

WESTON FAVELL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

WWW.WESTONFAVELLACADEMY.ORG



Friday 24th January 2025



The strength of resilience

As we reach the halfway point of this short but busy term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on an important quality that plays a vital role in our children's development and success—resilience.

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from challenges, adapt to change, and keep going in the face of difficulties.

It's not something we are born with; it's a skill that can be nurtured and developed. In today's fast-changing world, fostering resilience in our young people is more important than ever. At WFA, we aim to create an environment where pupils feel safe to take risks, learn from mistakes, and persevere.

We are supporting resilience in our pupils by **encouraging a growth mindset**: we teach children that mistakes are part of learning and that their abilities can improve with effort and persistence, **promoting emotional well-being**: our pastoral care teams provide strategies for managing stress, building confidence, and staying positive during challenging times and **celebrating effort**: in classrooms, assemblies and in our rewards system, we praise determination and progress, not just achievement.

Examples of resilience have been seen across the Academy this week; our Year 11/13 continue to show high levels of engagement in lessons as they begin the final countdown towards exams, pupils and staff who have struggled with illness are in the building, our transition groups have taken part in an assault course and across lessons pupils show this quality whether it's tackling a tricky maths problem, preparing for a sports competition, or resolving a disagreement with a friend, resilience is at the heart of personal growth and success.

Together, as a community, we can prepare our young people to handle life's ups and downs with determination and optimism. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Let's continue working together to build a resilient, caring and successful community.

Mr K Beeby

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Weston Favell Academy



@WestonFavellGAT

P

Perseverance

R

Respect

I

Inclusivity

D

Determination

E

Excellence

Newsletter Highlights

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Term Dates

[Click here](#) to view term dates for 2025-2026

Reminder!

We are a nut free school

Please go to our Academy website for more information

Parent Forums

Our new forums will provide opportunities for Academy staff, parents/carers and the community to come together to share what we do, and support your child.

Future dates for the diary...

13th February 2025 - Homework

1st May 2025 - topic TBC

3rd July 2025 - topic TBC

A word on revision and support



A very happy belated New Year. I hope that Year 11 pupils had a restful Christmas break and now feel ready for the changes coming this term. Many pupils have already started "real" exams, such as in IT and Health and Social Care. If pupils are disappointed or disheartened, **it is never too late to make a change.**

The key to success is to **have a clear plan and approach to revision.** It is never too early to start. Don't leave it until the last minute; the earlier you begin revising, the more time you'll have to reinforce your knowledge. **Starting early will help reduce stress** and ensure you have plenty of time to cover all your subjects.

Another great strategy is to **create a revision timetable.** Planning revision in advance by creating a timetable will help you **keep up with all your subjects.** Allocate time for each subject and stick to it as closely as possible. This will help you stay organized and cover all the necessary content.

I just wanted to remind Year 11 that every single staff member here at WFA wants pupils to succeed. **Remember that you are not alone. Reach out and ask for help if you need it.**



-Mrs Fleming - Head of Year 11

Year 11 and 13 PPE Week 1 Timetables

Y11 PPEs	Monday 10.02.2025	Tuesday 11.02.2025	Wednesday 12.02.2025	Thursday 13.02.2025	Friday 14.02.2025
08:00	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast
08:40 exam prep Staffing	BOL-Higher Resaturant, RBO-Foundation Main Hall, DAY- LRC Small rooms	CMC- Main Hall RHA/CST Small rooms LRC	JBA - Triple Restaurant , CME-Higher E8 , ICR Foundation Main Hall	BOL-Higher Resaturant, RBO-Foundation Main Hall, DAY- LRC Small rooms	JBA - Triple Restaurant , CME-Higher E8 , ICR Foundation Main Hall
start time	9am	9am	9am	9am	9am
1	Maths Paper 1 & 4 (295 & 6th form resits) 90 mins	English Lit Paper 2 (295) 135 mins	Biology Paper 2 (Trilogy & Triple, H & F) (295) 75 or 105 mins	Maths Paper 2 & 5 (295 & 6th form resits) 90 mins	Chemistry Paper 2 (Tril & Tiple, H & F) (295) 75 or 105 mins
2					
BREAK					
3	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
4	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
LUNCH					
exam prep & staffing	MMU/CWH Main hall	TBA- Main Hall	ACA- Main Hall	JAF Main Hall	VCO- Main Hall
start time	13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15
13.35-14.10 Tutor	Geography Paper 1 (146) 90 mins	IT Exam- R050 (30) 90 mins Year 10 Science Triple Biology Paper 1 (31) 105 mins	Business Enterprise Exam - R067 (90) 75 mins	History Paper 3 Germany (135) 60 mins Year 10 Science Triple Chemistry Paper 1 (31) 105 mins	French Reading & Listening H & F (24) 80 or 105 mins
5					

Y13 PPE's	Monday 10.02.2025	Tuesday 11.02.2025	Wednesday 12.02.2025	Thursday 13.02.2025	Friday 14.02.2025
Exam Start Time	9am	9am	9am	9am	9am
1	English Lit Paper 1 (6) 180 mins English Lit AS Paper 1 (1) 90 mins Chemistry Paper 2 (10) 135 mins	Psychology Paper 3 (22) 90 mins	English Lang Paper 1 (6) 150 mins	History Paper 1 Tudors (8) 150 mins Maths Pure 1 (11) 120 mins Sociology Paper 1 (10) 120 mins	Biology Paper 2 (11) 135 mins Criminology Unit 2 (13) 90 mins
2					
BREAK (10:40 - 11:00)					
3	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
4		Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
BREAK (13:00 - 14.10)	Lunch & Seminars				
Exam Start Time				13:15	
5	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Psychology Paper 2 (22) 120 mins	Normal Lessons

Year 11 and 13 PPE Week 2 Timetables

Y11 PPEs	Monday 24.02.2025	Tuesday 25.02.2025	Wednesday 26.02.2025	Thursday 27.02.2025	Friday 28.02.2025
08:00	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast	Sign in and exam breakfast
08:40 exam prep Staffing	CMC- Main Hall RHA/CST Small rooms LRC	JAF- Main Hall	BOL-Higher Resaturant, RBO-Foundation Main Hall, DAY- LRC Small rooms	JBA - Triple Restaurant , CME-Higher E8 , ICR Foundation Main Hall	BOL-Higher Resaturant, RBO-Foundation Main Hall, DAY- LRC Small rooms
Exam start time	9am	9am	9am	9am	9am
1	English Lang Paper 1 (295 & 6th form resits) 105 mins	History Paper 2 Superpower & Anglo Saxons (135) 110 mins	Maths Paper 3 & 6 (295& 6th form resits) 90 mins	Physics Paper 1 (Tril & Tiple, H & F) (295) 75 or 105 mins	Statistics Paper 2 (295) 90 mins
2					
BREAK					
3	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
4	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
LUNCH					
exam prep & staffing	MMU/CWH Main Hall	MMU/CWH Main Hall	LTi- Main Hall	TBA-Main Hall Imedia VCO LRC french	MPH- Main Hall
Exam start time	13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15
13.35-14.10	Geogrphay Paper 3 (146) 60 mins	Geogrphay Paper 2 (146) 90 mins Year 10 Science Triple Physics Paper 1 (31) 105 mins	Child Dev Exam - R057 (45) 75 mins Further Maths Paper 1 (13) 105 mins	French Writing H&F (24) 65 or 75 mins Imedia Exam - R093 (30) 90 mins	Sport Exam - R180 (50) 60 mins Further Maths Paper 2 (13) 105 mins
5					

Y13 PPE's	Monday 24.02.2025	Tuesday 25.02.2025	Wednesday 26.02.2025	Thursday 27.02.2025	Friday 28.02.2025
Exam Start Time	9am	9am	9am	9am	9am
1	English Lit Paper 2 (6) 150 mins English Lit AS Paper 2 (1) 90 mins	Normal Lessons	English Lang Paper 2 (6) 150 mins Physics Paper 2 (4) 135 mins	Sociology Paper 3 (10) 120 mins Maths Stats & Mechs (11) 120 mins	Criminology Unit 4 (20) 90 mins
2					
BREAK (10:40 - 11:00)					
3	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
4		Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
BREAK (13:00 - 14.10)	Lunch & Seminars				
Exam Start Time		13:15			
5	Normal Lessons	History Germany (8) 150 mins Sociology Paper 2 (10) 120 mins Maths Pure 2 (11) 120 mins	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons

HOLOCAUST

MEMORIAL

DAY

ASSEMBLY

Next week, we mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a week of assemblies for all pupils. Holocaust Memorial Day was instituted in 2005 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The date of 27th January was chosen because, on that day in 1945, the death camp of Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army. On this day every year, people around the World remember the victims of Nazi genocides during the Second World War. We also remember the victims of other genocides during the Twentieth Century.



fontaines w.f.a



In the music department, Year 9 pupils have a music tech lesson once a week. This term they are learning how to create music for a video/computer game.

Pupils also have the opportunity to receive one-to-one guitar lessons. The aim of these sessions are to improve proficiency in guitar playing to be able to perform a song for performance or even for an exam, should the pupil choose.



Twelfth Night

On Thursday last week, Drama pupils enjoyed a trip to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford where they watched a performance of Twelfth Night. Seeing Shakespeare's work in person is an exciting opportunity and we were thrilled to see pupils engaging with this play!





DO YOU EVER FEEL TRAPPED?

WHAT DO YOU FEEL TRAPPED BY?

DO YOU WISH YOU HAD A WAY TO ESCAPE?

WHERE WOULD YOU ESCAPE TO?

THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WE WANT YOU TO ANSWER IN THIS POETRY COMPETITION. RAN BY YOUNG WRITERS, AN ORGANISATION RENOWNED FOR ASSISTING AND INSPIRING YOUNG WRITERS, THIS COMPETITION WILL GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO **SPEAK YOUR TRUTH**

TO FIND OUT MORE, INCLUDING THE PRIZES UP FOR GRABS, CLICK HERE.

Introducing...

Sparx Reader



What is Sparx Reader?

A reading platform designed to promote independent reading as a fun activity rather than a chore. As pupils read their tailored book choices, they are asked a series of questions after select passages, ensuring that the time spent reading is meaningful and engaging. It utilises a wide range of tools to ensure that pupils draw understanding and enjoyment from their time invested in reading.

Why are we introducing Sparx?

We are well aware of the falling literacy levels among young people in the UK. According to the National Literacy Trust, only 43.4% of 8-18 year olds enjoy reading in their spare time. Furthermore, there has been a 26% decrease in 8 to 18 year olds who read daily in their free time since 2005 (decreasing from 38.1% to 28.0%). Reading is a vital skill that builds our knowledge and shapes our view of the world around us and we need to promote its importance in a way that engages young people rather than forces them. We believe that Sparx offers a fantastic alternative to traditional books as it personalises recommendations to titles of appropriate reading levels and preferred genres to boost confidence and maximise engagement.

When and how can you access Sparx?

From 27th of January, we will be setting pupils 30 minutes of reading each week. This is enough to make a difference in reading levels, without being overbearing. Pupils will log in at sparxreader.com which will prompt them to choose a school and they can log in using their school email details. All devices with internet connection and a browser can use Sparx, so pupils can access on anything from a laptop to a phone, even a games console.

How can parents help?

All we ask is that you ensure pupils complete the weekly task and have somewhere quiet to do so. Perhaps ask them about the books they're reading, such as the characters and events they're coming across, to help keep them engaged. However, it is very important that you do not help pupils answer questions as Sparx adapts itself to their level of reading. If you helped answer, then Sparx might raise their account's reading level and recommend books that may be too difficult. This could result in the pupil becoming discouraged and we want to avoid this as best we can.



Keep an eye out for the Sparx Champions section that we are planning to add in future newsletters! This will track the top readers, as well as the most improved and most points podiums for each year group. There will be prizes up for grabs for the best readers at the end of each term so pupils earn while they learn!



ENRICHMENT!



KS3

Monday

KS4

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Choir – PA2
- Year 9 Boys Football – Astro
- Prowess – PA5
- Dance – GYM
- Homework/Games - Library

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Choir – PA2
- Business – IT3
- Drama – PA4
- Prowess – PA5
- Dance – GYM
- Homework/Games – Library
- Marketing and Enterprise Yr 10 – IT4

KS3

Tuesday

KS4

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Art Club – D1
- Debating – A7
- Year 7 Football (Boys) – Astro
- Basketball – Sports Hall
- STEM – E4
- Girls Football – Astro
- Homework/Games – Library
- Reading Club Yr 7 – A2
- Drama – PA4

Before School

- Triple Science Yr 10/11 – D5

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Art Club – D1
- Debating – A7
- IT (Yr 10) – IT4
- Football (Boys) Yr11 – Astro
- Football (Girls) – Astro
- STEM – E4
- Homework/Games – Library
- French Speaking (Y11) – A17
- Drama – PA4

KS3

Wednesday

KS4

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC
- Keyboards – PA1

After School

- Dungeons and Dragons – Library
- Homework/Games – Library

Before School

- Triple Science Yr 10/11 – D5

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Dungeons and Dragons – Library
- Homework/Games - Library

KS3

Thursday

KS4

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Spanish – A14
- Reading (Yr9) – A4
- Football Yr 8 (Boys) – Astro
- Murder Mystery - Yr 8
- Trampolining – Gym
- Journalism – A9
- Movie Club – A18
- Homework/Games/chess – Library
- Eco Club – A19

Before School

- Triple Science Yr 10/11 – D5

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Journalism – A9
- Football Yr10 (Boys) – Astro
- Trampolining – Gym
- Homework/Games/chess – Library
- A-Level Chemistry Y13 – D5
- French Speaking – Y11 – A17
- History Intervention Y11 – Rooms on Teams
- Eco Club – A19

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT THE
'Academy Clubs and Enrichment'
SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE**



KS3

Friday

KS4

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Homework/Games - Library
- Creative Writing – A5
- Homework Catch up – B10

Lunch

- Boardgames – LRC

After School

- Homework/Games – Library
- Creative Writing – A5
- Homework Catch up – B10



PSHE TOPICS

Year Group	Topic	Theme this term
7	What makes a good friend?	Friendship, Respect and Relationships
8	LGBTQ+ Rights across the world	LGBTQ+ explored
9	Contraception Explored	Contraception and STIs
10	British values and identity	Exploring British values
11	Post-16 options and managing exam stress	Your future and beyond
12	Problem Solving	Critical Thinking Skills
13	UCAS Applications and personal statements	Post-18 Options



WAKE

UP



WEDNESDAY!

This Week: TikTok

With TikTok in the news so much this week, the opportunity presents itself for some guidance to be shared. Among children, and especially teenagers, TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more.

However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks. Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm..

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. The guide below lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

Get support!



Young Carers Support

We are delighted to announce that we will be relaunching the support programme for young carers within Weston Favell Academy.

We will be working closely with Northampton Young Carers Service (NYCS) in assuring that our pupils are supported both at the Academy and at home.

If you believe that your child or a child within your family who is a pupil at the Academy is a young carer, please scan the QR code for more information.



Scan the QR Code.

Job of the Week

Paramedic



Scan the QR Code.

The Job of the Week section is designed to help you with finding careers. Over the course of these newsletters we have been going from A-Z with different jobs to give you inspiration and help you find something to aspire to.



Stars of the week

Year 7- Scarlett W

Year 8 - Kamil B

Year 9 - Christabel A

Year 10 - Vlada C

Year 11 - Anna W

Sixth Form - Irina B

Congratulations!

All 'Stars of the Week' are entered into our termly prize draw – the winner will receive a £25 voucher.

For your diary

**Year 12 Parents' Evening –
Thursday 30th January**

**Year 9 Options Evening –
Thursday 6th February**

**Parent Forum –
Thursday 13th February**



**Don't forget to spend your
ClassCharts points!**

RAISING STANDARDS – TRANSFORMING LIVES

Key Contacts

Safeguarding Team

Use the QR Code to meet the Safeguarding Team.



Contacting the Academy

Academy reception is open from 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tel: 01604 402121

admin@westonfavellacademy.org



Working together

Key Contacts

Year 7 Team

[Mrs A Carpenter](#)
[Miss C Novakovic](#)

Year 8 Team

[Mr C Harrison](#)
[Miss H Coyne](#)

Year 9 Team

[Mrs S Edwards](#)
[Ms A Moran](#)

Year 10 Team

[Miss S Kyle](#)
[Mrs M Parrett](#)
[Mrs N High](#)

Year 11 Team

[Mrs C Fleming](#)
[Mrs K McNee](#)

Sixth Form Team

[Mrs L Mann](#)
[Mrs P Souster](#)
[Mrs B Whelan](#)

We are here to help



Weekly Prize Draw.

Every week, pupils who achieve 100% attendance can win a £25 voucher.



One pupil from each year group will be selected at random from now until the end of July.

Attendance Matters!

Evidence tells us that high attendance correlates to strong academic performance.

Simply put - pupils that are in the Academy every day will achieve better than those who are not.

Those who miss less than 1% of their learning time in Y10/11 make 3.5 times more progress by the end of KS4.

High attendance also:

- Increases engagement
- Improves social and emotional wellbeing
- Reduces gaps for disadvantaged groups
- Increases chances of future career success.

This week's winners were...

Year 7 – Karlos C

Year 8 – Lily K

Year 9 – Denisa Z

Year 10 – Emmanuel A

Year 11 – Sara A

Sixth Form – Laura F

Congratulations!