



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

*"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10*



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Headteacher's Update 06.03.23**

Another busy week at Wadham! We are now well over the halfway point to the year and at times I do have to stop and reflect that significant change took place in September with the Educational Restructure, and although essentially a "new" school, it really does feel like we've been established in our current format for much longer!

*"No one is the finished article and there is always room for improvement"* - two maxims that are frequently spoken to students and staff alike as we continue to move forward, and at this particular point in the year, when Year 11 are on final approach to their GCSE exams, Year 13 have submitted UCAS applications and are responding to offers, Year 9 are considering their options for next year and we are beginning to welcome our new Year 7 to the Wadham Family from September, "life in all its fullness" is the most positive spin on what can feel quite relentless and overwhelming at times.

Consistency is key. Consistency of our actions, and faith that we are doing the right thing combine to provide the support and familiarity that we all need, in order to feel positive in our work.

This is a message I have shared with staff and students for the fortnight ahead – a real push of the basics regarding uniform, behaviour, rewards and feedback, so that as a community, we maintain the momentum of improvement and students continue to be treated fairly, equally, and are recognised for their achievements.

We all have a part to play, and as ever I remain thankful to you, our parents and carers for the positive difference you are making. I take strength in knowing that the 'bigger picture' for Wadham relies on our whole community working together, the sum of many parts, in order to achieve the success and well-being we all want for our children.

I know that although I cannot do everything, I can do something, and this is no different to everyone else in our Family. I have faith that this is a shared belief for us all.

Do not hesitate in contacting your son/daughter's tutor in the first instance should you have any questions that need answering.

As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



## Top Achieving Students!

This week has seen a shift in the students receiving the most house points. It really is all to play for, and I encourage all students to consider ways they can demonstrate their character and achievements in order to increase their own house point total.

Many congratulations to the 15 students named below, well done – but will you be there next week?

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Lewis L	Thomas G	Mollie B	Charlie B	Noah B
2	Grace L	Ivy H	Ellie J	Eliza G	Priscilla D
3	Amy W	Benny S	Dylan R	Bethany H	Charlie D

## Student Voice – Council Meeting 10.03.23

The full School Council (53 students) will meet Lesson 1 this Friday to feedback current views and discuss proposals for consideration. Mrs Finch will be sharing further details with council members, but all students can get involved by making sure the following agenda is discussed in tutor time, with views given to Council Members ahead of the meeting.

- 1) Uniform & Dress Code
- 2) Piercing's (Should these be acceptable? If so, what?)
- 3) Rewards (What should students get in return for House Points?)
- 4) Humble Brags (What do we know is going well?)



## Adverse Weather Conditions

With another Yellow Weather Warning in place across the region on Wednesday and Thursday, this is a reminder that we **remain open** unless adverse weather conditions compromise the safety of students and staff when on site – our aim is very much to keep things running as normal for as long as possible!

If the decision to close the school is made, wherever possible this will be done outside of school hours in order to minimise disruption and give families as much notice as we can.

The best way to check is to look on our website – we will post a banner message saying that we are closed if this is the case. <https://www.wadhamschool.co.uk/>

Equally, details of all school closures for the area can be found here: [School closures \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/school-closures)

We will also send an Edulink (email) message to parents to confirm any decision to close, giving further detail where appropriate.

Looking at the weather forecast now, there may be some snow and ice on Tuesday night / Wednesday morning, but this turns to rain showers by 8am Wednesday, meaning we'll be open as usual!

## **Ilminster Late Bus!**

We have a temporary solution while we await the delivery of 3 new Wadham School Minibuses!

The Local Authority have sourced a late bus that will depart from Wadham each week-day at 4.30pm. This is a free service to students that need it, and will travel directly to the centre of Ilminster. This is the only stop on the route, but does now enable students living in Ilminster to stay and engage in after school activities, knowing that there is transport home. Details of how students can book themselves onto the late bus will be shared via tutors.

## **NEU Industrial Action 2 days - 15.03.23 and 16.03.23**

The final two days of industrial action by the NEU will take place next Wednesday and Thursday. A reminder that industrial action is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions of employment, and not because of any issues specifically relating to our school, although I am sorry for the ongoing disruption caused.

Anticipated staffing levels mean that we will only be partially open to specific student groups:

- Students in Year 11
- Students in the Sixth Form (self-study onsite)
- Students deemed vulnerable or where they are children of critical workers, requiring childcare on the day.

If you feel that your child is eligible to attend because they belong to one of the 2 key groups (Vulnerable or Children of Critical Workers) please complete this survey [here](#) to let me know whether they will be attending. Deadline for completion is 9.00am Tuesday 14th March.

Over the two days, Year 11 will complete their timetabled lessons as normal, with a drop down "Futures" Event on Thursday morning, being delivered by staff as well as external speakers.

Students in Years 7-10, whether onsite or studying at home, will once again complete a sequence of lessons set by the Oak National Academy.

A letter reminding parents and carers of the above will be sent out shortly.

## **Road Safety – Journeys to and from School**

Finally, I have given several reminders this year regarding the need for sensible conduct when travelling to and from school.

In the last week, we've been contacted by members of the public to say some students are behaving dangerously when crossing the road – essentially playing 'chicken' and knowingly dashing out across the road at the last possible minute.

We will address this by speaking with students in school, but as parents and carers I am sure you will want to have a similar discussion about this reckless and potentially life-changing behaviour.

Thank you for your support.

Richard Burgas  
06.03.23