# Academy for Young Pengineers Solihull

**END OF AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER** 

**DECEMBER 2024** 

#### PRINCIPAL'S END OF AUTUMN TERM MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

I would firstly like to thank parents and students for their continued and unwavering support in maintaining high standards of business dress, punctuality and behaviour. The students in Years 10 and 12 have made a fantastic start to their educational journey at WMG and have embraced the ethos and demonstrate the academy values of Respectful, Aspirational and Professional on a daily basis. Years 11 and 13 have quickly settled back into the academy life showing maturity and determination, this will be much needed as they start their mock examinations in January. These mocks are the first step in the process of rigorous preparation for their Summer Examination series. The mock exams are a 'litmus test' and will help both students and teachers to identify areas of strength but also, and most importantly areas for additional support and intervention.

As the last week of the autumn term draws to a close, it provides a moment to reflect on this term and look forward to the challenges and opportunities next term. This term, the academy has hosted a number of employers and very many students have taken part in various workshops, activities and talks from our business partners, further details are later in the newsletter. We have also celebrated our students from last academic year in our Trust awards evening, this look place in

the Oculus building at Warwick University on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, and was a fantastic showcase of the talent we have at WMG.

Next term students in Year 11 will have the opportunity to take part in a PGL revision residential trip to support students in preparing for their summer examinations in relaxed and engaging surroundings. We have further trips and visits planned for both the Spring and Summer terms for all year groups.

As we look forward to the next term, I encourage students in Year 11 and in Year 13, whether they are studying GCSE, A level or BTEC qualifications to reflect on their progress this term, and return after the holidays rested and determined to be successful. For students in Years 10 and 12, it is an opportunity to continue to make great progress in lessons and engage in all opportunities and activities that are presented to them.

Finally, may I wish all families and students a well earned break, a chance to recharge and spend time with loved ones. My thoughts and best wishes are

with you over the holiday period; stay safe, take care of yourselves and each other.

Claire Morris Associate Principal



happy holidays

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CEO OF WMG ACADEMY

Another successful and busy first term draws to a close in both WMG academies that has again seen record numbers of companies attend on site provision of engaging activities for the students, particularly during the Tomorrows Engineers Week and National Engineering Week in October and November. The festive break will be welcomed by students and staff as a period to rest and recharge batteries following either sitting or preparing for Mock examinations. As always, both academies value and hugely appreciate the support that parents and carers provide for sons, daughters and the school staff. On behalf of all the staff, I wish all students, parents, carers and families a restful break a very Happy New Year for 2025!



Stewart Tait - CEO

#### **BADMINTON TOURNAMENT**

WMG Academy Solihull took part in a Solihull Schools Badminton competition where 6 girls from the Academy played both singles and doubles games and ended up finishing in the top 6.





#### SILVERWARE AT WMG SOLIHULL

WMG Academy Solihull took part in a table tennis event in the north Solihull Region and came second out of 7 teams in total which means they get to go to the regional Solihull competition!

Billy Brown, Archie Aberdeen, Sahil Papalzi, Imran Khan

#### SUPER LEARNING DAY WITH JLR

On 25th November Solihull had their first Super learning day and ran 6 back to back Powertrain sessions with the JLR education outreach team with our year 10 students. WMG Academy students got to work in teams to set up the vehicles to create the fastest car, they raced and then had to adjust the setup to overcome the obstacle tracks.

The teams that were successful demonstrated good communication, the ability to fault find and repair their vehicles to overcome the challenges set, all essential skills that the next generation of engineers need. Well done!



#### **TOMORROW ENGINEERS WEEK**

Day 1 of Tomorrow's Engineers Week meant hands-on activities with JLR for our Product Design students at Solihull. JLR engineers and early careers team shared their expertise, leading masterclasses in drawing, clay modelling and reverse engineering! (Also, sharing their journey into JLR and the value of apprenticeships.)

Having experiential learning for the students meant they could apply their design and engineering skills to real world job roles at JLR. It certainly opened the students' eyes where creativity can take you in JLR careers. Plus they gained valuable insight into your Creator's Code: Customer Love; Unity; Integrity; Growth; Impact and understanding what these values mean.











Day 2 of Tomorrow's Engineers Week and our students visited Tilbury Douglas, and were hosted by Charlotte Davies and Stuart Palmer, Senior Project Manager, who gave a fantastic onsite tour of the construction in progress at Waseley Hill High School. Plus, Stuart shared what his job role meant and highlighted the key parts Engineers play.

Opportunities such as these give meaningful engagement to the WMG Academy Trust students at Solihull. With Year 11 being at a crucial point in their post-16 options, seeing career possibilities within the construction industry was very inspiring! Walking amongst an Engineering project in real life literally shows how Engineering can shape lives for the students in Rubery and give the students an understanding of how engineering skills are applied.



Day 3 of Tomorrow's Engineers Week and WMG Academy's Year 13 students have visited the National School & College Leaver Festival which was loaded with apprenticeship and university information.

Having the opportunity to meet so many companies face to face gives the students advice and guidance in terms of what opportunities are available. It also challenges their thinking in terms of where their education can lead them within Engineering and so many other STEM sectors.



Day 4 of Tomorrow's Engineers Week and it was a privilege to welcome Annabelle Armes from Grid for Good from National Grid and her team of 11 volunteers, including our alumni Alexandra Johnson!

Annabelle led the delivery for Grid for Good to our Year 13 students WMG Academy Trust Solihull, giving them essential career guidance on apprenticeships, opportunities available at National Grid, how to navigate Al driven recruitment processes, STAR interview technique and how to be successful in a Group Assessment.

The students worked with their National Grid mentors to produce a STAR interview answer and the teams of students delivered a presentation based on a group Assessment scenario. For Solihull students to have access to such opportunities is phenomenal as they had the chance to ask different mentors about their National Grid journey and gain valuable advice. Meaningful engagements shape our students future prospects and this event certainly hit that mark through the activities and networking opportunities.



The final day of Tomorrow's Engineers Week and it was a pleasure to welcome Barrie Flemming from Bosch UK & Ireland, who travelled from London. Forty of our Year 10 students found out about how Bosch technology shapes our world and the importance of connectivity. They also learnt about sustainability and the future of renewable energies, with their generation likely to be pioneering Engineers to meet the UK pledge to be Net Carbon Zero by 2050.

This led into understanding the future of electrical power, with a focus on hydrogen power to fuel the automotive industry. Barrie kindly supplied hydrogen powered cars for the students to assemble and test in their groups. This meant applying what they had learnt from Barrie and their STEM lessons in the academy to understand the scientific process of using hydrogen.

Afterwards, teams were tasked to present the advantages and drawbacks of using hydrogen fuel. There were a variety of responses that considered the impact of the technology and creation of job prospects, to considering the expense and time to roll out this technology.



#### **ENRICHMENT**

F1 in Schools is an esteemed global educational programme that inspires students to explore engineering, design, and teamwork through the exciting context of Formula 1 racing. Here at WMG Academy for Young Engineers in Solihull, we are immensely proud of our team's dedication and ingenuity as they work tirelessly to design and build a competitive racing car, refine their engineering expertise, and ignite a passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) among their peers.

We take great pride in supporting our students throughout their journey, ensuring they are equipped for success at the regional finals and beyond. Through initiatives like this, we are strengthening vital industry links, providing our students with unique opportunities to connect with professionals, and fostering an environment of innovation and collaboration.

To fund our project, our teams have shown remarkable initiative and creativity by securing sponsorships and organising fundraising events such as bake sales, selling branded merchandise, and running crowdfunding campaigns. One of our team's efforts has been rewarded with a £500 sponsorship from National Grid, a partnership that has greatly bolstered their journey. Nicholas South from National Grid was impressed by our students' proposal and enthusiasm, choosing to support them in exchange for having their

logo proudly displayed on their car and team uniforms. As part of this partnership, we welcomed Nicholas from National Grid to our school, where the team delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing every aspect of the project, from the intricacies of car design to the excitement of race day. This collaboration not only showcases the students' talent and professionalism but also underscores WMG Academy's commitment to preparing our students for future success while building strong connections with industry leaders. Get in touch if you and your company want to be involved.





#### T LEVELS CELEBRATION WEEK: SHAPING CAREERS, BUILDING FUTURES

As one of the first providers to deliver T Levels, we're so proud to be marking this moment and celebrating the success of our students. We started offering T Levels in Engineering this academic year. In September 2025 we hope to expand our T Level offer to include Digital as well.

T Levels are a two-year courses that young people can take following GCSEs. Broadly equivalent in size to 3 A levels and accruing UCAS points. T Levels were developed in collaboration with employers to ensure that students will be equipped with the skills they need. They offer a mixture of classroom learning and 'on the job' experience with at least 45 days spent on an industry placement with an employer. With a T Level, students can progress straight on to skilled work, higher study or apprenticeships.



We're really proud of our T Level students. They are moving on to such a wide range of next steps, with some planning on going straight into the workplace and others wanting to start a higher-level apprenticeship or go to university. We're looking forward to seeing how they succeed in the future.

Minister for Skills, Jacqui Smith said: "This government is backing T Levels as a top-quality qualification, helping young people develop skills to seize opportunity." "T Levels offer hands-on experience in the workplace and excellent career prospects for young people seeking skilled work or further study. This September saw us launch three new subjects, with another set to launch next year." "I'm delighted to see more employers getting behind T Levels by offering industry placements, including Amazon, Lloyds Banking Group, and Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, helping to nurture future talent and support the development of in-demand skills."

Follow up on social media as we celebrate our students this December, we will be sharing content with the hashtag <a href="https://www.erename.com/#TLevelsWeek">#TLevelsWeek</a> For more information on T Levels, and for advice on applying click <a href="https://www.erename.com/herename.com/



#### **F1 IN SCHOOLS**

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#### **CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY AT OPMOBILITY**

Coinciding with INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY (UK) LTD, students from WMG Academy Trust Solihull met Leila Agalarova who hosted us at OPmobility, to meet positive male role models and learn more about the company.

Our students were fortunate to have a behind the scenes tour and experienced the different roles at OPmobility. The students learnt about the function of presses, paint lines, sequence in line (SIL) systems and robotics. The students also split into teams to take part in an Escape Room challenge! To crack the code, students tackled hands-on activities such as dry film thickness (DFT) using a gauge to spot the 40 microns paint depth on panels; drag testing on panels and complete a quality assurance inspections for weight, hole depths and finish. Each successfully completed task was rewarded with a number that led to a mathematics challenge to submit a final code!

Congratulations to the winning teams who were rewarded with gift cards and everyone kindly received a goody bag and chocolates.

Employer engagements like these are brilliant, to truly understand what local companies do and the global opportunities they can bring future engineers. It inspires our students by witnessing first-hand where engineering can lead. Thank you Leila Agalarova and your colleagues who gave up their time to be role models on IMD.



#### A SUCCESSFUL FIRST TERM FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

I would like to thank all students, staff and parents/carers at WMG Academy Solihull for all of their efforts with all things Teaching and Learning this term. What an amazing start to the year we have had. Staff have been working hard to ensure that our students receive the very best diet of education. We have introduced a successful new green pen policy where all students have the opportunity during lessons to reflect on their work and make improvements. Students are also now completing daily recall DO NOWs across all subjects so we can ensure we are always revisiting and building on prior learning to support our students in remembering core knowledge. We have also had the opportunity to meet with all of our new year 10 and 12 students' parents and carers at our settling in evenings and, of course, our year 11 students' parents and carers at our Year 11 Information Evening. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended and for all you do at home to support your children with their learning. We now look forward to the upcoming Y11 and 13 mocks where our students will see the results of all of their hard work.

A reminder to parents, carers and students that revision guides are available for all subjects on Parent Pay and they can access all of our revision materials via our revision website: <a href="https://sites.google.com/wmgacademy.org.uk/gcserevision/home">https://sites.google.com/wmgacademy.org.uk/gcserevision/home</a>

Happy holidays to all; I hope you have a restful break. - Sian O'Malley, Assistant Principal



#### SIXTH FORM UPDATES

#### **Student Successes**

Over 2000 positive points have been awarded to our Post 16 students since September. Well done! We have also been running a "Top Tutor group" challenge. Who will win the our Top Tutor awards for this term, 13.3 and 12.2 were in the lead at the time of writing this.

#### **UCAS Applications**

Deadline for submission to UCAS is the 26th January 2023. Please ensure applications are completed by 6th January to allow staff time to complete the necessary references.

# 6th Form UPDATE

#### Attendance & Punctuality

#### Illness:

If you decide your child is unable to attend the academy due to illness, the following procedure applies:

If a student is absent from the academy, parents should contact the academy on the 1st day of absence by 8:30am, to inform the academy of the reason for absence. The academy's phone number is 0121 289 3556, please select option 1 to report an absence

Parents are expected to maintain contact with the academy throughout the absence period by calling in each day.

#### Appointments (Medical, dental, driving lessons)

Where possible, such appointments should be booked outside of academy hours. When a student has a medical or dental appointment, this should be confirmed with an appointment card or letter, in advance of the appointment. Students are expected to attend the academy prior to the appointment and return to the academy after the appointment. Any absence outside of the appointment/travel time will be unauthorised.

Driving lesson and tests should be booked outside of lesson time

#### Uniform

Full business including shoes and WMG lanyard is excepted everyday.

#### SUPER LEARNING DAY SUCCESS

On Monday, our Year 10 and Year 11 students took part in an enriching Super Learning Day packed with exciting workshops and activities aimed at broadening their horizons and building essential life skills. Here's a glimpse of what they experienced:

#### Year 10 Highlights:

- Altru Workshops: Exploring teamwork and creativity.
- Rocket Engineering: Hands-on STEM fun, designing and launching rockets.
- JLR Sessions: Insights into engineering and career opportunities at JLR.
- Trading Game: Developing critical thinking and financial skills.
- Relationships Workshops: Building healthy interpersonal skills.
- Exploitation Awareness: Discussions on staying safe and informed.

#### Year 11 Highlights:

- Poetry to Page: Unleashing creativity through literature and expression.
- Knife Crime Awareness: Engaging conversations on community safety.
- Drugs and Addiction: Empowering students with knowledge and resilience
- Online Safety: Navigating the digital world securely.
- Exam Skills: Preparing for academic success with confidence.



A huge thank you to our staff, external speakers, and students for making the day memorable and impactful. Let's continue striving for growth and excellence!

#### WMG ACADEMY TRUST AWARDS 2024

On Thursday 12th December, the WMG Academy Trust held its annual Awards Evening and celebrated the success of students in both the Solihull and Coventry academies. The event took place at the University of Warwick and was hosted in the impressive Oculus building.

As well as proud parents supporting the prize winners, guests presenting awards were Lady Bhattacharyya, Alison Hodge, Samantha Frampton (Head of Solihull Chamber of Commerce), Christine Ennew (Chair of the WMG Trust), and Santina Ajdari-Bunting 'Apprentice of the Year currently working at Arup. WMG Alumni who returned to address Award Winners included Jordan Albutt (Rolls Royce) and Katherine Fenton (JLR) who both shared their inspiring journeys, showcasing the enduring impact of a WMG Academy education.

This year's event was particularly special as it commemorated the WMG Academy Trust's 10-year anniversary, reflecting on a decade since the opening of the first WMG Academy in Coventry in 2014. The ceremony featured the presentation of numerous awards recognizing exceptional accomplishments across Key Stages 4 and 5. These included honours for academic excellence in subjects like Engineering, Maths and the Arts, as well as special accolades; the Best Role Model and Resilience Awards. Holly Hampton and Safiyah Jahic from WMG Solihull Academy and Dawid Grigorian and Demi Wood from WMG Coventry Academy were awarded Lord Bhattacharyya Student of the Year award, highlighting their outstanding contributions and dedication.

Staff dedication was also celebrated, with ten-year service awards presented to honour individuals who have contributed significantly to the Trust's mission since its inception.

The WMG Academy Trust extends thanks to everyone who made the evening a success; parents and carers for their unwavering support, students for their hard work and determination, teachers and staff for their commitment to excellence, and distinguished guests for sharing their journey.















This online 6 week course is free for Birmingham parents and carers of children and young people

## LED BY ADULTS WITH ADHD

Does your child have ADHD or suspected ADHD?

Are you trying to support them but find that everyone gives you different advice?

In this 6 week course, you will

- learn about ADHD
- Understand the effect on our mental health
- Understand the reasons behind behaviours
- Gain confidence in advocating for our children
- Learn new strategies
- Help our kids be confident, resilient and be their best selves

Phone: 0731 116 7485

Email:contactus@brewseducation.org Birmingham Resilience Education and Wellbeing Services CIC

What parents have said about this course

This course is literally game-changing for parents, caregivers, teachers and anyone living with a child (or adult) with ADHD. So much misunderstanding, frustration and worry could be prevented if everyone

had access to this amazing resource.

Essential course for any parent of a child with ADHD. It changed the way I see my son and my ability to respond to his needs effectively.

Very informative, friendly, no pressure, enjoyable sessions





Tuesdays 10 - 11.30am starting Tuesday 7th January Register HERE or use QR code

Nurturing

**NEW GROUPS STARTING SOON!** Free online 6 week course for parents and carers

This half term's courses

LED BY ADULTS WITH ADHD

Thursdays 7-8.30pm starting Thursday 9th January Register **HERE** or use QR code

Supported by



If you have any questions, email us

Contactus@brewseducation.org





# **Apprenticeship Show**

Come along to find out how you can earn while you learn



Meet local employers and training providers



Speak to apprentices



Find out about current and upcoming apprenticeship at all levels



Speak to local employers about their current vacancies



Scan the QR code or use this link to register





Wednesday 29 January 2025, 3:30 - 7:00 pm North Solihull Sports Centre, Chelmsley Wood B37 5LA Free Parking



Funded by UK Government

<u>lifeready@solihull.gov.uk</u>



@LifeReadyEAN

#SolAppShow



28th January

@Alderbrook School Blossomfield Road, Solihull B911SN

## INFORMATION \* **EVENING FOR PARENTS**

At the evening, we will have a panel discussion with experts,

- Student Ambassadors



Scan



Attention Span Smartphones reduce focus and attention, hindering

### Undermines Mental Health

Overexposure to social media and screens can negat affect children's emotional and mental well-being.

## Safety Risks

Smartphones expose children to safeguarding issues including cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

Emotional Impact
The addictive nature of smartphones can lead to mood swings, sleep disruption, and over-reliance on digital









#### ParentSafe

www.parentsafe.lgfl.net

An amazing resource page from the London Grid for Learning (LGitL) with guidance and videos on a variety of topics online, including safe settings and controls, and how to talk to children about online life.

#### **Internet Matters**

www.internetmatters.or

Step-by-step guide on how to set parental controls on a number of devices, internet connections, gaming and social media apps.

#### NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk



The UK's leading youth charity that has lot of useful information and resources available covering a wider variety of topics. They also have a YouTube channel, scan the QR to find out more.

#### Stop radicalisation and exploitation

Anyone can be vulnerable to extremism and racticalisation, but children are particularly at risk. As they grow and become more independent, it is not unusual for them to take risks, explore new things and push boundaries. Educate Against Hate's website (www.educateagainsthate.com) offers practical advice and support to protect children from extremism and radicalisation. NetMums have partnered counter-terrorism policing to promote Act Early, a safeguarding website for parents, friends and families who are concerned, visit www.netmums.com/act-early for more information.

#### Report online sexual abuse

If you or your child is worried about online abuse or grooming, make a report to on CEOP's website www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre

A Child Protection Advisor will get in contact and help you talk through what's going on. CEOP cannot help with bullying or account hacking.

For a child or young person, having a sexual image or video of themselves shared online can be a distressing situation. This can be difficult for parents and carers too, but there are ways you can support your child. If they're under 18, they can use Report Remove. Report Remove is a tool that allows young people to report an image or video shared online, to see if it's possible to get it taken down. Provided by Childine and the Internet Watch Foundation, it keeps the young person informed at each stage of their report, and provides further support where necessary.

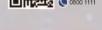
Advice for parents - search 'NSPCC Report Remove' for more information or scan the QR code to make a report

Search 'WMP Advice' for more information



■据画 childline

www.childline.org.uk 0 0800 1111







Among all the fun and festivities, Christmas can be an overwhelming time. See attached for tips wellbeing over

Christmas.

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/youngperson/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-atchristmas/





#### YEAR 11 AND 13 MOCK TIMETABLE

To view your year group's timetables and revision websites click the below links:

Year 11

Year 13

Year 11 revision site

#### HAF PROGRAMME (HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD)

Christmas school holidays

#### 1. Children's activities

The HAF-funded activities programme is running during the Christmas school holidays. Parents and carers with children eligible for benefit-related free school meals, will have received a unique HAF booking code via email for each child. For more Information or to book places hafinfo@solihull.gov.uk

If your child is not eligible for benefit related free school meals, a referral can be made by one of these children's professionals, which includes the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) from your child's school.

#### 2. Family activities

A range of funded activities for children and their parents/carers, including a free meal per person. For more information or to book places

#### 3. 13 to 16 year olds activities

Funded ice skating including a free meal. For more information (booking not required)



**SAFEGUARDING AND WELL-BEING DECEMBER 2024** 

ALTHOUGH THE ACADEMY WILL BE CLOSED OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK, THE SAFEGUARDING AND WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED DURING THIS PERIOD.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ACADEMY AT <u>SOLIHULL.INFO@WMGACADEMY.ORG.UK</u> AND MARK THE EMAIL <u>'SAFEGUARDING CONFIDENTIAL FAO OF DSL'</u>. IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS THAT A CHILD IS AT RISK OF HARM OR IS BEING HARMED, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH), DETAILS OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT: HTTPS://SOLIHULL.WMGACADEMY.ORG.UK/SAFEGUARDING/OUT-OF-HOURS-CONTACTS

#### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

FRIDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR AUTUMN TERM
MONDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025	INSET DAY
MONDAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025	YEAR 10 SPECIFIC WELCOME AND DISCOVER
WEDNESDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2025	YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS BEGIN
WEDNESDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2025	YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING
TUESDAY 28 <sup>™</sup> JANUARY 2025	YEAR 12 PARENTS EVENING
FRIDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025	YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS END
FRIDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025	CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
MONDAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> - 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025	NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK (NAW)
FRIDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
MONDAY 24 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025	ACADEMY OPENS FOR AFTER HALF TERM

Academy for Young Pengineers

Merry Christmas

and a happy new year

