



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Monday 19th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher's Update 19th June 2023

Since my last update it has been a very busy 3 weeks where everyone has worked tirelessly to keep learning and well-being at the heart of what we do.

Firstly, the summer exam season is nearly over, with many Year 11's having now finished their exams. The final one takes place tomorrow. We're looking forward to the last formal 'hurrah' on Wednesday when everyone is back for "Dress your Best Day," with the Prom taking place not long after on Monday 26th June.

It's also been a busy period of staff recruitment and I am delighted to share that currently, despite the significant challenge nationally, we have been successful in appointing both colleagues that are bringing a wealth of experience as well as colleagues who are the emerging stars of the future, fresh out of training! We also have experienced middle leaders joining us to take up key leadership posts in English, Science and Design Technology, meaning that from September, we'll have subject specialists in place across the entire curriculum! This is a great result for Wadham and no less than students deserve.

As part of the Crewkerne and Ilminster School's Partnership, our PE leaders have played host to two primary school tournaments – Kwik Cricket and Tennis, with Wadham student ambassadors helping out at both events. We are also hosting the annual Student Voice Conference (Primary) on Monday 26th June and it's great to see how community schools really are pulling together to provide opportunities and experiences for the children in our care.

Next week we're hosting two 'Year 5 Information Evenings.' These have been requested by parents in the primary schools who want to learn more, now, about the journey we are on and how we are improving outcomes and life-chances for students in our community. This is positive validation of the work we are doing and our reputation in the local area.

And finally, behaviour. As previously stated, the school has been transformed as a result of recent changes. Feedback from students and staff has been hugely positive, regarding both academic progress and general health and well-being. This is a view shared by Governors when they visited the school last Friday.

I know not everyone is a fan, but the purpose of what we are doing is best reflected in a quote made by a student, having been removed from a lesson following warnings, *"I don't like these new rules 'cos it's like you're punishing the naughty kids because you want to be a good school."*

We don't want to punish anybody, but we do have a clear set of rules and high expectations in place to help students make the best use of their time in school.

As ever, I remain grateful of the support from parents and carers in meeting this expectation.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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



SOMERSET
County Council

Top Achieving Students! – 3 Weeks' Worth of Celebrations!

Sometimes it really is a bit like buses....you wait for one and three come along at once!
I'm delighted to share with you our top performing students for the last 3 school weeks, taking us right back to the final week before the half-term break.

Well done to everyone mentioned below, it's great to see new students being recognised for their hard work and fantastic achievements!

Week Beginning 22nd May

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Freya K	Ryan W	George F	Will F	Tess B Grace W
2	Oliver N	Evie J	Darcy A	Amy B	Luke A Elle B-M
3	Amy W	Isaac G	Dylan R	Layla P	Ro B Emma C

Week Beginning 5th June

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Alfie W	Emily H	George F	Sean C	Emma S
2	Rhiley C	Lily M	Mollie B	Karlee D	Jack B
3	Alfie S	Skye P	Lottie D	Will F Poppy M	Archie B

Week Beginning 12th June

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Lewis L	Ivy H	George F	Lewis C	Jack B
2	Aaron A	Theo C Imogen C	Mollie B	George C Thomas K	George C
3	Dylan B Isla G Jenny P	Bethany B	Frances E	Matthew F Alex P	Emma C

School Production – Peter Pan Junior

What a performance! A massive WELL DONE! to all students involved in this year's production.



Whether you helped with make-up and face painting backstage, were up front and centre as one of the cast, helped to sell tickets and programmes, or perhaps even made the magic happen as one of the 'lifting party' during the flying sequence, you are all supremely talented and, together, you brought much joy to the audiences during the 3-night run.

A well-loved story, great singing, great acting (the highlight for me was the crocodile singling out a poor member of the audience for an improvised CHOMP of the jaws!) supported with slick production made for an entertaining night all round.

Uniform Reminder

The recent spell of hot weather is most welcome, and we're enjoying the sunshine at break and lunch, but students must remember that uniform still needs to be worn correctly. This applies to the normal (daily) uniform and our PE kit. We're seeing an increase in the number of students wearing incorrect shorts, either as a replacement of a skirt or tailored shorts, with a reminder to all as follows:

Skirts

Plain, black skirt of sensible length (the shortest length acceptable is just above the knee) Denim or canvas skirts or any skirt made from elastic/Lycra type material are not allowed. Fashion skirts with zip are not suitable.

Shorts

Students may choose to wear, tailored shorts, instead of full-length trousers or skirts. For clarity, these shorts must be:

- Black with no other markings or symbols
- Of the same material and style as the permitted full-length trousers.
- Sport shorts or similar do not meet this requirement.
- Cutting down the ordinary trousers is acceptable, as long as the hem is neatly finished.
- Their length should be no longer than the knee and no more than 10cm above the knees

PE Kit & Expectations

Students are required to wear the appropriate PE items for the season and type of activity taking place, as directed by the PE team. Jewellery and piercings must also be removed during PE lessons for health and safety reasons. Recently, staff have noted an increase in the number of students choosing not to follow these expectations, and we are asking that parents give reminders and check that students have packed the correct kit to be worn on days that they have PE.

Further information regarding our Uniform Policy and Dress Code can be found on our website: [Wadham School - School Uniform](#)

Keep Hydrated – Bring a Water Bottle!

Please can parents ensure that students bring a suitable water-bottle that can be refilled during the day. Water is available in the canteen before school and at break and lunch. We are looking to install a permanent water dispenser for September, but in the meantime, students need to be aware of the times when water is available, and fill-up accordingly.

Wadham Behaviour Cards - UPDATE

Our Wadham Behaviour Cards helped immensely in the Autumn term to establish a positive culture and expectation of student conduct during unstructured and social times. They had a dual purpose, with sanctions and rewards being issued, based on their completion.

As the year has progressed, and with our more recent changes to the Behaviour Policy now embedded, we have an opportunity to change the way these cards are used. I am keen that these are transformed into positive cards, enabling students to receive praise and additional, tangible rewards for their good conduct, positive attitude around the site and when representing the school in our community. These cards will run alongside the existing house-point system.

For this reason, Wadham Behaviour Cards have been suspended and were not issued this morning. We are having a short break and will introduce a trial "Wadham Praise" card in the final few weeks of this term, ahead of a full re-launch in September.

Further information will be published in due course.

Mobile Phones and Headphones/Wireless Headphones – REMINDER

We have seen a significant increase in the number of students accessing their phone during the day, often to listen to music with a wireless earphone in one ear. School policy is that mobile phones and headphones seen during the school day will be confiscated, and returned to the student at the end of the day. For persistent breaches, the mobile/earphone/item will be confiscated and parents will be asked to come and collect.

I know that despite daily reminders to students, we have not been consistent in applying the full extent of the policy and confiscating items when seen.

Warnings will continue to be given this week, but students are being advised that from Monday 26th June, all staff and students are expected to be consistent in following this policy – if a mobile phone or headphone is seen during the school day, the student will be asked to hand it in and will be able to collect it from the Pastoral Hub at 3.00pm.

NEU Strike Action – 5th and 7th July

You may be aware that over the weekend the NEU announced 2 further days of industrial action:

- Wednesday 5th July
- Friday 7th July

We are in the process of establishing our provision on these days, and it is likely that as before we will need to limit attendance onsite and be partially open to specific group of students. This means that some students will be learning remotely (at home) on these days.

We will publish more detailed information to parents as soon as we can.

Richard Burgas
19.06.23