



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Monday 27th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: TikTok Trend – Update

I'm pleased to say that despite growing momentum on social media locally and nationally, today has been relatively peaceful with the majority of learning unaffected as a result of student protests.

In my update yesterday, we knew there had been a growing 'expectation' among students that something was going to happen, and I recognise the impact this can have in making the site feel 'unsettled.' That said, I really do have to commend the overwhelming majority of students that were (of course!) interested to see what was going on at key points in the day, but did move on to lessons when asked to do so.

No more than 12 students, arranged into 3 different groups, made the decision to engage in protest action during the day. This ranged from a small group being on the field before school and again at the end of lunch, another small group choosing not to attend lessons, and a final, larger group of students choosing to protest during Lesson 1, with members of this group returning to learning from Lesson 2 onwards.

I personally spoke with the majority of these students to make sure they knew that they were heard, and their views considered. Everything raised by these groups can and will be discussed in the next Student Council Meeting on Friday 10th March and in many ways, explaining this to the students today enabled some to return to lessons very quickly
Student voice is very important, but so is how we go about being heard.

Disruption today did have an impact on learning. Students protesting missed the learning taking place in their lessons. Other students may have experienced a delayed start to their lesson after lunch as the number of 'expectant onlookers' took a little extra time to get to lessons.

With today now over, and in consideration of **all** student views (those not protesting were keen to carry on as normal) I would like to consider this matter resolved. Our Student Council will take forward all concerns and views shared today, and it's important that if anyone has a point to raise, this is with their student representatives by the end of this week so it can be discussed on Friday 10th March.

To be clear for tomorrow, we really do expect business as usual. Our expectations regarding conduct and behaviour are well established, as they help everyone to feel settled, safe and in the best possible mind-set to learn.

As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



Yeovil Road, Crewkerne, Somerset. TA18 7NT Telephone 01460 270123
Website : www.wadhamschool.co.uk E-Mail : office@wadhamschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman

