexions and refer pupils to this outside agency as well.

In terms of other support for pupils' health and wellbeing, we work closely with Wolverhampton 360, who support pupils and their families with substance misuse, and XtoY who help pupils navigate questions around their gender, sexuality and identity. There are a team of pupil leaders in school who also focus on mental health support from a peer perspective

SAFEGUARDING

We aim to be a listening school where pupils' ideas and concerns are heart and acted upon. We work closely with outside agencies to support families and offer time and space in school for pupils to talk about their concerns in a non-judgemental environment. We speak openly with pupils about online safety, healthy relationships and other safeguarding issues.

‘CHANGING LIVES, SHAPING FUTURES’

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Matrix Academy Trust

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