Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Tuesday 20th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: The Importance of Arriving at School on Time

We would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and is prepared for learning each day.

We are writing to remind everyone of the importance of punctuality. Arriving at school on time helps students settle into the day positively, engage fully with tutor activities, and avoid missing important information, notices, and learning opportunities.

Please note that the school gates close at **8:25am**, and all students are expected to be **in their tutor groups by 8:30am**. Students arriving after this time will be recorded as late.

Why lateness matters

- A student who is **10 minutes late every day** misses around **32 hours of learning each school year**, which is the equivalent of approximately **6 school days**. Repeated lateness can therefore contribute significantly to lost learning time.
- A student who is **5 minutes late every day** loses approximately **3 days of learning per year**.

Impact on achievement

- The Department for Education found a clear link between attendance and attainment, with higher attendance associated with better academic outcomes across all pupil groups.
- Pupils who miss **2-4 weeks of school in Year 11** have **around half the odds of achieving a Grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs** compared with similar pupils who attend regularly.

Persistent lateness can therefore have a significant impact on a student's education and disrupt the learning of others. To encourage good punctuality, students who arrive late without an acceptable reason may receive a **lunchtime detention**.

We do, however, recognise that there are occasions when circumstances are beyond a family's control. If your child travels to school using transport provided by the County Council and this transport arrives late, no detention will be issued. Similarly, if there are any exceptional or extraordinary circumstances affecting your child's punctuality, please let us know as soon as possible. By working together, we can ensure that appropriate support is provided and that unnecessary sanctions are avoided.

If you are experiencing any difficulties that may be affecting your child's ability to arrive at school on time, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to supporting families and helping every student have the best possible start to their school day.
Thank you for your cooperation and support in maintaining high standards of attendance and punctuality.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Coombe
Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead