



February 2025

Dear parent/carer/student

We now have less than 50 school days to the start of GCSE and A Level examinations; so this half term really sees the build up to the examination season intensify. This period is undoubtedly a challenging one, but it is also an opportunity for our students to showcase the knowledge and skills they have acquired throughout the academic year. I encourage all students to take advantage of additional study sessions, revision materials, and tutoring with teachers in the lead-up to the exams.

It is also crucial to make well-being a priority during the exam season. Please can you ensure that your child also gets adequate rest, maintains a healthy diet, and engages in activities that help alleviate stress.

Miss School, Miss Out

You will be aware from your son/daughter and the increased communication from school, about the increased focus on attendance. Here at Wood Green Academy, we want to work with families to ensure that Attendance for every student remains as high as possible in order to allow our students to thrive. If your son/daughter's attendance is not at the level it needs to be, we will be in touch to ask for your help to improve the situation. In order to help parents to know where they can access support, please see the attendance tab on our school website and have a look at some of the resources that may help. This information ranges from where to get support for mental health, right through to the Pharmacy First initiative from the NHS for a faster route to a solution for common ailments. There is also guidance about when students should be kept off school which has come straight from the NHS. If you are concerned about how any issues that may be contributing to your child's absence from school, please talk to our attendance team at school and use the resources on our website to help. <https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/students/attendance/>

Safeguarding

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to the families of the recent victims of knife crime, which you have probably seen on the news. As a school we share in your concerns regarding the safety of our students in the community. We would like to reassure you that we take this issue very seriously. All years 9 students past and present receive The Violence Reduction Partnership programme called 'Precious Lives'. This was delivered by West Midlands Police and presented during a Step Up for Life day. In addition, we have regular safeguarding bulletins delivered to our students through our form tutor programme. All year groups will receive an assembly this half term from our School Intervention and Prevention Officer, reminding pupils of the of the dangers of carrying knives. As parents, please continue to have open and honest discussions at home. We have attached a link from the West Midlands Police, should you need guidance on this issue, it can also be found on our website: https://lifeorknife.west-midlands.police.uk/?sm_au=iHV1rnVFNR1v5jZN. If you have information which can help us tackle knife crime, please contact us or the police immediately, your collaboration on this matter is invaluable. Please also see attached, a link which can be used for students or

parents to provide information anonymously to the Police <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless>.

The Albion Foundation Sleepout- 2025

The Albion Foundation would like to welcome members of the local community and the School Family into The Hawthorns on Friday, March 21 for entertainment from Football freestyler Rabaz and live music including a flying visit from Baggie Bird before bedding down for the night at the Shrine, whilst raising vital funds for The Albion Foundation and showing awareness for homelessness.

Children from aged 8 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration costs £20 for adults and £12.50 for juniors (age 8-17).

Please see below link for further information and to secure your place now!

<https://www.wba.co.uk/albion-foundation/events-fundraising/events/sleep-out-2025>

School Rules and Behaviour

One of the reasons, aside from excellent teaching, that ensures we get excellent outcomes for our students, is the high expectations that we have at Wood Green in terms of student behaviour. Can I thank parents/carers for supporting us with this.

Mobile Phones

Once again please can I thank the vast majority of parents/carers that ensure that their child does not bring their mobile phone to school, however there have been a number of incidents in the last term that we have had to deal with, therefore for clarity, students in years 7 – 11 **MUST NOT** bring mobile phones onto the school site. If there is an emergency safeguarding reason for a student to have a mobile phone on them on the journey to and from school, that parents **MUST** request temporary permission from Miss Donaghie in writing with the understanding that if the request is granted the phone **MUST** be handed in to YL/SSM each day for the period of time that the emergency safeguarding reason is in place.

If students are found to be in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. Mobile phones confiscated on a Monday or Tuesday will be held in the school safe until the end of the school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 3.00-3.30pm (in the event of school finishing early, phones due to be collected, can be picked up between from the end of school and the following 20 minutes e.g. 12.00 and 12.20pm.). Phones confiscated on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday will be confiscated until the end of the following school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 3.00-3.30pm. If, however, the return of the mobile phone falls in a school holiday, the phone can be collected on the first day back to school by parents/carers between 3.00 - 3.30pm with the exception of the summer holiday, in which case the phone can be collected by parents/carers on the first Friday of the holidays between 3.00 -3.30pm.

So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 9th April, Thurs 10th April or Fri 11th April, it will not be returned until Monday 28th April 2025 (between 3.00 – 3.30pm) as per our policy. EXCEPTIONS to this policy will not be made and ANY student that refuses to hand in their mobile phone when asked to, will be issued with a Permanent Exclusion. This sanction has been consistently applied where in the rare occasions this has happened in the past.

Student Achievements

Elite Performers

Wood Green Academy are delighted to announce that Paigan Follows (Parks) has been selected to play for England U15s after a series of trials.

Paigan is an outstanding goalkeeper who plays for Wood Green Academy boys' U15 team and girls' U16 team. She also plays for West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools' FA at U16 level and Wolverhampton Wanderers, where she has weekly day release at the Premier League club to develop her game, whilst keeping up with her schoolwork. Paigan is a Young Lioness and attends St George's Park where she works with members of the England Ladies team.

This is an outstanding achievement for Paigan, her family and Wood Green Academy. We wish her all the very best in her up and coming games against Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.



Ashton Pearce (Einstein) was recently nominated and selected to represent West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools' FA U17s v Australia. Despite still being an U16 player, Ashton performed exceptionally well and was the West Mids' man-of-the-match. The game was played to mark the 50th anniversary of the West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools' FA. The game was very competitive with the Australian national schoolboy team winning narrowly. The Australians had previously got victories in games against Wales, Scotland and Ireland on their tour of the British Isles. Mr Baggley – Team Manager



Travis Abercrombie (Da Vinci) has been selected once more to represent England at Muay Thai Boxing. Travis is going to Verona in Italy to compete for the 12–14-year-old World Title, in June. Travis is very dedicated to his sport – he trains 4-5 times each week at his club Core Fit UK in Sutton Coldfield.

Wood Green 100

If you would like to participate in the celebrations or support fundraising efforts, please contact Mr Baggley at Wood Green Academy or email

woodgreen100@woodgreenacademy.co.uk

We are planning on raising money to buy a new school mini-bus, secure sponsorship from local businesses and even break a world record, but we need your support.

Activities Day

Mr Baggley has delivered assemblies to students in Years 7-10 outlining the offer and arrangements for Activities Day.

Letters were sent out in January via ClassCharts outlining costs for trips. Sign up has been good, but we want to make sure we get as many students out on activities as possible.

Initial deposits should have been paid by now, as well as the February 1st instalment. If you haven't paid yet, then do so straight away as we need to give numbers to our venues and the coach companies – waiting to pay on the final instalment date could mean missing out.

Year 7

Option 1: West Midlands Safari Park

Option 2: Go Ape

Year 8

Option 1: Drayton Manor Park

Option 2: Ten Pin Bowling

Year 9

Option 1: Thorpe Park

Option 2: Escape Rooms

Option 3: Fishing

Year 10

Option 1: Alton Towers

Option 2: Paintballing

Option 3: Fishing

Year 12

Blackpool

There is also be an independent **SEND** trip – students may still choose to go on their respective year group trips.

I Can I Will Loyalty Cards – Years 7 and 8 only

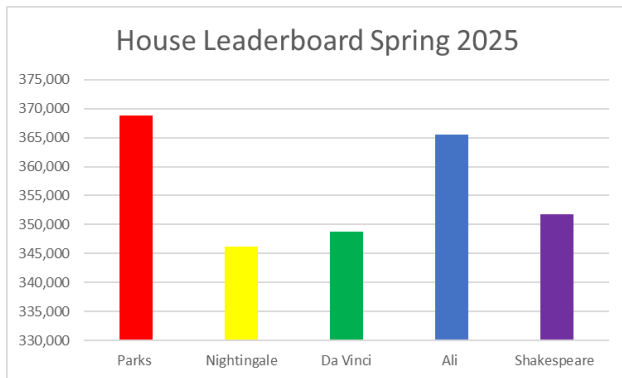
Loyalty cards have been issued to Year 7 and 8 students. Students in these years will get the chance to work hard to get their I Can I Will Loyalty Cards signed as they demonstrate the 7 I Can I Will Characters in their work:

Resilience, Drive, Curiosity, Initiative, Risk Taking, Reflectiveness and Flexibility of Mind.

The cards have taken on a different guise this year with a 100 Year special card available for the children to complete. Students will be awarded badges for completing each card Bronze/Silver/Gold, followed by the '100 Club' card.

Please ask to look at your child's card and ask them what they have done to achieve the respective signatures.

House System



Some big changes to the House Leaderboard as B4L points have been updated. Ali is in the lead with 109,331 attributed to positive behaviour points. Parks come in at 2nd for B4L points at 103,240, and Shakespeare in 3rd 102,154.

KS3 have been taking part in the terrifically tough ten, currently Da Vinci in 1st with 560 points, Nightingale in 2nd at 450 points and Parks in 3rd at 350.

Points have also been won for the Christmas parcel appeal with Ali in 1st place winning 1000 points, Parks in 2nd with 500 and Nightingale + Da Vinci in joint 3rd winning 400 points.

Keep eyes peeled after half term for results to go out for the Valentines February quiz and Ramadan Activity week.

School Games Organisers

Boccia Young Leaders Training

On Tuesday 29th January and Tuesday 4th February students from Year 8 took part in Boccia Young Leaders Officials training in preparation for the Sandwell School Games Boccia Competition which took place at Wood Green Academy on Tuesday 11th February. Primary and Secondary Schools from across the borough gathered to compete for a place at the Black Country School Games. Wood Green Academy students have shown excellent maturity throughout both training sessions and the competition, huge congratulations to the following Year 8 students: Eliza Kerr (Parks), Emerald Jackson (Ali), Kian Russell (Parks), Kolby Danks (Parks), Molli Wheale (Da Vinci), Sukhjeet Singh (Da Vinci), Previously trained Year 9 Boccia leaders also officiated to an excellent standard, thank you and well done to you all: Aimee Whitehouse (Parks), Ava Giles (Da Vinci), Daniel Hall (Nightingale), Riley Lister (Shakespeare), Ronny Cooper – Griffiths (Shakespeare), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Mazy Smith (Ali). Miss Parker, Mrs Probert.

Boccia

We had two teams representing Wood Green at the tournament: a PD team consisting of Sam Fellows (Nightingale), Alfie Hadley (Shakespeare), Ashton Harvey (Ali) and a PAN team made up of Ruby-May Dangerfield (Parks), Tommy Price (Ali), Tyler Hill (Ali). They all did brilliantly well in representing the PE department and the school. The physical team got Silver medals, missing out on Gold by just 3 points! Well done to all involved, it was great to see you represent the school.

School Games

Black Country Individual Table Tennis Championships

We had success at the table tennis championships – Overall winner Tavleena Takhar (Shakespeare) is now through to National Finals in April. Runner up was Evelyn Richardson (Da Vinci). Well done both and good luck in April, Tavleena. Mr Perry

Sporting Aptitude Basketball Trip

We had a great trip to Birmingham with some of our sporting aptitude pupils – who went to watch The British Basketball League Basketball Finals at the Utilia arena in Birmingham. Pupils had a great day out and watched some inspiring elite sportsmen and women compete to be the best in Great Britain!

We hope to do some more elite sports trip soon.

Our sporting aptitude pupils who got involved were :
George Belcher (Ali), Nathaniel Brown (Da Vinci), Rocco Divattimo (Da Vinci),
Sebastian Hill (Ali), Riley Lister (Shakespeare), Scarlett Markham (Parks),
Jared Pobee (Da Vinci), Keeyan Rahman (Nightingale), Harry Richards (Parks),
Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Oliver Shermer (Nightingale), Alexia Stone (Da Vinci) ,
Archie Truslove (Da Vinci), Faye Wilkes (Nightingale). Mrs Thomas, Mr Landsborough, Mr Ali.

Netball - U14

Congratulations to the under 14 netball team who are Sandwell Champions, and who were undefeated in the Sandwell League. Squad; Maxine Banda (Da Vinci), Harkiran Batth (Shakespeare), Caitlyn Cliff (Shakespeare), Jessica Dale (Nightingale), Blayze Dimpka (Shakespeare), Amber Keeling Cartwright (Nightingale), Athena Mhlope (Ali), Emily Morris (Da Vinci), Phoebe Russell (Shakespeare), Shante Tshuma (Shakespeare). Mrs Thomas, Mrs Clifton, Miss McCurdy.

Wood Green Academy School Sports Partnership

We are delighted to announce we have 20 partner schools who are now part of our school sport partnership. Training sessions and a programme of activities have begun with positive feedback from those involved.

STEM

Year 9 students experienced a STEM Activity Day run by Smallpeice Trust (sponsored by HS2)

The day began with an initial survey completed by all students, followed by an introduction to STEM, careers and HS2 – what STEM stands for and what it relates to, which types of jobs and careers might need some sort of STEM knowledge and how that relates to HS2. Students were informed of what jobs were created by designing and beginning to build HS2 as well as how each of these roles links to STEM, with a focus on different forms of engineering.

Students were then engaged in a team building activity where students had to use 10 single pieces of A4 paper and build a tower that would support a 100g mass. The challenge was to make a tower as tall as possible using only the 10 sheets of A4 paper, but still stable enough to support the 100g mass – the paper could be folded, torn, stacked but no other equipment could be used. The students really engaged with this activity and some of them were very resilient and innovative in their approaches, building on other groups ideas and refining them. The highest tower was 94cm. ICIW points were awarded to several groups for their efforts and contributions to the challenge.

After this there was a discussion about skills and traits that people have and how they can help us to find suitable career paths that align well with both our natural traits and the skills we develop through practise. The students were asked to suggest skills needed for STEM themed careers, and then rate their own skills on a sliding scale from 1 – 10 (1 being worst, 10 being best). It was interesting to look around at the students' selections – it appeared that female students on average ranked themselves lower on all skills than male students, with most female students having an average score between 4-6 across the 8 skills, whereas male students averaged between 6-8 across the 8 skills. This then led into a description of 4 roles that students could adopt in the next task based around what skills and traits they identified as being the strongest.

Next the students were set the challenge to design a train station for 2055 (30 years in the future). They had to initially create a mind map on A3 paper of the key features they felt should be included. They were given some information about the different main structures that had to be included, but were then allowed to put any additional structures in that they would like. Once they had completed a mind map they were given squared paper, on which they had to draw a floor plan showing the layout of their train station, alongside a key of the different symbols used on the floorplan. As they were in teams of 3, 4, or 5, the remaining team members were tasked with producing artist renderings of the outside of the train

station. Students were then judged and awarded points for showing ICIW characteristics from their plans, keys and drawings.

The final task of the day was based around the idea of green tunnels. Students were given some information about different types of tunnels and their cost and environmental impact to help them understand why green tunnels were being used so extensively in the planning for HS2. This also recalled back to the sustainability discussion that was had whilst planning the train stations of the future. After this introduction to tunnels and their structure, students were set a challenge. Using 40 art straws of length 40cm, they had to produce a frame design for a green tunnel. The tunnel had to be at least 9cm tall and 8 cm wide so that the model train (8cm tall, 7cm wide) could fit through the middle, and be 40cm long. They were only allowed to use 40 straws and masking tape to build their frames. The final test for the designs involved checking for 3 criteria; that the model train would go through the tunnel, the mass of the frame (linked to cost of raw materials to build tunnel) and finally the structural stability. The structural stability was tested by placing sandbags on top of the models, each weighing 500g. For the tunnel to be considered a success it needed to support 1kg (2 sandbags) without collapsing. There were several designs that were successful in meeting all 3 targets, and one groups design even managed to hold up 3kg of mass. Again, points were awarded on ClassCharts for the ICIW characteristics shown.

The final part of the day had students filling in a second survey to see what they had gained from the day as well as being awarded certificates. The winning team from the final challenge received winners certificates, with everyone else receiving a recognition certificate for their efforts: Aadam Awais (Parks), Josiah McLeary (Ali), Finley Thomas (Parks), Charlie Blackhall (Ali), Lucas Freeth (Ali)

The day was a huge success, seeing all students engaging with the activities and developing their knowledge of STEM and career pathways. Jeff Martin (from Smallpeice) said that the Year 9 students were really well behaved and engaged, and he was very impressed with them. Well done to all. Mr Price

Student Leadership Success

Well done to the student ambassadors for their efforts in coordinating various events in school since November. Updates on totals raised so far: Save the Children £370.42 and Children in Need £364.89.

We are taking our second cohort of students to be trained for the Diana Award Anti-Bullying ambassador award on Monday 24th February. These 10 students will spend the day learning what it takes to educate and support their peers and we will welcome them to our 'peer support' team shortly.

Thank you to the following student ambassadors who took part in our annual student voice survey. Taking time to explain the process to students and feeding back results to SLT meeting. The team of ambassadors involved in all stages were: Evelyn Richardson (DaVinci), Hollie- Rai Price (Parks), Maddie Clews (Parks), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Joe Bird (Nightingale), Khiyan Morkar (Parks), Tami Ajayi (Einstein), Elisabeth Halford (Ali) and Cassey Clews (Parks) who proudly took a summary of responses from students across the school to all of SLT on 29th January.

Reminder that the student ambassadors run weekly well-being extracurricular activities in school:

Monday lunchtime N002	Lego club
Tuesday lunchtime N002	Book club
Wednesday lunchtime N002	Chess club
Friday lunchtime N002	Board games club

Bring your lunch, come along, and join us.

Many thanks to the current Year 13 ambassadors in running this groups: Cassey Clews (Parks), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Analeigh Halford (Parks), Imaan Guernah (Nightingale), Chloe Hughes (Nightingale) and Ikjot Bhuller (Nightingale).

School Calendar

Just a reminder that the school calendar is on the school website and has all the Academy's key dates and activities listed: <https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/school-calendar/>

For all students completing exams in the next 50 days, let's approach the upcoming exams with a positive mindset and a determination to do our best. Your hard work and resilience will undoubtedly yield great results.

Many thanks



Mr J Topham
Headteacher