



December 2025

Dear Families,

End of Autumn Half Term 2 Newsletter

As we reach the end of this long term we would like to share some good news stories and important updates that you may 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.

Highlights from the term

Christmas Fair

Christmas has been in full swing, with over 500 people through the door for our Christmas Fair. There were, stalls, games, activities, copious amounts of food and singing from our choir. No Christmas Fair would be complete without Santa in his very own grotto. Evenings like this are where we are proud to be part of the community and it was great to see so many faces past and present visiting us.



Christmas Variety Showcase

Our Hippodrome supported Theatre School were in full swing earlier in the month for our Christmas Variety Showcase. If you missed it you missed, A Psychedelic Cha Cha, Phantom of the Opera, the Back Street Boys, Hairspray, Cinderella, Peter Pan, Aladdin and our very own Mrs Henderson as Mad Dog Mary with a starring role.

Holocaust Survivor Visitor

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Henry Schachter a Holocaust survivor who came to talk to our Year 9 students and Year 11 GCSE History students about his experience during the second world war. This was a rare experience for this kind of first-hand knowledge, fascinating the students.

Empathy Action – Dharavi Day

Our Year 8 students took part in an unforgettable immersive experience called The Poverty Trap, delivered by the charity Empathy Action. This powerful workshop transformed our sports hall into a simulated slum environment, challenging students to make tough decisions about food, shelter, and survival.

The day was designed to spark empathy and deepen understanding of global inequality—key themes in our India curriculum. Students described the experience as “insightful” and “thought-provoking,” helping them





empathise with the harsh realities of life in squatter settlements.

We are incredibly proud of how engaged and respectful our students were throughout. A huge thank you to Empathy Action for making this inspiring day possible.

A rich variety of other visitors and speakers have been into the Academy. This has included:

Medieval Speaker

Year 7 and Year 10 GCSE History students took part in a visit from a history re-enactor about the Medieval period and the Norman Conquest. They thoroughly enjoyed looking at and wearing the armour and re-creating the shield wall! They gained valuable insight and knowledge which will support them in their history studies.

Enfinium

Year 11 Geography students met with key employees of Enfinium Kelvin. They were taught about the waste to energy scheme and used VR headsets to experience the process of how waste is converted into our energy. They had valuable career insights and learned about potential apprentice schemes on offer.

Solar for Schools

We would like to thank Danielle from Solar for Schools for coming in and delivering a session to our Year 10 and 11 Geography students. Students were able to understand how solar panels work and future careers that will be associated with green energy.

MP

We welcomed Sarah Coombes, MP for West Bromwich, for an inspiring visit! She had a tour of our academy led by Head Students; a student panel discussing local issues and led a Year 8 assembly on democracy & civic participation as well as politics in the local area.

Sarah announced the results of our mock referendum:

Should Sandwell Valley Country Park be sold for housing?

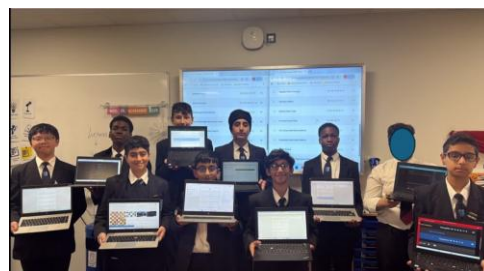
657 votes | 400+ said NO – a clear message to protect green spaces!

Thank you, Sarah, for motivating our students to have their voices heard!



Chess Club

The WBCA Chess Team showed incredible spirit and teamwork during their English Chess Federation School's Competition! Although we didn't place this time, their enthusiasm and determination were truly infectious. Mrs Newby is immensely proud of every student for stepping up and representing WBCA with such positivity. Well done, team!





Student Wellbeing Ambassadors

In November, our 15 newly appointed Student Wellbeing Ambassadors spent the morning receiving specialist training from Mindful Life counsellors. The session focused on equipping ambassadors with the skills to support peers who may be struggling with their wellbeing.

As part of their ongoing commitment to promoting positive mental health, the ambassadors have developed a plan to raise the profile of wellbeing across the school community. This includes running a dedicated Wellbeing Drop-In Room every breaktime, providing a safe and supportive space for students to talk and seek help.



Fundraising

Throughout this term, we have raised the following funds for charities:

We raised an amazing £2,260.07 from our Christmas Fair which is being put back into our school fund to allow us to continue to provide fantastic opportunities for our students!

£241.00 for Save the Children from our Christmas Jumper Day.

£90.90 from the MacMillan Cake Sale

£161.00 from Children in Need

In addition, we have also completed a foodbank appeal to support the local community during the December holiday.

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. Thank you to all of our dedicated staff and to the students who have been involved in our sporting events!

Updates

Car Park and Dropping off students

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.



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 11 Parent Information Evening
- Year 7 Settling-In Evening
- Arbor reminders – help clinic
- Epraise – reminders – help clinic
- PTFA
- Family Forum

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

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>

Parent Shout Out- September 2025



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 Mock Exam Results – These are being given to students on Thursday 18th December 2025 in our Mock Exam Results event. Students will be given the opportunity to learn from their mock exam papers to make further improvements in the Spring Term. Support will be provided to students if they have any issues or concerns.

Y7, 8, 10 AP1 Reports – these have now been shared with parents.



Year 11 Full Reports after Christmas - These will be sent out to parents after Christmas, in preparation for Year 11 Parents Evening on Tuesday 27th January 2026. Information for booking appointments for this, will be coming out to parents early in the Spring Term.

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

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/0029VbBiSaQIN9igkDr5is2T>

Careers and Work Experience Update

Post-16 applications

References

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](#)

Year 10 Work Experience Update

This year our Work Experience Week takes place between 29th June – 3rd July 2026.

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](#)

The first deadline for securing placements will be **23rd February 2025**.

Uniform and equipment reminders

We would like to thank you for your support of the school uniform policy during the Autumn term.

We are very proud of our young people who, for the most part, are exceptionally smart and well presented. Please can we remind you that it is an expectation that students must wear full school uniform including their Academy blazer and tie when on site. We also expect students to wear correct footwear when in school and these need to be a sensible pair of shoes and not black trainers. Students are also required to bring an appropriately sized bag into school as well as a pencil case complete with a full set of basic stationery. If you are experiencing any challenges around uniform or equipment, please do reach out and contact your child's Head of Year.





End of term plans

The Autumn Term will finish for students at 12:40pm on Friday 19th December 2025.

Students who have a free school meal and have ordered a grab bag should collect these from the Canteen before they leave.

Start January 2026

The Academy is closed for students on Monday 5th January 2026 for a Staff Inset Day.

Students will return to the Academy on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 8:40am.

We will be doing full uniform and equipment checks during the first week, so please make sure that students are fully prepared and ready for their return to the Academy in January.

Finally, best wishes to Mrs Henderson!

As most of you are aware, Mrs Henderson, our Associate Principal is expecting her first baby.

Her maternity leave has now commenced.

We wish her all the best with her new arrival and look forward to hearing her happy news!

From January, Mrs Percival will be stepping into the Associate Principal role. She has been at WBCA since it opened, and knows the Academy, our staff and students well. She is looking forward to continuing to support the school community in this new role.

Mr Faux continues in his role as Executive Principal, so will also be in the Academy during this time.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Mr G Faux

Executive Principal

Mrs H Percival

Associate Principal



Calendar for Spring Half Term 1 – Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET DAY – Academy closed to students
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Start of Spring Term – Academy open to students from 8:40am. Full uniform and equipment checks during this week.
Tuesday 6th January 2026	L4L Exams begin for Y7, Y8, Y9.
Wednesday 7th January 2026	External Exam: Y11 Creative iMedia: Creative iMedia in the Media Industry
Thursday 8th January 2026	Y7 Theatre Company Visit
Tuesday 13th January 2026	Complicite Festival - KS4 Drama Students
Friday 16th January 2026	Year 10 History Trip to Imperial War Museum - Manchester
Tuesday 22nd January 2026	Year 10 Travel and Tourism Trip to Cardiff
Tuesday 27th January 2026	Percy Jackson Drama Workshop (Drama students)
Tuesday 27th January 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening – 3:45 – 7:30pm
Monday 9th February 2026	Children’s Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10th February 2026	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11th February 2026	Year 11 Photographs (individual, year group and friendship groups)
Wednesday 11th February 2026	Year 8 Science Fair
Wednesday 11th – Friday 13th February 2026	Year 9 Residential to the Frank Chapman Centre
Friday 13th February 2026	End of Spring Half Term 1
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term – there will be a programme of Year 11 Revision Sessions, to be announced later.
Monday 23rd February 2026	Academy opens to students: Start of Spring Half Term 2