



# Wreake Valley Academy

Information for Parents, Carers and Pupils



**BRADGATE**  
SIXTH FORM

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[www.wvacademy.org](http://www.wvacademy.org)



**BRADGATE**  
Education Partnership







# Vision 'The Wreake Way'

Our vision is for all at Wreake Valley to be confident lifelong learners, growing in independence equipped to overcome life's challenges and prepared to contribute to our global community.

The Wreake Way is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum where high quality teaching and learning is delivered in a vibrant, supportive learning environment.

The Wreake Way is to create a culture of achievement that celebrates and nurtures the unique talents and abilities of everyone.

The Wreake Way is to embrace diversity and foster mutual trust and respect to ensure fairness and equal opportunities for all.

The Wreake Way is to promote health and well-being in an environment where everyone feels valued, safe and cared for.

The Wreake Way is to instil pride and passion, to seize opportunities and to be brave with the decisions that we take.

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# Curriculum

## Years 7, 8 and 9

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs of 11-14 year olds. Pupils build on their learning from primary school and acquire knowledge, skills and experience through academic and creative subjects, together with a wide range of extra-curricular activities, clubs, trips and visits. Additional time is given to English and Maths, as these are fundamental to pupils' success.

In Year 7 pupils are taught as ability sets in English and Maths. In Years 8 and 9, pupils are also set in Science. All other subjects are taught as mixed ability groups.

Over three years pupils will study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Creative Arts and Technology
  - Drama
  - Music
  - Art
  - Food Preparation and Nutrition
  - Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- French
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal Development



Pupils are encouraged to become independent enquirers, creative thinkers and reflective learners. Pupils will work independently, in groups and in whole class situations. Pupils will gain the confidence to be able to make effective participation and contribution in different learning situations. Homework extends learning and consolidates the work taking place in lessons.

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# Curriculum

## Years 10 and 11

There are frequent reviews of the GCSE curriculum in response to government changes and expectations. We are confident that our curriculum enables students to achieve their best with regard to Progress 8 and provides all students with the opportunity to study EBacc subjects.

In Year 10 and 11 students study a core curriculum which includes English, Maths, Science, History or Geography, PE, Personal Development and for some a language. In addition, students choose 2 options from a wide variety of subjects and courses delivered by the eight faculties. A group of our students are also invited to study French as part of our EBacc Pathway.

These faculties are:

- **Creative Arts and Technology**
- **Computing**
- **English and Media**
- **Humanities**
- **Languages**
- **Learning Development**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Physical Education**



We have enviable experience of preparing students for GCSE and A Level exams and we are particularly proud of the progress pupils make, across all their subjects.

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# BRADGATE SIXTH FORM

Bradgate Sixth Form offers students a wide range of options at Sixth Form, from the traditionally academic through to more vocationally orientated courses, there is something for everyone.

Students are taught by experienced teachers who are specialists in their subject areas and students will also benefit from a team of dedicated support staff. Together these will help students to develop skills as an 'independent learner' taking responsibility for their own achievement.

Students will have access to newly refurbished facilities in our Sixth Form Centre. These include a conference room, two well-equipped study zones, access to ICT facilities and a social area.

There are a number of extracurricular activities that students can get involved in which will make them stand out and offer a chance to develop wider skills, for example volunteering programmes, mentoring projects, the student council and work experience. Students can pursue their own personal interests by taking part in sporting competitions, social events or charity activities.



This all contributes to the friendly and supportive learning environment in Sixth Form where students can develop as a person and build the foundations for their future career.

Katie Johnson  
Head of Sixth Form





# Inclusion

We are very proud of the pastoral care we provide for our pupils and we receive very positive feedback from the pupils. Our pupils feel safe at school and know where they can go to receive support or if they are unhappy or worried.

## Our Aims

To enable each pupil to have access to personal, vocational and academic guidance and support where necessary.

To provide opportunities for and encourage pupils to exercise individual and social responsibility.

To promote in pupils the self-awareness and self-confidence that they need to face the challenges, both academic and personal that are placed on them.

To establish and maintain an appropriate relationship with every parent, so that together we can help to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

To create a caring environment where pupils are valued for who they are and not just for what they can do.

The form Tutor has a very important role for pupils. They will support pupils and make sure they have a positive start to each day. The Heads of Year work closely with tutors and ensures that all pupils continue to thrive and make good progress.

Wreake Valley Academy is a very inclusive school. We encourage all pupils to join in events such as Wreake's Got Talent, our numerous charity events, trips, parties, Christmas Carol Service, School Council (Eco Committee, Awareness Committee) and helping with Open Evenings and transition activities. Together we have built a community we are proud of.

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“Wreake Valley is a place which has driven and supported me throughout my time here. All the staff want the same for their students— success.” Ben





# Extra Curricular and Enrichment Opportunities

Wreake Valley Academy are very proud of our extra curricular provision and staff encourage pupils to become involved in activities they enjoy as well as those that they have not tried before.

We have many clubs that run at lunch-time and afterschool for pupils to take part in, including Rubik's cube club, chess club, the school choir, jazz band and sporting fixtures. There is also the chance to take part in the school production for which rehearsals start in October and run until the show opens in February. During the summer term there is a Drama Club for Years 7, 8 and 9.

We want our young people to leave Wreake Valley as well rounded individuals and we run a number of enrichment opportunities to support this. Through these initiatives we aim to inspire pupils to be proud of their school and community and encourage pupil engagement with wider school life. Our Enrichment Programme promotes thoughtfulness, compassion, teamwork and kindness. Through the programme pupils become aware of issues in their local and global community and are given the opportunity to explore and expand their own ideas and creativity. Examples of councils the pupils can volunteer for are the Charity Council, the Eco-Committee, the Enterprise Club and the Student Council, the Gardening Club, and the Prom Committee.





The Charity Council is inclusive and student led, something that we are extremely proud of. Students decide which causes they wish to support, create an action plan for their fundraising ideas and then present it to staff. This year, students have decided to support LOROS, the Children's Ward at the LRI and Cancer Research UK.

The School Council is a body of students with representatives from each year group. They provide a student voice, consult on school policies, are involved in staff recruitment and plan enrichment days for the rest of the school.

The Eco-Committee is responsible for carrying out an environmental audit and preparing an Action Plan for the whole school to engage with to make our school environment more sustainable.

The Gardening Club grows its own flowers to plant in our wildlife garden and carefully chooses varieties to support and encourage insects. They are responsible for planting and maintaining the gardens at the front of the school.

The Enterprise club are donated a small amount of a product at the beginning of the year (for example this year they were gifted candy canes) and given the opportunity to turn it into something profitable. They can then re-invest this money into another project to further increase their profits. Student are currently raising money to buy Recycling bins for the school.

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# Helpful Information

## **Who do I contact if I want to discuss an issue?**

In the first instance contact your child's form tutor. If the matter is serious you should contact the Head of Year who is Theresa Price for Year 7, Barney Whitbread for Years 8 and 9 and Chris Lockhart for Years 10 and 11. Yas Naujeer is the Assistant Principal for Years 7 to 11. Please do not hesitate to contact us on 0116 2641080 if you have any issues that you wish to discuss.

## **What if my child is absent?**

On the first day that your son/daughter is ill you need to notify the school before 8.45am, let us know how long you think your child will be away. If you don't ring we will contact you by text or phone on the first day of absence and will require a letter on their return. If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from school, we would be grateful if you could let us know by letter or phone call. On the third day of absence a home visit will be made by the school.

## **What if my child is ill at school?**

Pupils tell their teacher, or if it is during break or lunchtime pupils must report to the Student Reception in the foyer. We have First Aid trained staff who will care for your son/daughter. If your child is feeling very unwell parents/carers will be contacted.

## **What if I need to contact my child in school urgently?**

Please leave a message with reception and we will get a message to your child. Likewise if your child needs to contact you we will allow them to make a call.

## **What if my child has to leave school early?**

If pupils have to attend a special appointment, such as the dentist, send a letter addressed to your child's tutor. Tutors will complete a Permission Slip which will allow pupils to leave lessons and sign out at the main Student Reception before they leave. We would be grateful if every effort can be made to make appointments outside school times.

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### **Can my son/daughter bring a bicycle?**

Yes they can. We are part of the National Cycle route and a branch actually comes onto the Academy campus. There are bicycle sheds where bicycles can be left at the pupils own risk. We will not take responsibility for any loss or damage. We advise pupils to lock their bikes up.

### **Can my son/daughter bring a mobile phone or other electronic devices into school?**

Whilst we recognise the importance of mobile phones in the lives of young people we are a mobile phone free school. They are a distraction in schools and can be used inappropriately. We do not allow mobile phones to be used during the school day. This includes breaks and lunchtimes. Students must keep them switched off and out of sight. If they are seen by staff they will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. Mobile phones will be returned at the end of the school day. If the phone is confiscated three times then parents will be requested to collect the phone from school.

### **What equipment will my child need?**

All students will need a bag large enough for an A4 folder, a pencil case containing pen, pencil, rubber, pencil crayons and a ruler. A calculator is also useful. For the exam period pupils will need a see-through pencil case.

### **Will my child have a locker?**

Pupils will have the opportunity to have a locker. The locker will usually be shared with a friend. Locker keys are £7.00 each. This cost covers the student's time in the school to the end of the Year 11.

### **What are the arrangements for PE?**

All year groups will be having PE every week and will be required to change into PE kit for hygiene reasons (see school uniform). If your son or daughter is ill or injured, please write a letter with details to his/her PE teacher, but they are still required to bring their PE kit and take part in some of the lesson. Students must remove all types of jewellery (including studs) for safety reasons. Please encourage students to take part in sports activities at school.

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# Helpful Information

## **How is pupil progress reported to parents/carers?**

At least twice during the academic year teachers will report on the progress and effort pupils are making in each subject. These reports will be emailed to parents/carers. Paper copies will only be sent home if they are requested. You will be notified in advance of when the reports will be available and details of how to access the reports.

## **Will there be Parents' Evenings?**

In Year 7, the first parents' evening will be in October 2020. This will be an opportunity to discuss with the tutor how well your son/daughter has settled into Wreake Valley. There will also be a full parents evening for each year group. Letters with further details of all these evenings will be sent out nearer the time.

## **Support Evenings for Parents**

In addition we also have specific information evenings for parents of different year groups on how to support students through the stages of learning. Success Evenings for Years 7 and 10 are held early in the Autumn Term and Year 9 Pathways Evening is held in the Spring Term. Various sessions to support Year 11 students in preparation for GCSEs are held throughout the year. Parents will be notified in advance.

## **Homework**

We use an on-line homework service for setting and managing homework. Students and parents are able to track and monitor homework that has been set. Teachers will include instructions for the homework and the deadline for the homework to be handed in. Students and parents will receive further information on how to use the on-line service.

There is an Independent Homework Club organised by Inclusion at lunchtime for pupils to attend if they need additional help with their homework. There is also an after school Homework Club in Inclusion on a Wednesday evening from 3.00-4.00pm. In addition pupils can use the Library at lunch-times and after school to do their homework. The Librarian is always on hand to help. There will be further information and guidelines for parents regarding homework.

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“ When I started at Wreake I felt scared but also excited. Now I feel happy because I have settled in very well”  
Drishal

“ I was a bit scared of the big kids. Now it’s brilliant, I love this school so much”  
Heidi





# Uniform Policy

Part of becoming a member of Wreake Valley Academy is to wear the correct uniform everyday and to bring a **complete change of clothing** for Physical Education and Dance lessons.

<b>BLAZER</b>	<b>Navy blue</b> with integral School badge on front pocket – to be worn at all times.
<b>SCHOOL SHIRT</b>	<b>White</b> plain school style shirt, buttoned through to the collar. Plain white T-shirt may be worn under the shirt.
<b>TIE</b>	Official School tie with neat knot.
<b>TROUSERS</b>	<b>Mid grey</b> plain school style.
<b>SKIRT</b>	<b>Mid grey</b> plain school style, knee length.
<b>JUMPER (optional)</b>	(When worn) <b>Mid grey</b> ‘V’- neck plain with School logo only.
<b>SOCKS</b>	<b>Plain black, grey, white or navy.</b>
<b>TIGHTS</b>	<b>Plain black, natural, grey or navy.</b>
<b>FOOTWEAR</b>	<b>Plain black polishable footwear</b> with no external branding. (Acceptable styles will be shown on our website).
<b>PE KIT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School badged PE shirt</li> <li>- Black/navy shorts/jogging bottoms</li> <li>- Black/navy sweatshirt</li> <li>- Black/white or navy sport socks</li> <li>- Change of trainers.</li> </ul>
<b>JEWELLERY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small sleepers or stud earrings (No bar earrings are allowed).</li> <li>- For health and safety reasons all jewellery may need to be removed for PE</li> <li>- No facial piercings are allowed in school</li> <li>- Narrow plain belts in black may be worn</li> <li>- Subtle make up only.</li> </ul>
<b>HAIRSTYLES</b>	- No exaggerated colours.
<b>NAIL VARNISH</b>	- No nail varnish or acrylic nails.
<b>3G PITCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For KS3 PE and KS4 Core PE lessons, students are advised to wear moulded stud boots however flat soled trainers are allowed.</li> <li>· For extra-curricular sports, when representing the school, and for GCSE PE lessons moulded stud boots are compulsory.</li> </ul>

# Uniform Suppliers

Uniform suppliers for Wreake Valley are:

## **Schoolwear Solutions**

64 London Road

Oadby

Leicester

LE2 5DH

Tel: 0116 2160665

Website: [www.schoolwearsolutions.com](http://www.schoolwearsolutions.com)

## **Uniform Direct**

54 - 56 Humberstone Gate

Leicester

LE1 3PJ

Tel: 0116 2511844

Website: [www.uniformdirect.com](http://www.uniformdirect.com)

## Examples Of Acceptable School Shoes

**All black leather shoes only**



## Examples Of Unacceptable School Shoes

**Canvas, trainers, pumps, vans, designers, ankle boots, boots, converse any type, sandals.**





### **What about catering?**

The cafeteria opens before school from 8.00am for pupils to have breakfast. There is a choice of cereals, fruit, bacon rolls, croissants and hot drinks. Pupils are able to choose from a selection of snacks at break time and sandwiches and hot meals at lunchtime. A typical meal will cost approximately £2.65, although this obviously varies according to choice. There are also tables available in the dining room for pupils to eat packed lunches.

At Wreake Valley Academy we operate a cashless catering system along with an online payment facility, to allow parents to pay for school meals and trips. We have found this to be very beneficial in reducing the need for students to bring money into school, and for reassuring parents that dinner money is spent only for that purpose.

The system requires each student to use a personalised account card, onto which cash is pre-loaded.

These cards will also be needed for ID purposes when students sit exams.

For their Welcome Days and the first few days of the Autumn Term at Wreake Valley, students will be issued with a temporary card. These will be distributed to them on their first morning. We will make the students permanent cards with their school photograph on once the school's photographer has visited us in the first few days of the academic year.

These initial cards are provided free of charge. Replacements thereafter will be provided but we do have to make a charge of £3.00, which will be automatically debited from student accounts.

These cards can be credited with money either by using the 'WisePay' online payment system or by using the pay-points in the foyer.

Prior to your child's Welcome Days here at Wreake Valley you will be issued with a username and password in order to use the WisePay facility with instructions on how to log on and make a payment.

### **What Can I do on My 'Wise Account'?**

Once in your 'Wise Account' you can make payments online. You can also view your payment history by clicking on 'my Wise Account' tab at the top right of the page.

### **I have More than One child at the School**

If you have more than one child at the same school, you will receive a User Name and a Password for each child. You can either choose to keep each account separate or to merge multiple accounts. To do this, go to your Wise Account and at the bottom of the page, go in to 'Merge Accounts'. Please follow the on-screen instructions.

### **Who to Contact if you have Any Questions**

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Dexter in the School Finance Department. Further information about WisePay and a User Guide can be found on the school website [www.wvacademy.org/wisepay](http://www.wvacademy.org/wisepay).

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# Times and Dates

## Times of the School Day

Students are expected to be on the school site by 8.40am and learning will start at 8.45am.  
The school day ends at 3.00pm.

## Academic Year 2020—2021

### Autumn Term

**School Opens**

Wednesday morning 26th August 2020

Teacher Day

Friday 16th October 2020

**Mid-Term Break**

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd October 2020

**School Closes**

Friday 18th December 2020

### Spring Term

**School Opens**

Monday morning 4th January 2021

**Mid-Term Break**

Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021

**School Closes**

Friday 26th March 2021

### Summer Term

**School Opens**

Monday morning 12th April 2021

**May Day Bank Holiday**

Monday 3rd May 2021

**Mid-Term Break**

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

**School Closes**

Friday 9th July 2021



# Transition

## From Primary School to Wreake Valley Academy

Transition is about preparing pupils for the next phase in their education. We have a strong belief that the most effective transition begins in Year 5 and Year 6. Our Transition Programme is very well established and is supported by the long standing and good relationships we have with our local primary schools. Pupils will be invited to visit Wreake Valley for a variety of events and activities. This provides the opportunity for pupils to familiarise themselves with secondary school, meet our current students and members of staff, and other pupils who will become part of their cohort in Year 7.



# Transition Dates

## Spring and Summer Term 2020

Dates	Activity
March	<u>Parents notified of allocated schools at the beginning of March.</u> Theresa Price, Head of Year 7, and Belinda Nuttall, Assistant Principal, will visit all primary schools and meet all pupils. They will welcome all pupils to Wreake Valley and answer any questions pupils may have. Pupil and parent/carer information booklets will be posted.
22nd April	<b><u>Evening for Year 6 pupils and their parents 6.00pm to 7.00pm</u></b> This is an evening to meet the new Headteacher, Tim Marston, and the Head of Year 7, Theresa Price, to find out more about being a student at Wreake Valley Academy and the transition process.
May	Detailed consultation with Year 6 teachers on all pupils.
June	<u>Year 6 Activity Workshops</u> – Pupils who have been allocated a place at WVA but have not had opportunities to visit Wreake Valley are invited for a morning of activities. They will be shown around the school, meet teachers, other Year 6 pupils and current Year 7 pupils.
June	SEND students and key workers visited by our SENDCo at the primary schools. SEND students and parents invited to the Inclusion area to meet key workers.
1st and 2nd July	<u>Welcome Days</u> All new Year 7 pupils to spend two days at Wreake Valley. These are important days for pupils to have all their questions answered. During these days pupils will meet their new tutor group and tutor and have lessons in many subjects.
1st July	<u>New Year 7 Parents Evening (6.00 – 7.00pm)</u> All parents and pupils are invited to attend a Welcome by the Headteacher and meet tutors and key people who will work with their son/daughter. There will also be an opportunity to purchase/order uniform during the evening.

## Autumn Term 2020

Dates	Activity
26th August 2020	First Day of Term

All events and activities are arranged through our primary schools and parents/carers will receive notification and further details nearer the time.

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# Contacts

Headteacher:

Tim Marston

Vice Principal:

Nicola Morland

Assistant Principal:  
(Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)  
Head of Year 7:  
Head of Years 8 and 9:  
Head of Years 10 and 11

Yas Naujeer  
Theresa Price  
Barney Whitbread  
Chris Lockhart

Assistant Principal Bradgate Sixth Form:  
Student Manager Bradgate Sixth Form:

Katie Johnson  
Karen Stirk

## School Website: [www.wvacademy.org](http://www.wvacademy.org)

Please refer to our website for information on:

- Term dates
- Newsletters.
- Uniform
- Homework Policy
- Curriculum information.
- Bradgate Sixth Form.
- School Prospectus.
- Cashless Payment Facility (WisePay).
- Upcoming events.

**Tel: 0116 2641080**



Sports Hall and Gym refurbished

3G Astro turf pitch

Wreake Valley Academy