

WMG Academy for Young engineers Solihull

END OF HALF TERM NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

PRINCIPAL'S END OF HALF TERM MESSAGE



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our students who returned to the Academy looking very smart and refreshed after their summer break, feeling very positive about the year ahead. It has been a pleasure to welcome two new cohorts at the Academy, Year 10 and Year 12 and I would also like to extend the warm welcome to you, our new parents/guardians as well as to new staff who have joined us; I very much look forward to working with you to achieve the same level of excellent results and destinations that our 2024 learners secured.

We were delighted with the significant increases in all national measures shown by our 2024 results and the fantastic destinations and apprenticeships both GCSE and Post 16. 2024 also saw a record number of applications for places at the Academy and enrolment closed earlier this year due to limited spaces, particularly at Post-16. Having got off to a really positive start with two very focussed and engaged new year groups, this year is set to yield even higher success and more impressive destinations for our learners.

It is hard to believe that we have nearly completed our first half term of the new academic year. So much has happened since the start of term, some of which are highlighted below in our newsletter.

Mrs Claire Morris - Associate Principal

WELCOME BACK!

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO OF WMG ACADEMY



A very warm welcome to existing and new parents of both academies for what is set to be another exciting and positive year for our students. We have recently hosted two extremely busy and positive events over the past fortnight opening the academy doors to new parents and prospective parents on our Coventry Open Day and Solihull Open Evening. The events enabled us to showcase the work we do with business partners and how our specialist pathways enable students to secure impressive destinations such as the 2023/24 leavers securing up to 5 times the national average of quality apprenticeships alongside prestigious University places.

Stewart Tait - CEO

SPORTS TEAMS

WMG Sports Teams are up and running with the Year 10 and Year 11 football teams playing their first games against John Henry Newman. The Year 10s game ended in a 3-1 loss but the team fought well and pushed till the very end. The Year 11s dominated in their game however did not have the finishing touch on the day and the game ended in a 1-1 draw with Kayden Howell lighting up the pitch with his presence on the day. The KS4 basketball team has its very first basketball fixture coming up as well as the KS4 netball team in the near future.

JLR FORMULA E-PRIX EXPERIENCE

As part of a Company partnership with JLR-TCS Formula E team the academy has developed an educational program. On Sunday 21st July 2024, Students at WMG Academy for young engineers had an opportunity to have a VIP experience day at the ExCel arena, London E-Prix as a guest of the JLR-TCS Formula E team.

The final Formula E round was held at the unique London Excel racetrack in the nation's Docklands area. During the London E-Prix final, both Jaguar drivers were in with a shot of winning the Drivers' World Championship. Nick Cassidy qualified on pole for the first race, with teammate Mitch Evans in third.

The Jaguars controlled the early part of the race too, but Cassidy was then hit by a Porsche driver, ending his chance of winning the world title. Evans also had a challenging race, finishing in third – and with Porsche's Pascal Wehrlein winning, the German ended up scooping the title.

Both drivers will be back behind the wheel of the Jaguar Formula E car next year, for another shot at taking the drivers' title.

Earlier this year, Jaguar confirmed plans to continue as a manufacturer with a factory team into Formula E's GEN4 era, through to 2030.



MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS!

Our A-level mathematicians took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. We had a great set of results, with our students achieving 13 Bronze awards, 5 Silver awards, and 2 Gold awards.

Special mentions to:

Alex Radford - best in Year 12.

Kayla Haynes - best in School.

Kayla Haynes and Will Wood also both qualified for the Andrew Jobbins Senior Kangaroo. This follow on round is reserved for the very best performances, and is a stepping stone for qualification to the British Olympiad. We are wishing them the best for the event in November!

THE FUTURE STARTS NOW

Despite just settling into their post 16 studies, we get our students thinking about their futures from the off. Last Friday 11th October Year 12 attended the UK University & Apprenticeship Search at Birmingham Edgbaston Stadium. This event provided the student's with an opportunity to attend seminars as well and meet potential employers. Students were exemplary and it certainly got them thinking about their next steps.

10 WEEK CHALLENGE

During the Easter term last year we ran a 10 week attendance challenge, which allowed the students to qualify for a Reward Trip if they had less than 10 days off, had less than 10 Lates marks, had less than 10 behaviour points and had more than 10 positive points.

Not only did this give the Academy a bump in our attendance rate, but 86 students qualified and were successful. Of those 86, 55 of them opted to spend the day at Alton Towers at the start of October.

Those that went enjoyed the shorter queuing time, and are looking forward to the Christmas themed Attendance Drive starting after October Half Term.

JOIN US IN INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AT WMG ACADEMY!

At WMG Academy, we value the contributions of professionals and skilled workers in our Careers Education programme. Would you consider sharing your expertise and insights with our students?

Your involvement could take many forms, such as:

- Giving a short talk to a small group
- Speaking at an assembly
- Participating in a Futures Event
- Visiting a lesson to discuss your career journey

Many of our past volunteers have found their experiences to be highly fulfilling. We welcome any level of participation, and if your organization has a commitment to community engagement, they may wish to get involved as well.

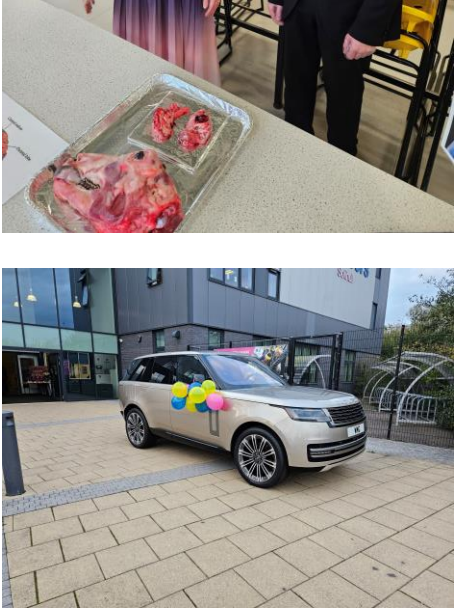
If you're interested, please complete the form [here](#). There's no obligation, and you can choose what works best for you.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a positive impact on our students' futures!



OPEN EVENING

Open Evening was a fantastic evening, we had over 200 families attend; many of our partners came to support us and we had numerous alumni come back to speak to visitors and relay their individual stories of how WMG had been instrumental in their success. It was wonderful to see our Academy full of excited prospective students and families and I would like to thank our existing students who came to support us - you were brilliant.



SOLIHULL FAMILY HUBS

Support for parents around employment, parenting, housing, SEND. On site food banks and clothing banks. Weekly health visitor clinics, maternity support, stay and play sessions and youth groups. Find your local hub and access their bespoke monthly timetables to look at what is on offer. Urban Herd youth groups are also run here regularly, including an LGBT group for teenagers, girls’ group and baking session. <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/family-hubs/how-family-hubs-can-help>

A payment of £35 per child will be provided as food support for families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, for the autumn term 2024. The vouchers will be issued to families by 15 November and are to cover the October half term and Christmas holidays.

There will be a further voucher issued in March 2025 however we have not yet had confirmation from the government as to whether the Household Support Fund will be continuing to fund supermarket vouchers from April 2025 onwards. We will provide an update on further voucher schemes in due course.

Solihull Council's Here2Help provides details of additional food provision and essential utilities to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals. For more information, please contact Education free school meals team edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk

ONLINE SAFETY

Understanding online safety is can be complicated for all ages. Please follow the link, which gives advice about staying safe online as a family. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED OVER THE HOLIDAYS ANY CONCERNS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO SOLIHULL.INFO@WMGACADEMY.ORG.UK AND MARKED ‘CONFIDENTIAL – FAO SAFEGUARDING LEAD’

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY 24 TH OCTOBER 2024	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
FRIDAY 25 TH OCTOBER 2024	INSET DAY
MONDAY 4 TH NOVEMBER 2024	ACADEMY OPENS AFTER HALF TERM
MONDAY 11 TH - FRIDAY 15 TH NOVEMBER 2024	TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS WEEK
THURSDAY 12 TH DECEMBER 2024	WMG ACADEMY TRUST AWARDS EVENING
FRIDAY 20 TH DECEMBER 2024	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR END OF AUTUMN TERM

