



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher's Update 09.09.22

With our first week of the year successfully completed, I am writing to all parents and carers to share an update of what's gone well, and where our focus for improvement will be for the week ahead.

We go into the weekend coming to terms with the loss of our Queen, and I will write to you again giving further details of how we will reflect, give thanks, and pay respects to her Majesty as part of the period of national mourning.

With regard to our first week at Wadham, may I begin by thanking the students, staff and parents that have welcomed me and made my start a very positive one. It has been a pleasure delivering assemblies and talking with students about their learning, and I'm looking forward to sharing their achievements and successes with you as the term unfolds.

With over 300 additional students and 30+ new staff joining us, not to mention the ongoing building works, we really are a 'new' school, and students are to be commended for the mature and respectful way they have begun the academic year. Students have demonstrated high expectations and resilience in meeting this challenge, with a reminder to parents and carers of some of our minimum expectations:

Building Works: I am working very closely with the Local Authority to ensure all planned improvement works to the school continue with the least disruption to our learning. Contractors remain onsite and we are (nearly) halfway through the programme to replace our windows. Safety measures are in place and all students and staff have been given clear instructions regarding the calm and safe manner with which to move around the site.

School Uniform: Students have returned looking smart – the challenge now is to keep it that way! Staff will continue to check uniform as part of our welcome every morning, addressing poor uniform where it occurs. Parents are asked to contact us if there are any barriers/reasons why our uniform expectation cannot be met.

Wadham Behaviours: All students and staff have been briefed on our Wadham Behaviours – the minimum expectation of everyone on site. We are modelling positive behaviours that keep us 'Ready, Respectful and Safe,' with a process for monitoring and rewarding beginning from Monday 19th September. I will write to parents and carers with full details early next week.

School Transport: We all recognise that this is currently an area for improvement, for a number of different reasons. I wrote to you last week setting out actions we are taking, and it remains a shared priority to ensure that students experience the positive journey they deserve when travelling to and from school. We are in regular contact with the Transport Team at the Council on your behalf, to pass on our shared concerns.

A copy of our transport letter is here.



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Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



Accessing the site: A letter was sent in July and again at the start of term to give details of how students, their parents and members of our community should access the site. I am grateful to everyone that has read and is following these expectations. Nonetheless, we are still experiencing some difficulty when trying to get the school buses on and off the site – especially when parents choose to also come on site to drop-off or collect their children.

I know that gas work along Ashlands Road has only added to the level of congestion at key times, but it really is important that all parents wishing to drop-off/collect their children make arrangements to do so away from the school site, following the guidance in the letter here.

School Canteen: I am delighted that the canteen has benefitted from a full refurbishment, with additional seating space created to accommodate the increase in our student numbers. We have also moved to cashless catering, and although at times it has taken longer to get everyone through the canteen (as staff and students learn to use these new systems), I am pleased that everyone wanting to purchase food and drink has been able to do so.

We will continue to monitor queue and food service times, with staff on hand to ensure that the process can only get quicker!

Use of ICT: We are a Microsoft School, using TEAMS as our platform to create classes, set assignments and for the most part, set and monitor the completion of homework. We know that this way of working may be unfamiliar to our newer students, but please be reassured that all students will be given training on how to use ICT software within the first few IT lessons they have. Students (and parents) should raise any questions/concerns regarding ICT with their tutor.

Wadham Awards Evening: As a mark of respect to her Majesty, we have taken the decision to postpone our Awards Evening on Thursday 15th September until a more appropriate time, most likely towards the end of the Autumn term. Further details will be shared in due course.

Safeguarding: 'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility,' and every member of our Wadham community has a part to play in this. Statutory update training was given to staff during the INSET days at the start of term, with student assemblies last week signposting everyone to key contacts should they need to report a concern:

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Sarah Coombe: scoombe@wadhamschool.co.uk
Alternatively, concerns can be raised using this email: keepsafe@wadhamschool.co.uk

Rewards: In launching our positive culture for learning and development through 'Wadham Behaviours,' it's only right and proper that rewards are used fairly and consistently to recognise students' efforts and achievements. I am delighted to share that OVER 7000 House Points were awarded last week, as well as many Headteacher Commendations, which I am looking forward to presenting during the week ahead.

Thank you for taking the time to get to the end of this update letter, and I hope you found it useful in keeping you informed as we get the new year started.

Do not hesitate in contacting me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Headteacher

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