



Dear Families,

End of Autum Half Term 1 Newsletter

As we reach the end of this first half term we would like to share some good news stories that you have missed, some updates and reminders. At the end of this newsletter you can find a calendar of events for the next half term, so please read until the end.

Celebrating Success

Open Mic Night

On Thursday 23rd October, West Bromwich Collegiate Academy hosted its very first Open Mic Night — and what a night it was! Twenty pupils took part, representing every year group across the school, and each brought their own unique flair to the stage. Performances varied widely, from violins and drum kits to ensemble pieces and original compositions, showcasing the incredible range of abilities within our student body.



The audience featured a wonderful mix of parents, carers, and friends, all there to support and celebrate our young performers. The atmosphere was inspiring, with cheers and applause filling the room after every act. It was a celebration of creativity, courage, and community — and a proud moment for the Music Department. We're already looking forward to the next one!

Successful Year 8 trips to Birmingham Library

All Year 8 students have travelled to Birmingham in the last week to visit the iconic public library and conduct some field work in the city, as part of their L4L theme Grand Designs. The students explored the unique architectural features and the roof garden, in addition to receiving some talks from staff. They conducted themselves brilliantly and were a credit to WBCA.

Sporting Success

This half term has been incredibly busy for sporting fixtures. Every week has seen multiple coaching sessions, clubs and fixtures with local schools, both at home and away. The PE department have been so impressed with the progress made by each team, in terms of skills, character, teamwork and resilience.



Here are just a few highlights from the matches and games so far this term. We are working towards sharing full write-ups and photos from each of the matches.

- **Year 9 Girls Netball** Team shone at a local schools tournament, finishing as the main runner up. Harleen was the player of the tournament.
- **Year 10 Girls Netball** demonstrated fantastic team work at their local schools tournament and should be proud of their committed and energetic performance.
- Earlier this week, **Year 9 Boys Football** beat Wodensborough 2-1, Balpreet was the Player of the Match.
- **Year 7 Boys Football** travelled to Q3 Langley and won convincingly, their first away win this season! Well done boys!
- **Year 9 Boys Football** held Phoenix to a 1-1 draw, though demonstrated massive progress from last year. In the words of Mr Woolley, 'This result was more than just a draw, it was a statement. WBCA Year 9 have grown, learned, and now compete with confidence. The structure, the coaching, and the belief are paying off.' Alfie was the player of the match.
- **Y10 Boys Football** sadly lost to Phoenix away, in a match that was not a true reflection of the proceedings.



Girls Utilita Cup U13s

Last week our team of girls made it to the semi-finals of the Utilita U13s Cup. There were some fantastic performances all round, with 4 games won and two drawn. Sadly, they narrowly missed out on the reaching the final, losing on penalties, but the girls should be **immensely proud** of their performance. From dazzling goals to determined defending, they showed **inspiration, resilience, and true team spirit** throughout the tournament. Their journey was a testament to hard work, unity, and passion for the game. **Well done, girls!**



Election of Sports Captains

House	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Brindley	Ruhan Haque Milli Pedley	Harman Preet Pal Vice Eliarna Nicholls Younis Sardary	Latayo Fuller Amelia Jansen Vice Asia-Iman Hare	Sukhraj Singh Pahulpreet Kaur
Chance	AJ Westlake Hasnat Hussain	Arsh Sajwan Pia Randhawa	Tawheed Khan Harleen Ghotra Vice Emme Broadbent	Aryan Subedi Manreet Kaur
Florence	Eeshan Pullan Eiraa Trotman	Zoe-Lucres Kapita Ava Horton	Abdullah Shah-Atom Belle Crumpton	Zaakir Ali Taiyjah Golding Vice Isabella Hodgetts, Nubia
Kenrick	Mustafa Mubarak Lolita Ward	Dylan Atwal Taijah Myers-Garrison	Arnav Patil Waheedat Olusanjo	Hari Ghuman Sally Harron
Telford	Mohammed Ahed Leyonce Rawle	Mateusz Janczewski Amelia Piechna	Agam Chauhan Esha Kaur	Max Hendy Lena Piechna

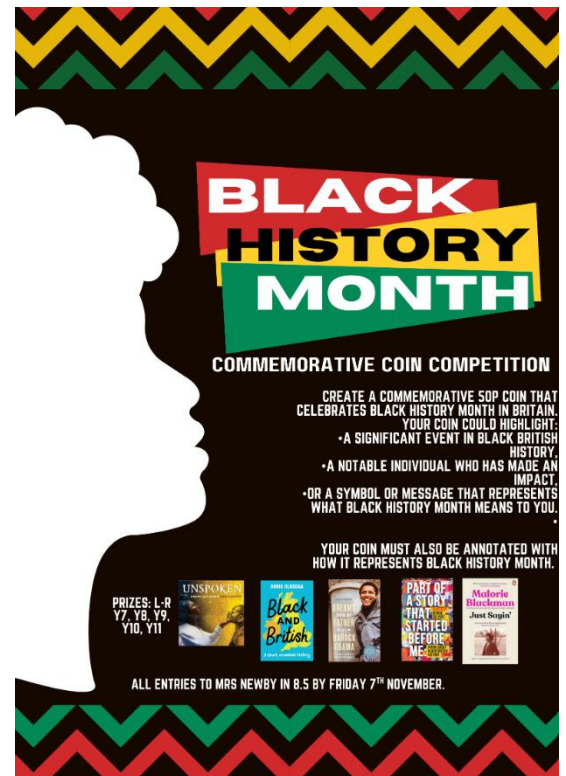


Amazing turnout for Macmillan Cancer Support in Break Time Bake Sale

On Friday the Student Council hosted a successful bake sale at break time, raising £108 for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a lovely event and hopefully the first of many fundraising activities this year.

Black History Month Event Round Up

Each year, October is Black History Month. This year students have been treated to some special lunch menus celebrating traditional black cuisine, notable figures have been studied in lessons and there have been a number of competitions launched. There is still time for students to enter the Black History Month Commemorative Coin Competition – the details are opposite and the closing date is Friday 7th November.



Updates

Save the Date – Christmas Events

This year, our **Christmas Fayre** will take place on **Thursday 11th December**, from 4:30pm – 6:30pm. Later on in this newsletter you can find out how to get involved with the planning of the event so that we can raise as much money as possible for our students and families.

We are excited to announce that this year, the **Theatre School Christmas Showcase** will take place during the evening of **Wednesday 3rd December**. Ticket information will be made available as soon as possible.

This year the show will include an original pantomime, a musical theatre mash-up and a variety of ensemble and soloist singers. Rehearsals are well underway and we are very excited to see the final show and the talent and hard work of the cast pay off.

Parking and Traffic

We really need your support when driving onto the school site when you drop off and collect your children. You must not stop in the road just after the gate and must pull into the drop off area, for children to safely get out of vehicles. Gate staff have witnessed several incidents and near-misses where cars stop suddenly and children get out in the path of other vehicles. This is stressful and dangerous for everyone involved. We are very lucky compared to many schools in that we have a large carpark and drop off area – please use it correctly so that all drivers, students and staff are safe, and the traffic moves smoothly.



Flu Vaccinations

You may have seen the adverts on TV or online for seasonal flu vaccinations for young people and adults. All students can receive a flu vaccine for free, in school in the next few weeks. Flu is different from a cold or feeling a little unwell, it can lead to serious illness. Vaccination is crucial in protecting your child and others around them, who may be vulnerable and may not be able to have the vaccination themselves. We support the NHS in recommending as many students to take the vaccine as possible. Students who are in Year 8 and above are able to give or withdraw their own consent if the vaccination nurses feel they are able to do so.

There are two versions of the vaccine – a nasal (nose) spray, and an injection that is suitable for people who do not consume pork products.

Download a copy of the leaflet to find out more here: [Flu Vaccine Letter](#)

[Click here to complete the consent form](#) – whether you give consent or not.

Changes to Year 7 Lunchtimes

Over the past half term, Year 7 students have been allowed to go to lunch 10 minutes early to give them time to get used to the canteen, the menus, queuing system and cashless payments. They have gained confidence with this extremely well so after half term, they will be going to lunch at the regular time of 12:40 each day and integrating with two other year groups.

There is a rota in place each day so that each year group will have turns to queue first, and get priority access to play on the MUGA. Fridays are still the busiest day for the canteen, so one year group will still go 10 minutes early to lunch on Fridays, on rotation.

Some students with additional needs have been issued with an early lunch pass, and these will still be in place if the Inclusion team feel they are still needed.

Deadline for Year 7 2026 WBCA Applications – 31st October 2025

A reminder that the deadline to apply for Year 7 places for September 2026 is 31st October 2025. Siblings are given priority when places are awarded, however if you have a child in Year 6 that you hope will join us next September, you must still apply for a place through Sandwell Admissions, as they won't automatically be given a place with us.

More information on admissions can be found here: [Admissions - West Bromwich Collegiate Academy](#)

Family Engagement

Family engagement and working with you is a key priority at WBCA. These are the events that have been held so far this term:

- Year 6 Open Evening and Open Days
- Revision Information Evening for Year 11
- Autumn Term Family Forums
- PTFA session
- Year 7 Settling In Evening



- SEND Settling In Evening
- Post-16 Information Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended these events – working in partnership with you makes a huge difference.

WBCA PTFA Meeting – Thursday 13th November, 5pm – 6pm

The first formal meeting of the newly launched WBCA PTFA (Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association) will be held on Thursday 13th November from 5pm – 6pm.

The aim of the PTFA is to support the academy and students with events and fundraising, to provide more opportunities for our students. The first meeting will be focused on the planning of our annual Christmas Fayre, which is always a very busy and popular event.

You do not need to have attended the initial meeting in order to join the PTFA, everyone is welcome.

Please email zmaisey@wbca.shirelandcat.net if you would like to get involved.

Parent/Carer Shout Outs

We always greatly value your feedback on what is working well and where we can make further improvements. Our aim is to ensure that the Academy provides the very best experience for your child.

Please use the link below or QR code to complete a short survey, where you will have the opportunity to share both positive and constructive feedback about your experiences so far this year. Your responses will be shared with the relevant staff to help us continue to develop and enhance our provision. This survey will also be issued at various points throughout the year, providing an additional way for you to share your views with us. <https://forms.office.com/e/rqEA5utAiz>



As a reminder, you can also communicate with us by phone: tel: 0121 393 4850 or by email.

- For general queries: info@wbca.shirelandcat.net
- To contact the Office Manager, Geraldine Patel: gpatel@wbca.shirelandcat.net
- For SEND queries: SENCO@wbca.shirelandcat.net
- For Safeguarding enquiries and concerns: Safeguarding@wbca.shirelandcat.net

Key Stage 4 Corner

Year 11 Autumn Term Progress Reports

Year 11 Autumn Term Progress Reports have been published on Arbor today, and emailed to families.

Please make sure that you log in and look at the report with your child, identifying areas of success and subjects where further work and revision is required. Remember that the Mock Exams begin straight after half term. The next set of reports to be published will be Year 9; you can see a schedule of reports across the year here, and it can also be found on our website. [Assessments and Reports - West Bromwich Collegiate Academy](#)



Assessment and Reporting Calendar for Families 2025-26

Progress Reports	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
AP1 Autumn	15 th December 2025	15 th December 2025	10 th November 2025	15 th December 2025	20 th October 2025
Autumn Mock Exam Results (Year 11 Only)				18 th December 2025	
AP2 Spring	16 th March 2026 (including January Exam Results)	16 th March 2026 (including January Exam Results)	2 nd March 2026 (including January Exam Results)	16 th March 2026	19 th January 2026
AP3 Summer	6 th July 2026 (including Summer Exam Results)	6 th July 2026 (including Summer Exam Results)	6 th July 2026 (including Summer Exam Results)	18 th May 2026	27 th March 2026
Full Report	15 th May 2026	17 th April 2026	12 th June 2026	13 th March 2026	19 th January 2026

Year 11 Mock Exams Rules and Timetable

- Morning exams begin at 9am, so students must be in school no later than 8:45am (normal time)
- Period 3 exams will begin straight after break, so students must make their way around to the Back Playground a few minutes before the whistle goes.
- Afternoon exams begin at 1:30pm, students must be ready to enter the sports hall at the end of lunch.

All students will leave their belongings in the Music Hub before entering the examination rooms.

Reminders will be given before each exam, as phones, watches or any other unauthorised items are not allowed to be taken into the exam room, and could lead to disqualification. Water bottles must be see-through, with no labels, and liquids must also be see-through.

Students are welcome to bring their own writing materials but pencil cases must be see-through. Writing materials and calculators will be provided for students to use in the exam room, so there is one less thing for them to worry about.

Day	Date	AM – 9:00 start	P3 – 11:40 start	PM 1:30pm start
Monday	3 rd Nov 2025	Maths Paper 1 – 1h 30m	GCSE PE Paper 1 – 1h	German Writing (F – 1h 10m/H – 1h 15m)
Tuesday	4 th Nov 2025	English Language – 1h 45m		History Paper 1 – 1h 20m
Wednesday	5 th Nov 2025	Biology (Combined – 1h 15m/Triple – 1h 45m)		Geography Paper 1 – 1h 30m
Thursday	6 th Nov 2025	Maths Paper 2 – 1h 30m		RS Paper 1 – 1h 45m
Friday	7 th Nov 2025	Chemistry (Comb – 1h 15m/Triple – 1h 45m)	GCSE PE Paper 2 – 1h	Computer Science Paper 1 – 1h 30m Music – 1h 30m



Day	Date	AM – 9:00 start	P3 – 11:40 start	PM 1:30pm start
Monday	10 th Nov 2025	History Paper 2 – 1h 50m Geography Paper 2 – 1h	Geography Paper 2 clash – 1h	Comp Science Paper 2 – 1h 30m Psychology – 1h 20m
Tuesday	11 th Nov 2025	English Literature – 1h 45m		Business – 1h 30m
Wednesday	12 th Nov 2025	Maths Paper 3 – 1h 30m	RS Paper 2 – 55m	Health and Social Care – 1h 15m
Thursday	13 th Nov 2025	Physics (Combined – 1h 15m/Triple - 1h 45m)		German Reading (F– 45m/ H – 1h)
Friday	14 th Nov 2025	INSET Day – Academy Closed to Students		

Y11 Parent and Student WhatsApp

We are exploring ways to improve communication with Year 11 families, including the use of WhatsApp channels for updates and reminders. We are trialling WhatsApp with Year 11 Students and Families first, by sharing information and updates related to exams, revision and Post-16 support.

You can follow the WBCA Year 11 Updates and Support channel on WhatsApp:

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbBiSaOIN9igkDr5is2T>

Careers and Work Experience Update

Post-16 Event for Year 11

Recently we hosted a Post-16 event for Year 11 students and their families, so that they are able to find out more about all of the pathways open to them once they complete Year 11 with us. It was a busy event, featuring a number of local providers and the T-Levels bus joined us on-site, so students could find out more about this qualification. Feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive with many having a clearer idea of where they are going to apply. The majority of Year 11 students have already had a Connexions meeting with our careers advisor Ravi, but if students feel that they need more advice and guidance at any time they can speak to their Form Teacher, Head of Year or Mrs Evans, the Careers Lead for the Academy.

For more information on Careers and Guidance, [please see this section of our website](#).

Unifrog

Years 10 and 11 now have access to Unifrog! This is an online award-winning careers and destinations platform. Unifrog helps students and families explore the next steps after Year 11. Whether you're considering sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or university, Unifrog brings everything together in one place. You can compare courses, research career paths, build your CV, and track your progress.

This will also be rolled out to other year groups after the holiday. Parents and carers can create their own accounts by going to this link and following the instructions. You will need to use the email address that the Academy holds in our records for you. [Parent - Unifrog](#)



Careers Champions

We are looking for 4 careers champions in each year group

Careers Champions will:

- Support form tutors with careers related activities
- Be willing to support careers assemblies
- Attend regular meetings with of career champions
- Raise the profile of careers at events such as parents evening
- Work with your year group to raise the profile of events in the school calendar.

More information about the role can be found on the student portal.



Student Careers Champions Wanted!

Careers is a crucial part of our Personal Development curriculum and we are looking for Student Ambassadors to raise the profile across the academy. We are looking for 4 Careers Champions from all year groups. Below is a job description for what is required of the role.

Students who are interested should inform their Head of Year as soon as possible.

Year 10 Work Experience Update

Year 10 students are already starting to identify jobs and industry sectors that they are considering for their future careers and thinking about Work Experience placements. A number of students have already submitted applications and lots more are reaching out to staff for help and support.

We know that the families and friends of students have a wide range of interesting careers and it would be fantastic for students to experience work placements in a variety of sectors. If you or someone you know could offer any Work Experience placements to our students in the summer, please visit this section of our website for further details. [Work Experience - West Bromwich Collegiate Academy](#)

Finally

We are looking forward to welcoming students back after the half term break. Autumn term is always challenging with dark mornings and evenings, and the weather turning colder and wetter.

Please take sensible precautions to stay well, and endeavour for students to attend school regularly as attendance is so important, and there are so many opportunities available over the coming months, as you can see from the calendar on the next page.

Kind regards,

Mrs M Henderson

Associate Principal



Calendar for Autumn Half Term 2 – Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 3 rd November	Autumn Term 2 begins
Monday 3 rd November	Year 11 Mock Exams begin (two weeks)
Monday 3 rd November	Get Technical – Behind the Curtain of Moulin Rouge KS4 Drama Students – workshop and evening performance
Monday 10 th November	Antibullying Week begins
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Thursday 13 th November	Children in Need Fundraising Events
Friday 14th November	Academy closed to students – INSET Day
Tuesday 18 th November	Students vaccinations – all year groups
Tuesday 18 th November	Year 6 Fair Banding Tests (after school)
Wednesday 19 th November	Year 6 Fair Banding Tests (after school)
Monday 24 th November	UK Parliament Week begins
Wednesday 26 th November	Y11 Drama Unit 2 Performances (Evening)
Thursday 27 th November	GCSE Awards Evening – Class of 2025
Friday 28 th November	Visit from local MP
Wednesday 3 rd December	Theatre School Christmas Show
Thursday 4 th December	Y10 Travel and Tourism trip to Think Tank, Birmingham
Tuesday 9 th December	Student Vaccinations
Thursday 11 th December	Save the Children – Festive Jumper Day
Thursday 11 th December	WBCA Christmas Fayre 4:30 – 6:30pm
Thursday 18 th December	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Friday 19 th December	End of Autumn Term – half day for students (12:30pm finish)