

WMG Academy for Young engineers Coventry

END OF HALF TERM NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

PRINCIPAL'S END OF HALF TERM MESSAGE



Dear Parents,

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.

It has been lovely to welcome our new Year 10 and 12 students and they have made an excellent start to their educational journey at WMG Academy. Year 11 and 13 students returned full of determination to make this academic year a success and are working hard in lessons to maximise their progress and achieve GCSE grades of which they can be proud. Yes, exam results are important, but the journey to achieving them,

the experiences along the way and the opportunity to develop new skills are equally important; so please make the most of the fantastic events and opportunities that arise, you never know what you will learn about yourself.

On a personal note, I have not had the opportunity to get to know the students as I would have liked due to my accident, and running a school from afar has not been easy but it has been made possible by my fantastic staff. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Thomson and Mr Clarke for stepping in and stepping up in my absence and for keeping me fully informed about the day to day running of the Academy and I am looking forward to returning after half term to carry on the great work that is taking place.

Mrs Adele Wallis - 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

The first half term for KS4 pupils at WMG has been an incredibly positive and dynamic start to the academic year. From the very first day, both students and staff have embraced the opportunities for learning, growth, and community-building. The energy around the school has been infectious, setting the stage for what promises to be a successful and enriching year.

Engaging Induction Day

A highlight of the term was undoubtedly the engaging Year 10 Induction Day, where new students were welcomed in style. The day was designed to help students get acquainted with the school, make new friends, and feel part of our community from day one. It was far more than just an introduction to the building and timetable; it was an immersive experience that left a lasting impression on all involved.

In collaboration with JLR, Atkins and the Army, we provided a range of hands-on activities that captivated the students. These activities allowed students to explore problem-solving challenges, creativity exercises, and teamwork activities, all designed to help them transition smoothly into their new environment. It was fantastic to see students engaged and enthusiastic, as they tackled challenges together, developing not only new skills but also friendships.



Settling In and Growing Together

As the weeks have unfolded, it's been wonderful to see how well our students have settled into school life. For many, the transition to a new school can be a daunting one. However, thanks to the warm, supportive atmosphere fostered by staff and peers alike, students have quickly found their feet. Classrooms are buzzing with learning, and the engagement levels are high.

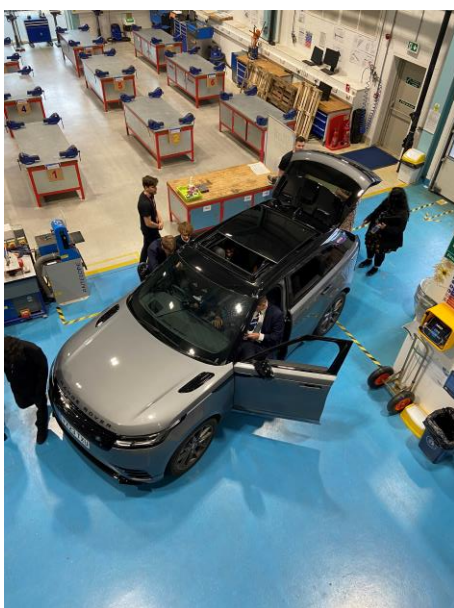
We have noticed that students are building strong connections with their teachers and each other, creating a sense of belonging that is essential for academic and personal growth. Our pastoral team has worked closely with pupils to ensure that any challenges they face are addressed quickly and sensitively. Whether it's adjusting to a new routine or finding the balance between academic work and extracurricular activities, our students have shown tremendous resilience.



Looking Ahead

As we move into the second half of the term, it's clear that we are building a strong foundation for the year ahead. With the positive attitude and commitment demonstrated by students so far, we have no doubt that they will continue to flourish both in and outside of the classroom. Their enthusiasm for learning, coupled with the supportive environment we have cultivated, means that we are set for even more success as the year progresses.

We look forward to the many exciting projects, events, and learning opportunities to come, and we couldn't be prouder of how our students have started their journey at WMG Coventry. The first half term has set the tone for a fantastic year ahead!



A WONDERFUL START OF YEAR FOR KEY STAGE 5

A new cohort of Year 12s has begun with us and have made an amazing start. We have already had some amazing opportunities with groups like JLR, Atkins, and Coventry University. The students have engaged really well and taken advantage of the unique opportunities and workshops that we have to offer. I look forward to seeing them continue to grow and work together as the year progresses.



DYSON HAS SELECTED OUR GIRLS

Congratulations to Angel, Joy and Hatty in Year 13 who have been selected by Dyson to come and visit their facilities and learn more about the degree apprenticeships they offer. This is an exclusive offer to all UTCs and our girls had to complete an application form competing against students from all over the UK. We are so proud of their achievement!



NATIONAL POETRY DAY!

We celebrated National Poetry Day at Coventry, with poems put up all around school and the English team delivering a special poetry lesson to students. The students really enjoyed seeing poetry that had been written by young people like them, and some were even inspired enough to have a go at writing their own!

Thirteen

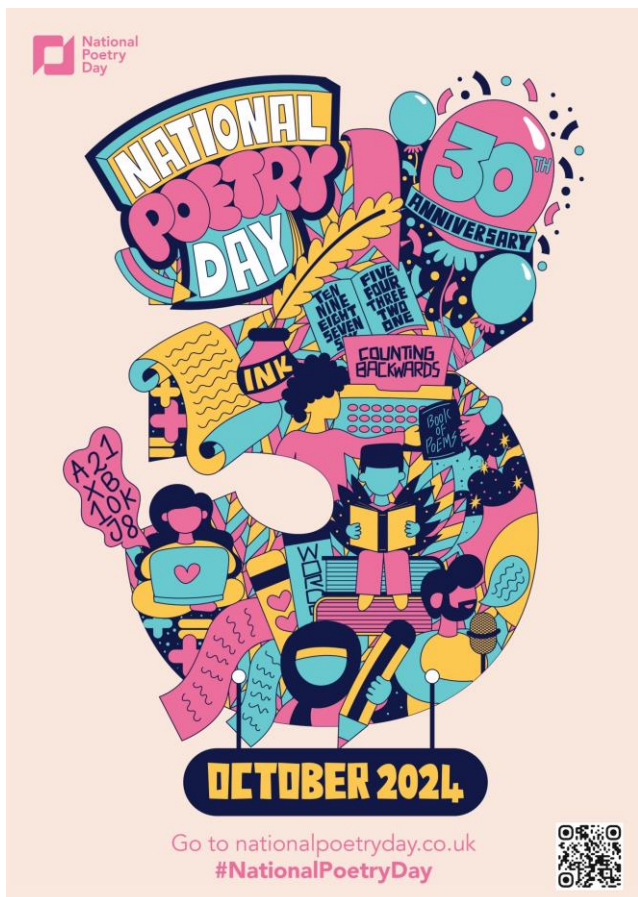
You will be four minutes from home
when you are cornered by an officer
who will tell you of a robbery, forty
minutes ago in the area. You fit
the description of a man? – You'll laugh.
Thirteen, you'll tell him: you're thirteen.

You'll be patted on the shoulder, then, by another fed
whose face takes you back to Gloucester Primary
School,
a Wednesday assembly about being little stars.
This same officer had an horizon in the east
of his smile when he told your class that
you were all supernovas,
the biggest and brightest stars.

You will show the warmth of your teeth
praying he remembers the heat of your supernova;
he will see you powerless – plump.
You will watch the two men cast lots for your organs.
Don't you remember me? you will ask.

You gave a talk at my primary school.
While fear condenses on your lips,
you will remember that Wednesday, after the assembly,
your teacher speaking more about supernovas:
how they are, in fact, dying stars
on the verge of becoming black holes.

Caleb Femi



Mathematical Olympiad for Girls

The annual mathematical Olympiad for girls is run with the intent of getting girls involved in STEM and offering a maths challenge with five difficult problem solving problems presented over two and a half hours, testing less the method and knowledge taught in class so much as the ability to creatively use information and out of the box thinking. This year saw two entries of Jahnvi Yadav and Hetviben Patel who now eagerly await their results, with the possibility to gain entry to the British Mathematical Olympiad.

Senior Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 1st October, 26 students from across the A-level students for maths participated in the Senior Maths Challenge, offering a range of 25 problem solving questions of increasing difficulty in a popular national competition, students compete for bronze, silver or gold certificates for the top 11%, with the possibility to be entered into further competitions such as the Andrew Jobbings Kangaroo or British Mathematical Olympiad.

APPRENTICESHIPS OPEN FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS

Our Year 13 students are currently on the look out for apprenticeships. Airbus apprenticeships opened in October and one of our alumni at Airbus joined us on a online call to give us an insight into his apprenticeship scheme and his experiences of the recruitment process. Fingers crossed to those students that applied.

1ST WEEK EMPLOYER INTERACTIONS

At the start of every term we organise a carousel of activities for our year 10 and 12 students so they can get involved in our companies interactions right from day one.

Our year 10 cohort rotated around three different companies learning about industries in the local area, different career routes and apprenticeship opportunities post 16. AtkinsRéalis ran the “Rail or Fail” activity showing students the implications of engineering within a railway building project. The JLR careers team came bringing two show cars and setting an electric car challenge for the students. Finally the British Army came in to run intelligence and problem solving activities.

Our year 12 cohort worked with Tata Group for a car chassis build task. Getting our students to work through a design problem from brief to product conception. The Engineering Manufacturing department at Coventry University gave the students a master class in the key elements of any manufacturing project. Finally, Element Materials Technology ran a session on vibration testing for an aeroplane wing.

Such a great first day back for our new students, learning about businesses right from day one!



WMG Academy Trust Industry Engagement

Andrew Kyprianou, Director of Engineering (WMG Academy Trust)

WMG Academy for Young Engineers is a University Technical College (UTC). UTCs are state-funded schools that offer a STEM-focused curriculum. Each UTC has one or more technical specialisms linked to local and national industry partners. The curriculum at WMG Academy Trust provides a blend of academic and technical learning, allowing students to demonstrate vital employability skills, personal values, and professional behaviours expected from business.



Our Core Value is "Business-like, Business-led"

The WMG Academy Trust has two campuses in Coventry and Solihull, both focused on developing a STEM careers-led education for 15-18-year-olds. We are currently in communication with over one hundred businesses, of which forty-two of them have interacted with the Academy Trust this academic year. The academy has so far participated in one hundred and thirty company engagement events within thirty nine academic weeks in 2024.

My role as Director of Engineering is to coordinate these events, and I have developed a four-tiered company interaction programme detailing how the companies engage with WMG Academy Trust.

- Tier 1 – Company Commission (embedded in the curriculum)
- Tier 2 – STEM Event/Project
- Tier 3 – Inspiration Interaction
- Tier 4 – Alumni Network

Tier 1 – Company Commission (embedded in the curriculum)

Some of our companies have worked with the academy for nine years, and I have developed a strong partnership with senior engineers within the companies that are passionate about STEM education. An example of one of these partnerships is our commission-led work with Aston Martin. Working with Aston Martin engineers, I developed two separate assignments which are embedded into the KS5 Engineering curriculum.

Each assignment is linked to an internally assessed unit on the curriculum: one in Mechanical Design, where the students investigate the materials, component design, and component assembly of an Aston Martin Vantage door handle assembly, and



WMG
Academy for Young
engineers
Coventry



another in Computer-Aided Design (CAD) where the students create a virtual working model of a sun visor assembly for the DB11.

Engineers from Aston Martin regularly visit the students throughout the academic year to contextualise their learning, allowing the students to discuss their design ideas and receive feedback from the engineers, which in turn influences the outcome of their NEA assignments. Over the years, this partnership has enabled Aston Martin to employ dozens of our students onto their Level 4 and Level 6 apprenticeship programs and provides a talent pool of students that Aston Martin has access to.

Tier 2 – STEM Event/Project

WMG Academy Trust works closely with a wide range of engineering businesses in the West Midlands to develop and run extended STEM-based projects through our enrichment programme. An example of one of these STEM projects this year was 'Mission Sustainability', partnered with Enzen.

Launched as part of the UK's National Apprenticeships Week 2024, Enzen's Mission: Sustainability programme focussed on post-16 students pursuing careers in science, engineering and maths. The programme showed our students how their creativity and collaboration can make a real difference to our planet.

The 2024 challenge there was 'How can AI be used to create a more sustainable world?' Enzen asked students to demonstrate imagination, knowledge, and teamwork to develop creative solutions which show how new digital technology can help accelerate the drive to net zero. This culminated in Enzen filming the student presentations to industry experts, interviewing individual students and teachers resulting in a live YouTube where the winners were announced.

Tier 3 – Inspiring Interactions

An inspiring interaction is where we invite a company into the academy trust to promote their apprenticeship opportunities or where we organise a site visit to a company to inspire students who are interested in that particular industry sector.

An example of this was JLR's International Women's Day Conference at the National Automotive Innovation Centre (NAIC) at WMG, University of Warwick, to celebrate the upcoming International Women's Day on 8th March. We were hosted in a world-class facility with inspiring stories from Julie Stears, Emily Hogg, and Imisi Joseph, amongst a host of inspiring JLR apprentices. Our female students from across WMG Academy Trust came away excited and full of energy, wanting to be engineers. I can't remember an event where so many of the students made a

point to say thank you for the opportunity.

Tier 4 – Alumni

This for me is the most powerful of all the events and the most inspiring for me is to invite our 150+ Alumni network back to the academy to present a biography of their journey through the school and onto their early STEM careers.

This Network is managed professionally through LinkedIn and we invite our Alumni back to support Open Days and Tomorrow's Engineers Week in the Autumn and National Apprenticeship Week in the Spring.

I hope this provides an insight into the amazing work UTCs are facilitating across the country with industry and inspires you to engage companies within your schools and academies to offer young people the education they need today to equip them for tomorrow's careers.

Links



WMG Academy Trust
WMG Academy Trust -
Schools for 14-19 year olds
in Coventry and Solihull



'Mission Sustainability',
partnered with Enzen
Mission: Sustainability
2024: how can AI create
a more sustainable world?
| Enzen

We are excited to share that we had the opportunity to feature an article about WMG Academy Trust's Industry Engagement in the latest issue of D&T Practice 3, 2024, published by the Design and Technology Association.

Our article highlights the unique partnerships we've built with industry leaders, providing our students with invaluable hands-on experience and real-world learning opportunities. We are proud of the way our business-led approach is preparing young engineers for future careers.

You can view the full magazine and our article by visiting the D&T Association website-
[DT Practice 3 2024](#)

**DESIGN &
TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION**

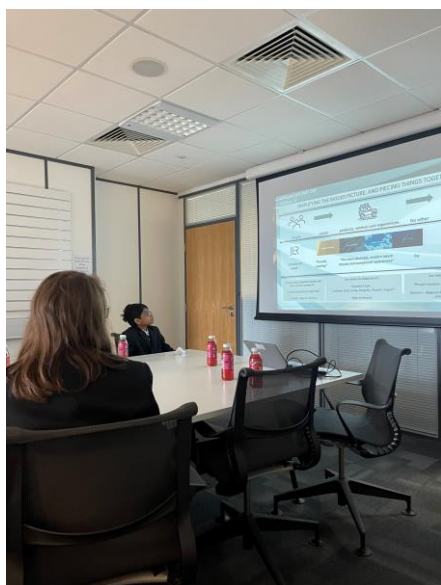
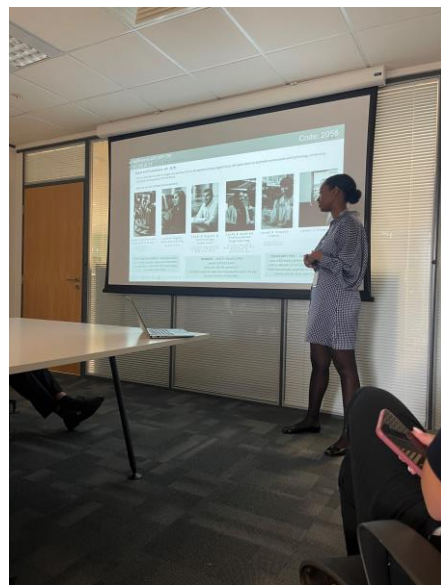
NEW BOOKS FOR OUR LIBRARY!

We are thrilled to announce that our library has received a generous donation of books from Read for Good. These newly added titles are now available for our students, offering them immediate access to a wide variety of fresh, engaging reads. The collection spans an impressive range of genres and features authors from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that every student can find something to inspire their love of reading.



NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

On National Manufacturing Day, WMG Academy Coventry students attended the JLR Solihull Manufacturing plant. The students were hosted by the early careers team at JLR and were given tour of the production facilities as well as guidance to early career pathways in JLR.



OPEN DAY TRESURE HUNT

Congratulations to all of the students who completed the Literacy Treasure Hunt on Open Day! Many students found the challenging vocabulary we had hidden around the academy and were able to give the definitions for 10 new words.

A special congratulations to the first four prospective students who completed the challenge and walked away with a brand new book: *The Hate U Give* (Angie Thomas), *Cinderella is Dead* (Kalynn Bayron), *League of Thieves* (Sarah Crofton & WJ Tattersdill), *Be Your Own Superhero* (Dr Laura Meek) were all donated to the school from Read for Good and will make excellent reads. Every runner-up also went home with a sparkly bag with some sweets, a rubber and some bubbles!

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!



JLR/TCS - FORMULA E

On Thursday, 17th October, we had the privilege of hosting the Jaguar TCS Racing team, who delivered two engaging seminar talks to our Year 10 and 11 students in the atrium.

The talks covered the development of Jaguar TCS Racing's cars and how the cutting-edge technology within them is applied to commercial products at Jaguar Land Rover. The team also discussed how they raise brand awareness through social media and shared insights into early career pathways at JLR.

Students had the opportunity to interact with various artifacts, including the winning trophies from the 2024 season, and speak directly with engineers and team members from Jaguar TCS Racing.

Later, our KS5 students took part in a STEM challenge breakout session. Their task was to explore the second life of the car's EV batteries and propose ways they could be used to power the London 2025 E-Prix.



CALLISTO

This year WMG students once again reached the final of the Callisto UTC challenge set by the Baker Dearing Trust and the UTC trust. This was WMG's fourth year taking part. WMG was one of 13 finalist academies across the UK. The challenge was introduced to competing teams from UTC's across the country. Presentation was by webinar, with an introduction by DSTL (Defence Science and Technology Laboratory) on the challenge and about careers with them. This was followed by them setting the challenge for all the Yr12 participants. WMG had 63 students taking part in teams which were reduced down to one team for the final showdown presentation. The challenge was to design and develop a moon-base for humans to live in on Callisto (Jupiter's second-largest and very icy moon!) using existing or developing technologies. The students worked in teams of 4/5 and firstly needed to decide which type of Engineer they were each going to be to manage and solve a wide range of problems:

- Spacecraft Systems Engineer – designing the craft to land on Callisto, considering payload and portable resources required
- Resources Engineer – coming up with a plan to grow food, generate energy, source water etc
- Environment Engineer – creating a habitable environment- terraforming and using available silicates, re-using the lander
- Societal and Health Engineer – deciding on the crew, how to deal with illness, communication methods etc.

During the two days of the challenge the teams created a series of slides and drawings with their technical ideas, solutions, diagrams, CAD designs and models. Up against competing teams our WMG team presented a 10 minute interactive talk with a 5 minute question and answer session with DSTL scientists at the end.

Our final team comprised:

- Amelia Bolek
- Lily Porter
- Larissa Nzeyimana
- Feroza Oryakhel

With a plan to land in one of the craters the team used satellite imagery to plan their landing zone, considering carefully their lander payload requirements. They showed good awareness of current space missions. Altogether a good research presentation into Callisto and previous space missions elsewhere. With a good emphasis on sustainability too, the team all took part in a confident and competent audio-visual presentation.

Well done to all the teams involved and of course our finalists

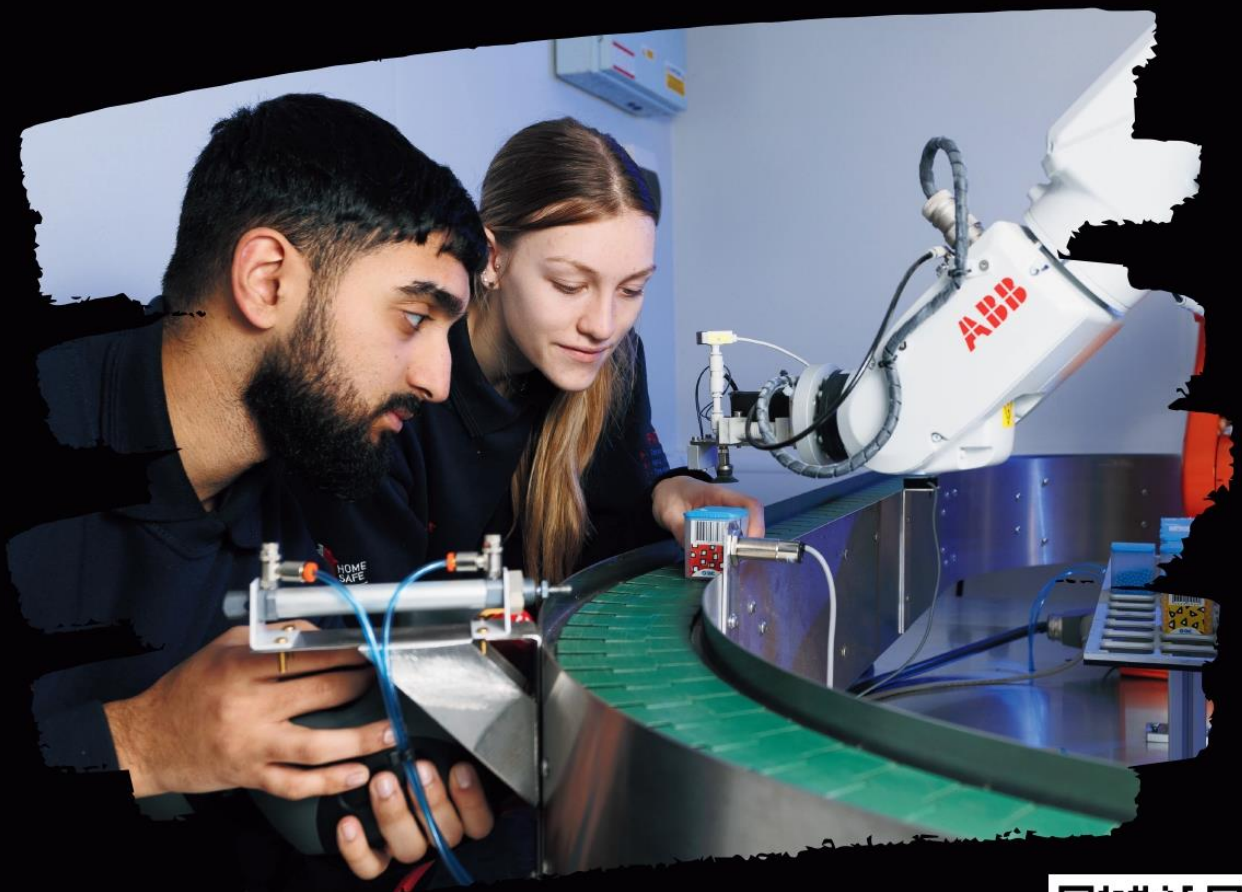




ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP

OPEN EVENT

13 November: 4 - 7pm



Gulson Road
Coventry, CV1 2JG
mgts.co.uk



MGTS will be opening their doors on Wednesday 13th November 2024 between 4pm to 7pm. You can drop in anytime between 4pm – 7pm, there is no need to book in advance.

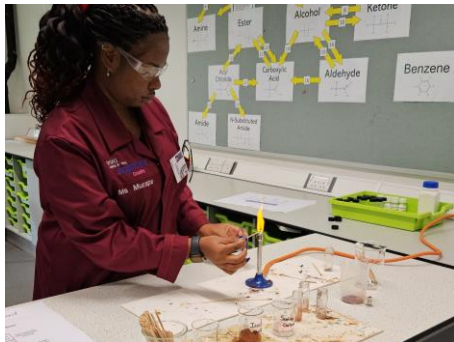
Students and parents/carers are welcome to attend to see the facilities. The MGTS colleagues will be on hand to answer questions about apprenticeships and offer tours of the facilities.

END OF TERM EVENTS

We ended the term with two very successful events: our Year 10 and 12 ‘Meet the Team’ evening and our Open Day.

The ‘Meet the Team’ was an informal gathering of staff, students and parents and was very well attended with over 200 people coming into the Academy. It was an opportunity for students to introduce their teachers to their parents, show them where they have their lessons, showcase what they have been up to so far since joining WMG and for parents to meet each other, which is an important aspect to develop our community and we received some very positive feedback.

Open Day was a fantastic day, we had over 330 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.



SAFEGUARDING AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS OVER THE HALF TERM BREAK

NEW MENTAL HEALTH EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO REPORT CONCERNS WITH MENTAL HEALTH. MENTALHEALTH.COV@WMGACADEMY.ORG.UK MANAGED BY STACIE JENNINGS AND DEBBIE BROWN (MENTAL HEALTH TEAM) TO GIVE THE BEST SUPPORT TO STUDENTS.

SAFEGUARDING WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED OVER THE HALF TERM BREAK. ANY SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO INFO@WMGACADEMY.ORG.UK AND MARKED 'CONFIDENTIAL-FAO SAFEGUARDING LEAD'. ADDITIONAL CONTACTS ARE ALSO LISTED ON THE ACADEMY WEBSITE; [HTTPS://COVENTRY.WMGACADEMY.ORG.UK/SAFEGUARDING/OUT-OF-HOURS-CONTACTS/](https://coventry.wmgacademy.org.uk/safeguarding/out-of-hours-contacts/)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY 25 TH OCTOBER 2024	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
MONDAY 4 TH NOVEMBER 2024	ACADEMY OPENS AFTER HALF TERM
THURSDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER 2024	YEAR 11 PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING
FRIDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER 2024	NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS IN ACADEMY
THURSDAY 12 TH DECEMBER 2024	WMG ACADEMY TRUST AWARDS EVENING
FRIDAY 20 TH DECEMBER 2024	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR END OF AUTUMN TERM

