

# THE WIGHTWICK WAY

## WELCOME

This half term we have welcomed some recent changes to the school day. Collection and drop off times were moved back to their original times of 8:50am and 3:10pm. This change has already had an impact, bringing a calmer atmosphere to the start and end of the day.

Several changes have been made to some form classes, to enable Mr. Nick Brown to temporarily become an Assistant Head. We feel these changes will be smoothly implemented and benefit the students.

**Reminder**, for Parent/carers to call into the school office and leave a message if your child is absent from school, stating the reason for their absence.

Thank you for your cooperation.

- Call us on 01902 761889
- Email us at [absence@wightwickhall.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:absence@wightwickhall.staffs.sch.uk)
- Send us a message on Arbor
- 

### Late Arrivals

For student safety, we are introducing a student **Signing In and Out book**.

If you bring your child into school late, please bring them into reception to be signed in. Students should be in school for **8:50am**.

Similarly, if you would like to collect your child early, please try to give the office notice where possible and come to reception to collect your child. The school day finishes at **3:10pm**.

We have also started using the Arbor portal to send messages to parents. Could you please check your accounts regularly and If you haven't already signed up to the Portal, could we encourage you to do so as this will be the main source for communication.

## REVIEW



We say goodbye to several members of staff:  
**Mrs Ella Fletcher** - who leaves us after nearly 20 years at Wightwick. **Mrs Alison Waite** and **Mrs Sarah Westwood**

**World Book Day - 7th March.**

**Students and staff dressed as their favourite book characters, and a fun day was had by all.**  
see gallery

**Red Nose Day - 21st March**

**Students wore their pyjamas to school to raise money for Red Nose Day.**

We have welcomed **Johnny** to Wightwick this term. **Johnny** is Ms Brindley's therapy dog and he has become a bit of a celebrity.

**LEGO Therapy -**

To help set up our LEGO therapy sessions we welcome any donations of pre-loved LEGO. We must say a massive Thank You to Mrs Sarah Davies, who has very generously donated a huge amount of LEGO that will enable this project to flourish.

## UPCOMING DATES



**Easter Holidays - Monday 14th April - back Tuesday 29th April**  
**Monday 28th April - Staff Inset Day**  
**May Day - Monday 5th May**  
**May Half Term - Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May**  
**Summer Holidays - Monday 21st July**

**New School Year 2025 - Starts Wednesday 4th September**  
**Staff inset days - Monday and Tuesday 2nd & 3rd September**



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## NOTICEBOARD

### Raring2Go

Summer 2025 issue of Raring2go! Magazine  
Take a look at the latest issue of Raring2go! magazine for lots of ideas of where to go and what to do as a family from now until the end of June by clicking this link  
<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/wolverhampton/spring2025/>

We're pleased to announce that Wightwick Hall School is part of the **My School Fund initiative**.

My School Fund is an exciting initiative that combines the spending power of parents, guardians, carers and teachers to help boost your school or nursery budget.

### How does it work?

Parents, guardians, carers, teachers and support staff call all sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback on the things they buy in participating retail stores, including Sainsbury's and Argos. As you spend, you'll receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school on the My School Fund website we'll also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Add that all up across our school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

### How to get involved

Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) to register for free and don't forget to link to Wightwick Hall School. From there, everything you spend in participating stores will go towards helping boost our budget, plus your own!

Sign up today at [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org)

[MSF\\_parent\\_information\\_leaflet.pdf](#)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Work experience will take place on the following dates:**

-Summer Term 9th - 13th June 2025

Work Experience is a valuable opportunity in helping our students to prepare for the world of work and develop their employability skills. It also provides a sample of a potential career pathway, and most importantly, allows the student to gain the independent skills of searching for a job, communicating with employers and fulfilling a role within an organisation. It will provide a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the world of work.

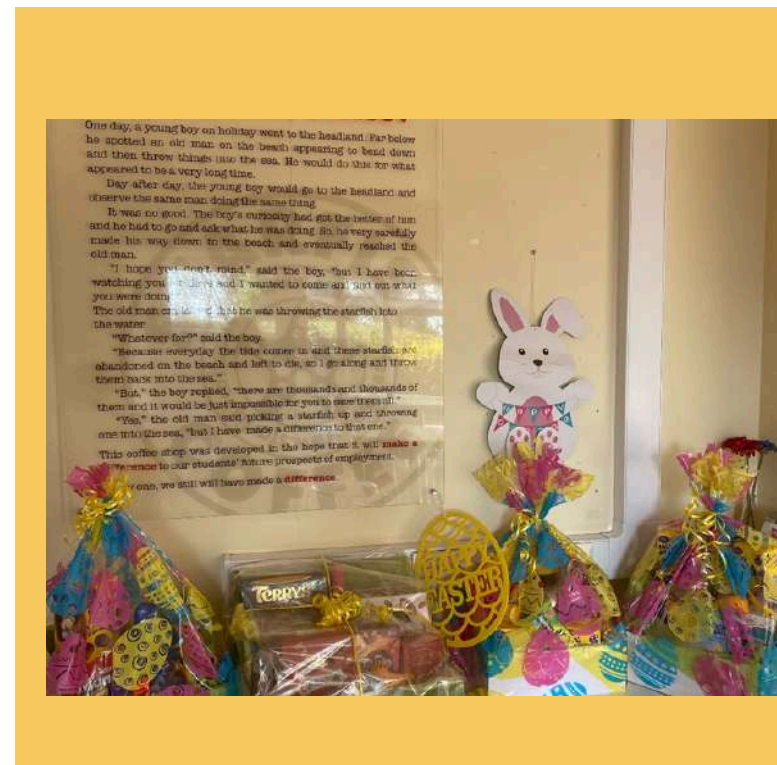
Please could you let me know if you, your organisation or if you know of a business that would consider having either our Year 11's or Sixth formers on placement.

[r.james@wightwickhall.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:r.james@wightwickhall.staffs.sch.uk)

We welcome in May the return of our Careers Fair. After last years success, we hope the students will enjoy meeting a range of career opportunities and be inspired.

### The Golden Ticket

The Golden Ticket winner this half term is Elle-Rai Rogers  
The secret behaviour was:  
Appropriate school uniform



## FRIENDS OF WIGHTWICK

4th April -

It was lovely to see so many parents & family members at the Easter coffee morning. Thank you to all that attended, the sun was shining and it was a lovely opportunity for everyone to relax & eat cake whilst our 6th form students waited on all our guests.

There were 5 raffle winners who each won a lovely Easter hamper 🥰

Friends of Wightwick raised £229 at this event & would like to thank you for your continued support.



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## STAFF PROFILE

Name: Ms Niamh Bruce  
Teaching Assistant

Here are some of my favourite things!

Favourite Colour:  
Pink

Favourite Band: (Singer)  
Taylor Swift

Favourite Sporting Team:  
Ireland Rugby

Favourite Book:  
The Fault in Our Stars

What animal would you be and why?  
A puppy because all they have to do is eat, sleep, play and get lots of love.

Best Film you can watch over and over:  
The Grinch

Invite three guests for lunch, who would they be?  
Walt Disney, David Attenborough and Harry Styles

Apart from working at Wightwick, what would your dream job be?  
A princess at Disneyland

What do you value the most and why?  
Spending time with my family and friends

## COMMUNITY



### Young Voices - Birmingham February 26th

The event was an incredible night of music, singing and dancing that saw the dance crew, Urban Strides, busting some awesome moves, the Strictly Come Dancing band's lead male vocalist, Tommy Blaize wowing us all with his soulful voice, MC Grammar who effortlessly and seamlessly merged rap and literature together, and, of course, the amazing Young Voices band, singers and the conductor, David Lawrence, who made both the rehearsals and the live performance so much fun.

Suffice to say, our students and staff had a fantastic evening. The bleary eyes and yawning as a result are so worth it!

The staff in attendance are incredibly proud of the students that took part, and commented on how polite, kind, caring and just generally well behaved they were. We even had a member of staff from another school say how brilliant our students. They truly are an asset to our amazing school.  
(see photo gallery)

### Boxing

We use boxing, education and mentoring to inspire, engage and connect.

We have collaborated with a Boxing trainer Mia Holland who is a female professional boxer signed with BCB Promotions. She is a flyweight (8st) boxer and was previously a successful amateur, holding titles like four-time national champion and Boxcup medalist. Her first professional fight was on November 16, 2024. She is from Wolverhampton and is coached by Richie Ghent from R G Boxfit in Bilston.

Delivered by RG Boxfit and affiliated through All England boxing, this non contact programme is designed to promote physical fitness, discipline and self confidence whilst ensuring the safety of all participants. Students will work through a range of topics such as coaching, mentoring, anger management, resilience and interviewing techniques. All participants will receive a certificate at the end of the programme.

Students have been enjoying the sessions (see gallery)



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## Wightwick Hall Activities

### Coming soon:

#### Seesaw and Medical Tracker -

**Seesaw - Provides families with continuous visibility into their child's learning experience to support and celebrate their learning.**

**Medical Tracker improves the first aid and health provision in secondary schools. All first aid incidents, medicine administration and tracking of pupil health and wellness are paperless using online software.**

**Please ensure we have your correct email address, please can check this with the office to keep our records up to date.**

#### Fund Raising and Awareness

The activities we participate in are a great way for us all to come together, celebrate the season, and support causes close to our hearts. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and we enjoy seeing the school filled with a spirit of generosity and giving.

Thank you to you all for your generosity and support with all our events.

Helen Smith & Niamh Bruce

#### Uniform

Here at Wightwick we have high expectations for all of our students, and take pride in both their smart appearance and conduct in and around school. We have recently noticed a decline in standards, and we have taken this opportunity to remind all parent of our expectations, and ask for your continued support in upholding them.

Our School Code states that all students are expected to:

- Be Kind
- Show Respect
- Try their best at all times
- Wear the correct school uniform

## Classroom News

### 6HSM

6 HSM have organised trips as part of their ASDAN Going Places Module. These trips provide valuable opportunities for students to apply their learning in real-world settings and further develop their skills in a practical environment.

Tuesday 18th March they went to the Hollywood Bowl at Bentley Bridge.

Monday 25th March, they went to Cafe 29 at Perton

### Life Skills:

Groups within life skills have been busy planting lots of different seeds.

We have lettuce, carrots, potatoes peppers, chillies, chocolate peppers and a selection of herbs to nurture.

### Outdoor Education:

Year 7/8 Bannatyne students this term have been working towards two different AQA awards in Gardening. Tasks have included planting seeds, watering, taking cuttings, repotting and replanting. They've also had fun painting their own mini pots and painting eggs to decorate Maria's tree for Easter. (see Photo gallery)

### Hickman House

Hickman House have been working collaboratively during our team building day to create a mural based on the four seasons. What an amazing piece of team work!

### DBA

This term DBA have been fully immersed in their learning and working well as a team with some individuals exhibiting true leadership skills! In Science we have been very practical exploring forces and making parachutes to investigate 'air resistance'. As a class we have time travelled back into the Victorian era for our 'back in time' topic to explore how times have changed in both school and work life from past to present. Some students were invited to wear the 'Dunce hat'. Our final week has been packed with some much-needed team building activities, obstacle courses, the floor is lava challenges, Easter crafts and finally topped off with our film 'Oliver Twist' - linked to our back in time topic. Have a lovely Easter break 3DBA. We can't wait to see you back for our final school term of the year!  
- Dominique and Shelley"

### Interesting LEGO Facts:

LEGO bricks withstand compression better than concrete. An ordinary plastic LEGO brick is able to support the weight of 375,000 other bricks before it fails. This, theoretically, would let you build a tower nearing 3.5km in height. Scaling this up to house-size bricks, however would cost far too much!



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## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Help keep your family safer online

A reminder to parents that during half term their child will want to spend time on their phones messaging friends -

Family Link provides tools that respect families' individual choices with technology, helping them create healthy, positive digital habits. With easy-to-use tools, you can understand how your child is spending time on their device, share location, manage privacy settings, and find the right balance for your family.\*

### Arbor Parent Portal App

A reminder to parents to download the Arbor app. Arbor lets you book parent/guardian consultation slots, register your child for a club or trip, and manage payments all from one place. You can also use it to check in on your child's attendance, behaviour & academic progress.

### Parent Portal and Parent App leaflet poster.pdf

## OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Mrs Green - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Owen - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Scott - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Miss Higgs - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

## Want to be a Parent Governor?

We are currently looking for a new parent governor to join our friendly local governing board. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:-

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community
- Has spare time and the energy for the role
- Is able to work well as part of a team
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

If you are interested in finding out more about what this entails, please contact Julie Haynes on [j.haynes@wightwickhall.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:j.haynes@wightwickhall.staffs.sch.uk), who can send you further information, along with an application form.



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## Safeguarding

### The Hidden Meanings Behind Emojis





















Dear parents/carers

As the use of emojis in our digital messaging increases, these symbols can form a language of their own. This is particularly true for our young people and teenagers, who sometimes use emojis as a code to disguise their true intentions from adults.

While hidden meanings behind emojis used by young people can be harmless, some may indicate risks including extremism, drugs, sexual interactions and bullying. This was recently brought to life on the Netflix limited series, "Adolescence", which depicted the devastating consequences of harmful online interactions, and the warning signs (in the form of emojis) that are easily missed by adults.

I have included below an 'emoji's explained' sheet which has been borne out of the Netflix series. I appreciate that some of our young people will be unaware of the 'meaning' of emojis but I thought it was useful to share with you all.

Thank you for your support in keeping children safe.

Emoji(s)	Potential Meaning	Emoji(s)	Potential Meaning
	The red pill emoji is linked to incel, or "involuntarily celibate", culture, where misogynistic and extremist views are prevalent. The meaning originates from The Matrix films, but has been adopted by the manosphere to represent those who see the "real truth" in the world.		The balloon emoji may be used to represent the drug nitrous oxide.
	The blue pill emoji is used in incel culture to represent the opposite of the red pill - those who are blind to the real truth and adhere to more mainstream views about gender dynamics.		Camera emojis can represent a request for nude/explicit images or videos.
	The 100 emoji is used in relation to incel culture. It represents the idea promoted by those in the manosphere that 80% of women are attracted to 20% of men.		Peach, aubergine and cherry emojis can all be used to represent body parts in a sexual context.
	The dynamite emoji is used in incel culture to represent the exploding red pill, in other words, breaking out of societal norms and myths.		The sweat emoji may also be used in a sexual context.
	The kidney beans emoji is tied to incel culture. It is thought to represent coffee beans, which link back to a series of memes mocking women.		The face with no mouth emoji can convey the message "Do not tell anybody". It may be used in a bullying context or when sharing inappropriate, illegal or sensitive information.
	The plug emoji can be used to mean drug dealer, also known as a person's "plug".		The frog emoji can mean "You're ugly". It is used in bullying or harassment contexts.
	The snowflake, nose and petrol pump emojis are all used to represent the drug cocaine.		Heart emojis can mean different things depending on the colour used. The red heart usually means love.
	The horse emojis can be used to represent the drug ketamine.		The purple heart can be used to convey attraction or sexual desire.
	Skull, alien and devil emojis may represent the drug ecstasy.		The yellow heart may mean "I'm interested, are you interested?"
			The pink heart can mean "I'm interested but not in sex."
			An orange heart is more likely to be platonic, and means "You're going to be fine."



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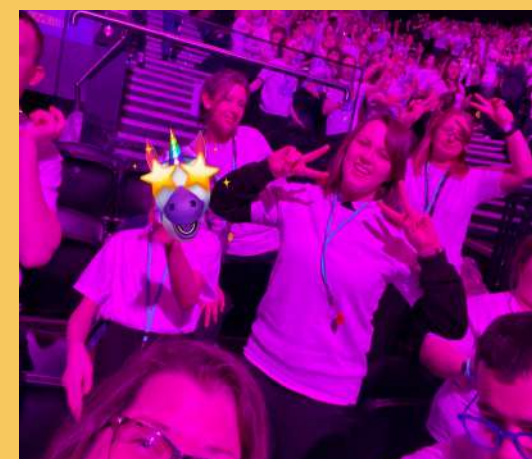




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## Picture Gallery

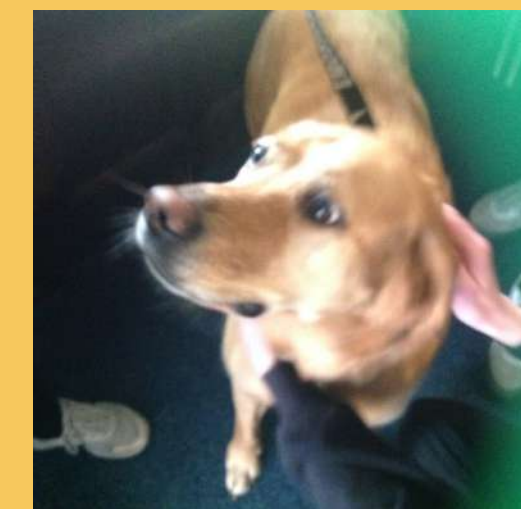
Young Voices



World Book Day



Hickman House



Johnny

3DBA

Boxing



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# THE WIGHTWICK WAY



## Wightwick Hall School



### Code of Conduct "Ready, Respectful, Safe"

**Ready: (To Learn)**

- Appropriate, smart uniform
- Equipment
- Punctual
- Positive attitude
- Willing to participate
- Willing to do their best
- Ready to engage in learning

**Respectful: (To self, others and environment)**

- Follows instructions ("first time, every time")
- Listens to others
- Good manners
- Kindness
- keep school tidy and litter free
- Respect our differences, values and opinions
- Respect the school environment and school property
- Behave in a way that does not prevent others from learning
- Appropriate language and tone ("right voice, right time")

**Safe: (Physical, emotional, in and around school)**

- Move around School sensibly and safely.
- keep your hands to yourself
- Be mindful of personal space
- Be someone who promotes equality and fairness
- Be mindful of your actions towards others - bullying is not tolerated here!
- Report any problems to staff promptly
- Mobile phones are to be out of sight, and handed in at the school office (except for sixth form students)



READY



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READY



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