

WESTON FAVELL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

WWW.WESTONFAVELLACADEMY.ORG



Friday 17th January 2025



Positivity is in the air!

I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible efforts, achievements, and positivity of our pupils. Every day, I am inspired by the hard work and dedication they bring to their learning. Whether it's tackling challenging subjects, supporting one another, or demonstrating kindness and respect in the classroom and beyond, our pupils truly shine.

Their attitude to learning is fantastic, and it's clear that they understand the value of education and self-improvement. Pupils are taking responsibility for their own growth, actively engaging in lessons, and showing resilience when faced with obstacles. These qualities will serve them well in education but also in the wider world.

I would also like to acknowledge the positivity that fills our corridors and classrooms. The energy and enthusiasm of our pupils create an environment where everyone feels encouraged and motivated. It's wonderful to see pupils celebrating each other's achievements, whether it's in academic areas or extracurricular activities. This spirit of camaraderie and support makes our WFA community a truly special place to learn and grow.

While we celebrate these successes, I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the crucial role attendance plays in a pupil's learning journey. Every day provides a chance to build knowledge, develop skills, and form meaningful connections with peers and teachers. High attendance directly supports academic success and fosters a sense of belonging and routine that is so important for young people. We understand that occasional absences are unavoidable, but it's important that these are kept to a minimum. Missing even a single day can disrupt learning and make it harder for pupils to stay on track. As families, your support in encouraging excellent attendance is invaluable. Let's work together to ensure every child gets the full benefit of their education.

As always, I am immensely proud of our WFA community and everything we have achieved together so far. Let's keep up the momentum and continue to strive for excellence in everything that we do. Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's make the rest of the term as successful and rewarding as it can be.

Mr K Beeby

Weston Favell Academy
Booth Lane South
Northampton
NN3 3EZ
Telephone: 01604 402121



Weston Favell Academy



@WestonFavellGAT

P

Perseverance

R

Respect

I

Inclusivity

D

Determination

E

Excellence

Newsletter Highlights

Page 3 - Attendance Winners

Page 4 - Sparx Reader Info

Page 5 - Sixth Form REC Interview

Page 6 - WFA On Air

Page 7 - Chess Championship

Page 8 - Enrichment

Page 9 - PSHE Topics

Page 10-11 - Wake Up Wednesday

Page 12 - Job of the Week

Page 13 - Stars of the Week

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

Attendance Winners

At Weston Favell Academy, we place high value on attendance and encourage our pupils to attend every day. The minimum target for every pupil is 96%.

To demonstrate our support, we have heavily invested in attendance rewards with the aim of motivating pupils and recognising their positive attitude to high attendance.

At the end of each term, we hold a prize draw for those who strive to be in school; pupils will receive one entry for every week of 100% attendance within that term.

Last term's prize draw was a big one, with multiple grand prizes up for grabs! Could it be you taking one home at the end of this term? Keep coming in to rack up your entries and increase your odds!



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!

This week, two of our Sixth Form students, Ruby and Lauraine, conducted an interview with Jenny and Paul from the Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council. They wanted to talk about the work of the REC and what they do to create a free society for all.

One of the REC's main functions is to provide advice to those experiencing hate and discrimination, not just in the workplace but in a wider societal context. Over a 40 minute interview, the two shared why they continue to work at making the idea of a cohesive and equal society possible.

We will be releasing the full interview soon on our YouTube channel, keep an eye out on our Facebook and X pages so you don't miss out.

In the meantime, you can check out the REC's website and social media pages (@NorthantsREC) to find out more about their efforts and how you can get involved.





Last week, two of our Sixth Form students, Emmy and Mia, started their six-week traineeship at NLive Radio.

In their first session, they learned about types of radio stations and some history on radio broadcasting. They then wrote and presented a short piece for recording.

Emmy and Mia will be producing content for a weekly show that will be broadcast every week on Sundays from 9am.

Please support our students by listening in each week as it is a fantastic opportunity to see how their skills and confidence develop.

You can tune in on 106.9FM, on NLiveRadio.com with the 'Listen Live' button or by asking your smart speaker to "launch NLive Radio"

Chess



Championship

While the cold was gathering outside last term, it was heating up in the Sixth Form centre in the midst of the annual Chess Championship. Calculated moves and ruthless takes took centre stage as our students eyed up the top spot! In the last edition, we left you with a cliffhanger, so it's finally time to announce the winner. After a hard fought game that could have gone either way, it was Jack who took the glory this year! Congratulations Jack and everyone else who participated... we're looking forward to the next one!



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 this week	Theme this term
7	Respect and Relationships	Friendship, Respect and Relationships
8	LGBTQ+ and what is it?	LGBTQ+ explored
9	Treating STIs and the clinic	Contraception and STIs
10	Hate Crime in the UK	Exploring British values
11	Post 16 Options	Your future and beyond
12	Decision Making	Critical Thinking Skills
13	UCAS, Apprenticeships and Self-Presentation Writing Skills	Post-18 Options

WAKE-UP WEDNESDAY!

THIS WEEK: JusTalk Kids

This week's focus is yet another social networking platform now available to children! JusTalk Kids is billed as a child-friendly version of the JusTalk social media platform and boasts a strong community of younger users (approximately 20million accounts).

In theory, as the site is specifically designed for children, the usual risks of other platforms should be avoided, however, in practice there will always be concerns. The poster contains expert guidance on the hazards of the app and how children can be safeguarded from them, empowering adults to make a young user's time on the platform as secure as possible.

WAKE-UP WEDNESDAY!

ZOOM IN TO LOOK THROUGH

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **JUSTALK KIDS**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JustTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JustTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JustTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JustTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JustTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JustTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2025

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 Optometrist



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- Julian J

Year 8 - Simona-Faith D

Year 9 - Zaiyan M

Year 10 - Giovanni T

Year 11 - Nikita P

Sixth Form - Shalone W-F

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 – Evelyn M

Year 8 – Erica S

Year 9 – Charlie S

Year 10 – Cameron Y

Year 11 – Elena G

Sixth Form – Jack L

Congratulations!