



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Headteacher's Update 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

My update this week comes a little earlier as we're making a few changes to the way we manage Behaviour, with a view to introducing a revised Rewards and Behaviour Policy in September. Details of these changes are included with this letter, but before we get there, I'd like to share two other key pieces of information:

### **Voting Closes on Wednesday!**

Thank you for votes already cast to help our students win with their podcast to raise awareness of violence towards women and girls. You can hear our entry here: [https://youtu.be/a7oH\\_XA7LZ8](https://youtu.be/a7oH_XA7LZ8)

The winning school will have the most votes when the poll closes at **5pm on Wednesday 17th May**. If not done so already, you can vote using this link: [www.collaboratedigital.com/vote](http://www.collaboratedigital.com/vote)

I would be very grateful if students and families used the link above to record their votes. You can also share this link with friends and other family members to help increase our chances!

### **Top Achieving Students! - Week Beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Well done to all students mentioned below, and great to see many new names being recognised for their hard work and fantastic achievements last week – will you be there again next week?

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Lola H	Phoebe B	Lucie S	Rihanna F	Isabel F
<b>2</b>	Katelin W	Theo C	Jed B	Lana E	Grace-Emma G
<b>3</b>	Nolen G	Logan W	Dylan	Ruby-Dee C	Nathan B

I hope you find the following page useful as we continue to keep learning and well-being at the heart of what we do. As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



## **Changes to how we manage Behaviour – from 15.05.23**

“Good behaviour is good for everyone” and from Monday, we are making 2 important changes to the way we currently manage truancy from lessons and persistent, low-level disruption in the classroom.

This choice behaviour is having an impact on the learning and well-being of students involved, as well as impacting the quality of learning in the classroom. It is also having an impact on the resources we have available, too much time is being spent ‘negotiating’ with students that persistently refuse all instructions and offers of support.

*Staff time needs to be focussed in supporting students that want to be in school and want to learn.*

The changes we are making will only impact students that choose not to follow our expectations.

### **Resolving Truancy from Lessons**

We’ve added movement time to the school day – there is no excuse for being late to lessons. If students are not in their classroom or lined up outside their classroom by the lesson bell, they will be deemed to be truanting. Anyone found truanting will be taken to ISR for that lesson. An after-school detention will be set for either Friday or Monday and an Edulink message will be sent to parents.

If a student truant again that same day, they will be placed in ISR and remain there for the rest of the day. Staff now have corridor passes that students can be given if they need to leave the lesson at any time – this can be managed at staff discretion. In this way, we will be able to identify students not in lessons with a legitimate reason, and students that are truanting.

It is therefore important that students (and a large majority already do this every day) ensure they arrive to each lesson BEFORE the lesson bell rings.

### **Resolving Disruptive Behaviour in the Classroom**

There are no changes as to how students will be warned in lessons. We will continue to write their name on the board as a first warning and tick the name as a final warning. If a student is removed from a lesson, they will be taken to ISR for the remainder of the lesson. Parking and the Blue Card Report are scrapped. An after-school detention will be set for either Friday or Monday and an Edulink message will be sent to parents. If a student is removed from another lesson that same day, they will be placed in ISR and remain there for the rest of the day.

### **Resolving Persistent Defiance – Refusal to Follow Instructions**

We are taking a zero-tolerance approach to persistent defiance. In both cases above, should a student refuse to go to ISR on first request, they will be placed in ISR for the rest of the day. If they continue to refuse, a final warning will be given, and they risk suspension.

Suspension is always a last resort, but if a student has no intention of following any instructions, it becomes a necessary outcome to safeguard everyone concerned.

Students will be fully briefed of these changes by their tutor from Monday, and support will ALWAYS be available for anyone that needs it, no matter what the reason.

If, however, someone persistently refuses to follow the rules, then Wadham is not the school for them.

Richard Burgas  
13.05.23