WEST BROMWICH COLLEGIATE ACADEMY
ASPIRE | BELONG | ACHIEVE

CONNECTED

BELONG • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

Every Student. Every Day. Brighter Futures.

ISSUE 1, AUTUMN TERM 1 – OCTOBER 2026

A GREAT FIRST HALF TERM!

Congratulations on the completing the first half term of the academic year!

We hope that everyone enjoys a restful week of holiday and feels refreshed for the second half of the autumn term on **Monday 2nd November.**

This is issue 1 of our new half termly newsletter with an attendance focus aimed at students and families.

Rest Recharge Ready!

A FANTASTIC START TO THE YEAR!

Across the academy, our students have been learning, exploring, performing, preparing for their futures and making positive contributions to our school community.

YEAR 7



Settled brilliantly into secondary school, building friendships and confidence through their outdoor learning adventure provided by Edgmond Hall.

NEW BEGINNINGS

YEAR 8



Visited Birmingham Library as part of their Literacy for Life Grand Design, and we cannot wait to see their final building designs!

EXPLORE LEARN CREATE

YEAR 9



Continue to embrace extracurricular opportunities, including representing the academy through the Star for a Day dance project and performance at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre.

TALENT TEAMWORK OPPORTUNITY

YEAR 10



Made a positive transition into Key Stage 4, with impressive effort and taking their learning out into the community through visits to West Bromwich town centre, The Hippodrome and The Hawthorns.

REAL WORLD REAL LEARNING

YEAR 11



Working incredibly hard through their mock examinations and preparing for their next steps. A post-16 focus day supported their future plans, with a group also heading to Frank Chapman Outdoor Activity Centre for a study-based residential.

NEXT STEPS BRIGHTER FUTURES

> *These are the experiences that make being part of school so important. Every day of attendance is another opportunity to learn something new, strengthen friendships, discover a talent, create a memory or take another step towards the future.* ***Being here means being connected.***

What do we mean by Inclusive Attendance?

At **West Bromwich Collegiate Academy**, we believe that good attendance begins with children feeling connected, supported and that they belong. Our **Inclusive Attendance** approach recognises that every child and every family is different. Rather than viewing attendance simply as a percentage, we work with children and families to understand individual circumstances, celderate progress and provide the right support when challenges arise.

Our approach brings school, children, families and external agencies together, with different levels of support available depending on need. It is rooted in early help, positive relationships and recognition, because attending school regularly helps children stay connected to their friends and teachers, keep up with their learning, develop positive routines and take part fully in school life. Ultimately, Inclusive Attendance is about working together so that every child has the opportunity to connect, belong and thrive.

CONNECT BELONG ACHIEVE THRIVE

Why does attendance matter?

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to learn, achieve and make progress, but its importance goes far beyond lessons and qualifications. Being in school helps young people build friendships, develop positive routines, strengthen relationships with trusted adults and take part in the wider experiences that make school life so valuable.

When children attend regularly, they remain connected to their learning, their friends and their school community. At WBCA, we want to work alongside families to overcome barriers to attendance wherever we can, because being present gives every child the greatest opportunity to connect, belong and thrive.

LEARN FRIENDSHIPS WELLBEING OPPORTUNITIES

Every day Counts.

PRESENT TODAY. BRIGHTER TOMORROWS.

West Bromwich Collegiate Academy secures Bronze!

You will be aware that WBCA have been working alongside Inclusive Attendance over the last year as part of a Trust-wide initiative to raise the profile of attendance, reduce barriers to learning and build connectivity with families. During the summer term of the previous year, we secured our bronze award. This is a fantastic achievement and something students and families should be proud of.
This academic year we hope to go a stage further by securing a silver award.

PROUD OF OUR PROGRESS ONWARDS TO SILVER!

Struggling with attendance? Let's talk.

Sometimes getting into school is difficult. Illness, anxiety, family circumstances, friendship difficulties, SEND, bereavement and other challenges can all affect attendance.

Please don't wait for things to become overwhelming.

Speak to your child's Form Teacher, Head of Year or the Attendance Team. We will listen and work with you.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT

Don't sleep on opportunities!

- The Academy's clubs and societies programme is well under way for the new academic year with a range of activities that students can participate in at dinner time and after school.
- The programme is available via the student portal and we strongly encourage students to review the offerings and get involved with school community.
- If students would like to start a new lunch time or after school club, please speak to Mr Ward or Mr Jennings.

GET INVOLVED FIND YOUR THING

WEST BROMWICH COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

ASPIRE | BELONG | ACHIEVE

Student Voices Stronger Together

SPOTLIGHTS

Real Students. Real Stories. A Brighter WBCA.

Each half term, students from different year groups will share their views on different aspects of school life at WBCA.

Different voices. A stronger community.

We asked Yr7 students how they felt they had settled into life at the Academy.

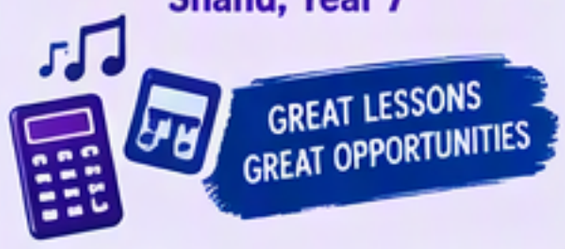
"It has been nice settling in at WBCA because the teachers have all been very welcoming and have made me feel comfortable. The outdoor activities we did with Edgmund Hall helped me make new friends and meet new people at the start of the term."

Ubani, Year 7



"I think I have settled in with both friends from primary school and new friends I made during my first few weeks. I have found school very welcoming and also fun. Year 7 is full of all sorts of new activities and I enjoy them very much. I really like maths and the music curriculum. The start to Year 7 has been amazing."

Shahd, Year 7



"From the start of Year 7 what really helped me settle in was the teachers who were welcoming and kind. Another thing is the new lessons, I really like DT and also the extra curricular activities as they help me to talk to new people."

Rozeena, Year 7



"I feel that I have settled in quickly with secondary school because of how kind the students have been. The teachers have also been really nice. I also like that some of the students from my primary school were also joining me and it has made it easier to settle in."

Ebony-Mae, Year 7



We asked students why they think attendance is important?

Every Day Counts

"I believe attendance is important because it allows me to gain knowledge, develop new skills and make progress with my education. Attending school regularly means that I do not miss out on important lessons or fall behind with my work. It also helps me to develop key life skills such as responsibility, punctuality and commitment. These will be valuable in the future. Good attendance also helps me to participate confidently in class discussions as I do not have gaps in my knowledge. I can work affectively towards achieving my goals."

Lamarah, Year 8



"Having regular attendance increases the chances of grasping knowledge and also retaining it. This can significantly boost your grade. I have had 100% attendance since Year 7 and with this high attendance I have maintained good wellbeing and built my subject knowledge across all lessons."

Elham, Year 11



"In my opinion attendance is important because it can effect education in many ways. Missing large amounts of sessions can negatively impact your learning and therefore you may not achieve the desired grades you need in exams. Missing sessions can result in less knowledge and gaps in classwork. Good attendance helps to build responsibitly and we will need this in future for employment. Confidence, friendships and communication skills can be achieved through regular attendance. It also helps with self-managing the day-to-day life in school smoothly."

Taijah, Year 9



"I believe good attendance is needed for various reasons, such as friendships. Friendships are important; it's nice to come to school knowing you have a nice environment of friends to speak to. Lessons are another reason why attendance is important. Lessons are why you come to school, and you learn over so many new things each day. Coming to school after missing learning already puts you behind, and missing more time on top of that can have a massive impact in your education. Coming to school everyday supports you in building better knowledge, not just in school but out in the wider world. It also sets you in a routine for jobs in the future. This is why I think attendance is important."

Hanar, Year 10



"Attendance for me is compulsory! I come to school to have fun, experience new things, and enjoy many after school clubs. It also gives me a chance to meet new people and hang out with my friends. Every day is a chance to learn new things and few people get that opportunity. In some countries children struggle to get an education. So, it is important to remember going to school is a major privilege for us. School does not just teach us about important subjects it also gives you a better chance at getting into clubs, such as, netball, theatre, football for both boys and girls!! School also gives you the chance to experience new things and to create skills for the future. These are my reasons for why I attend school - to learn, grow and just have fun!"

Pixie, Year 8



"Attending school and attending your classes is vital because it connects you directly to the learning process, ensuring you don't miss important topics. It is scientifically proven that regular attendance is directly linked to hight test score and being better grades in subjects. Overall showing up on time and consistently attending classes will improve your knowledge.

Prabhleen, Year 11



Opportunities today. Brighter tomorrows.

BELONG ACHIEVE SUCCEED ASPIRE

WEST BROMWICH COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

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Different Passions Brighter Futures



WE ALSO ASKED STUDENTS TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

More than just a club... a brighter you!

"Theatre School after school program is a fantastic place to go because it provides a vibrant high energy outlet where you can unleash your creativity and build lifelong confidence. Theatre school can help with things like acting, communication and teamwork which are all needed when trying to find jobs in the real world! It is a unique and supportive community where you can step outside of your comfort zone, discover your voice and make friends who you share a passion for performing with. Ultimately, joining a theatre school after school turns your afternoon into an exciting adventure proving that learning doesn't stop when the"

Zack, Year 9



CREATIVITY
CONFIDENCE
OPPORTUNITY

"Extra curricular clubs are important for pupils as they are able to express themselves and also receive opportunities that they may not get outside of school."

Ava, Year 9

EXPRESS YOURSELF
DISCOVER
NEW OPPORTUNITIES



"I think it's important that students get the chance to take part in extracurricular sports because they help us stay active, build confidence and develop important life skills. Through taking part in football, basketball and table tennis, I have improved my teamwork, communication and determination. These clubs have also helped me make new friends and learn how to balance my commitments both in and out of school. Extracurricular sport gives students the opportunity to challenge themselves, represent their school and develop skills that will benefit them in the future. Overall, I believe sport plays a key role in helping students become more confident, responsible and well-rounded individuals."

Isaiah, Year 10



STAY ACTIVE
MAKE FRIENDS
BUILD SKILLS

"Attending clubs, for me, has always been a big thing. It helps me stay active, build my skills and have fun. Afterschool drama has opened so many doors and opportunities and has become a big success for me. I was able to meet new people and make new friends. Overall, attending clubs such as football and drama have helped to build me, they have given me new experiences."

Merdi, Year 10



NEW SKILLS
NEW FRIENDSHIPS
NEW EXPERIENCES



WE ASKED STUDENTS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON PLACES

THEY LIKE TO USE DURING LUNCH TIMES

WITH A SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIBRARY AND INCLUSION.

Space to be you. Always.

INCLUSION

"Inclusion makes me happy because I can go there at dinner and have fun with my friends. The staff are kind. It has given me lots of confidence and now I am a prefect."

Haider, Year 11



KIND PEOPLE
FUN TIMES
A WELCOMING SPACE

THE LIBRARY

"The school library is a great place to read, study, and spend lunchtime because it gives you a quiet, comfortable place away from the noise of the canteen and playground. It offers a wide variety of books: to entertain yourself and escape from the world, or to learn and build on your knowledge. I personally like going to the library at lunch because it's a nice calm and relaxing environment that I use to relax with my friends and do some of my homework."

Lucres, Year 9



READ
RELAX
RECHARGE

INCLUSION

"Inclusion is a welcoming space for anyone who needs it. Located next to the immersive room on the DT corridor. It is available during breaktime and lunchtime for you to go to and feel comfortable with kind and caring people and teachers and the space feels welcoming, calming and comfortable for anyone and everyone to talk to teachers or others."

Jack, Year 8



A SAFE SPACE
BE YOURSELF
BELONG

THE LIBRARY

"Have you ever desired a place of peace and comfort amidst the busy moments of school? For both students and staff, the library satisfies these needs as it provides the ambient atmosphere necessary for those who are studying, reading, and preparing themselves between classes.

At lunch, all are encouraged to use this time to see what our library really has to offer! Daily, our librarian advertises the variety of writing competitions and publishing opportunities available to students, opening more skill-building activities for us to take part in. I have also had the pleasure of performing on the renowned Globe stage as a result. As well as this, there is the weekly 'books and biscuits' club where pupils can freely discuss a book of their choice with their peers whilst enjoying a sweet treat!

With all this considered – the support, opportunities and relaxing environment – the person behind this blissful space is our delightful librarian, Mrs Parkes, who continues to brighten up the room with beautiful displays, which fuels students' desires to read, preparing them for the rest of their classes."

Ceyenjae, Year 11



GOOD BOOKS
BRIGHT IDEAS
HAPPIER MINDS

BELONG · ACHIEVE · SUCCEED · ASPIRE

DIFFERENT PASSIONS.
BRIGHTER FUTURES.

As we approach autumn term 2, we will be in the season where cold and coughs are more widespread.

Please have a look at the infographic below to see what we can all do to get on the front foot with managing this.

Stay well
Attend
Achieve

ARE YOU READY FOR AUTUMN AND WINTER?

Colder weather is not an excuse for missing school.

Be prepared for the challenges of autumn and winter and take ownership of your attendance!

1 DON'T SKIP BREAKFAST!

Make sure that you have some cereal or toast and a hot drink before leaving the house. Your body needs extra fuel in the cold weather.



2 EAT SMART AND STAY HYDRATED!

Drinking water and eating plenty of fruit and vegetables will keep the body's immune system strong to fight off winter bugs.



3 COLD HANDS IN THE MORNING?

Magic gloves are great at keeping your hands warm and are available from most newsagents.



4 WEAR A WOOLLY HAT!

You lose a lot of your body's heat through your head so when the temperature dips be sure to wear a woolly hat on the way to school.



5 SORE THROATS ARE COMMON

Sore throats are common during the winter, but are not a reason to miss school. Keep some cough sweets in your bag just in case!



6 WASH YOUR HANDS

Make sure that you are washing your hands before handling food. Small bottles of hand sanitizer are great to use before lunch.



7 KEEP TISSUES IN YOUR BAG

A cold should not mean that you miss a day of school. Keep a packet of tissues in your bag just in case you have a runny nose!



8 EXTRA LAYERS KEEP YOU READY

Extra layers are important in the winter, wearing a coat and scarf will retain body heat, keeping you dry, warm and ready for the school day!



BE PREPARED
BE POSITIVE
BE PRESENT

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF
LOOK AFTER OTHERS

SMALL STEPS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Healthy Students
Brighter Futures