



June 2024

Dear parent/carer/student

I hope you all had a good half term. We have now entered the final half term of the Academic year and the external examination season is well underway with students working hard and exhibiting all the traits to being successful. We wish them the best of luck with the rest of their exams.

### Miss School, Miss Out

If a child misses just one day a week, over the course of their school career they will miss two years of schooling and their chances of achieving their potential will be at risk.

If you need any help or support, please do get in touch with us by speaking to your child's year team in the first instance.

### Medical Appointments

Although we would prefer that medical appointments are made outside of the school day, we are aware that this is always not possible. However, we have a number of parents calling school with short notice, letting us know their child has an appointment. If you could send your child in on the day of their appointment with a note to be given to their year team. This can then be authorised, and they can sign out at reception with permission with enough time to attend their appointment.

### Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award Update

Earlier on in the academic year we were proud to announce that we had achieved 'Bronze' UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award. As we embark on our journey towards 'silver', our Rights Respecting Student Ambassadors have been working hard to incorporate the United Nations Charter for the Rights of Children (UNCRC) into everyday life at Wood Green. In doing so they have produced the Wood Green Academy Charter of Rights. This charter underpins our schools core values for teaching and learning in a 'rights respecting' environment. It is a mutual agreement adhered to by all members of the Wood Green community:

## WGA SCHOOL CHARTER OF RIGHTS

<b>Article 2</b> of the Convention outlines that every child should be protected against discrimination on any basis.	<b>Article 42</b> states to make children aware of the Convention and the rights enshrined therein.	<b>Article 29</b> sets out that education should prepare children and young people for life in a free society in the spirit of peace and tolerance amongst people from all groups.	<b>Article 31</b> every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a range of cultural and artistic activities.	<b>Article 12</b> asserts that children should be able to express their views in matters that affect them and for those views to be taken seriously.
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As Students we promise to	As Students and staff we promise to	As staff we promise to
Respect, and uphold other students' rights. Behave in a way that allows everyone to learn. To attend school regularly and on time. Work hard in all lessons. Value everyone in school as we would like to be valued. Listen to the opinions of others, even if they are different to our own. Respect and protect the privacy of our peers. Choose to go to whatever extra curricular groups we wish and allow others to do the same.	Be organised, attend school, arrive on time for lessons with all necessary equipment. Treat everyone (adults and peers) with respect through our language and actions. Celebrate other cultures, festivals and traditions. Treat others with respect no matter what their ethnic origin, religion, gender or sexuality. Do all we can to help others claim their right to a healthy and safe life.	Value, protect and respect everyone's rights. Ensure that the behaviour of individuals does not disrupt learning. Listen to and respect students opinions. Do our best to provide high quality Teaching and Learning for ALL students. Provide positive feedback and set realistic targets for the future. Create a safe environment. Encourage participation in extracurricular activities and celebrate achievement.

Staff and students at WGA work to ensure that the rights of every child are upheld and respected.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Rights Respecting Schools Award or would like to get involved in supporting our school on this journey, please do not hesitate to get in touch. As our Silver Award accreditation is looming, we look forward to sharing some good news with you in the next newsletter.

## **Wood Green hits 100**

On September 17th 2024, Wood Green Academy officially becomes 100 years old. During the academic year we will be engaging in a range of activities to celebrate the special milestone. From an afternoon tea for the Old Wodens, to concerts, burying a time capsule, planting trees and engaging in a range of activities that represent key dates along the way, we are hoping to make 2024/25 a year of celebration and legacy.

As part of the activities 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.

We would like current and ex-pupils/staff to share their most memorable moments of their time at Wood Green and also any photos during this time that you may have. Please complete the following form outlining your time at Wood Green.

<https://forms.office.com/e/xu1Ti6cSej>. If you have any photos that you are willing to share. Please can these be sent to the following email address ([WoodGreen100@woodgreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:WoodGreen100@woodgreenacademy.co.uk)). Groups and individuals who would like to help with the planning/organisation of any events can also use this email address to offer help/ideas.

## **Smile For Joel day**

On Friday 5th July we will be having our annual Smile For Joel day. Joel Richards was an ex-student who tragically lost his life along with his Uncle, Grandfather and 27 other British tourists in the Tunisian terrorist attack of 2015. Since then, his mum Suzie and brother Owen have set up a charity in their honour called the Smile For Joel charity. We all miss Joel greatly and try to do an event each year to raise money for this amazing charity.

On this date students will be allowed to wear sportswear or a PE kit and make a donation to the Smile For Joel Charity. Students who do not wish to be in sportswear or PE kit should be in their full school uniform. If your child does have PE on that day then they must wear suitable footwear i.e. no converse or vans.

## **Run 4 Joel**

Run 4 Joel will return once again to Sandwell Valley on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June and this promises to be bigger and better than last year, continuing with the colour blast theme. The event at Sandwell Valley Country Park is held in memory of our former student Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and Grandfather Patrick Evans.

It would once again be great to see a large number of Wood Green students and their families taking part. More details can be found here:

<https://smileforjoel.com/event-details?event=runforjoel2024>

Registrations are open now!

## **School and Parent communication**

As a school we always want to communicate with parents and encourage parents to communicate with us, however, we are a school of over 1500 students and as parents I am sure you appreciate that at times, we find it very difficult to respond to demands of a call back on the day of a call. We have a policy that states that we will endeavour to call parents back within 24 hours unless it is clearly an emergency.

We are also finding an increasing number of parents attending the school demanding to speak to staff, which is impossible when we have staff who are teaching and staff who may be involved in other meetings or training.

I therefore ask that you follow the advice that is given to all parents:

- Please only call the school if there is an emergency eg. You need to collect your child for an appointment that you have managed to arrange that day, there is a safeguarding issue that needs to be addressed.
- Only attend the school if you are collecting your child, dropping off an item of equipment that they may have forgotten or you have an appointment.
- Please call the school absence line (0121 556 4131 ext 230) or email the absence email address ([WGA.absence@woodgreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:WGA.absence@woodgreenacademy.co.uk)), **before 8am**, if your child is going to be absent. Please clearly state the following:
  - o Name:
  - o DOB:
  - o Form:
  - o Reason:
  - o Relationship to pupil:
- Parents should email the relevant year team if a response is needed from the Year Leader and/ or Student Support Manager, the emails are as follows:  
[year7office@awoodgreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:year7office@awoodgreenacademy.co.uk); [year8office@woodgreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:year8office@woodgreenacademy.co.uk);  
[year9office@woodgreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:year9office@woodgreenacademy.co.uk); [year10office@woodgreenacademy.co.uk](mailto:year10office@woodgreenacademy.co.uk);  
[year11office@woodgreenacademt.co.uk](mailto:year11office@woodgreenacademt.co.uk)
- Finally, please treat our staff with the respect that you would also expect to receive. Our staff will do everything they can do to help but as I stated we are all busy

### Challenge Days

Final arrangements are now being made for Challenge Days. All payments must now be made straight away and in full, through Parent Pay. Those who have not chosen activities will be assigned on-site activities.

Specific information regarding activities eg clothing, times of trips, will be shared via ClassCharts nearer to the time.

### 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 half 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 Mrs Wood in writing with the understanding that the phone **MUST** be handed in to YL/SSM each day for the period of time that the emergency safeguarding reason is in place.

Students should not use their mobile phone as their bus pass/ticket as mobile phones are not permitted on the school site. If a student brings a phone onto the school site and it is

confiscated, parents will need to either purchase an additional bus pass/ticket or will have to make alternative arrangements for their child's transport.

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 2.40-3.00pm (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 2.40-3.00pm. 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 2.40 - 3.00pm 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 2.40 -3.00pm. **So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> July or Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> July, it will not be returned until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (between 2.40 – 3.00pm) 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**

### **Young Writers Anthology**

We are delighted to share that Thomas Hind (Shakespeare) and Lacie Powell (Einstein) have been chosen for publication in the Young Writers' 'Mission Catastrophe: Redemption Stories' anthology. During extra-curricular sessions, they have been motivated to imagine, write and redraft these stories and now they have been rewarded with such well-deserved recognition. Having these students' work chosen is something to be proud of; it doesn't happen every day and we are so pleased that they are inspired and engaged with their creative writing. Alongside the other students who have contributed to this national programme, Thomas and Lacie's stories will be published in the Autumn.

### **STEM High Performance Sport Analysis**

Miss Parker (SGO) arranged for a group of A level and BTEC National sixth formers and two younger elite swimmers, to meet Ollie Logan who works for Swim Britain. Ollie has already worked at four Olympic Games as a performance analyst and is preparing for Paris with the British swimming team. He delivered a seminar on STEM in high performance sport – specifically swimming. The group, under Ollie's guidance analysed performance and made recommendations based on their findings. The group were up of: Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Amber Keeling Cartwright (Parks), Daniel Cooper (Ali), Brandon Gill (Da Vinci), Annaleigh Halford (Einstein), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Lewis Jones (Parks), Tate Williams (Shakespeare).

### **Black Country School Games**

Our two School Games Organisers (SGOs) have had another busy half term preparing and delivering a range of events for students around Sandwell. Not only are these events an opportunity to participate, but also an opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills, which many initially develop during enrichment.

## Secondary

- Y9 boys 3x3 basketball held at Wood Green Academy, 8 schools in attendance accumulating 14 teams in total, 51 participants
- Year 9 Sports hall athletics held at Wood Green Academy, 7 schools, 79 participants
- Wood Green Academy tennis leaders training for the mini red tennis tournament at Tipton Sports Academy.
- Black Country Tennis tournament, Wood Green Academy tennis leaders to umpire the tournament and deliver on the festival activities at Tipton Sports Academy
- Black Country Boccia tournament, Wood Green Academy Boccia leaders to officiate the tournament at Tipton Sports Academy
- West Bromwich Albion Player Appearance from the first team, delivered a session and discussion to the girls football club, player was Olivia Rabjohn

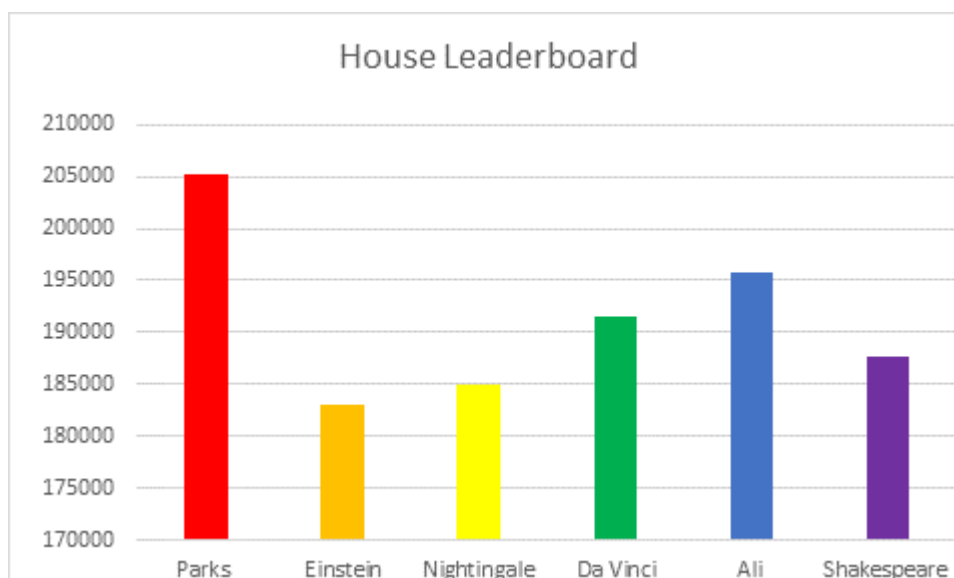
## Primary

- KS1 Multi skills – The Albion Dome, 9 schools, 82 participants
- Yr1-4 SEND multi skills – The Albion Dome, 4 schools, 21 participants
- Yr5&6 Girls football – The Albion Dome, 8 schools, 66 participants
- Yr3&4 mini Red Tennis – Tipton Sports Academy in partnership with Tipton Tennis Academy, 7 schools, 28 participants
- Yr5&6 Boys football – The Albion Dome, 15 schools, 130 participants
- Yr4-6 Table tennis festival -Wood Green Academy in partnership with Wood Green Table Tennis Club, 3 schools, 16 participants
- Yr5&6 High 5 Netball tournament – George Salter Academy in partnership with Netball Club, 10 schools, 81 participants

## House System

Miss Harris has now taken over the House Management whilst Miss Paskin is away on maternity leave. She is in the process of updating the leaderboard following more departmental competitions this half term and planning with our House captains for next half term and into next academic year.

Keep an eye out on ClassCharts for updates.



## Science competition winners

Congratulations to the following students:

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| • Fariha Yasmin (Einstein)      | 50 points |
| • Inaaya Ahmed (Da Vinci)       | 50 points |
| • Sarah Imani (Shakespeare)     | 30 points |
| • Olivia Bevin (Shakespeare)    | 30 points |
| • Anika Akter (Ali)             | 30 points |
| • Numaan Mohammed (Nightingale) | 30 points |

## Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh students have been working hard preparing for their upcoming expedition. Miss Lloyd and her team have been taking students through their paces developing map reading skills and putting up tents on the school fields in preparation for their night under the stars.

We hope the weather is kind to them and that they all manage to navigate themselves safely along the route.

## Elite Footballers

We are delighted to hear that three of our elite footballers have each been given two year contract extensions at their respective academies:

Aden Foster (Ali) at Walsall FC, Zak Millward (Shakespeare) and Charlie Kelsey-Beasmore (Shakespeare) at Port Vale. We wish them all the very best in their development over the next two years and beyond.

Former student, Sebastian Revan returned to Wood Green Academy to present Mr Baggley with one of his Aston Villa match shirts. Sebastian started the season at his parent club (Aston Villa) and played in their European games. He then went out on a season long loan to Championship side Rotherham, where he played very well, despite the difficult predicament the team found themselves in. Sebastian is hoping to be part of the first team squad for next season.

Ellis Jones, another one of our past students, who was a trainee at Port Vale, is enjoying life out in America. He is studying on a 'Soccer Scholarship', whilst travelling all over the United States playing College football.

Both boys are excellent examples of hard work and dedication and are reaping the rewards for their academic and footballing commitment.

## Student Leadership Success

Well done to the following students for delivering Anti-Bullying workshops to all Year 7 pupils during Step up 4 Life day 5. They led sessions on what bullying was, informed on different types and taught year 7s how to be good upstanders. All part of their Diana Award training, they did a fantastic job.

Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Olivia Stevens (Einstein), Kian Russell (Parks), Sanjula Sapkota (DaVinci), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Zunaira Kamran Khalid (DaVinci), Mohammed Raihan Islam (Parks), Alaana Smith (Parks), Abbie Edis (Ali) and Ayesha Akhtar (Einstein).

We now have a weekly drop-in session run by our peer support buddies. These are ambassadors who have been specially trained based on Mental Health First Aiders England training.

Our peer support buddies are: Shayma Begum (Parks), Cassey Clews (Parks), Harmeet Powar (Einstein), Ashlee Hicken (Parks), Tasmia Zannat (Nightingale), Shanya Taha (Shakespeare), Carly Phillips (Nightingale), Tami Ajayi (Einstein), Lacie Powell (Einstein), Joe Bird (Shakespeare), Tanzina Zannat (Einstein), Olivia Edis (Ali).

They promise to listen and offer support or help students to find the right person to support them when required. To access this service which is open to all students, pupils need to drop in to N103 Friday lunchtimes.

Student leadership activities after half term- Open to ALL Students and ALL year groups.

The Well-Being committee are proud to offer a variety of events:

- Tuesday Lunchtimes T001- Lego Club- Come join our Student Ambassadors and create Lego models/designs.
- Wednesday Lunchtimes N002- Random Acts of Kindness- Either join in with spreading some kindness around school or watch out for a #randomact coming your way every Wednesday.
- Friday Lunchtimes N002- Board Games Club- Come join in with the competitive fun. Everything from Chess to Uno.

### **Student Ambassador applications 2024-25**

The application process will start next term. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved, improve their personal skills and friendships and become a bigger part of the school community. Deadline will be Friday 12th July. For more information speak to Mrs Williams or any of our current student ambassadors.

### **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 currently completing their external exams, let's continue to approach them with your "I can, I will" mindset determination. Your hard work and resilience will undoubtedly yield great results.

Many thanks



Mr J Topham  
Headteacher