



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 21.05.26

Well, that was Term 5!

With only one more get-up until half term, recent weeks have felt like a sprint, with a packed calendar of revision, trips, visits and workshops across all year groups.

Although Year 11 have been the priority, the breadth and range of opportunity available this term has meant that there has been something for everyone. Not needing an invitation, Wadham students have seized this opportunity to step-up, bring their best and secure top positions in several local and county events. A massive well-done to everyone involved!

This year, our Year 8, 10 and 11 Boys' football teams made it to the district finals, with Year 8 going on to be crowned champions!

We've had artwork selected for the Royal Academy Summer Show, representation from students who completed the Ten Tors Challenge last week, and personal achievements outside of school with a Tumbling Champion and selection to the European Majorette Championships later this year.

Engineers in Year 8 participated in the Flying Start Final, we welcomed an opera workshop to showcase elite performance and signing, and our amazing group of copywriters, contributors and editors have again been busy to create the latest edition of "The Quill."

I'm humbled by the talent and drive our students have in pursuit of their passions, and immensely proud of the fact that the culture of our community has given confidence to more and more people in sharing these achievements with us.

### ***Loving God***

***Thank you for your love, encouragement and support as we each run our daily race***

***Help me today to live out the fruit of the spirit with joy and hope***

***If today is tough, I know that I can lean in to you***

***Thank you that Jesus has set the example and the race is already won***

***Thank you that I can share in that victory,***

***I don't have to come first, I just have to do my best with my faith in Jesus***

***Amen***

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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Headteacher: Mr R Burgas  
Chair of Governors: Mrs R Hawkes



## Top Performing Students

We have 2 weeks to celebrate, with a tie at the top between Year 7 and Year 11 for the number of students sharing the podium.

Having been second for a while, it's great to see Year 11 going out on a high!

Well done to everyone for your hard work and achievements – will you be there next week though?

### Week Commencing 05.05.26

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Samuel Hardwill	Bess John	Poppy Best	Judit Kozari	Emily Harwood
<b>2</b>	Betsy Best Chloe Pattenden	Alice Henly	Alec Proctor	Tasker Shepherd	Ronnie Ray
<b>3</b>	Chloe Masterman Leon Priddle Megan Whitehouse	Poppy Spurway	Riley Webb	Mia Stevens- Dyer Eliza Sugar	Alfred Deakin Thomas Gibson Esme Hallett Eliza Orzechowska

### Week Commencing 11.05.26

All change again! Another strong performance from Year 11, but not enough to beat Year 8 and a dominant Year 9, who have climbed back to the top of the leaderboard.

With most of the year now behind us, it's great to see a steady rotation of names, meaning that each week really is your opportunity to aim high, dig deep and gather your rewards.

Well done to everyone below for your podium places last week!

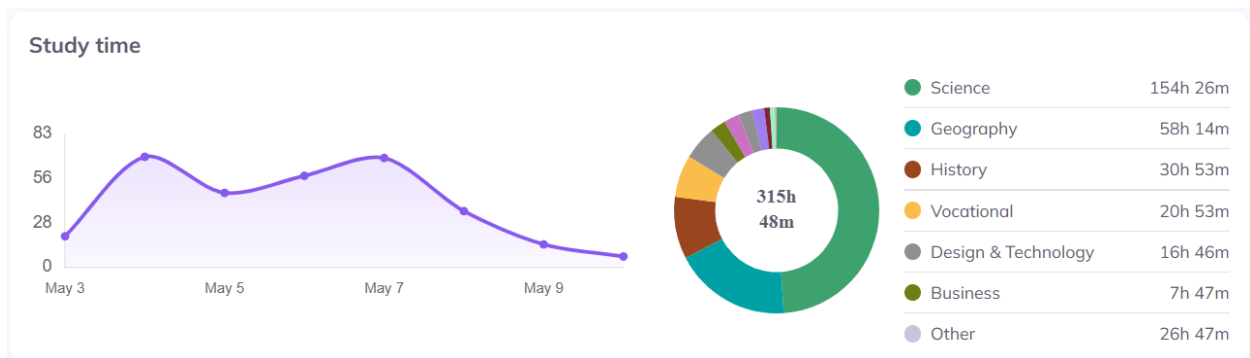
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Yasmin Hill	Cody Adams	Hedley Egré Logan Fowler George Jones Oscar Sansom	Jayden King	Emily Harwood
<b>2</b>	Chloe Pattenden	Isabella Aplin Mason Toop	Seb Hickman	Eliza Sugar	Theo Christopher Angel Hearne Megan Jakeman
<b>3</b>	Aiden Bazley	Shiann Baulf Alice Henly Teddy Pithers	Keegan Robinson James Tuck	Lewis Larcombe	Ronnie Ray

## Homework Update – Week Commencing 05.05.26

Again, no change at the top as we continue to lead the way with Seneca Learning across Somerset. Thank you for your continued effort and commitment in meeting homework expectations.

School name			XP
	Wadham School Crewkerne, Somerset	School synced	1,404,244
	Buckler's Mead School Yeovil, Somerset	School synced	1,209,924
	King Arthur's School Wincanton, Somerset		784,062

Study time dipped below the 350-hour mark, but remains very respectable, with Science still the most studied subject. (Statisticians may well have spotted the advantage here as Science is actually 3 subjects.... Biology, Chemistry and Physics!)



## Seneca Champions 05.05.26




Well done to Katelin White and Wyatt Titterrell – our new Seneca Champions!

Top students by study time				Top students by average score			
	Katelin White	Year 10	4h 5m		Wyatt Titterrell	Year 9	100%
	Emily Wood	Year 11	3h 31m		Ella Hoskyns	Year 11	100%
	Holly Bulmer	Year 11	3h 15m		Rusty Jones	Year 10	100%
4	Hannah Egré	Year 11	2h 19m	4	Daniil Lyszyk	Year 10	100%
5	Imogen Cremen	Year 11	2h 19m	5	Pearl Guppy	Year 9	100%
6	Arabella Linten	Year 9	2h 10m	6	Liam Crick	Year 7	100%
7	Esme-Rose Perry	Year 10	2h 7m	7	Alivia Manley	Year 7	100%
8	Mwai Gangire	Year 7	1h 59m	8	Jessica Henly	Year 11	100%
9	Rita Baker	Year 10	1h 58m	9	Sofia Galan-Wilkinson	Year 7	100%
10	Teegan Marsh	Year 10	1h 54m	10	Tyler Barrett	Year 9	100%

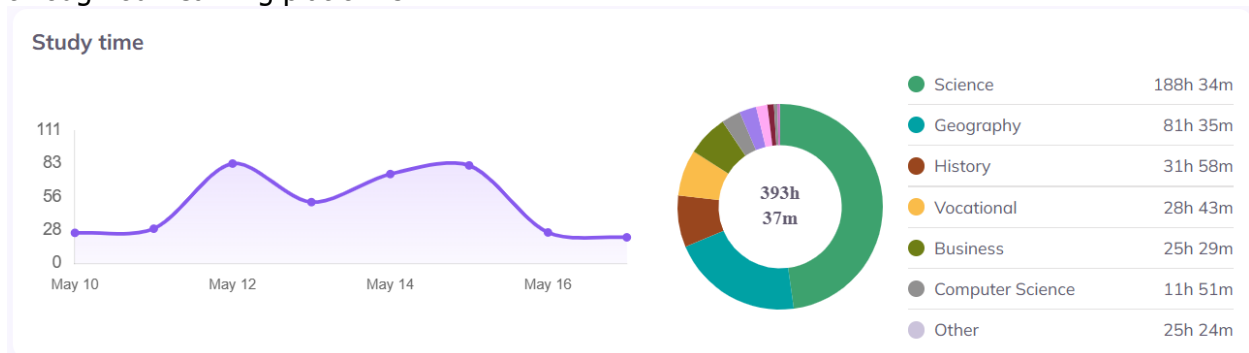
## Homework Update – Week Commencing 11.05.26

We're seeing a strong challenge from Buckler's Mead, but our efforts to complete homework and independent learning have kept us top of the leaderboard for another week.

Well done, everyone, for keeping to familiar routines and making sure you give of your best.

School name		XP
1	 <b>Wadham School</b> Crewkerne, Somerset <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px 5px;">School synced</span>	1,662,788
2	 <b>Buckler's Mead School</b> Yeovil, Somerset <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px 5px;">School synced</span>	1,326,820
3	 <b>King Arthur's School</b> Wincanton, Somerset	939,240

Study time surged last week to nearly 400 hours! No doubt the GCSE exams have something to do with it, but whatever the reason, it's great to see the knowledge and skills being practiced through our learning platforms.



## Seneca Champions 11.05.26

Well done to Katelin White and Evie Ridewood – last week's Seneca Champions! ...that's two in a row for Katelin – will she get the triple?

Top students by study time				Top students by average score			
1	Katelin White	Year 10	3h 37m	1	Evie Ridewood	Year 11	100%
2	Elliott George	Year 8	3h 14m	2	Paige Hicks	Year 8	100%
3	Ellie Hooker	Year 10	2h 29m	3	Daniil Lyszyk	Year 10	100%
4	Alfie Charlesworth	Year 10	2h 12m	4	Samantha Carter	Year 10	100%
5	Samuel Hardwill	Year 7	2h 12m	5	Nolen Gratton	Year 10	100%
6	Emily Hutchings	Year 11	2h 11m	6	Sofia Galan-Wilkinson	Year 7	100%
7	Emily Wood	Year 11	2h 9m	7	Alivia Manley	Year 7	100%
8	Ollie Newbury	Year 10	2h 4m	8	Milo McGhee	Year 10	100%
9	Noah Hodge	Year 10	2h 2m	9	Seb Sanders	Year 7	100%
10	Esme Beentjes	Year 7	2h 1m	10	Andrei Radulescu	Year 10	100%

## Ilminster Literary Festival – Wadham Winners!

We're delighted to share that following a number of student submissions to the Ilminster Literary Festival, we have had 3 students placed as winners!!!

Wadham Students also achieved a clean sweep across the Key Stage 4 Age Category.

Such an amazing achievement, it's great that our students' written talents and storytelling have been rightly recognised.

Our Worthy Winners are listed below. They and their families have been invited to the Prize Giving Ceremony at Monks Yard on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Huge WELL DONE to Charlie- Jane, Elsie and Fen!

Age Category	Student	Outcome
KS4	Charlie-Jane Norris	First Prize
KS4	Elsie Swatridge	Runner Up
KS3	Fen Hopkirk	Highly Commended

## Wadham Students Take on the Ten Tors Challenge!



Wadham students put on scout and air cadet uniforms, sturdy boots and heavy back packs to lean into the Ten Tors Challenge!

Walking as part of Blackdown Scouts, Harry, Evan and Charlie achieved nearly 29 miles on day one, walking as far as they were allowed (8 Tors in) before camping at Standon Farm.

Awake at 04:30am the next morning, they continued when the checkpoints opened at 06:00am.

The final two Tors completed the 35-mile challenge, with the boys finishing first on their route card and arriving at the Okehampton Camp finish for 10:30am (in time for a second breakfast)!!

It was a similar story for Henry, walking as part of Yeovil Air Cadets, who also completed the 10 Tor, 35-mile challenge and brought home with him a completion medal, along with many memories!

Well done, everyone, for such an incredible achievement!



## Team PPOJ Compete in the Flying Start Finals!

Huge congratulations to our group of Year 8 students, the PPOJ Pilots, who represented the school at the Flying Start Grand Final last Friday at Bristol Aerospace!

Their 4<sup>th</sup> place at the previous round in March at RNAS Yeovilton meant that the team eased into the final and dusted off their glider for further competitive flying.

They also showcased their design posters.

The final gave Team PPOJ the opportunity to explore the Bristol Aerospace museum and take part in a range of exciting STEM challenges throughout the day. It was a brilliant experience that showcased their teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills.



It was a tough competition, and although we didn't make it to the podium, we are incredibly proud of the students involved for their enthusiasm, dedication and excellent representation of the school!

Well done to Poppy Spurway, Pheobe Swain, Olivia Turton and Jack Wood for reaching the final and giving your best!

Massive thank you to Mrs Burton for taking the team and cheering them on!

## Izzy has twirled her way to Italy!

A massive WELL DONE to Izzy Foster for being selected to represent England at the Majorette European championships in Italy this October.

Izzy will be performing with her duet and as part of two dance teams.



Good luck Izzy – we're really excited for you and know you will be fab!









## Equipment for Learning – The Learning Eight

Without wishing any of the half-term break away, it's best practice to go through school bags sooner rather than later to check that the right equipment is packed and ready to go when we return on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Having the right equipment may seem basic, but this fundamental expectation can have a huge impact on the pace of learning if a student is unable to complete work because they have items missing.

Students were given a mini-white board and board pen at the start of the year. We understand that pens, pencils, etc run out – ***students can replace their empty whiteboard pen free of charge in the Hub.***

All other items can be purchased from the Finance Office.

Pen (Blue or Black)		Ruler	
Pencil		Purple Pen	
Calculator		Knowledge Organiser	
Mini-Whiteboard		Whiteboard Pen	

## 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 bottle-filling stations around the site and students can access these before school, as well as during break and lunch. We've seen good use of these filling stations and with temperatures looking to rise, students need to be prepared and ensure they stay hydrated.

Richard Burgas  
21.05.26