



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Headteacher's Update Letter 05.09.25

Welcome back! I hope this first letter of the new academic year finds you well. Whether a Year 7 'newbie' or a veteran of Wadham School, on behalf of all staff here I extend a warm welcome to you all as we look forward to working together over the coming months in keeping learning and well-being at the heart of what we do.

I have been greatly impressed by the way students have returned with a visible, positive 'can-do' attitude to their learning. It's been a pleasure talking with students to hear about their exploits over the summer and what they're looking forward to for the year ahead.

Perhaps it's a growing confidence and rising aspiration following our summer exam results, a continuation of the much-improved results secured in 2024.

Perhaps it's the validation from external inspectors last year that our moral purpose and vision are secure, best summarised by Ofsted:

"The school has a broad and ambitious programme of study. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported to access the same curriculum as their peers. If pupils arrive at the school with unidentified needs, these are quickly recognised, and appropriate help is put in place. Teachers use the information they have about pupils with SEND to make suitable adaptations in the classroom."

Perhaps it's the strength of relationships enjoyed between staff and students, a bond of trust and mutual respect that enables everyone to feel happy and safe in school.

Or perhaps it's the ongoing, visible signs of improvement works to the school with our Wall Art installations last Spring, completion of the top field fencing last Summer, a fully refurbished staffroom, hardware upgrades to replace IT machines in computer rooms, brand new laptops for all teaching staff, the creation of a new onsite SEN unit and further office and room changes to provide more bespoke interventions for students needing support.

Whatever the reason, there is a definite 'buzz' around the school that bodes well for the future. Thank you, our parents and carers, for your part in making the start to this academic year such a positive one!

I look forward to sharing further successes and milestones as the term unfolds.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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



New Staff Welcome

Alongside the new Year 7's, we're delighted to welcome our new intake of staff to Wadham School. Bringing a wide range of skills and experiences, colleagues have hit the ground running in setting high expectations, clear boundaries and helpful routines for learning.

A warm welcome to the following new staff:

Mrs E Chubb – Second in Science
Mrs K Higgins – Teacher of Mathematics and Lead for HPA Students
Miss O Oliver – Trainee Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs U Tahir – Science Technician
Mrs J Brown – Science Technician

Uniform Reminder – Outstanding Orders

We have received all outstanding orders; these are awaiting collection by students from the Finance Office. Orders can be collected at breaktime and lunchtime.

We've seen a steady stream of students in this week, and it would be good to have all current orders collected by next Friday.

The Finance Office is just inside the main building at the centre of the school, on the left.

Curriculum and Core Knowledge

In conjunction with the termly Curriculum letters published by Mr White, setting out the learning and content each subject will cover in that term, we are continuing with our focus on 'Core Knowledge' in every lesson. This has been in place for just over a year now and is a subtle change in teaching practice that has helped everyone develop a clear routine for learning and knowledge acquisition.

To find out more, do ask your son or daughter to explain what 'Core Knowledge' is and why it is so important.

Homework at Wadham School

I am delighted with the positive routines forged by students and families in completing Homework last year and am writing to confirm that the same expectations remain in place.

We will shortly be publishing the Homework Timetables for this term.

The setting of Homework begins from Monday 15th September, to enable all students to refresh themselves of how to login into our learning platforms and to speak with staff if there are any issues before the next homework cycle begins.

Last term we were consistently the Number 1 school across Somerset, of all schools using the Seneca platform, for XP points and completion rates of work set – this is a huge credit to the independent learning of our students and something that has strengthened their core knowledge over the peers.

Having established these positive routines last year, we're confident that the completion of homework will continue, and Mrs Hutter (shutter@wadhamschool.co.uk) remains your lead contact should you have any questions or concerns as the new term begins.

Key Stage 4 Information Evening: Thursday 11th September

Next Thursday we are looking forward to welcoming families of students in Year 10 and 11 to an Information Evening with specific information about the current stage in their GCSE journey.

The Year 10 Information Evening will take place from 5.00-6.00pm
The Year 11 Information Evening will take place from 6.00-7.00pm.

Heads of Year are contacting families directly with more detailed information and we hope to see you next week!

School Photographs

It's that time of year again when we welcome our school photographers back in to capture the new Year 7, as well as provide updated photos for particular year groups.

Students will receive a barcode and information to bring home that will enable families to order any images online, directly from the photographer.

Please see below the dates for particular year groups:

Date	Year Group
Thursday 18 th September	Year 9
Monday 22 nd September	Year 7
Tuesday 23 rd September	Year 11

Safeguarding – Contact Details



'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility,' and every member of our Wadham community has a part to play in this. This includes our parents and carers. Statutory update training was given to staff during the INSET day at the start of term, and as a follow on from this, here is a reminder of Wadham's key contacts should anyone need to report a concern:

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Sarah Coombe: scoombe@wadhamschool.co.uk

Alternatively, concerns can be raised using this email: keepsafe@wadhamschool.co.uk



Wadham School Terms and Holidays 2025/2026 Academic Year

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025						
M		1	8	15	22	29	Mo		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24		
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25		
W		3	10	17	24		We	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26		
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27		
F		5	12	19	26		Fr	3	10	17	24	31	Fr		7	14	21	28		
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		
December 2025							January 2026							February 2026						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23		
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24		
W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25		
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26		
F		5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27		
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22			
March 2026							April 2026							May 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25		
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26		
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27		
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28		
F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29		
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30		
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31		
June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24	31	
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25		
W		3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26		
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27		
F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28		
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29		
Su		7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 02 September – 24 October 2025 (39 days)	
Term 2: 03 November – 19 December 2025 (35 days)	
Term 3: 05 January – 13 February 2026 (30 days)	
Term 4: 23 February – 02 April 2026 (29 days)	
Term 5: 20 April – 22 May 2026 (24 days)	
Term 6: 01 June – 22 July 2026 (38 days)	TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2025/26

Christmas Day	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	06 April 2026
Boxing Day	26 December 2025	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
New Year's Day	01 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.