



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Monday 29th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 29.04.24

In recent weeks I've shared how our efforts to improve the curriculum offer, changes in how students are being assessed and how they are supported with their personal development are all working together to help increase confidence in learning attitudes, as well as improve outcomes.

One of the key reasons for these successes is the relative stability of our staffing, following a period of consolidation and growth, in comparison with both the local and national picture.

I remain privileged to work alongside the most hard-working, kind and compassionate people – and this applies to both the students and the staff. Wadham School is a magical place because of the people in it, and this is hugely important as not only does it help us all draw strength and encouragement when we need it, but it is also something that is increasingly recognised by candidates wanting to come and work within our Wadham community.

For this reason, in recent weeks we have been fortunate to appoint experienced, like-minded professionals that want to be part of our journey, because not only are they passionate about their subject areas, but they already align well with the ethos, vision and values of our school.

In a time when the recruitment and retention of staff remains challenging, I take this as positive validation of everything that we are doing.

Going against the trend does not just 'happen' – it's a culmination of all the hard work and support given by everyone in our community to move the school forward.

I remain utterly grateful for everything that our students, parents and our staff do to place learning and well-being at the heart of our core business.

With the main summer exams only a week away (some have already begun!) I would like to thank in particular the parents of students in Years 11 and 13 – both groups have responded superbly to the challenge of exam preparation and are going into the summer season prepared, and with quiet confidence.

Good luck, everyone – you've got this!

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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



Top Performing Students

Two weeks in and it's great to see new names continuing to feature on our weekly leader boards.
Berry House

Week Commencing 15.04.24

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|---|-----------|----------|-------------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | Riley M | Maria C | Theo C | Nancy G | Toby S |
| 2 | Matilda L | Darcie C | Owen J Benny S | Luke G | Mason P |
| 3 | Rita P | Sami M | Zara M Harry T | Ellie J | Isobel B |

Week Commencing 22.04.24

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| 1 | Rita P | James P | Harry D Millie T | Poppy H | Sam H |
| 2 | Liberty C | Jacob P | Oliver T | Summer K | Evan H |
| 3 | Emilio T | Katelin W | Skye P | Elijah B | Ben E |

School Transport – Reminder from our Service Providers

A reminder to all students using School Transport services that seat belts provided must be worn when travelling to and from school.

All buses operate a "no food and drink" policy and students are advised to ensure they securely pack away all food and drink while travelling. Sometimes accidents happen, but they can be avoided!

When warmer weather arrives, students should also make sure they have a drink before boarding in order to have a comfortable journey home.

Bottles can be filled up across the site, as explained in our previous update letter!

House Cross Country

I'm delighted to share the results of our Inter-House Cross Country event, that took place during the first week of term.

After a flurry of late additions to the team sheets, over 200 students donned their kit to step up and race on behalf of their House.

This represents 25% of all students at the school and is a fantastic achievement – well done to everyone involved!



The beautiful cross country cross route was through Bincombe Woods and around our school playing fields.

All students were rewarded with house points for taking part, alongside their certificates.

As this is our first Cross Country as 'new' Wadham, the first three boys and girls in each year group have gone down in history as the first ever record holders for their times, which are now the standard to beat next year.

Overall winners for participating year groups are as follows:

| Year Group | Fastest Boy | Fastest Girl |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 7 | Fletcher A (Berry) | Olive C (Cooper) |
| 8 | Jack R (Berry) | Molly C (Powell) |
| 9 | Moken M (Berry) | Faith P (Cooper) |
| 10 | Luke G (Gibson) | Claudia C (Gibson) |

PFSA Support for Families - Reminder

Jemma and Becky, our PFSA team, are delighted to share that the next TINK (Tuning into Kids) programme will begin in June.

This is a free service for parents and carers to engage in a 5-week programme that will help them:

- Have a better understanding of their child's emotional needs.
- Help their child to learn to manage their emotions
- Give a better understanding of their child's behaviour
- Teach their child to manage conflict

Parents and carers can find out more and book directly onto this programme by using the contact details in the flyer attached to this letter.

Richard Burgas
29.04.24

Tuning in to Kids

A 5 week parenting programme for parents of children 4-12yrs

The course can support you to:

- Have better understanding of your child's emotional needs.
- Help your child learn to manage their emotions
- Help to better understanding of your child's behaviour
- Teach your child to manage conflict

**This course is FREE and available to any parents/
carers that would like to attend.**

When: Wednesday 12th, 19th, 26th June, and 3rd and 10th
July 2024

Where: Maiden Beech Academy, Crewkerne, TA18 8HG

Times: 9:30 - 12:00

Refreshments available from 9:15

For more information and to book your place please
contact Parent, Family Support Advisors:

Jemma Henwood— 07825054694

Rebecca Larcombe—07825054695