



Great Wyrley Academy

September 2023

Welcome Booklet



2023

Prepared for Excellence

Prepared for Excellence

EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM:
ARRIVE ON TIME, PREPARED FOR EXCELLENCE
FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS STRAIGHT AWAY
HAVE ALL BASIC EQUIPMENT OUT AND READY TO USE
WORK IN SILENCE WHEN ASKED TO BY AN ADULT
PRODUCE WORK TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY

EXCELLENCE IN OUR INTERACTIONS:
LISTEN RESPECTFULLY WHEN OTHERS ARE TALKING
KEEP OFF-TASK CONVERSATIONS FOR SOCIAL TIMES
ALLOW AND SUPPORT OTHERS TO LEARN AND EXCEL
TREAT AND SPEAK TO OTHERS WITH RESPECT,
POLITENESS AND KINDNESS

EXCELLENCE IN OUR APPEARANCE:
WEAR YOUR UNIFORM CORRECTLY AND WITH PRIDE
HELP KEEP THE SCHOOL LOOKING SMART AND TIDY
BRING YOUR PE KIT

Windsor Academy Trust

GREAT WYRLEY ACADEMY

Student Induction Day

Thursday 29 June 2023 (8:30 - 15:00)

Parent Information Evening

Thursday 29 June 2023

18:00 - 19:00 School Theatre

Aspire Framework

Our aim is for all of the students at Great Wyrley Academy to have high aspirations for their future and to be inspired in the present to take action towards their hopes and dreams. Our ASPIRE Framework supports students reaching their personal ASPIRE Mountain summit unlocking their academic and personal potential.

We work collaboratively to ensure our six character virtues of respect, responsibility, resilience, compassion, collaboration and creativity are 'taught', 'caught' and 'sought' in learning and in life. Students aspire in every lesson, every day to be the best learners and best people that they can be.



Pupils focus on their learning and strive to pursue 'excellence'.



School Day

Time	Activity
08:30	All students arrive
08:40 - 08:55	Tutor Time/Assembly
08:55 – 10:40	Period 1
10:40 – 11:00	Morning Break
11:00 – 12:45	Period 2
12:45 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 15:00	Period 3

Food and Break Times

Students are able to pay for food from the school canteen using their parentmail account which can have money loaded onto it. During break, students in Year 7 have a separate area that is only used by themselves and year 8.

During lunch students will get their food from the canteen and will be able to eat in the canteen along with other students. There are both indoor and outdoor areas for students to sit and socialise in. In addition there will be numerous lunchtime clubs to sign up for.

Free School Meals

If you are currently claiming Free School Meals for your child and you live outside the Staffordshire area, you will need to make a new claim for Free School Meals with Staffordshire County Council as soon as possible before your child starts school in September.

Please enter your details on the following website:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Once you have completed the online application, Staffordshire County Council will inform Great Wyrley Academy of your child's entitlement to Free School Meals.

Attendance

Our Aim

At Great Wyrley Academy we expect children to attend school every day, as long as they are as fit and healthy enough to do so.

Goal

Our goal every school year is to achieve an overall school percentage of 96% or above.

Why is Attendance important?

There is a strong link between regular school attendance and achievement and if your child is frequently absent from school, they will not meet their full potential.

Regular attendance helps children to develop their confidence and to make lasting friendships. 90% attendance sounds good, but means that your child misses on average:

- One half-day nearly every week
- Nearly four weeks every school year



Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons
97%	5 days	1 week	15 lessons
95%	10 days	2 weeks	30 lessons
90%	20 days	4 weeks	60 lessons
85%	30 days	6 weeks	90 lessons
80%	40 days	8 weeks	120 lessons

5 days absence over the whole year
97% - 100%

Why is it so important?

- **Better** attainment
- **Improved** health and well-being
- **Enhanced** wider life opportunities

Ipads and Google Classroom

Digital Learning

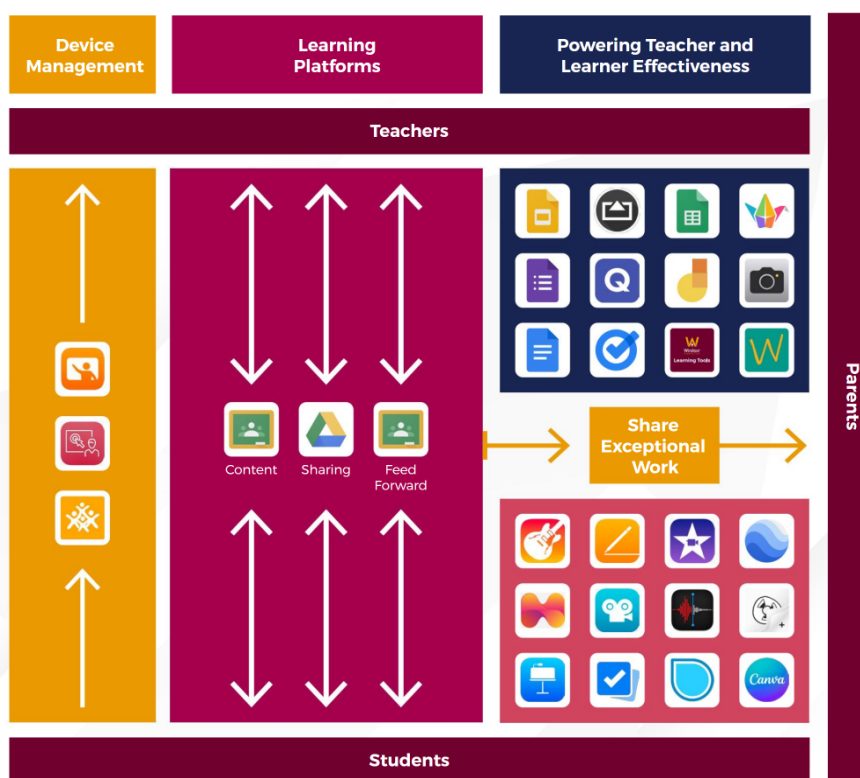
We believe that technology, if used correctly and at the right times, can have a profound effect on learning. Our mission is to create a digitally rich environment that empowers all learners to thrive in today's world and to shape tomorrow's. The pace at which technology is moving is astonishing! Every job is now a technology job, from agriculture to nursing, law to acting. Therefore, the importance of providing our young people with digitally enriched learning opportunities, cannot be overstated. New advances in technology mean that we are at the dawn of a new age, where students can collaborate, investigate and learn like never before. This is not to say that traditional teaching methods are not important. On the contrary, the teacher, environment and resources are all extremely important too. But, if we are to prepare our students to aspire for their future, we must act now by equipping our young people with the technology that will enable them to develop the meta-cognitive skills that they will need to flourish and be successful in the modern world.

1:1 digital learning is fully embedded into our curriculum to provide inspiring learning experiences that maximise learning and progress in and outside the classroom.

1:1 digital learning plays a critical role in increasing engagement in learning and encouraging creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. This provides students with essential digital skills and maximises their achievement and future success.

We launched 1:1 digital learning following extensive research that showed the impact of digital technology in education. Digital learning has been central in providing students with the best experiences. **Year 7 will receive their school iPad in September.**

Digital Learning Workflow



Inspired by RGS Worcester

Meet the Year 7 Team

Head of Year: Mrs J. Foyle

Form tutors: Miss J. Alton, Miss E. Salter, Mr P. Phillips, Mr A. Nisar

As Head of Year, Mrs Foyle is responsible for the pastoral care of the students in the year group. This means that behaviour, safeguarding and attendance issues all come under her remit. Therefore, she will have the greatest contact with parents.

The form tutor is usually the first member of staff your child sees in the morning and the one with all the messages and information. Your child's form tutor will support them on difficult days and celebrate their successes and achievements, big or small. They will be your first point of contact.

The Year 7 Pledge

“Personal potential means that children are all and more than they ever thought they could be. It is about developing children's character and enabling them to find and discover their passions and interests. When young people discover their passions, it helps them to discover their purpose”.

The WAT-GWA pledge is an important part of building opportunities for our young people to develop within extra curricular activities and learning experiences. We are busy planning for the 2023-24 pledge but here is an overview.



School and Uniform Supplies

Information is given in this booklet to support you in getting the right uniform for your child and to prevent costly mistakes in purchasing incorrect uniform. There is also further information available on our website. Any queries or concerns regarding uniform and appropriateness of alternatives can be addressed to your child's form tutor in the first instance who will be happy to support you in the process.

Blazer: Burgundy, school badge on pocket

Trousers: Plain black tailored (standard fit)

Skirt: Plain black, knee length

School Jumper: V neck burgundy / black with school badge

Shirt: White school shirt, capable of fastening to the neck

Tie: School house tie

Shoes: Plain black flat shoes

Socks: Plain black or grey

Tights: Natural, grey, black or burgundy



School Uniform Suppliers

Crested School Wear

67 High Green, Cannock, WS11 1BN Tel: 01543 504866

Order online: www.crestedschoolwear.co.uk

Clive Marks

Saddlers Shopping Centre, 1 Park Street, Walsall, WS1 1YS Tel: 01922 62255

P.E. Uniform

Compulsory items

Black-maroon Academy shorts or black-maroon skirt and/or Black Academy jogging bottoms*/Black sports leggings*
Black-maroon Academy polo shirt
Trainers (not fashion pumps).

Optional items

Black Academy hoodie (strongly recommended)
Black-maroon rugby top
Football boots
Shin pads
Black-maroon Academy football socks

*Please note these must be plain, students will not be allowed to wear branded leggings or jogging bottoms.

We may take part in swimming lessons but each class will be notified in advance of when this is.



Extra Curricular Activities

GREAT Extracurricular interaction builds relationships with our students leading to positive behaviours, nurtures talent, gives hope, encourages social skills, improves health and wellbeing- encouraging a GREAT growth mindset.

This is our wider goal at GWA in preparing our young people for adult life.



Sample activities
Soul band
Viva Voce
Year 7&8 football
Girls Netball
Grow it club
Year 9 & 10 football
Art Club and art gallery curators
Eco Club
Dance Club
UKMT Challenge
Amnesty Club
Drama Club
School Show

This year's offering has included: Eco sustainability clubs, educational clubs, creative clubs, sports clubs, literacy and oracy clubs...the list could go on and next year we have even bigger plans.

Student Leadership Opportunities

At Great Wyrley Academy we pride ourselves on the wider opportunities available to students to develop as individuals and as team players beyond the classroom.



We encourage all students to take part in wider school or community life in some way. As a student leader, you are in a position of responsibility to have a positive impact in the student community, running events and activities, helping staff to promote positive change, or providing support to your fellow students.

Being part of the senate or a subject champion is an excellent opportunity for you to demonstrate leadership skills within school. Y7 will have their application window in the Autumn term and more details will follow.

Careers Guidance

Impactful career guidance in secondary schools can lead to better student outcomes, while also raising aspirations and increasing engagement with education. It is not just a careers advisor's responsibility, it is the responsibility of all educators here at GWA.



Linking careers to curriculum study makes a difference to student outcomes:

It's about young people finding purpose, discovering what matters to them, their place in the world, the point of studying and getting up in the morning. It can give hope, meaning, purpose, self esteem and the ability to navigate the challenges of life.

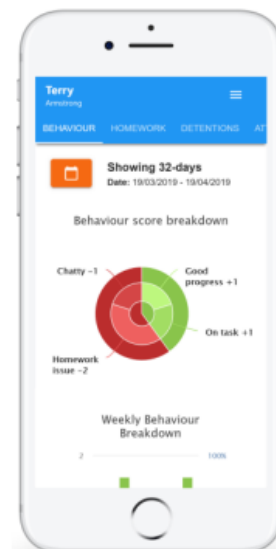
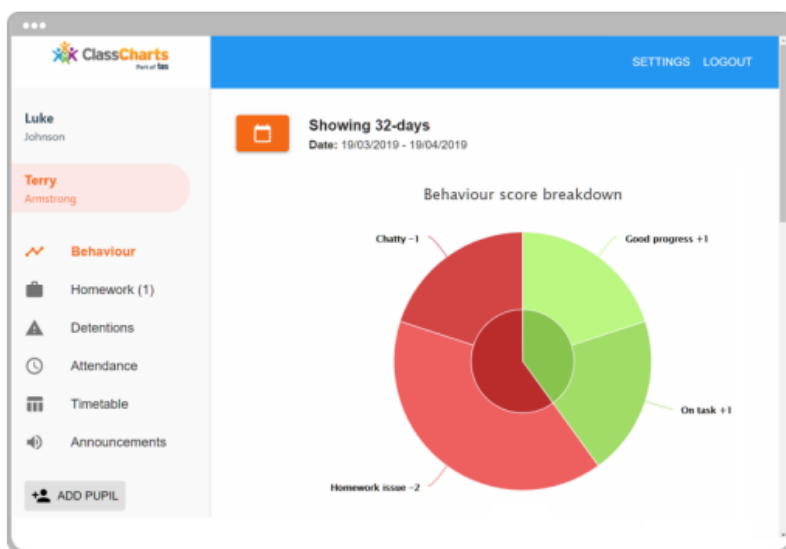
Students feel more engaged in their learning when they perceive the relevance of what they are studying to their own and other people's lives. The careers curriculum is delivered through a series of ASPIRE days and tutor time activities across all year groups.

School to Home Communication



At Great Wyrley academy we aim to keep parents well informed through regular communications such as weekly bulletins via parentmail and live updates on ClassCharts.

You will be able to use Class Charts to keep track of your child's behaviour, aspire points, view attendance records, access their weekly timetable and track scheduled detentions. If you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about your children from a single, centralised parent account. Class Charts for parents can be accessed via the website, or through iOS and Android apps.



Parentmail will be used to manage our communications with parents. This will also be used to send reminders of payments and make payments online via the app. Full details of accessing both systems will be sent out in September.

