



November 2024

Dear parent/carers/student

Remembrance Day 2024

As a school, we wish to commemorate Remembrance Day and remember those lost in all wars and acknowledge the work of our armed services.

To this end we would like to invite students who are in any uniformed services, whether it be the Cadets, Scouts, Guides or Explorers to attend school in their uniforms on Monday 11th November. All other students **MUST** attend school in the correct school uniform.

Due to our break being up until 11am, we will undertake the 2 minutes silence at 11.10am the Last Post will be played, and a student will recite a poem as we lay our wreath to commemorate all that have lost their lives.

Keep up to date with Safeguarding issues

We will be launching **Flashpoint** on Classcharts which are notifications on current Safeguarding issues which will hopefully enhance your understanding of the challenges faced by young people and give you some guidance in identifying, reporting and supporting them and others in our community.

We hope that this proves to be useful to you and that you continue to work with us to raise any concerns.

'Speak Out' button

If you are worried or anxious about anything or anyone, in or out of school, and you wish to speak to someone please use the 'Speak Out' button on the website.



The website has a large section on Safeguarding for you and your family with useful links to support for mental health and on-line safety.

Please contact Miss Donaghie, Assistant Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Mrs Smith, Deputy Head and Deputy DSL if you have any concerns, questions or in need of any support.

Parents on school site

Please can I ask parents to ensure that they only attend the school site if they have a booked appointment with a member of staff. This can be done by calling the school on 0121 556 4131. Parents with appointments must enter the site via the visitors' car park and report to reception straight away. Parents without appointments must not enter the school site in order to safeguard the students and staff.

School Drop off and collection - St Paul's Road – Health and Safety

Please do not drive onto St Paul's Road in the morning or afternoon to drop or collect your child. There is no turning head on St Paul's Road by the school gate and use of the visitor car park as such has increased the risk to students.

Instead, please drop your child off on Axletree way, by the school sports hall.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

ClassCharts

We would like to thank all parents and carers who are using the Class Charts application for smartphones. Please be aware that from this term, and moving forward, Class Charts will be our main form of communication, replacing SMS texts and emails. This will provide you with a "one-stop" location for the following:

- Parents/carers reporting student absence.
- Receiving letters and announcements.
- After-school detention notifications.
- Accessing pupil timetables, achievement scores and attendance.

When using the Class Charts app on a smartphone, please ensure notifications are enabled. If you are having trouble accessing or using your Class Charts account, please email digihelp@woodgreenacademy.co.uk with a description of your issue, and our dedicated IT Team will reach out to support you.

Artificial Intelligence and Safe-Guarding

As I am sure you are aware, Artificial Intelligence (AI) providers such as Chat GPT continue to grow in popularity as a useful tool. We would like to remind you that AI providers have age limits on their usage, with most (such as ChatGPT, Gemini etc) having a lower age limit of 13, and an expectation of parental supervision until the age of 18. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the AI included within the Snapchat app. A growing number of young people are relying on this feature to search for information regarding mental and physical health. Naturally, these topics would be best discussed with an adult at home, or with some of the counselling services offered here at WGA. More information on this topic can be found in the Online Safety pages of our website.

We also need to make you aware that during preparation for examination subjects and Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) there are strict regulations in relation to the use of AI, which teachers will give guidance on. Pupils not adhering to these rules are in danger of breaking examination malpractice rules and endangering their exam entries. Regarding the use of AI for homework, pupils will be guided by their teachers when the use of AI is appropriate. This will include instructions on how to use this tool in an appropriate manner. If homework instructions on Class Charts do not include the use of AI, then pupils must not use it.

In the classroom, there will be some occasions where students in Years 9 to 13 will have the opportunity to develop their skills in the use of AI, through active usage. In order to comply with the terms and conditions of our AI provider (Microsoft Copilot) we require parent/guardian consent for students to take part in these activities. If you would like your child to have the opportunity to take part in these types of activities, then please visit the Class Charts announcements section, and indicate your consent in the message titled "AI Consent".

Diana Well-being Award Badge

We are pleased to share and announce some good news regarding our Anti Bullying Student Ambassadors who have recently been awarded the Diana Well-being Badge in recognition of their work in running anti-bullying campaigns that encourage positive wellbeing, spread kindness, and strengthen peer support systems in our school community.

Rights Respecting Schools

Before we broke up for the Summer we were pleased to announce that Wood Green Academy was the first secondary school in Sandwell to be awarded the Rights Respecting Silver Award. This award acknowledges that as a school community we explicitly learn about children's rights, children rights are protected, promoted and practiced. This year we are working towards Gold status if you are interested in learning more about what a Rights Respecting environment looks like or you would like to support us to champion these rights please contact Miss Khan our Rights Respecting School Lead.

100 Years

On 17th September 2024, Wood Green Academy celebrated its 100th anniversary and kicked off a year-long series of events to mark this incredible milestone. Originally established as Wednesbury Boys' High School, the Academy first opened its doors on 17th September 1924, in Wood Green House, St. Paul's Road, under the leadership of Headteacher Mr C. H. S. Kipping. Mr Kipping placed a strong emphasis on academic success, sports, and playing chess—there are even local chess clubs named after him in recognition of his influence.

The Newton block was the original school building, and a house where the Headteacher once lived stood where the science labs are now located. This block was later renamed the Pritchard Block in recognition of Sir Albert Pritchard, the Academy's first Chair of Governors. Sir Albert generously donated the original school building, the Headteacher's house, and the land to the institution.

Former members of the school are known as Old Wodens. Several members of the Old Wodens committee, along with Sir Albert Pritchard's great-nephew Adrian Pritchard, the Mayor of Sandwell, Syeda Khatun MBE, and the Governors, led by Chair Vicky Millward, visited the Academy on Tuesday, 17th September, to help celebrate the 100-year anniversary. During the event, six oak trees were planted by Student Ambassadors Tammy Ajayi (Einstein), Khiyan Morkar (Parks), and Joe Bird (Shakespeare), representing the six Houses of the Academy. Additionally, a time capsule was buried by Headteacher Mr Topham, containing information about the Academy today and messages from students. Adrian Pritchard also presented a silver salver to the school, which will be awarded to students for outstanding achievements.

Old Wodens committee members John Easter (Chairman), John Clifford, Tony Lees, Les Blower, Brian Howard, and John Butler collaborated with Assistant Headteacher Mr Bagglely to host a celebratory event for fellow Old Wodens on Friday, 20th September. The well-attended event featured a display of old artefacts and trophies, allowing attendees to reminisce about their time at the school. The celebration concluded with the cutting of a commemorative cake. Guest speakers included Adrian Pritchard, John Clifford (an Old Woden and former staff member with a 70-year association with the school), and Judge David Wilcox QC (Old Woden).

Throughout the academic year, Wood Green Academy staff, students, and the wider community will engage in a series of projects, competitions, and celebratory events, culminating in a summer fayre. Please visit the school website for further details. The Academy is also planning a number of fundraising activities to support these events and contribute towards acquiring a new school minibus.

If you would like to participate in the celebrations or support fundraising efforts, please contact Mr Bagglely 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.

100 Years Badge

Winners of the 100 Years badge design competition were Sophia Chowdhury (Ali) and Tanzina Zannat (Einstein). This is the electronic version of the badge:



The badge was used as a cake topper for the 100 Years celebrations last month and will be used on all our merchandise and publicity, including the new school mini-bus.

Challenge Days

Thank you to everyone who has given feedback on previous Challenge Days and given suggestions for the future. Lengthy discussions have taken place and we have listened to what students want so we are now providing an offer that should see a high uptake that maintains high attendance right until the end of term.

Activities Day as it will be known this year, will be a one-day offer. There was an overriding view from the students that they wanted to be with their own year group and with their own friends, so this will be granted where possible. On-site/local activities will be offered to Key Stages, but the activities themselves will be done in year groups where possible.

We intend to offer the following:

Year 7

- Option 1: West Midlands Safari Park
- Option 2: Go Ape
- On-site/Local Options: Team Building (Set up camp)
Fun and games/cooking
Brunswick Park (tracker, orienteering and outdoor gym) – walk
Leisure United (formerly Pulse) – walk

Year 8

- Option 1: Drayton Manor Park
- Option 2: Ten Pin Bowling
- On-site/Local Options: Team Building (Set up camp)
Fun and games
Brunswick Park (tracker, orienteering and outdoor gym) – walk
Leisure United (formerly Pulse) – walk

Year 9

- Option 1: Thorpe Park
- Option 2: Escape Rooms
- On-site/Local Options: Problem Solving/Game Shows
Leadership (with Primary Schools)
Fishing

Year 10

Option 1: Alton Towers
Option 2: Paintballing/Quad Biking
On-site/Local Options: Problem Solving/Game Shows
Leadership (with Primary Schools)
Fishing

Year 12

Oxford/Weston-Super-Mare/other

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

Students/parents/carers should look out for announcements and further information in November via ClassCharts/email/website and other social media/Form Tutor/Head of Year. Choices must be made quickly, followed by an initial deposit via Parent Pay. There will be instalment dates to help spread the overall payment out.

Enrichment

Enrichment goes beyond the academic and complements our students' curricula. Experiences are intended to enhance each student's (physical/mental/social) health and well-being

We aim for activities to be enjoyable and broaden...

- each individual's view of the world around them
- the opportunities they can pursue to enhance the overall quality of their life.

All students in Years 7 and 8 engage in a range of enrichment activities every week. These activities complement their curriculum offer and are led by specialist coaches, many of whom are returning alumni.

Year 8 – Period 6 every Monday

Year 7 – Period 6 every Wednesday

Over the two years the students will do 12 activities.

Activities include:

Year 7 - Memory, Judo, BoxClever, Kabaddi, Introduction to Leadership, Top Table and Word Detective

Year 8 – Duke of Edinburgh, Judo, BoxClever, Kabaddi, Leadership – Referee!, Leagues and Ladders and Word Inspector

All activities have an 'I Can I Will' theme to them: Reflectiveness; Risk Taking; Drive; Resilience; Initiative; Curiosity; Flexibility of Mind.

BoxClever for example, focusses on emotional intelligence, champions in life, accountability, responsibility, resilience, health and fitness – sessions are non-contact, but high intensity and physical.

Please note that enrichment is a compulsory activity that is identified in Period 6 on your child's timetable. Please avoid requesting medical appointments during this period wherever possible.

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 18th Dec, Thurs 19th Dec or Fri 20th Dec, it will not be returned until Monday 3rd January 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

Celebrating Student Leadership Success

In September we saw our second cohort of Change Your Mind Ambassadors trained. These are 6th formers who are willing to give up their time and skills to support others in delivering key PSE messages via lessons on SU4L day. The students, alongside our existing Change Your Mind Ambassadors then went on to deliver sessions on SU4L day 1 to Year 9 on Mental Health. Well-done to all involved.

Ashlee Hall (Einstein), Maddison Quayle (Parks), Osanherumwen Imagbenikaro (Ali), Oluwadademimu Abimbola (Einstein), Zara Samreen (Ali) Millie Bowen (Ali), Olivia Evans (Parks), Faith Lowe-Higgins (Einstein), Hafizah Ruji (Shakespeare), Rihana Begum (Shakespeare), Madison Cooper (Ali), Mohammed Saeed Alam (DaVinci), Taaiba Uddin (Da Vinci), Freya Webb (Nightingale), Millie Webb (Parks), Chloe Hughes (Nightingale), Ikjot Bhuller (Nightingale), Stephanie Williams (Da Vinci), Anan Diya (Ali), Ebony Lewis (Ali), Sophie Rushton (Parks),

Mohammed Yasir Hameed Mahee (Parks), Judy Asta (Shakespeare), Angel Chen (Da Vinci), Sara Hoque (Da Vinci), Tasmia Zannat (Einstein).

We have successfully recruited a number of Year 12 ambassadors to join our Student Leadership team. Many of these year 12's have been already getting involved in various events and across the school including peer support buddy training and selling items for World Mental Health day.

Maddison Quayle (Parks), Osanherumwen Imagbenikaro (Ali), Amina Ahmed (Nightingale), Tasmia Zannat (Einstein), Oluwadademimu Abimbola (Einstein), Shanya Taha (Shakespeare), Millie Bowen (Ali), Fiza Akram (Ali), Tazeen Qureshi (Einstein), Faith Lowe-Higgins (Einstein), Jessica Faulkner (Nightingale), Owen McKee (Shakespeare), Simra Kasim (Parks)

A massive thank you to the following student ambassadors who gave their time up after school to support in the 100 year celebrations, meeting and greeting the old Wodens and helping to serve food and drink alongside and finding out more about Wood Green Life over the last 100 years in September.

Cassey Clews (Parks), Maddie Clews (Parks), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Analeigh Halford (Einstein), Joe Bird (Shakespeare), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare) and Tami Ajayi (Einstein), Sanjula Sapkota (DaVinci), Shayma Begum (Parks), Sophie Rushton (Parks), Mohammed Saeed Alam (DaVinci), Ta'izah Hussain Naqvi (Shakespeare), Madison Cooper (Ali), Ritika Rohella (Einstein), Heather Stubbs (Nightingale), Ikjot Bhuller (Nightingale), Mohammed Naeem (Nightingale), Imaan Guernah (Nightingale), Chloe Hughes (Nightingale) and Zunaira Khalid (Da Vinci)

Thursday 10th October was World Mental Health Day. Student Leadership Ambassadors organised a number of yellow activities for Year 7 -11 to participate in. They sold yellow bands and scrunches to raise £250 for YoungMinds, a leading mental health charity for teenagers and encouraged staff and 6th formers to dress up for the day in outfits that showed activities for 'self-care'. Cassey Clews (Parks), Elisabeth Halford (Ali), Analeigh Halford (Einstein), Joe Bird (Shakespeare), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare) and Tami Ajayi (Einstein) also led assemblies to Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 on the importance of self-care and how to support themselves and others with their mental health needs.

House System

Autumnal photo challenge winner has been announced

100 Years challenge winner has been announced – Sophia Chowdhury (Ali) and Tanzina Zannat (Einstein)

Food bank donation challenge to be announced next week in assemblies

Charity Work

Breaking Bread Food Bank Help families and individuals in crisis and rely solely on donations.

Thank you to everyone who donated. Total amount of donations weighed 182kg!



3rd place winning 500 points for their house:

7P1 - PARKS

2nd place winning 1000 points for their house:

7D1 – DA VINCI

1st place winning 5000 points for their house:

7E1 - EINSTEIN

Autumnal photo challenge

In 3rd place:

Sanjula Sapkota 13D

50 points for DA VINCI



In 2nd place:

Jacob Page 8N1

100 points for NIGHTINGALE



In 1st place:

Mya Ruby 9S1

200 points for Shakespeare



Christmas box parcel appeal will be added into a 'Fun Friday' to be announced as a house competition before Christmas

House captains

Applications for House captains have been submitted. The successful applicants will have the following qualities:

- Be ROLE MODELS!
- Embody the values of Wood Green Academy
- Contribute to the wider community.
- Be organised and committed.
- A confident speaker.
- Liaise with staff, students and the wider community.
- Desire to act responsibly and to be a role model for other students.
- Be caring, mature and honest.

In the role, they will develop the following skills that recruiters value:

- Communication
- Team work
- Time management
- Leadership
- Event-planning
- Public speaking
- Inspire and motivate others

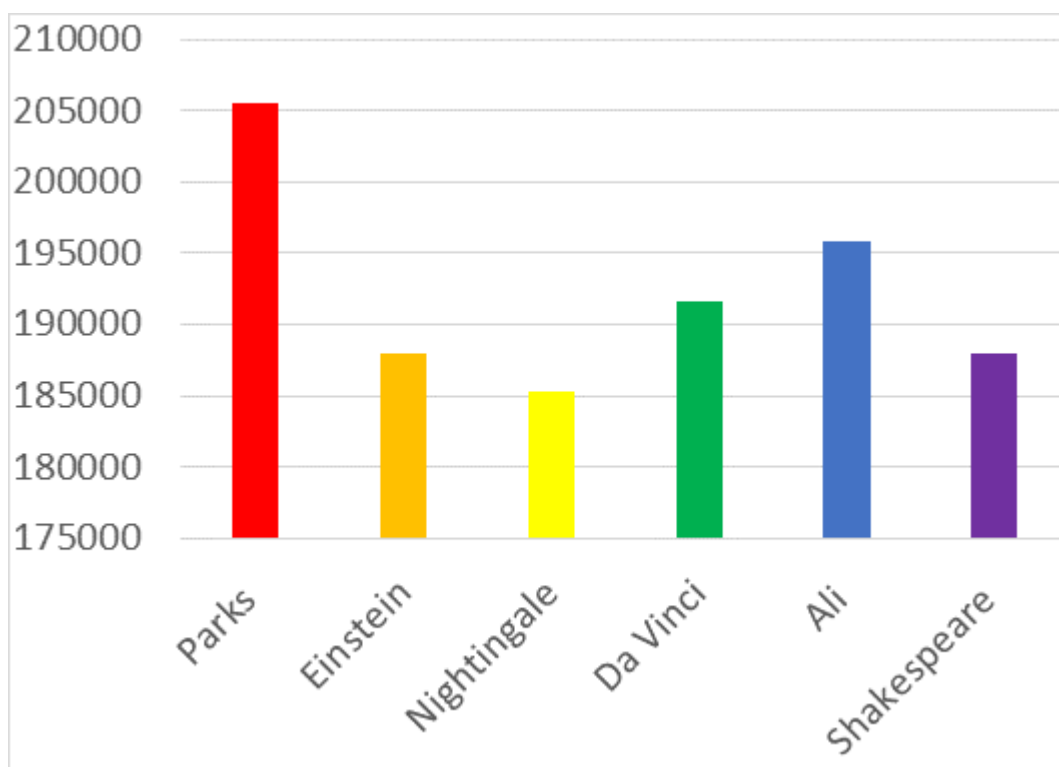
Announcements

Winners of competitions will be announced through the following:

Student hub, emails, Head Teacher Newsletter, building relationships bulletin in form times.

House competitions will be announced via ClassCharts, emails, Fun Fridays and Building Relationships Bulletin.

B4L and ClassCharts are also considered to win House Points.



Football Teams

Year 9 Football results.

Tuesday 24th September Year 9 boys went away to Wodensborough for a fixture. They found themselves 2-0 down at halftime but managed to turn it around and scored 3 goals in the second half to win 3-2. Goals from: Josiah Mcleary (Ali), Ronny Cooper-Griffith (Shakespeare), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare).

Friday 27th September Year 9 boys played their final of last years, Year 8 Sandwell cup against Sandwell Academy, despite taking the lead in a competitive 1st 10 minutes, Sandwell got on top and never looked back, running out comfortable 7-2 winners. Goals from Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), Archie Leon-Bolding (Da Vinci).

Squad for both fixtures: Alfie Simcox (Nightingale), Oliver Corbett (Parks), Chaiden Heneffer (Da Vinci), Archie Leon-Bolding (Da Vinci), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), Josiah Mcleary (Ali), Kendre Colquhoun (Nightingale), Mohammed Qureshi (Nightingale), Ronny Cooper-Griffith (Shakespeare), Brandon Bradshaw (Shakespeare), Jake Brazier (Nightingale) Joel Yeboah (Nightingale), Kyle Arnold (Ali), Beau Callaway (Einstein), Charlie Blackhall (Ali). Mr L Brown and Mr Chidziya

Year 10 football results

The Year 10 football team have won 3 games on the road so far this season. Away wins against George Salter and Q3 Great Barr in the Sandwell Schools' FA League sandwiched a West Midlands County Cup victory in Bedworth, Coventry.

Squad:

Paigan Follows (Parks), Ruaan Joe (Parks), Zak Millward (Shakespeare), Codey Smith (Einstein), Aden Foster (Ali), Harry Simms (Da Vinci), Charlie Element (Parks), Mason Foster (Einstein), Isaiah Goodall (Einstein), Ethan Bunce (Da Vinci), Matteo Essoki Eyoun (Da Vinci), Sameer Miah (Shakespeare), Jayden Pye (Shakespeare), Jack Tonks (Shakespeare). Mr Baggley and Mr Ali.

Elite Performers

Aden Foster (Ali) and Paigan Follows (Parks) continue to represent West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools' FA.

Paigan has also attended England U15 Schoolgirl trials and has successfully progressed through to the second round of the selection process. We wish her well.

Mr Taylor, Assistant Referee, former Wood Green Academy student and current Computing teacher, has had some fantastic news over the summer. He has been promoted to the Premier League in his role as an Assistant Referee and is now spending weekends and evenings officiating in arguably the best football league in world football. This is an incredible achievement which we as a school community are very proud of.

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/>

Many thanks



Mr J Topham
Headteacher