

THE WEEK AT WOA

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

WOW! What a fantastic start to the new school year!

We loved welcoming back ALL pupils this week and have some exciting highlights to share with you:

- Pupils have settled well into their new timetables following Boot Camps and extended SMART START activities and visitors have commented on the 'lovely vibe and family feel to the school.'
- We launched the £5 Challenge across Years 8-10 - this is an enterprise challenge which will see pupils work together to raise money for our chosen charity, Ethan's Legacy, and for form group trips and treats. Ask your child to tell you how their form group is planning on turning their £5 into £50 then £150 and beyond!
- We launched our 12 Day Attendance Challenge competition and we currently have XXX pupils who are on track to achieve this and receive their doughnut rewards.
- We launched our Year 11 Raising Achievement strategy with pupils - Glow Up, Show Up and Achieve! We are holding a parent session to launch this on 7th October - watch this space for more info.
- Pupils in Years 7-11 have had their school photographs today, well done to all for looking so smart and being so prompt and orderly. Our main prize on the Wheel of Wonder this week was a Golden Ticket from Aperture Photography. If your child brings it home you have one a free photo package!
- We have had a simply fabulous first FOMO Friday of the new school year with many prizes to reward our pupils for their attendance and great attitudes to learning. The trolley dash and Wheel of Wonder this afternoon were great fun too!
- Year 10 won the best attendance this week - well done to ALL!

A reminder - Next week Year 11 pupils will start their Session 6's, please can you support us in supporting your child to attend all sessions so that we can maximise their chances of success in their GCSEs.

At 11am on Monday 14th September, we are holding our first Parent Drop-in Clinic. Please feel free to drop in and meet Mr Wagstaff and I regarding any questions, queries or concerns.

Attention Year 5 & 6 Parents - Our **New Intake Open Evening** is on **Wednesday 16th September** from 4.30pm. Please feel free to come along and find out more about what makes to WOA Family so special!

Finally, The Children's Commissioner has asked us to support them by sharing a link to The Big Future Survey - please encourage your child to feed back their views: [About this survey: The Big Future survey - have your say!](#)

#gottobeinittowinit #attendtoachieve #fomofriday #believeachievesucceed #changinglives #session6 #thebigfuturesurvey

ATTEND TO ACHIEVE

Our top attending tutor groups of the week are ...



7 - 7KGO
8 - 8HAB
9 - 9LBU
10 - 10GBR
11 - 11JKN



The Year group with the most improved attenders' week on week are year 10 and they have collected their treat during the wheel of wonder this afternoon.

#attendtoachieve

#missitmissout

KEY DATES – AUTUMN TERM

Wednesday 16th September - Open Evening
Wednesday 7th October - Y7 Settling IN Evening
Y11 Raising Achievement Evening
Friday 23rd October - Half Term Begins
Friday 27th November - INSET Day
Wednesday 2nd December - Y11 Parent's Evening
Friday 18th December - Xmas Holiday Begins

Please check your emails for our full Key Dates letter for this academic year

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Parents and carers have received an email invitation to set up access to the Arbor Parent Portal and App.

This will become the main way the school communicates with families. Through Arbor, you will be able to:

- View key information about your child
- Receive school messages and updates
- Check attendance information



HOUSE POINT LEADERBOARD

Final Scores for the year

Joint 1st Place **Dickens & Shakespeare** 99 points

2nd Place **Bronte** 96 points

3rd Place **Austen** 85 points



Well done to 7KGO and 11JKN and 1JPA for being our top point earners of the week!
You can earn points every week through good attendance to school and enrichment clubs,
and by taking part in our competitions and activities.

RAISING ACHIEVEMENT

Well done, Year 11!

You have made a fantastic start this week. You have got back into the swing of things, settled in well, and have been working hard.

Remember, **Session 6 starts next week**, with **Maths on Monday**, and the full range of interventions will also begin next week.

This is your year, Year 11! You need to **Glow Up, Show Up and Achieve**. Make the most of every opportunity, work hard, and remember — **this is it!**

Year 10, you have also made a really positive start to the new academic year. You have settled in well with your new teachers and classes, and it has been great to see you getting stuck into the year.

You have an **exciting Tuesday coming up**, so watch this space....

Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!



PHONE-FREE WOA



A PHONE FREE REMINDER - Communications, routines and plans are in place and have been shared with families, students and staff.

We truly believe that going phone free will have a massive impact on the mental health and well-being of all our pupils and are thankful for your support in enabling us to achieve this. Please reach out if you have any questions or queries: phonefree@woacademy.co.uk

WE CARE – USEFUL

Reminders:

1. Only talk to people you know on line
2. Only organise to meet people in safe places
3. Walk each other home – don't stay out too late!
4. If you see anything that concerns you – don't forget to run, hide, tell!

If you have a concern out of school hours please contact:

Police – 999 (emergency) 101 (non-emergency)
NSPCC – 0800 800 5000 (Text 88858)
Sandwell Children's Services team – 0121 569 3100

For support, please contact:

ChildLine – 0800 1111
Samaritans – 116 123

