



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

“Life in all its fullness” John 10:10



Tuesday 21st November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 21.11.23

Thank you for a positive turn-out last week at our 'Meet the Tutor Evening' and Careers Fair.

I hope you found the evening useful, in particular the change in format and range of information we gave out on the night. This was very much the result of your feedback.

We have listened to parents (through our parent voice surveys), identified the top 3 issues you felt we needed to address and have taken action to do so.

In recent surveys you have asked us to consider and improve:

- Communication – setting out a clear expectation to all stakeholders.
- How we can make parents/carers aware of what topics their children are learning, so that they can be supported in the home.
- How homework can be structured to improve core knowledge and knowledge retention.

Our response has been to:

- Develop and publish a communication booklet for all parents/carers. A copy was given out at last Thursday's evening and emailed home to all parents.
- Publish 'Learning Journeys' for every Year group – a road map setting out the content, knowledge and skills to be developed in the year.
- Publish termly 'Curriculum Content Letters' to parents/carers, setting out in detail the core knowledge, by subject, that their child will be covering in that term.
- *This information can be found on the Curriculum page of our website here:*
[Wadham School - Curriculum Letters](#)
- Publish termly 'Knowledge Organisers' for students to use in the classroom and as part of their independent learning / homework. The knowledge organiser is the go-to document for parents in helping students identify core knowledge that is being covered. Regular testing, both in lessons and at home, is vital in helping students prepare thoroughly for end of year exams.

I have always said we can only achieve the great things we do with your support, and I hope the above is a clear example of where your honest feedback has helped us make further improvements that will help everyone keep learning and well-being at the heart of what we do.

As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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



Top Performing Students

Here's this week's Top 3 across Years 7-11. It's great to see some familiar faces as well as new names. Well done, everyone, for your hard work and commitment!

Week Commencing 13.11.23

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Rita P	Katelin W	Eliza O	Poppy H	Sean C
2	Matilda L	Shayne M	Nathan F	Rebekah H	Isobel B
3	Wyatt T	Rusty J	Esme G	Jaxon B Jamie H	Ruby-Dee C

Maintaining Positive Attendance

With the cold weather finally here, it's an appropriate time to remind everyone of our expectations regarding student absence – in particular the need for parents to report their child's absence to the school.

Wadham School has a target of 96% attendance, this translates to no more than 8 days or 16 sessions per year absent within the Academic Year.

We believe in working with parents to increase student's resilience, therefore if your child is feeling unwell please medicate and send in with minor ailments rather than allowing a full day off, as children can bounce back quickly from illnesses. If your child has improved during the course of the morning please do send in at any time so they can get their afternoon session mark, late marks in this instance will be authorised as we would much rather they were attending school for part of the day than having a full day (2 sessions) absent.

Reporting Student Absence

If you decide your son/daughter is too ill to attend school please contact our Attendance Officer on **01460 270139** or via the **'Report Attendance'** section in **Edulink**.

Absence needs to be reported by **8:30 am** for each day of absence and an explanation needs to be given. Any absence not reported will be investigated and calls made to parents/ guardians. This is a safeguarding requirement that needs your response – thank you for your support in this regard.

We know that sometimes there may be issues preventing attendance, please communicate with us so that together we are able to identify solutions and support where it may be needed.

Year 11 Mock Interviews – WELL DONE!

Last week, 26 Rotarians kindly gave up their Monday and Tuesday to come and put our Year 11 students through their paces with Mock Interviews. Students dutifully arrived suited and booted in their best dress and showed great attitude in meeting this challenge, gaining invaluable insight and experience of the interview process, in preparation for the real world.



Special thanks to Beth Church, Careers Advisor for organising this important event...

....same again next year, please! 😊



Children in Need – THANK YOU!

What a day! Bright colours, Pudsey badges, more cake than you could ever need, and a 'VIP' ticketed entry Karaoke event at lunch, with not one but TWO guest appearances from Mr Huggett 😊

Students and staff gave generously to raise **£729** for this year's Children in Need Appeal.

Thank you so much for your support.



End of Term Arrangements – 12.10pm finish on Friday 15th December

Now is the time to highlight that our last day this term will finish at 12.10pm.

Like last year, normal lessons will be replaced by a carousel of reward and community activities. Year 11 will also have their Rewards Assembly on this day.

All students will end the day with a tutor period, from which students will be dismissed at 12.10pm. School transport will depart at 12.15pm!

Parent Governor Opportunity!

The Board of Governors for Wadham School currently has vacancies for at least 2 Parent Governors.

We are seeking parent governors to join our committed and enthusiastic team at a time of great change in the life and development of the school.

The role of a Governor is to:

- Help plan the strategic direction of the school
- Ensure money is well spent
- Support and challenge the school leadership team

Governors champion the work of Wadham. We offer good support and relevant training and work closely as an informed and approachable team.

Wadham Governors are dedicated to safeguarding and promoting 'life in all its fullness' for students. All Governors are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring check. Governors' meetings are held early evenings, with a committed equivalent to 20 days in the school year.

If you feel you could contribute, or are interested to find out more, please use this link to read the full invitation and application letter: [E3016B377E1FA710B12168714F840A45.pdf \(wadhamschool.co.uk\)](#)

You may wish to contact Laura Andrews, Clerk to the Governors, should you have further questions or would like to arrange an informal meeting to discuss this role in more detail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Burgas 21.11.23