# Academy for Young Academy for Young Coventry

END OF SUMMER HALF TERM NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2025** 

#### PRINCIPAL'S END OF SUMMER HALF TERM MESSAGE



Dear Parents.

As the weather warms up so does the intensity around the academy. This term, even though it has been incredibly short, it has been incredibly busy for staff and students to ensure that they are fully prepared for the summer exams and coursework deadlines.

I would like to thank you for your support with respect to the dress code; students are smart, dressed correctly and have their ID badges clearly visible. I would like to stress that coats, hoodies and headwear are not allowed inside the academy and mobile phones are not to be seen or used in lessons.

We held our 'Leavers Assemblies' for Years 11 and 13, which allowed us to reflect over the last year, acknowledge those students who have demonstrated perseverance, commitment and excellence to their studies along with some more humorous awards. Both assemblies were extremely successful and we wish every student the best of luck and know that their hard work will be rewarded in August when they receive their results. and an extra long summer break.

We wish all our families, students, staff, and business partners a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to returning recharged and ready for a final half term packed with trips, visits, the prom and exciting taster events.

Adele Wallis Associate Principal



With Easter landing where it did on the calendar, this Half Term has been exceptionally short and will have seemed to have flown by, particularly for the Year 11 and 13 cohorts starting external exams so soon after the Easter break. On behalf of the staff and governors of both academy's, I wish students the best of success and urge them to continue to make the best use of revision and focused preparation time so they can enjoy their Proms and a well earned Summer break. In the meantime, Year 10 and 12 cohorts continue to progress towards their goals and are ready to build on their foundation year to start September ready to succeed. When the new academic year begins, there will be less than two teaching terms and therefore they are advised to revisit material over the Summer to secure that

that foundation. As the Whitsun Half Term approaches, like many, I hope for continued warmer weather but regardless of what comes our way, trust that students, staff and their families enjoy a safe and relaxing break.

Stewart Tait - CEO

#### YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

As the academic year draws to a close, we find ourselves at a moment of reflection and gratitude. It is with both pride and a touch of sadness that we bid farewell to this remarkable Year 11 cohort.

Each of you has left a lasting mark on our Academy's community, not just through your achievements in the classroom, but through the kindness, resilience, and curiosity you've shown along the way. You have grown not only in knowledge, but in character, and we are so proud of the young people you have become.

Our recent leavers' assembly was a fitting celebration of your time with us, a joyful and emotional occasion that reminded us all just how far you've come and how much you mean to our school. The laughter, memories, and heartfelt moments shared that day will stay with us for a long time.



Though your time here, for some of you, is coming to an end, the memories we've made together will remain, and the bonds you've formed will continue to shape you as you move forward. Wherever the road ahead may lead, we have every confidence that you will meet it with courage, grace, and determination.

Please remember that you will always be a part of this Academy's story, and that you will be deeply missed.



#### YEAR 13 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, we celebrated our Year 13 students and all of their hard work over the last two years. We celebrated how far they had all come through various challenges and thoughts on where they are going from here. We also gave out awards for 3 areas - Perseverance, Improvement, and the Best Students. Awards were given to students from each subject, as well as Principals Awards to: Elina for Perseverance, Malika for Most Improved, and Maaheem for Best Student.

Well done to all of our Year 13 students, we wish you the best of luck in your exams and all of your future endeavours! A reminder that classes are still going on until the half term, and coursework classes will continue until you're signed off. See you on results day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

#### AN ARDUINO 3-WHEEL CAR FROM HARSH AND VELIN

Harsh and Velin, two Year 10 Computer Science students, designed and produced their remotely operated three-wheel Car.

They used 3D printing, combining electric motors, batteries, and an Arduino Uno R3 to create a car that can move using a remote control.

Velin designed various chassis versions on FreeCAD before he produced the final one through 3D printing for testing on the Academy's car park.

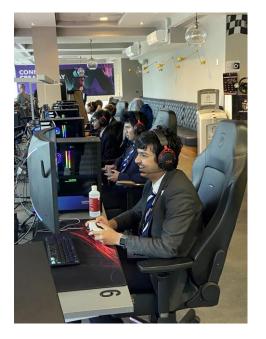
Harsh wired, programmed and coded the Arduino, ensuring the remote was operating correctly from the required distance.

The students self-initiated the project to explore the cross-curricula disciplines of Engineering Manufacture and Design, applied Electronics, and Computer Science.

It was a great success, surprising and exciting for their fellow students and teachers. For them, this is just a collaboration and an ongoing project.

#### Watch this space!!!





#### **CAREERS IN ESPORTS**

This term, 33 lucky Year 10 students embarked on an exciting trip to Warwick University to delve into the dynamic realm of Esports – the youngest and fastest-growing industry. The day was packed with insightful sessions designed to illuminate the diverse career pathways available within this booming sector.

The students then put their newfound knowledge into practice by forming their own Esports teams. Creativity flowed as they brainstormed team names, designed eye-catching brand logos, and even conceptualized unique jersey designs that would make them stand out in the virtual arena.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the friendly tournament, the students competed against their peers in a fun and engaging atmosphere.

#### THE GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh award is a personal development program for young people. It involves setting and achieving goals in volunteering, physical activities, skills, an expedition and a residential project. This is what we endured to get the chance to go to Buckingham Palace in the spring, as a team we worked together to get through the expedition during one of the most strenuous times the school year. The expedition began with a Domino's feast which put everyone in a good mood to help us through the 4 days of walking in the rural area of Dartmoor. The views in Dartmoor were breathtaking, also as much as the 20% incline we had to endure during the third day of walking, but we prevailed and all of us finished together with our presentation being the final step to passing the expedition. The aim for our group was to investigate historical points in Dartmoor, the team came together and worked hard on taking photos and making notes on the historical landmarks. Overall, the Duke of Edinburgh experience is a difficult one with many things that can go wrong, but with determination and good teamwork being on Duke of Edinburgh brings people closer to nature and helps to give skills that can be used for life. Looking back, it was pretty fun and we would do it all again! – Jolie M, Year 13 Student













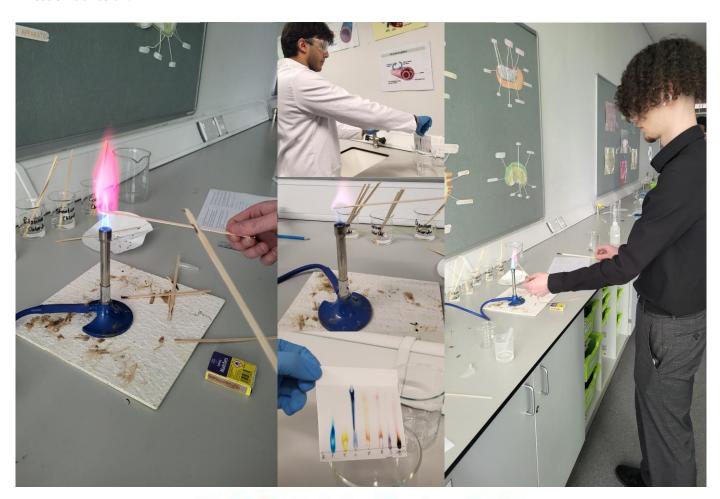
#### CHEMISTRY SCHOOLS' ANALYSTS COMPETITION

Our Year 12 and Year 13 students recently took part in the Annual Chemistry Schools' Analysts Competition, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). In this event, students from schools across England and Wales compete to make the most accurate observations when analysing chemicals in scenarios based on real-life applications.

This year's case study involved students being appointed by a construction company planning to build new homes on land previously used as an industrial site. Using analytical techniques learned in their A-Level courses — such as titration, chromatography, flame tests, and chemical analysis — students worked to identify potential hazards and dangerous chemicals in the soil to evaluate whether the land is suitable for housing.

Both of our cohorts did a fantastic job throughout the three challenges set by the RSC and have already submitted a promising set of results. We will find out in the coming weeks which of our teams performed best and achieved results closest to the expected values. The top team will receive an official diploma from the RSC to add to their CVs and will go on to compete against other schools for the chance to win the contest and £500 in prizes.

Best of luck to all!





#### WMG BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 53 students — and one teacher — gathered at the Xcel Centre to take part in the highly anticipated WMG Badminton Tournament. The event was not just a showcase of athletic ability, but also a celebration of teamwork, resilience, sportsmanship, and community spirit.

The tournament kicked off with a series of group stage matches. Each student played four matches within their group, competing with focus and determination to earn a place in the next round. The top two players from each group will now move on to the quarterfinals, which are scheduled to be played on a later date.

From the very beginning, the atmosphere at the Xcel Centre was electric. Excitement buzzed through the air as students rallied behind their teammates, offered each other encouragement, and cheered from the sidelines. For many, it wasn't just about winning — it was about giving their best effort, supporting others, and enjoying the moment.

What stood out most throughout the day was the strong sense of sportsmanship on display. Players consistently showed respect for their opponents and the referees, shook hands after each game, and played with fairness and integrity. Whether they won or lost, they did so with humility and grace — a true reflection of the values promoted by the WMG community. Some players had never played in a tournament setting before, but embraced the challenge with courage and confidence.

The tournament also gave students a chance to build new friendships and strengthen existing ones. Many participants took time between games to chat, share strategies, and even give tips to one another. The event encouraged students from different year groups and backgrounds to connect over a shared passion for sport.

As the tournament progresses into the knockout stages, the excitement continues to build. The quarterfinals promise even more thrilling matches, and all eyes are on who will make it to the final showdown. Regardless of the outcome, it's clear that every student who participated has already achieved something valuable: the opportunity to grow, connect, and showcase their character through sport.

Congratulations to all the participants for their enthusiasm, effort, and positive attitude. The WMG Badminton Tournament is a shining example of what can be accomplished when students come together with passion, respect, and a love for the game.



#### CAN TEENAGERS USE MOBILES PHONES TO SAVE THE WORLD?

The five teams from across the two academy's that took part in the Enzen Global Sustainability Challenge showed they can. During a Dragon's Den style pitch in the final of the competition held at the University of Warwick's NAIC building, on Thursday 1st May, the teams presented the mobile phone apps they had designed to a team of judges from Enzen, a leading specialist in the provision of sustainable energy and water.

Students were tasked with creating and developing a mobile phone app that could promote sustainable habits and create a drive for positive changes to help make our planet healthier.

The winning team Project Inspire, from WMG Coventry, won the judges over with their design that used gamification in a Pokémon Go style based app where participants gain XP by joining and completing community lead projects to help create a greener and more sustainable local environment. Our two other groups, Leafy Legends and Eco-Habits also impressed the judges, completing a full sweep for the Coventry teams as they gained the second and third places respectively.





#### THE BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Bronze Award teams (12 students) walked a practice expedition in order to get them prepared for the Assessed Expedition in July. They walked around 15km across both days, 7km on Friday which was accompanied by staff, (Mr Islam, Mr Wood & Ms Jennings) and 8km on Saturday which they were doing solo.

We walked through some beautiful scenery in Hatton, seeing cows, sheep, horses and other wildlife along the way.

Once students reached the camp site it was up to them to set up their tents, have dinner and prepare for bed, as well as coordinate when to leave the following day in order to reach the pick up location on time (1pm).

Many students have now understood what they need to do for the Assessed now, realising what they don't and do need. As well as improving their map reading and compass use.

We were also accompanied by WMG Solihull, who are partaking in Duke of Edinburgh for the first time. Many, if not all, students from both Academy's said they enjoyed themselves and have learnt a lot.





#### **APPRENTICESHIPS FOR OUR YEAR 13'S**

Congratulations to Max and Jethro as they have both secured highly sought-after apprenticeship positions with industry giants.

Max has landed a coveted apprenticeship at the world-renowned Rolls Royce. He will be diving into the fascinating world of mechatronics, a field that combines mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering.

Meanwhile, Jethro has secured an equally impressive apprenticeship with Siemens Energy. His journey will involve working with gas turbines, a crucial area of the energy sector.

Their success stories serve as an inspiration to all our students, demonstrating the exciting pathways that are possible through hard work and a passion for STEM fields. The entire WMG Academy community will be following their progress with immense pride.

#### **MORE YEAR 13'S SECURE APPRENTICESHIPS**

We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news from our Year 13 cohort! Two exceptional students have demonstrated incredible dedication and talent, securing highly sought-after apprenticeships with leading UK companies.

First, a huge congratulations to Joy, who has successfully gained an Engineering Technician Apprenticeship at the global energy giant, RWE. This is a fantastic opportunity for Joy to immerse herself in the dynamic world of engineering, contributing to vital projects within the



energy sector. We know she will make a significant contribution to RWE and we wish her all the very best as she embarks on this exciting career path.

We also extend our warmest congratulations to Nelly, who has secured a prestigious Aerospace Business Apprenticeship at the world-renowned engineering firm, Rolls Royce. Nelly will be working within the aerospace division, gaining invaluable experience in the business aspects of this cutting-edge sector. We are incredibly proud of Nelly and have no doubt she will thrive at Rolls Royce.

We wish both Joy and Nelly every success as they embark on these incredible opportunities and look forward to hearing about their future achievements. Well done, Joy and Nelly! The entire school community is incredibly proud of you.

THE ONE WHERE
YOU GOT AN
APPRENTICESHIP

### PARENT AND CARER CAREERS TALK WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE - 5PM

Hosted by the Coventry Careers Hub at the Coventry Transport Museum on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, the evening promises an array of informative and impartial talks about Post-16 and Post-18 pathways, which includes information on apprenticeships and T-Levels, plus, a new addition for this year, a student and apprentice Q&A panel for students, parents, and carers to ask their burning questions to.

It is completely free to attend, and parents and carers are welcome to join along with their young person in Year 10, 11, or 12. Upon arrival, attendees will also receive a free copy of Coventry Careers Hub's 'Future You Handbook'.



#### WED 18TH JUNE - 5PM

Join Coventry Careers Hub for our **FREE** Parent and Carer Careers Roadshow to support your young person in Year 10, 11, or 12 in making informed decisions about their future!

Get ready for an evening filled with talks by industry experts/student speakers on:

- · Higher Education incl. student finance
- Further Education incl. T-Levels
- Apprenticeships
- PLUS a student and apprentice Q&A panel

By attending, you'll also walk away with a free copy of Coventry Careers Hub's Future You Handbook



#### SIGN UP TODAY!

Limited spots available





#### A MESSAGE FROM MR SCOTT-BROWN

I'm leaving the academy (family) this summer after 6 years and it was a hard decision to make and come to as my time working with the students and the team, SLT and Trust has been nothing short of superb but my health always come first and that took a bit of a wobble recently - the professionalism that exists and support is one of the best I've known and that is another reason why we are a special academy and do produce highly sought after students.....because that 'care' is felt by all who work and study here. My health is important to me now and I want to be able to have as many healthy & fit years to go off and explore, travel and have adventures on two wheels as I can. Maybe also have some more photography projects to keep me busy writing and hopefully publishing when I'm less fit to travel and be the adventure seeker I still am now.

Thanks to the students who have made this incredible journey for me at WMG so rewarding and thanks too to ALL the staff, the amazing team and management for guiding us through what can be tricky times as an academy.

# Spotlight of the Term .....



#### What are you working on in English lessons at the moment?

Our year 10s have been developing their skills for Language Paper 2, which focuses on reading non-fiction and writing to present a viewpoint. Their growing ability to analyse, interpret and articulate ideas is something the department is incredibly proud of. They've also been exploring a diverse range of poetry, grappling with powerful themes such as conflict, identity, memory, nature, and power.

#### Highlight of the half term

Our Year 11 students recently sat their Literature exams and demonstrated incredible resilience and enthusiasm. Many came out of the exam feeling confident, knowing their preparation and commitment had paid off. It's been a joy to see their efforts rewarded and their passion for the subject grow.

#### What's new and upcoming for English?

Year 10 students are rising to the challenge as they prepare for their end-of-year mock exams. As part of their assessment, they'll be asked to compare a studied poem with an unseen one, showcasing both their analytical thinking and comparative writing skills. They'll also be completing a full Language Paper 2 exam. We wish them the best of luck!

#### Star Students -

- Aloke A deserves special recognition for his perseverance, dedication, and willingness to support others—a truly helpful and engaged student.
- Lukas W's dedication to bettering himself in English by working independently and applying it to the classroom has not gone unnoticed!
- Franciszek H has made great improvements in his contributions and written work which are hugely appreciated by his English teachers.
- Kaitlin H has also shown great resilience and perseverance across the year and achieved a great grade in her most recent assessment something she should feel really proud of!
- Kian B has shown exceptional achievement and a strong work ethic throughout the term.

# Meet the faces of the academy



Mr Scott-Brown, Teacher of Art and KS4 Engineering

# If you weren't working here, what would your dream job be?

I used to always want to run a coffee shop.

Around 20years ago before the internet was really embedded as it is now, I had the notion to run an arty style coffee shop/B&W photography gallery speciality was to make exceptionally good barista grade coffee, sold home made cakes, Victoria sponge, brownies etc and played cool jazz music and had big old untidy sofas and low coffee tables, and would be a space where people could come and connect to the net, drink coffee and chat and 'hang out' and talk about photography-I got back into teaching and it never happened

# What unique opportunities or experiences do students at WMG receive that they might not get anywhere else?

The ability to be heard. By that I mean that because there is a very 'caring' and nurturing attitude amongst the staff, we are indeed different. Sure not all schools are perfect and we all have our faults and sometimes we too make mistakes or get it wrong, but we also recognise that when mistakes are made we can act at addressing problems to ensure we get it right next time. The management expect high standards at all times ( a good thing) and they also recognise that students of today are the professionals of tomorrow so the opportunities we give them here to connect and interact with industry partners is key to future success. Qualifications offer students the chance to sit down in front of potential future employers. For those students who recognise this and realise that that is how much of the professional world operates gain a chance to gain the quals BUT also make connections for the next step after the results come in.

#### What do you enjoy most about working here?

This is an easy one; There are two strong factors that make me get out of bed each day. (1) "The Team" that operates and works within WMG Coventry is unique and (2) the huge amount of job satisfaction that you reap as a teacher when students fully grasp a concept or feel that sense of achievement - it is the result of effort + challenge = accomplishment and we see that all the time as teachers.

# What do you think makes WMG Academy different from other schools or colleges?

Size - The smaller size of WMG Academy is key and the massively strong team (teaching team), almost family like attitude that exists (and has existed since 2014) where students are not just numbers but known amongst the staff - if you ask all of the students I'm sure they too will say we are different because we recognise students for what they are and offer them the chance to become mature, aspiring professionals in the space of 4 years. Most if not all will admit that we are different in that respect and that's a very positive attribute to have

## In what ways do you feel WMG Academy supports its students to achieve their best?

Just as in the previous question I mentioned the ability to be heard, it is important too to listen and not just speak. The famous quote discussing why we have two ears and one mouth is because its twice as important to listen as it is to speak is something I have always remembered and I try to apply that all times when I'm with students. it doesn't always work Lol but WMG recognises that young people have a voice and we treat our students as young adults, it's business like and business led all the way. We want you all to succeed and be proud of what you have achieved when you leave. I know that as a member of staff having been here for 6 years and now as I approach retirement I am proud to say I was part of the WMG Academy family and know that I made a difference to (hopefully) quite a few young peoples lives.



#### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS OVER THE BREAK

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 OVER THE 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/

#### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

FRIDAY 23 <sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR SUMMER HALF TERM
MONDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2025	ACADEMY OPENS FOR SUMMER TERM
FRIDAY 13 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025	EXAM SEASON ENDS
MONDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025	YEAR 10 AND YEAR 12 MOCKS START
FRIDAY 20th JUNE 2025	YEAR 13 PROM
THURSDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025	YEAR 11 DRAYTON MANOR TRIP
WEDNESDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup> JULY 2025	YEAR 10 DRAYTON MANOR/ ACKERS/ WARWICK UNI TRIP
FRIDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	THE ACADEMY CLOSES AT 12PM TO STUDENTS
MONDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	INSET DAY
TUESDAY 8 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	YEAR 11 PROM
THURSDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	SPORTS DAY
FRIDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025	ACADEMY CLOSES FOR SUMMER TERM (STUDENTS)
MONDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> JULY 2025	INSET DAY
THURSDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025	A LEVEL RESULTS DAY
THURSDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2025	GCSE RESULTS DAY



