



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Sunday 8th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher's Update 08.01.23

Happy New Year!

I hope this first update letter of 2023 and the new term finds you well-rested after a peaceful Christmas break and that you feel ready for the weeks and months ahead as we continue to keep learning and well-being at the heart of what we do.

I have been really impressed with the strong start students have made last week.

Although it was a short, 2-day week, the positive attitude shown to embrace changes made was very clear to see – Years 7 and 11 in particular stood out as the groups to follow as role models for our school community.

Our focus this term is one of "building momentum." To that end, assemblies last week explained the subtle changes we've made to learning and behaviour expectations, as a result of the improvements students demonstrated in the Autumn.

With only 5 weeks until half term, Term 3 is the shortest in the year and is also very much all about Year 11. We're welcoming students and parents Monday night to our 'GCSE Information Evening,' with full reports being published on Thursday. This coincides with the launch of our revision and intervention sessions as students' ramp-up their preparation for the summer exams.

With a Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 19th January, families will have all the information they need to support students as we begin this 'final approach' to the summer exam season.

For everyone else, it's business as usual. A revised marking and feedback policy now sees staff marking consistently in green and students making improvements in purple pen – do look out for this when discussing your son or daughter's progress with them.

I remain utterly proud of the achievements all our students make at Wadham school and committed in ensuring our vision that no students are ever 'lost, forgotten or left behind' remains secure.

Information on the following pages duplicates the message given in assemblies last week – bringing parents and carers up to speed on changes this term to ensure that together, we continue to move forward at pace.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher

rburgas@wadhamschool.co.uk



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



Timings of the Day

Acting on student feedback, as well as our own observations regarding the number of students late to lessons at certain points in the day, we've added a 5-minute movement time between Lessons 1&2 and Lessons 3&4, as detailed in the table below.

Bells have been added so that students know when lessons end, and importantly, when lessons begin - meaning that arrival to the lesson after this time will always be recorded as late.

In the same way, adding these movement times has created 'breathing space' for staff and students, enabling a quick comfort break if required, and providing everyone with the time needed to move from one side of the campus to the other.

As such there really is no excuse for anyone being late. We're keen to help students develop positive routines regarding punctuality and attendance and have added a lunchtime and afterschool detention on a Friday for students where lateness to lessons continues to be a barrier to learning.

It was good to see students regulating their comfort breaks last week, and although initially 'busy' during movement times, we expect that students will be able to establish their own routines – just as staff have to – so that lessons are not disrupted by the need for a toilet break.

Time	Lesson	Bell	Meaning
8.25	Movement	Yes	Move to Tutor Rooms
8.30	Tutor Time	Yes	Late if not in room
8.50	1	Yes	Start of Lesson 1
9.50	End of 1	Yes	5 min movement
9.55	2	Yes	Late if not in room
10.55	End of 2	Yes	Breaktime
11.10	Movement	Yes	Move to Lesson 3
11.15	3	Yes	Late if not in room
12.15	End of 3	Yes	5 min movement
12.20	4	Yes	Late if not in room
13.20	End of 4	Yes	Lunchtime
13.55	Movement	Yes	5 min Movement
14.00	5	Yes	Late if not in room
15.00	End of 5	Yes	End of Day

Teaching and Learning

Only very subtle changes have been made, but ones that we know will have a significant positive impact on behaviour and learning. Changes this term are as follows:

- All students in Years 7 to 11 now place their Wadham Behaviours cards out on desks, top left of their learning space, every lesson.
- Staff will tick this card if a final warning (name on board with a tick added) is given during the lesson. (This is the existing Behaviour Policy)
- All lessons in Years 7-9 now begin in silence for the first 5 minutes, while the register and starter activity is completed.

In this way we've been able to immediately create a sense of calm and purpose to lessons in the lower school. Whilst the energy and enthusiasm of students is very much welcome, there has been a need to make changes to reduce the level of low-level disruption because of off-task chatter.

Although early days, my visits to lessons last week very much validated the changes made, with feedback from students and staff being equally as positive.

Detentions

'Wadham Behaviours' detentions continue to run every breaktime in B25 for students with 3 signatures on their card in either the Ready, Respectful or Safe areas. Members of the Senior team always staff these detentions, and should a student fail to attend, for whatever reason, the detention is reset the following day, no questions asked.

Detention lists are published daily around the site, and it is the students' responsibility to check and attend if their choice behaviour has resulted in a detention.

This term we have also added a 'Lates' lunchtime detention on a Friday for students that have been late to lessons 3+ times that week. For students that are late 5+ times, an afterschool detention on Friday has been created.

We've also moved the Wednesday after school detention to Friday and now allocate these detentions with a week's lag in order to give students and parents as much notice as possible (and much more than is legally required) to make arrangements regarding collection from this detention.

In this way, we expect all students that receive an after-school detention to attend – it is a parental responsibility to make arrangements for collection and I would like to highlight that in most cases, students have already had an opportunity to complete a second breaktime detention (as explained above) prior to an after-school detention being required.

I am sure you'll agree that maintaining high expectations and having clear boundaries and routines, applied consistently and fairly, is the best way to help students prepare for life in the adult world, and I would like to thank you in advance for your support in this regard.

Term 3 Key Dates

Finally, key dates for this term are as follows:

Date	Event
Monday 9 th January	Year 11 GCSE Information Evening 6.00-7.30pm
Thursday 12 th January	Year 11 Reports Published
Thursday 19 th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00pm
Thursday 2 nd February	Sixth Form Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00pm