



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 18.09.23

By the end of this week we will have completed a full cycle of the timetable. I am proud of the way in which students have settled into positive routines for learning and it has been a pleasure to visit lessons and see the work students are producing.

I am also proud of our students as ambassadors in the wider community, following successful trips and visits in the last week such as:

- Year 11 English Trip to Macbeth on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 7 and Sixth Form Trip to Exmoor Zoo on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- U13 Girls County Cricket Runners Up! Beating Wellsway and losing narrowly to Holyrood.

As ever, you can find further details and images on our School Website and Facebook pages here:

[www.wadhamschool.co.uk](http://www.wadhamschool.co.uk)

[Facebook](#)

The new term lies open before us, with positive, early indications of the desire of our students to give of their best. The same is true of our staff. I remain utterly privileged as Headteacher at Wadham School to lead a community of such dedicated, caring and hard-working people and know that together, anything is possible.

*Heavenly Father,*

*Let us, together, confidently and courageously start each new day of this new year with a commitment to those we meet and serve, to share wisdom, hope and aspiration; to build community, dignity and respect.*

*We pray for our school teams, the young people we serve, their families and our communities too. May we draw strength from one another and may we draw strength from you and the light of your presence with us in each new day.*

*Amen*

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



Yeovil Road, Crewkerne, Somerset. TA18 7NT Telephone 01460 270123  
Website : [www.wadhamschool.co.uk](http://www.wadhamschool.co.uk) E-Mail : [office@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:office@wadhamschool.co.uk)

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



## Top Performing Students w/c 11.09.23

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Dylan P	Oliver N	Theo C	Jed B	Layla P
2	Frankie A	Leilani L	Eli C Owen J	Alfie B	Taylor M
3	George V	Gracie-Marie A James P	Faith P	Sophie L	Leah C Karlee D Isabella M

## Student Toilets

I would like to draw parents' attention to a worrying trend we are currently experiencing.

Comments from the student council and our cleaners have reported that groups of students are choosing to squeeze into a single cubicle in the toilets at break and lunch. This is not only a safeguarding concern but also one of hygiene – I have seen first hand at the end of the day that these groups are taking in their lunch and eating in the toilets, often leaving behind wrappers and food waste.

This behaviour is more prevalent among girls in Years 9-11, with an immediate and detrimental impact on other students who are unable to use these toilets. This is unacceptable.

We have taken action to address this and have directed staff on duty to be proactive in the management of students accessing toilets at break and lunch.

I am sure you would agree that students should not be eating in the toilets, nor should groups of students occupy single cubicles – there is plenty of space around the school for students to use.

I would be grateful of your support in speaking with your son/daughter so that they understand the concerns raised and the need to avoid this behaviour going forward.

## Building Works – Update

I'm pleased to share that work to replace our flat rooves continues and contractors will soon be moving to the main building at the front of the school. This will involve scaffolding being erected, although all members of our community are now well-practiced in managing site-safety!

We are also well on the way to replacing all pipework in the school. A new water main was installed over the summer, meaning that every tap now supplies drinking water, but also means engineers are working at pace to replace all heaters and radiators across the school. Disruption to learning is minimal, as contractors are working from 2pm-2am each day.

Finally, 2 of our 3 new canopies have been fully installed, these now providing shelter outside Reception and outside the Pastoral Hub. The final canopy, running outside the canteen, has been

constructed and groundworks are currently being completed to landscape this area, enabling outside seating to be installed. Students should be able to access this new area by half-term!

## **Safeguarding**

'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 days 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](mailto:scoombe@wadhamschool.co.uk)  
Alternatively, concerns can be raised using this email: [keepsafe@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:keepsafe@wadhamschool.co.uk)

## **Open Evening - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 5.00-7.00pm**

Following successful Year 5 Open Evenings last term, we're delighted to officially launch our main Open Evening for the year, taking place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. I am excited at the prospect of our Year 7 students being tour guides to our guests at Open Evening. It's a showcase event, and one where students are actively encouraged to get involved as student ambassadors across the subjects on offer. Mrs Finch will be issuing consent letters should your child wish to be involved, and it's a massive thank you from me to everyone that is working hard to make sure Wadham puts on another night to remember!

## **Picking Up / Dropping Off at School**

A polite reminder - This is never an easy issue to resolve, but please can I ask all road users to be mindful of their surroundings when waiting to drop off/collect children from school. In particular, please ensure that you only park in permitted areas, not blocking residents' drives or junction entrances.

Please do not come onto the school site, if you intend to drop-off or pick-up your child by car. Buses need to be able to enter and leave safely and too many vehicle movements, if parents are coming in or have parked in the coach area, will compromise this.

Finally, if you have any questions about where official crossings are placed, whether pedestrian refuges, zebra or pelican crossings, this should be directed to the Somerset County Council Highways team, who are the competent authority for these matters. We will ask this team to monitor the traffic movements, at the start and end of the day, so they can see if they need to take any further action.

## **Student Safety – Walking and Cycling To and From School**

With evenings becoming darker much earlier and the return of more unsettled, wintry weather, we are urging students to take extra care when making their way to and from school each day. We would expect ALL cyclists to ensure they are wearing appropriate safety equipment when riding, that their bikes are roadworthy and that they have lights to be used when it is dark.

For students walking to and from school, they should be aware of their surroundings and stick to footpaths to avoid the risk of trips and falls on uneven or slippery ground.

At this time of year, we know that families sometimes make alternative arrangements for lifts and collections when the weather is particularly bad, and are asking that as part of this process children are reminded of the need to be vigilant with regard to strangers or people they do not know.