



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 12.03.24**

What a turn-out last Thursday at our Year 9 Parents' Evening – nearly 70% of students and parents attended to speak with subject teachers. I hope parents found the evening useful ahead of Options Evening on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>, which Mr White and Heads of Department are busy preparing for. More information to follow nearer the time...

With the gauntlet clearly thrown, I'd like to challenge Year 7 parents to 75%+ attendance at your Parents' Evening next Thursday – the bookings system is open and waiting for business! (For the competitive among you, you're currently at 61%)

In other news, Year 11 and 13 continue to prepare for final exams and we have been really impressed by the quality of student exam assessments in GCSE PE, Food and Nutrition and Music – it's been absolutely wonderful to see the culmination of students' learning brought to life in their final pieces. Mrs Hodge has some amazing photographs of the dishes created – one of my favourites has to be the Roulade!

This morning we welcomed 2 Governors who were here to complete a formal visit, focusing on behaviour. They observed lesson changeover, visited nearly every lesson, and met with a student panel to hear about what is going well, alongside any areas where students feel improvements need to be made.

I'm delighted to share some immediate feedback from their visit. Governors felt throughout their time today that the site and classrooms were "calm and purposeful" and that "movement time is managed successfully by the pupils." Students reported that they felt the behaviour policy is clear and this helps maintain focus on their learning, as "you know where you stand."

At the same time, students have asked for improvements to the toilets, with more regular checking and cleaning where necessary during the day. This is an issue we are aware of with actions already in motion to address this.

Overall though, it is great to have the work of staff and students in making Wadham a positive place of learning recognised and validated by Governors – it's no less than they deserve!

Thanks to you also, our parents and carers, for your support in making this happen.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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



## Top Performing Students

Another positive week with Houses now breaking through the 80,000 points mark!  
Well done to everyone mentioned below, you should be rightly proud of your achievements. Well done!

### Week Commencing 04.03.24

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Matilda L	Tom M	Emily H	Kacie H	Toby S
2	Riley M	Oliver N	Toby P Millie T	Samuel S-S	Ruby-Dee C
3	Max W	Caleb R	Isaac G Carlota G	Flynn W	Charlton B Sean C

### Bishop Michael's visit to Wadham School – 11.03.24

Yesterday we were delighted to welcome Bishop Michael, Rev. Jo Stobart, Rev. Stephen Gray and members of our Governing Body to the school.



Our guests were met by members of the Student Council, with Bishop Michael leading a Blessing for the school outside by 'the Gift' – a sculpture that pays tribute to our Church of England status. Lunch followed, hosted by the students, providing them with a great opportunity for informal discussion.

Afterwards Bishop Michael visited a Year 9 Beliefs and World Views lesson, where the second half was spent with students (including 6<sup>th</sup> Form!) grilling him on a range of questions like, "Do you think we should listen to our conscience?" "Which do you think gives a better understanding of the world; religion or science?" and "Do you think deontological or teleological ethics are better?"



Well done and thank you to Mr Tustin and all the students involved for arranging and facilitating such a welcome and well-received visit.

## Uniform Reminder & Action Needed

Duty staff continue to speak with students every morning if uniform does not meet expectation. Where this is followed up with parental contact, we are seeing a trend that students do actually have a complete set of correct uniform available at home, but are choosing not to wear this, or are changing in to non-uniform on their way to school.

The uniform focus next week is on mobile phones, headphones and socks.

We have purchased (Primark) black socks and black tights in a range of sizes and we may ask students to take a pair and change in to them if required. This pair will be theirs to keep and avoids any argument going forward that "I don't have school socks."

For many students I know this will not be necessary, as I am hopeful parents will check and remind their children of the need to wear the correct uniform already purchased.

Similarly, I hope parents recognise that this is a positive act to help students meet uniform expectations without confrontation.

As ever, should families have any concerns or barriers regarding the purchasing of school uniform, do please contact us so that we are aware and can see if there is anything we can do to help.

Finally, Information about our School uniform and our uniform policy can be found on our website here: [Wadham School - School Uniform](#)

## Red Nose Day 2024 – Non-uniform Day 15.03.24

The irony is not lost in announcing that this Friday is a non-uniform day, immediately after the above update! That said, student well-being ambassadors are delighted to invite students and staff to 'wear something red' this Friday and make a donation to Comic Relief. Don't forget to bring some change for the Bake Sale running at break and lunch, and we're looking forward to hosting the final of 'Wadham's Got Talent' at the end of the day.

**COMIC RELIEF**

**RED NOSE DAY**

**ALL IN AID OF COMIC RELIEF**

**FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**NON-UNIFORM DAY**  
wear SOMETHING red  
BRING IN a DONATION

**BAKE SALE**  
UNDER THE CIRCUS TENTS AT BREAK

**"DO SOMETHING FUNNY FOR MONEY"**