



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Headteacher's Update 26.02.23**

Welcome to Term 4! With 5 weeks ahead of us until Easter, it's wonderful to see the change in the weather that always signifies Spring is on its way. I hope that many of you were able to enjoy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and perhaps celebrated Ash Wednesday in some way too. As we move through Lent (in the Christian calendar a time of preparation and reflection for Easter and purple in the colours of the church year) what do you find yourself reflecting on?

For students in Years 9 and 11, the focus is clearly on both the Year 9 Options Process (launched last week and running until April) and Year 11 Mock Exams taking place this week. Both events giving students an opportunity to reflect, select and perform to the best of their ability, and both having an impact in helping students decide on career and life paths ahead.

On behalf of all staff here at Wadham School, I'd like to wish our Year 11 students the very best in the latest round of Mock exams, and know that for many, quality time has already gone into exam preparation and revision.

To our Year 9 students, your journey towards Post-16 progression begins with the selection of your GCSE options – do know that staff are here to help shape and guide your thinking – make sure you speak to teachers and your tutor should you need to!

The same applies to parents and carers. Do not hesitate in contacting your son/daughter's tutor in the first instance should you have any questions that need answering.

I hope you find the following information useful as we continue to work together in keeping learning and well-being at the heart of what we do.

As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



## TikTok Trend – Student Protests

You may have seen in the news that a small number of schools have been affected by a new TikTok trend circulating currently. The trend involves students choosing to perform an act of protest at their school – using TikTok and other social media platforms to organise and incite others into action.

A great deal of content is on social media currently – speaking with my own children, my 2 eldest have had images and videos appear on their feeds and there is a lot of talk about these protests among their peer groups at school – it’s clearly a viral topic amongst young people currently!

The same is true at Wadham. We know students have been talking about this trend, but more importantly, we have been contacted by some parents to make us aware that messages have been shared on social media suggesting that students at Wadham form their own protest.

In no way do I wish to silence student voice, but it is important that students know how they should make their views heard - without disrupting learning and education.

Students can speak to their tutor directly if they have any concerns or views regarding school provision they wish to share. Equally, there are student voice representatives in every tutor group that take forward the views and opinions of the student body to Council meetings. Our next Student Council meeting is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

In the meantime, despite what may happen in other schools, I am hopeful that Wadham students will choose to follow our existing process to ensure their voice is heard.

In any case, senior staff will be on the main gate tomorrow and over the next few days to monitor the situation and support anyone that needs it. This is the perfect opportunity for any student that feels strongly about school provision to come to us directly and tell us!

As ever, I’d like to thank parents and carers for your support as we continue to navigate through another concerning social media trend.

## Top Achieving Students!

It is right and proper that we recognise and celebrate student achievement. Alongside our existing methods of doing this, (and it took a good 15mins last week to sign the large number of Headteacher Commendations!) I will be publishing every week the 3 students in each Year Group (Years 7-11) that have received the most House Points for the week.

Many congratulations to the 15 students named below, kicking off a positive start to the new term!

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Milly M	Grace S	George F	Lottie H	Priscilla D
2	Hayley N	Lucas S	Sonny T	Connie M	Shai B
3	Summer-Rose H	Charlie P	Jas H	Noah D	Noah

## Year 11 Mock Exams

Students begin their second round of Mock Exams this week. Although the school is partially closed on Thursday due to the NEU Industrial Actions, mock exams will take place as normal.

It is important that students follow all expectations regarding uniform, equipment and conduct during the exams – we're keen to replicate the experience as much as possible ahead of the real exams in the summer so that students know what to expect and are less likely to feel anxious as a result of the process.

The mock exam timetable for this week is copied below:

Period	Monday (27 <sup>th</sup> )	Tuesday (28 <sup>th</sup> )	Wednesday (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Thursday (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Friday (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
1	<b>Biology</b> Combined Science 75 mins Separate Science 105 mins	<b>Geography</b> 90 mins  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i> <b>Early break at 10.30am</b>	<b>Maths (Calculator)</b> 90 mins  <b>Early break at 10.20am</b>	<b>Physics</b> Combined Science 75 mins Separate Science 105 mins	<b>English Language</b> 120 mins  <b>Start at 8.40am</b>
2					
3	<b>World Beliefs &amp; Values</b> 90 mins	<b>Chemistry</b> Combined Science 75 mins Separate Science 105 mins  <b>Start at 10.50am</b> <i>Early lunch at 1pm</i>	<b>English Literature</b> 150 mins  <b>Start at 10.50am</b>	<b>Business Studies</b> 90 mins <b>Computer Science</b> Paper 1 – 90 mins  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i>	<b>History</b> 90 mins  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i> <b>Computer Science students – early lunch at 12.50pm</b>
4					
5	<b>French</b> 70 mins <b>GCSE PE</b> 60 mins  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i>	<b>Maths (Non-Calculator)</b> 90 mins  <b>Start at 1.25pm</b>	<b>French (Reading)</b> 50 mins  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i>	<b>French (Listening)</b> 50 mins  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i>	<b>Computer Science</b> Paper 2 – 90 mins  <b>Start at 1.25pm</b>  <i>Normal lessons for all other students</i>

## NEU Industrial Action 02.03.23

A reminder that the school is partially closed on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March as a result of the Industrial Action taking place.

We will be open to Students in Year 11, Students in the Sixth Form (self-study onsite) and for students deemed vulnerable or where they are children of critical workers, requiring childcare on the day.

Year 11 will complete their mock exams and timetabled lessons as normal.

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.

Full details of our arrangements for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March can be found [here](#)

The link to the lessons set for home study is [here](#)

Once again – thanks for your support as we work to keep disruption to a minimum.

## School Production – Peter Pan Junior

Regrettably (but for all the right reasons) we have taken the decision to postpone our production of Peter Pan Junior until later in the year.

Students and staff have not yet had enough time to rehearse and deliver what we know will be an amazing performance, due to staff and student absence, as well as other unforeseen factors.

Our intention is to set dates for the summer term and extend the show's run so that we can offer further performances during the day to students in our local primary schools.

Year 11 students and families, although they will have left by this time, will of course still be welcome to purchase tickets to see the show should they wish.

Miss Middleton will publish revised dates nearer the time!

Richard Burgas  
26.02.23

