

WEATHERFIELD ACADEMY

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6th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers

Ofsted Visit

As you will all be aware, we had an Ofsted Inspection paused in November and they will be returning tomorrow to check on the progress we have made. The Inspectors would like to hear your views and that of your child. You can do this by completing an online pupil questionnaire at the following links:

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Pupil/10371279>

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

This link must not be shared to anyone outside of the school.

Your views are really important to us and will help inspectors understand your experience of school. The questionnaire will close at 11am on 7 February 2025, to give the inspector time to look at the results. The questionnaires work in all web browsers, tablets and mobile devices. We do not ask for your name, so you will not be identified from the responses you make.

Table Top Cricket Success

We are very proud that learners from 4SQ got through to the semi-final in a Table Top Cricket event at Challney High School on Tuesday. The students who attended really enjoyed themselves, gained valuable skills and were presented with gold medals in this week's Celebration Assembly. Well done to all involved!

Student Newsletter

As part of the English Functional Skills curriculum, students from KS5 have produced a Student Newsletter as part of their coursework. A copy of the Student Newsletter is attached to this week's newsletter and we hope you enjoy reading about Weatherfield life from the students' perspective as much as we have. We hope that this will become a regular feature across the Academy. Well done to everyone involved in these excellent pieces of work.

Child's Mental Health Week

This week is National Children's Mental Health Week and we would like to share some helpful links and resources for you:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about/>

<https://here4you.co.uk/for-parents/>

A reminder that we will break up for a week's holiday on Friday 14th February, with usual transport arrangements in place. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 24th February.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Meenan
Head of School

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Student Newsletter by KS5

Gardening news by Dougie and Sam

You will find that KS4 and KS5 Gardening lessons at Weatherfield are continuing in the Winter. In December 4SQ class got to build birdboxes with help from Mr Charlesworth, Mr Rogers and Mr Mowlem (our site team). The students then sanded the boxes and painted them in different colours. KS5 students helped with painting the second coat. The bird boxes were placed on the trees around the school field.

Students also planted spring bulbs around the new pond being built. It was difficult to plant bulbs because the soil was very hard, but they will look nice in the Spring when they flower. This will attract a lot of wildlife to the pond, like birds, insects and frogs.

Students also spent time tidying up the shed, greenhouse and polytunnel, sorting the plants pots, trays and PPE.

Farm news by Callum A and Nick

With temperatures getting colder, ice becomes a big problem on the farm. One of the morning jobs is breaking the frozen drinking buckets for the animals, as well as the pond for the chickens and ducks. Animals' health has been constantly checked throughout the year. Recently, Mary, the goat, has been found to have a skin condition that needs treatment with injections.

Soon, Ziggy, our school cat, will need a new house because the building he is living in will be demolished and a new building will be constructed. Our teacher Miss Woods is going to make Ziggy a new house so he doesn't get cold outside. Key stage 4 and 3 students are helping design the house.

Preparation for Adulthood lessons by Curtis and Miley

This year a new subject has been introduced in the upper school called Preparation for Adulthood. The aim of the subject is to prepare students for their future lives by learning about important life skills such as cooking, first aid, independent travel, money handling and budgeting.

In cooking, students learn how to be safe in the kitchen, about food hygiene, learning to buy and cook simple meals. Students also learn how to use buses and plan their routes by using bus timetables. Students are supported by staff during these trips.

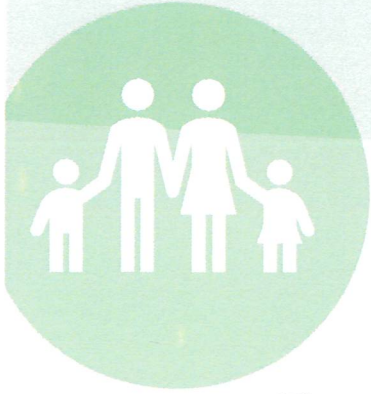
Lunchtime clubs at Weatherfield Academy by Jack D and Jack S

Weatherfield has many different lunchtime clubs for its students. Some of the clubs are only suitable for certain key stages and others are open to the whole school. They are run by different members of staff and some are run by students.

Most of the lunchtime clubs last 20 to 30 minutes, with most starting at 12:30, and ending at 12:50. On Monday there is a Library club with Mrs Endicott-Thompson, Football club with Mr Madden runs every day, Wednesdays' Computer club is led by Mr Cawthorne and Singing and Signing club on Friday by Mrs Quinn.

This year there are few new clubs as well. Music club on Friday is led by Mr Wood, Dungeons and Dragons club with Mr Caughie takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Two clubs are run by students in KS5: Board games club with Jack D on Tuesday, and Chess club run by Nick. Many students join these clubs to have fun and learn new skills.



NSPCC

Parent Insight Webinar

Date: Thursday 13th February

Time: 4 – 5pm

- Building Connections is an online NSPCC service which empowers young people aged 9-18 to tackle loneliness.
- The service is aimed at children experiencing a transitional period, emotional health issues, friendships issues, bullying, a sense of otherness and/or attachment concerns.
- Come and find out more information on how the NSPCC can support your young people.



The event is free, but you will need to register for a space via the link below:

[Register here](#)

Please email us if you have any questions:

communitypartner@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

06 February 2025

Dear parent or carer

Inspection of Weatherfield Academy by Ofsted

We have just told your child's school that we will be returning to conclude the inspection on 07 February 2025. The lead inspector will be Steve Mellors, HMI. We are writing to you because we would like to know what you think about the school. Please take a few minutes to read the leaflet that came with this letter. It explains why we inspect schools and what happens during an inspection.

Your views about the school are important to us

If you are a registered parent or carer of a pupil at the school (including pupils on sick leave or who are temporarily excluded), you can tell us your views about the school by completing Ofsted's online survey, Ofsted Parent View, at: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Ofsted Parent View asks for your opinion on some aspects of your child's school, including the progress made by your child, the quality of teaching, how the school deals with bullying and poor behaviour. It also provides a free-text box for you to make additional comments, if you wish. The inspectors will use the online survey responses when inspecting your child's school. Written comments can also be sent to the school in a sealed envelope, marked confidential and addressed to the inspection team.

To register your views, you will need to provide your email address, which will be held securely. It will not be used for any purpose other than providing access to the online survey. Neither schools nor Ofsted will have access to any email addresses.

Please complete the online survey by **noon** on 07 February 2025 as this will give the inspection team more time to consider your views. However, we will consider all online responses that are completed during the inspection, although the free-text box facility will not be available after noon on 07 February 2025.

Speaking to an inspector

If you are unable to complete the online survey, it may be possible to speak to an inspector during the inspection, for instance at the start of the school day, or to pass on messages to the inspectors if you are unable to speak to them in person. Inspection administrators will be happy to make the necessary arrangements. If concerns are raised about child protection, we may have to pass the information we receive to social services or the police. You can contact the administrators on 03330777534. Inspectors will be pleased to receive your comments, but

School inspections

A guide for parents

This document applies to all maintained schools, including special schools and pupil referral units. It also covers academies, city technology colleges, city colleges for the technology of the arts and some non-maintained special schools in England.



deteriorated significantly, or if a school has undergone significant change, such as in its age range.

A school judged requires improvement or inadequate for overall effectiveness at its last inspection before September 2024 will usually be inspected again within 2.5 years. If a school meets Ofsted's monitoring threshold as set out in the [school inspection handbook](#) it will be eligible for routine monitoring from inspectors to check its progress (as set out in the [monitoring inspection handbook](#)) and is inspected again within a period of 2.5 years.

Schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness prior to September 2024 that were formerly exempt from routine inspections

Between 15 May 2012 and 13 November 2020, maintained primary and secondary schools and academies judged to be outstanding in their overall effectiveness at their most recent graded inspection were exempt from routine inspections. These schools are now once again [subject to routine inspections](#). This also applies to academy converter schools that were formerly exempt because the overall effectiveness of their predecessor school was outstanding at its most recent graded inspection.¹

All formerly exempt schools will receive an initial graded or ungraded inspection by July 2025. Those schools that received their last graded inspection before September 2015 will receive an initial graded inspection. Those that received their last graded inspection after this date will normally receive an initial ungraded inspection. If that ungraded inspection indicates that aspects of the school's work may not be as strong as at the time of the previous inspection, we will normally carry out a graded inspection within the next 12 months or as soon as possible thereafter and, in any event, before 1 August 2026. Beyond these initial inspections, future inspections for these schools will take place as set out in the section above and the school inspection handbook.

How long do inspections last?

A graded inspection normally lasts 2 days. However, ungraded inspections of primary schools or maintained nursery schools with fewer than 150 pupils normally last for 1 day. The number of inspectors on the inspection team will vary according to the size and nature of the school.

What judgements do inspectors make on a graded inspection?

Inspectors will make graded judgements on the 4 key judgements:

- the quality of education

¹ Academy converter schools are schools that have been approved by the Secretary of State to convert to become an academy.

Inspectors will not normally monitor the school unless there are concerns or there is a delay in the school becoming a sponsored academy.

For academies, maintained nursery schools and non-maintained special schools that are placed in a category of concern, inspectors will visit these schools to check on their progress until they can be removed from the category (unless, for academies, they are re-brokered with a new sponsor to become a new sponsored academy). Ofsted will normally re-inspect these schools within 2.5 years of the publication of the inspection report that placed them in a category of concern.

How much notice do you give to a school before you inspect?

Most schools receive notice of their graded or ungraded inspection after 9:30am on a Monday morning. Schools may be notified of an urgent or monitoring inspection on any day. If a school has been notified of an inspection that is subsequently deferred, we can notify that school of the new inspection date on any day of the week. If a school is open in a week that includes a bank holiday, we may notify the school on the Tuesday of that week.

However, Ofsted can inspect any school without notice where this is judged to be appropriate.

What happens during an inspection?

Inspectors talk to the headteacher and other school leaders who are responsible for making decisions about how the school operates (for example on curriculum and behaviour), governors, staff and pupils. They also consider your views as a parent.

If the school is an academy, they also talk to any trust leaders who have a role in running the school, including the chief executive officer and executive headteachers or directors of education (where applicable). They also talk to trustees. They spend most of their time observing a wide range of lessons and looking at the quality of education in the school, and the impact of the curriculum. Inspectors give specific attention to the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills in lessons.

They also look at the personal development, behaviour, attitudes and welfare of pupils at the school, the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; and how well the school is led and managed.

For information about the inspection of boarding or residential provision in schools, you should refer to the [guidance for schools on being inspected as a boarding or residential school](#).

Inspection and the COVID-19 pandemic

² Maintained nursery schools and non-maintained special schools placed in a category of concern are not subject to academy orders.

Complaints are rare, but we treat them very seriously. You can find out more about our [complaints procedure on our website](#) or by calling our helpline on 0300 123 4666.

If you need any more information about our work, please visit [Ofsted on Gov.UK](#) or call our helpline.

What happens if I have concerns about my child's school?

If you are concerned about your child's school, you should start by talking directly to the teachers or headteacher or, if necessary, the governing body or the local authority/academy trust. Find out how to [Complain about a school](#).

Gathering personal information on inspection

Inspectors will gather any personal information necessary to assist them in inspecting a school. [Ofsted's privacy policy](#) sets out what personal information we collect, what we do with it, how long we keep it and individuals' rights under data protection legislation.

Safeguarding at Weatherfield Academy

Carol Patterson, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), cpatterson@weatherfield.beds.sch.uk

Sarah Berresford, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL),

sberresford@weatherfield.beds.sch.uk

Katie Phillips, Safeguarding Governor, kphillips@weatherfield.beds.sch.uk

Welcome to our newsletter. Safeguarding at Weatherfield Academy continues to be monitored closely by the DSL, DDSL and Safeguarding Governor along with Central Beds Council Staff to ensure all procedures and protocols are working at the best level possible to ensure safety of all here at Weatherfield Academy. The DSL and DDSL meet regularly with the Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor.

LATEST NEWS – 6th February 2025

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARENT(S)/CARER(S) FOR HELPING OUR STUDENTS TO BE RESPONSIBLE WITH THEIR MOBILE PHONES/IPADS – This is very much appreciated.

The Safeguarding Team have another request please –

We appreciate this is difficult but please can you speak to your son/daughter about their online engagement. This week we have had to complete some very serious investigations into group chats with students from Weatherfield.

Our young people need to be supported to not be in group chats that are negative in any way,

THANK YOU.

Pease can you speak to your sons/daughters about this thank you very much.

If you have any questions, concerns or general comments please email me in the first instance –

Carol Patterson, DSL, cpatterson@weatherfield.beds.sch.uk