



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Friday 4th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher's Update 04.11.22

I hope this letter finds you well, and despite the poor weather, you were able to make the most of the half-term break. It has been a positive week at Wadham and a really productive start to the new term.

I have been impressed with the 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' way in which students have returned to their studies – very much indicating that our collective efforts last term to embed this change in our culture is having the desired effect on attitude and behaviour. I know that support from our parents and carers has played a pivotal role here, and as ever, is much appreciated.

For me this term is the most magical, perhaps because Christmas is at the end of it! At the same time though it can feel the most demanding. It's dark when we get up and dark when we get home. Mock exams are on the horizon. It can sometimes feel like there is a lot of work to do.

My message this week is to remind us that although we all need the routines and boundaries in our lives that help keep us safe and help us to learn, we must never lose sight of the bigger picture that we are all working towards, whatever it may be. It's so easy to become caught up with what is in front of us, and sometimes we need reminding to pause, to look up, and to look beyond:

Dear God,

Today will you help me to look at things differently,

May I notice the extraordinary in the ordinary of my life,

May I see the miraculous in the mundane,

May I find the sacred camouflaged in the profane,

May I find faith, confidence in what I hope for and assurance of what I do not see.

Amen

Information on the following pages will help build on our positive start this week, and I hope you find it useful as we continue to work together to provide the best possible provision for the children and young adults in our care.

As ever, do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas

Headteacher

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



Staffing Update

I am delighted to announce that following successful interview we have appointed Miss Kirstie Bailey as a Geography Teacher at Wadham School. Miss Bailey is not a stranger to us – she has been working as our Academic Mentor and has now put herself forward to begin her teaching career here. At the same time, we have been fortunate to secure long-term supply cover from Mrs White, a Geography specialist.

Following changes to our timetable this week, Year 11 classes in Geography and English affected by staff absence last term now have subject specialists in place. Students will receive new timetables on Monday morning.

Mr Jackson and Mr White delivered an assembly to Year 11 students earlier today to explain changes made and highlight that we are here to support as they prepare for their mock exams in a few weeks' time.

I know this is welcome news to our Year 11 students and I am grateful for the patience families have shown as we've worked to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. We continue to have adverts out for remaining vacancies and I am committed to explore all and every option, to ensure our provision is the best it can be.

Battlefields Trip

Our first international school trip of the year has been successfully completed! The journey to Commonwealth war graves in France and Belgium is always a very personal and humbling experience, and one that makes lasting memories. This year was no different and I am incredibly proud of the attitude and conduct of the students involved. It is also a massive thank you to Mr Cassidy and all of the staff that took part, giving their time to make such an important trip happen. I'm sure there will be a detailed report in the Quill later!

Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

Well done to all our students that completed the Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT's) recently. We are arranging sessions over the next couple of weeks for anyone that still needs to complete them. The results are being used to inform school initiatives and to focus additional support to those that need it. The data is also used as part of the moderation and review we undertake when assessing student grades, which are shared with parents when reports are published.

Somerset Careers Fair

We will be taking a group of students from Years 9, 10 and 11 to the Somerset Careers Fair on Tuesday 8th November.

There is a reminder though that the Careers Fair is open to anyone until 6pm should you wish to visit, at either Westlands, Yeovil on the 8th or at J24, Bridgwater on the 23rd November.

As ever, this event is a great opportunity to meet and speak with a range of industry leaders and professionals.



8th Nov 2022 - Westlands, Yeovil
23rd Nov 2022 - J24, Bridgwater
Open 9am - 6pm

Somerset Careers Fair 2022

FREE entry

Come speak to the experts

With over 50 amazing exhibitors including the Armed Forces, Local Employers, Universities, Schools/Colleges, FE Colleges, and Training Providers we have plenty of experts for you to talk to.

For more information visit the [Somerset EBP website](#)

 THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY  SOMERSET EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP  South Somerset District Council  14 19

Picking Up / Dropping Off at School

A polite reminder - This is never an easy issue to resolve, but please can I ask all road users to be mindful of their surroundings when waiting to drop off/collect children from school. In particular, please ensure that you only park in permitted areas, not blocking residents' drives or junction entrances.

Student Safety – Walking and Cycling To and From School

With evenings becoming darker much earlier and the return of more unsettled, wintry weather, we are urging students to take extra care when making their way to and from school each day.

We would expect ALL cyclists to ensure they are wearing appropriate safety equipment when riding, that their bikes are roadworthy and that they have lights to be used when it is dark.

For students walking to and from school, they should be aware of their surroundings and stick to footpaths to avoid the risk of trips and falls on uneven or slippery ground.

At this time of year, we know that families sometimes make alternative arrangements for lifts and collections when the weather is particularly bad, and are asking that as part of this process children are reminded of the need to be vigilant with regard to strangers or people they do not know.

Parent Governor Vacancy

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

Being a governor is important, interesting and satisfying.

Governors have the opportunity to express their own views, to listen to the views of others, representing the school and its community and to influence our students' education for the better.

Governors work alongside the school community to shape its future. Meetings are held early evening.

The role is to:

- help plan the strategic direction of the school in partnership with school staff
- decide the key issues that will help staff to raise standards
- support and challenge the school leadership
- determine how the school will best spend its money to achieve these aims.

Governors receive good support and relevant training.

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.

If you feel you have the qualities and time to contribute, then to find out more and arrange an informal meeting, please contact Laura Andrews, Clerk to the Governors.

landrews@wadhamschool.co.uk

Richard Burgas 04.11.22

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