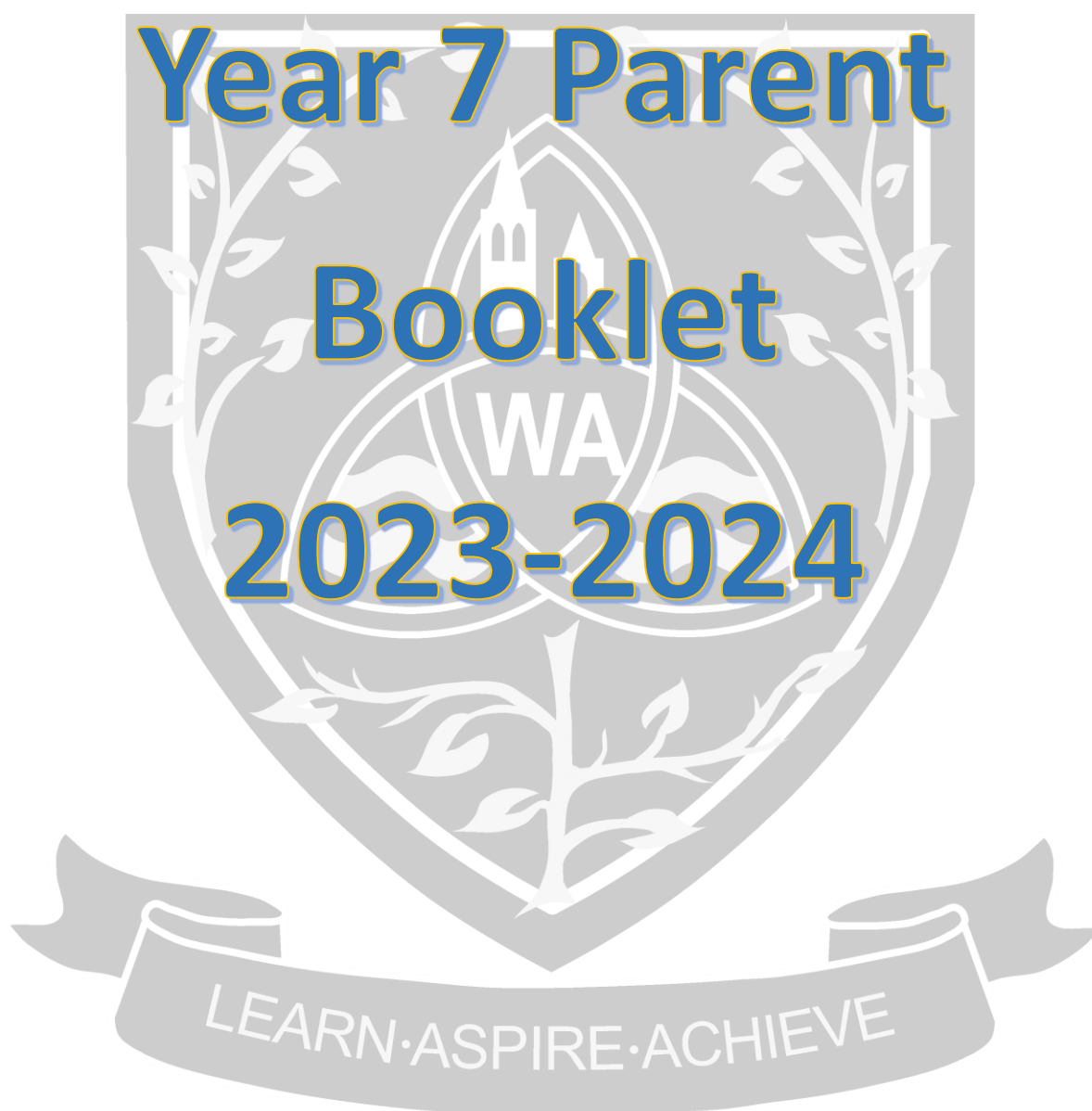


# Wigston Academy



## A Guide to Wigston Academy



# Welcome to Wigston Academy

A warm welcome to Wigston Academy.

Thank you for taking the time to find out about us and what we believe in.

Wigston Academy is proud to be part of Wigston Academies Trust. We are a small trust in Wigston, for Wigston and its talented, imaginative and individual young people. The Academy serves an 11-16 age group in Years 7 to 11 before they go onto our Trust neighbour, Wigston College, for Sixth form and the next phase of their education. In our schools, we aim to create a safe nurturing environment in which we know our students and they know us. The motto encompasses the core values that we want for our students to Learn, to Aspire and to Achieve.

Learning is at the heart of the Academy as this is the core aim of our school, we want our students to learn not only academically through a large range of subjects, but also beyond the curriculum in areas that will prepare them for the wider world.

We endeavour to provide high quality teaching where teachers are experts in their subjects and can instil a love of learning. We have further broadened our curriculum offer to include music technology and global citizenship.

The academy has some of the best facilities in Leicestershire at its disposal across the campus; three halls, three sports halls, a gym, all-weather pitches, sound recording studios and much more. However our school is more than just buildings and facilities it is about the students themselves, they are our school.

We know that our students will only learn in an environment of care and support and our experienced and dedicated pastoral team including mentors and counsellors are here to ensure that your child is supported, cared for and that they keep healthy.

The second word in our motto is Aspire – as we want our students to aspire to be the best that they can be. We want to provide opportunities to inspire our young people, we want them to have a good understanding of where they are and where they want to go.

Opportunities will be provided for your child that will aim to inspire them both within the classroom but also beyond, we want them to aspire in a wide range of different areas not just the traditional academic. To help them find their inspiration we provide many activities and events including; productions, performance, sporting fixtures and also trips and visits to other parts of the UK and the world.

*‘Relationships are positive, and staff engage purposefully with parents’*

*‘There are wide ranging opportunities for pupils to explore their learning, including their understanding of fundamental British values’ Ofsted*

We will support your child through their education ensuring that they know about the jobs and careers that are out there and we will provide excellent careers education and guidance whether it be to; University, work place through an apprenticeship, our sixth form provision at Wigston College, or beyond.

Finally we want our students to achieve. To do this we offer a wide range of qualifications and future pathways both academic and vocational. We will work alongside your child as they make option choices and begin to prepare for examinations.

Most importantly though, we want our students to achieve in all that they do. This may be music, dance, drama or sports but also in terms of their friendships and relationships. We need them to achieve in keeping healthy and knowing how to live healthy lifestyles, to stay safe (including online safety) and to be happy.

Therefore to Learn to Aspire and to Achieve is our motto, which is easy to say but not so easy to achieve, and consequently we will only be successful if we work in partnership; Parent – Student – Teacher. These three elements are essential if we want our students to achieve their potential. They are all equally important and therefore we want good communication to exist between the three.

We will keep you informed of progress, attainment, rewards and behaviour and will meet with you to discuss these throughout the year. If you have any questions or queries please contact us and ask – sooner rather than later.

Therefore our school is about our students, we want them to be safe and happy to come to school as we know when they are safe and happy they will want to Learn to Aspire and to Achieve.

Mr Mike Wilson  
Headteacher

LEARN·ASPIRE·ACHIEVE

*'Leaders work hard to ensure the smooth transition of pupils into Year 7 from primary schools.  
Pupils say that they have settled in well, and parents agreed' Ofsted*

## Care and Guidance

If they are to achieve their full potential, students at Wigston Academy must feel happy, confident and above all safe.

The Academy is a place where differences are celebrated and we recognise that learning is different for everyone. We have an inclusive approach to our lessons which helps make sure that no one is left behind and that each one of our pupils gets the help they need to move on and make progress. We have an enviable reputation for supporting pupils with additional needs.

At the centre of our pastoral care for our children is the tutor. This is the teacher who they meet every day at the start of the day and this is the person who is responsible for making sure that their learning is developing well and that their experience at school is a positive one. This is also one of the people who parents and carers should make contact with when they need to speak to someone at school.

We believe that what works best is working together. Relationships with pupils are central to that and so are relationships with parents. Our aim is that communication is strong between the school, the family and the pupil so that everyone knows what's happening and why. We'll never *always* get it right so when we don't, we always ask you to talk to us.

*"Strong relationships between students and adults are a key feature of the Academy"*

## Curriculum

At Wigston Academy we offer a broad and balanced curriculum to suit the needs of all students.

During Key Stage 3 students in Years 7 to 9 will receive a solid grounding in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, alongside a wide range of Foundation Subjects: History, Geography, Religious Studies, Citizenship, French, Computing, Drama, Music, PE, Dance, Art and Design.

At Key Stage 4 students are offered an extensive range of options for GCSE and alternative qualifications with clear pathways to A Levels, apprenticeships and beyond. Options for Key Stage 4 include: Media Studies, Spanish, Dance, Business Studies and Health and Social Care.

*'Pupils benefit from a very carefully thought-out and planned curriculum'*

We want our pupils to be tolerant of differences and respectful of each other and themselves. We have an extensive Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHCE) curriculum planned to enable pupils to know about the wider world and have opportunities to discuss, learn and discover how to be healthy, safe and access the right career and future pathways into education, employment and training.

All of this is underpinned by a love of learning through problem solving, creativity and imagination. We know we need to prepare our children to cope with technologies and concepts not even invented yet...

## Extra-curricular

Our curriculum is much more than in classroom learning. We have a wide and imaginative extra-curricular offers which include trips and visits with destinations as diverse as Cadbury World, Paris and Skiing in the USA.

We have an unbeatable record for sporting excellence as well as performing arts and audiences compare our productions such as 'Sister Act' and 'Shrek' to West End performances. Whether before school at breakfast club; at lunch times with sports teams, SEND club and subject clubs or after school with matches and orchestras, there are endless opportunities for our children to get that something extra.

*"I have made lots of new friends and really enjoy all of the clubs and activities"*

*"Wigston Academies Trust puts students first so that they can be happy and successful at school and beyond"*

LEARN·ASPIRE·ACHIEVE

*'A broad range of extra-curricular activities enables pupils to extend their learning in different ways' Ofsted*

# The Wigston Way

**Success** is what we want students to achieve during their time at Wigston Academy. **Success** in the classroom, as part of wider school life and in their personal life.

Some schools aim for academic achievement alone, we recognise that this is not enough to equip you for **success** in life.

At Wigston Academy, as part of the *Wigston Way*, we have **5** key '**Values for Success**':

- Respect
- Ambition
- Resilience
- Engagement
- Responsibility

Throughout the programme students will develop these skills and work their way through the passport at different levels:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold

In order to complete **SUCCESS**, they will need to complete a range of activities linked to our core **Values—The Wigston Way**. The activities will be varied and can be done in school, during extra-curricular activities or outside of school. By completing the activities, they will develop the skills, qualities and experiences that are essential for now and their future.

Upon completing each step of the **SUCCESS** programme, students will be awarded a certificate and a badge matching each step – bronze, silver and gold. Each step will have a focus on ensuring students have good attendance, excellent behaviour and a positive attitude to learning.



*'The culture and morale of the school are very positive' Ofsted*

# Key Information

## TIMES OF THE DAY

Year 7 & 8	Monday – Friday
<b>Registration</b>	8.35—9.00
<b>Period 1</b>	9.00—10.00
<b>Break</b>	10.00—10.20
<b>Period 2</b>	10.20—11.20
<b>Period 3</b>	11.20—12.20
<b>Lunch</b>	12.20—12.55
<b>Period 4</b>	12.55—13.55
<b>Period 5</b>	13.55—14.55

## UNIFORM

Boys	Girls
Black traditional blazer with school badge	Black traditional blazer with school badge
Plain black trousers	Plain black trousers or plain black knee-length skirt
Plain white shirt with collar	Plain white blouse with collar
Wigston Academy clip-on tie	Wigston Academy clip-on tie
Plain black V-neck sweater	Plain black V-neck sweater
Plain black footwear	Plain black footwear
Plain white, grey or black socks	Plain white, grey or black socks or plain natural skin tone/black tights

*'Pupils are keen to do well. They follow instructions from their teachers promptly'*

## **TROUSERS**

Trousers are to be tailored and of a traditional style, made of standard school trouser fabric. The following are not allowed; jeans, denim trousers, trousers with rivets, trousers with low waist, trousers which are tight on the legs, leggings, trousers which are not full length, trousers which follow a current trend, cords, culottes, ski pants, trousers with large buckles, frills or fashion accessories.

## **SKIRTS**

Skirts are to be knee-length, of a traditional style and made of standard school skirt fabric. The following are not allowed; lycra skirts, netted skirts, denim skirts, tight skirts, skirts with any patterns, skirts with rivets or frills or skirts which follow a current trend.

## **SHIRTS/BLOUSES**

Shirts and blouses are to be plain white with no logos, frills or decoration. Polo shirts are not allowed. Shirts and blouses are to be worn tucked in with no visible T-shirts underneath and sleeves rolled down. Blouses must be of a suitable style to be worn with the school tie.

## **JUMPERS**

These should be wool, cotton or blend. The following are not allowed: sweat shirts or items made from sweat shirt material, cardigans, items with zips or logos and vest tops.

## **COATS**

An additional coat will be needed according to the weather. Coats must not be worn in school during lessons or change-overs. Hooded tops may be worn as a coat over the top of blazers but not underneath.

## **FOOTWEAR (NO BOOTS)**

These must be plain black, low-heeled footwear which cover the instep of the foot and suitable for school. This does not include any of the following: pumps, plimsolls, ballet-style shoes, shoes with high heels (more than 4cm), shoes with any marking or logo, sling-back or backless shoes, open-toe sandals or strappy sandals. Laces are to be black.

## **BLAZERS**

Blazers are to be worn at all times around the Academy. They are not to be substituted by a jumper. Coats or jackets should not be worn under blazers.

*'The behaviour of pupils is good, as demonstrated by their calm conduct around the school site. They wear their uniform smartly and are punctual in getting to lessons' Ofsted*

## JEWELLERY

The only jewellery that is allowed is a single pair of small stud earrings. Students are not allowed to wear any type of jewellery whilst on school premises. A single pair of small stud earrings (or just one) and one nose stud is allowed. Other piercings are not acceptable and any piercings must be removed for PE or other activities as directed. Although wrist watches are allowed in most lessons, these have to remain the responsibility of the students. Smart watches are not permitted.

## MAKE UP

It should be discreet and natural. False nails are **not** allowed under any circumstances.

## HAIR COLOUR AND STYLES

Hairstyles should be reasonable and appropriate for being in a learning environment at school. Colouring is only allowed if it is of a single normal hair colour, although natural-colour highlights are acceptable. (No bright colours). Patterns, Mohicans, logos, coloured braiding, shaved patterns and tramlines are not permitted.

WIGSTON ACADEMY PE KIT	
BOYS	GIRLS
1 pair of black shorts 1 black t-shirt (with school badge) 2 pairs of sports ankle socks 1 pair of black football socks 1 pair of trainers 1 pair of black tracksuit bottoms 1 black sweatshirt (with school badge) Shin pads (compulsory) Gum shield (recommended for football, rugby and hockey) 1 black football shirt 1 pair of football boots preferably with rubber studs	1 pair of black shorts 1 black t-shirt (with school badge) 2 pairs of sports ankle socks 1 pair of black football socks 1 pair of trainers 1 pair of plain black sports leggings 1 pair of plain black tracksuit bottoms 1 black sweatshirt (with school badge) Shin pads (compulsory) Gum shield (recommended for football, rugby and hockey)

# Attendance and Punctuality

At Wigston Academy we expect you to have outstanding levels of attendance and punctuality. Our target for you is for your attendance to be **between 96% and 100%**.

The government tells schools to monitor any student with an attendance below 95%. If your attendance falls below 90% then you become a **persistent absentee**. Your parents will be called in for a meeting and your attendance will be monitored more closely by the school.

Most students have an attendance between 96% and 100% - keep yourself in this range and you will get rewards!

## Presentation and Homework

The rules below are a basic minimum standard. Please follow these rules at all times unless your teacher or other adult asks you not to:

- All work should have a title and a date written in this format – 1st September 2022. The title should be underlined with a ruler
- You should normally write in **blue** or black pen
- Graphs and tables must be drawn using a ruler or other equipment; in pencil and be properly labelled
- Highlighters can be used as directed by your teacher
- Crossings out should be neat and NOT messily scribbled out
- Work **MUST** be free from all graffiti
- You should write your name clearly on any loose sheets
- Handwriting should be as neat and clear as you can reasonably make it so that it is easily understood. Most GCSEs now award marks for spelling.

If your work is not presented well enough, your teacher may ask you to do it again.

## How to use a Knowledge Organiser - Year 7 and 8

### Instructions:

- If you have not been set a homework task for a subject then aim to study at least **one** section of a Knowledge Organiser(KO) for homework with advised time of 15 minutes each.
- Do now tasks and activities in lessons will be set to recall and apply the information you have studied. The more frequently you revisit and test the knowledge, the more likely it is that it will transfer to long-term memory and be more easily recalled in topic tests and exams.
- Use the back of your exercise book for subjects to show the work you have done and involve your parents or carers by getting them to test you on what you have done. Do **NOT** just copy out the KO into your book, try creating mind maps or test yourself on the content.
- Additionally aim to read a book for 30 minutes a day, reading has been proven to improve our vocabulary and understanding. This can be aloud to a friend or family or to yourself.
- Your teachers will let you know when you need your KOs with you, they will mostly be used for homework tasks.

### In class KOs can be used in the following ways:

- **Quiz your neighbour** – your teacher will tell you a section to focus on. Test each other by making up questions.
- **Low Stakes Quiz** – your teacher may prepare a quick quiz for you as a Do Now Task.
- **Key Words** – you could tick off key words as you come across them and write definitions in the back of your exercise book for that lesson.
- **Key words in context** – you may be asked to practice writing sentences using key words for the topic you are covering.
- **Spelling test** – your teacher may give you a spelling test to ensure you know the correct spelling of key words.
- **References** – if you are stuck on an activity in lesson – check your KO to see if it can help you.
- **Extended writing** – incorporate the information you have learned into longer pieces of writing to demonstrate more specialist in depth knowledge.
- **Knowledge test** – at the end of a topic or unit, your teachers will test you to see how well you have learned the information, this helps to make sure you have understood the topic and you are able to apply the information correctly.

### At home you can:

- 15 minutes per school night, per subject** – choose a subject, making sure you have covered all of your subjects each week (you could do 2 subjects per night = 30 minutes)
- Quiz yourself** – read through the information, repeating it back to yourself. Cover the information and have a go at writing it as it or creating a mind map. Check it against the KO – how accurate were you? Which aspects do you need to go over again?
- Create flashcards** – once you have completed a section, test yourself by turning the information into revision flashcards.
- Application** – once you have learned the information on the KO, complete tasks set by teachers as homework or try answering exam questions linked to the content you have learned. Your knowledge can be applied to other tasks/classwork/homework and develop longer writing tasks by adding more specialist knowledge to the answers.
- Revise** – towards the end of topics / half terms / terms, mix up your flash cards. Teachers will be testing you regularly on the content of KO on both current and previous topics – keep a separate pile of ones you get wrong when testing yourself or getting parents and carers to test you. Then focus on those more before the test.

# THINGS TO KNOW

**Tutor Time and Assemblies:** We have tutor time every day and it is really important that your child makes it on time for this every day. There will be designated activities for each morning which will include activities such as ERIC (**E**veryone **R**eadings **I**n **C**lass), knowledge and engagement and signing of planners and passports. Assemblies take place on other designated days. Each Year Group will have at least one assembly each week.

**Year 7 Planner:** All students will be issued with a planner, this will contain a calendar for the academic year for them to make notes of homework or any other notices they may receive from teachers/tutors. It will also have their timetable in and subject relevant help sheets, it must be used appropriately and not defaced.

**Equipment for lessons:** All students must be equipped to work every day with a reading book, pencil case containing black and blue pen, pencils, a pencil sharpener, an eraser and a ruler. A calculator may also be required for certain lessons. If a student does not have these basic items then they may receive a behaviour point.

**Arrangements for pick-up after school / during the day:** We receive a lot of messages regarding changes to pick up routines which can be a timely task. Could we ask that where possible, arrangements are made before the school day with your child.

**Trips:** All are available to be booked through our online booking system. Places are usually allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Some trips can become oversubscribed and places may be decided by behaviour and attendance figures.

**Lost property:** Items should be kept in lockers at all times. Any items found round the school will be handed into the student reception. We would advise placing name tags in all items.

**School Bus/transport:** Further details about school bus provision can be found on the school website.

*'Pupils say that they feel safe in school. They can easily identify which adults they need to go to if they have any worries or concerns'*

# THE HOME- SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Within each induction pack there is a home school agreement for both parents and students to sign and confirm that they understand all that is expected from you during the school day.

## Students – I will

- arrive each day ready to do the best I can at all times
- attend school and lessons every day and on time, properly equipped and in the correct uniform
- treat others in the way I would wish to be treated myself
- keep myself safe and help others keep themselves safe
- show respect for the school environment by playing my part in keeping it safe, clean and tidy
- listen to and follow instructions from all staff straight away
- do all my classwork and homework on time and to the very best of my ability
- actively engage with my learning, respond to teachers' feedback and seek out opportunities to extend my learning
- behave in a way which shows I am proud to be a member of the Wigston Academy community, both inside and outside school, including social media



LEARN · ASPIRE · ACHIEVE

*'Pupils say that they feel safe in school. They can easily identify which adults they need to go to if they have any worries or concerns'*

# CLASS OF 2022

Our year 7's who joined us in September 2022 were asked to sum up how they feel about their first 2 weeks at the academy and here are some of the responses;

*"I was really scared/nervous to move from my old school to Wigston Academy, now I'm not nervous at all. I've made so many friends and all the teachers are so nice and understanding and will help you with anything you need or if you feel uncomfortable."*

*"I feel like I have been fully prepared and know everything I need to know because of the induction days. I have really enjoyed my first two weeks at Wigston academy. The teachers have helped a lot and have reassured me when I didn't understand something."*

*"I feel great about the transition and first 2 weeks at secondary school. I feel like in the boot camp they told us everything we need to know about Wigston Academy. I really like the school."*

*"Amazing. it's so good being at school again and Wigston Academy is the best."*

*"I really enjoyed my induction at Wigston Academy! On my first day I already felt like I was fitting in. The support from the staff and my tutor helped a lot."*

*"it was fun and enjoyable . I didn't feel worried like when I start something new . I also have been enjoying these first 2 weeks and I would like to feel like this for the rest of year 7 ."*

*"I love Wigston academy"*

## Contacts:

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## Useful links:

Website : [wigstonacademy.org](http://wigstonacademy.org)

Facebook page: WA Class of 2023

Email:  
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