



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Headteacher's Update 07.02.23**

I hope this letter finds you well. In a few days the end of term will be here and I'm looking forward to sharing our students' achievements and events in our Newsletter – it's been a busy 6 weeks since Christmas with a range of opportunities to cater for nearly every interest!

The highlight for me has to be the Rotary Young Chef Competition, which took place last week and was hotly contended with budding chefs producing some amazing dishes. No spoilers here, but do see the Newsletter for photos and details of our well-deserved winner!

In other news, Year 11 engagement with our Revision Programme has been positive and is steadily growing. Looking ahead to next term, our focus will shift slightly onto Year 9, with reports being published and the official launch of the options process. Further information will follow in due course, but parents may find the timeline below useful:

### **Year 9 Options Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 9 Reports Published
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 9 Options Launch Assembly
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Options Form Submission Deadline

### **Part 1 of our Science Lab Refurbishment Scheme is Complete!**

Science lessons have returned to D05 – following complete refurbishment of this teaching space. With a focussed teaching wall, blended learning from desk spaces and bespoke practical 'pods,' we're delighted that we now have a flagship teaching area that reflects the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

This is one of 3 Science labs to be refurbished this year, with work already underway in D02, reflecting the commitment of our governing body, working in partnership with the local authority, to ensure that we continue to receive the level of investment and resourcing our community deserves.



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



## **Non-Uniform Day – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

A reminder that Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February (the last day of this half-term) will be a non-uniform day to raise awareness around mental health – with this day falling within 'Children's Mental Health Week 2023.'

Students' minimum £1 donations will be donated to "Promise Works" a local mental health charity that provides long-term mentoring and support for young people.

Thank you for your support!



## **Punctuality to Lessons – Positive Response!**

It's a massive well-done to students that have taken steps to improve punctuality to lessons, enabling silent starters in Years 7-9 to drive a clear sense of purpose and calm, which in turn has helped learning and progress. It's a similar story in our older year groups, where very quickly we have been able to identify and support a small group of students that are struggling to make good choices.

How do we know? Attendance to our Friday lunchtime and afterschool detentions has fallen every week since introduced earlier this term. We will continue to run weekly late reports for all students and ensure that as far as is reasonably possible, 'lost learning' is kept to an absolute minimum.

## **Year 7 – Behaviour for Learning**

We've worked hard in recent weeks to ensure all students are able to learn without disruption. Despite this renewed energy and focus there remains a minority of students in Year 7 that are finding it difficult to meet expectations and allow themselves and others to learn. This week we have met with Year 7 to talk about 'positive consideration' towards others and explained that if a student is removed from lessons, or is found to be truanting, or is not able to keep silent during the starter activity, they will be removed and supported in a Year 7 specific isolation room for 5 lessons.

In the last 2 days we have seen 14 students benefitting from the opportunity to reflect and work quietly in this space. Equally, the impact on learning for students remaining in the classroom has been significant. This enhanced support is only for this week – to give all students in Year 7 the chance to finish the term positively, feeling confident with their learning.

Without doubt the half term break will give everyone time to rest and reflect, and we are hopeful that by intervening in this way now, we're helping students form positive learning habits they will need for GCSE study and in later life.

Wishing all students, parents and carers in our community a positive and peaceful half-term break and a reminder that we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burgas', written over a white background.

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher

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