



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 24.09.24**

We have now 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.

Our focus on Core Knowledge is helping students to 'chunk' key skills and information into manageable pieces. Retrieval starter tasks and informal assessment in the lesson demonstrate this, and next steps are for us to review and develop our framework for homework and independent study.

I'm therefore excited to announce the introduction of a Sparx Reader platform across the school as part of this growing framework. Similar to Sparx Maths, the software is set according to individual students' learning levels and increases in challenge as a student's knowledge and skill improve. We're confident that this platform will help improve literacy levels, reading ages and more importantly, help establish a regular routine of reading across our student community. Further information will be published shortly, and as ever we're grateful of the support parents and carers give to encourage their child to read at home.

I am also pleased to share that extra-curricular clubs, trips and visits have begun in earnest! Some highlights in the calendar so far are:

- Installation of our Printing Press and Pottery Wheel in Art & Design!
- Chess Club has started up again – every Friday lunch in B22
- Year 11 Careers Talk about Apprenticeships – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Year 11 Trip to Numatic (selected students) – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 7 Geography trip to Cheddar Caves – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 10 Trip to Westlands Careers Fair (selected students) – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

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](#)

Early indications clearly show 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.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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



## Top Performing Students

With routines well established, I'm delighted to start our weekly celebration of the top performing students, based on the number of House Points received during the week.

Well done to everyone mentioned below, in kicking off this academic year with such a positive attitude towards your learning!

But... ..will you still be there next week?

## Week Commencing 16.09.24

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Nancy Platt	Joel Clark	Lola Hart	Esme Hallett	Riley Arnold Izzy Sousa
2	Emma Bennett	James Pearce Alatea Williams	Presley Vincent Alfie Windsor	Ciaran Emerson	Grace Prouse
3	Teddy Pithers	Rhona Ash	Poppy Baker	Finley Blunn	Gracie-May Lane Sam Sumption-Smith

## Year 11 Information Evening 12.09.24

Following positive attendance to our Year 11 Information Evening, I'm writing on behalf of Subject and Careers Leads to thank parents and students for coming to hear how support and intervention is being delivered to prepare Year 11 for their summer exams and Post-16 Progression.

Integral to this offer is our revised Sixth Form Provision, launching in September 2025 with a pathway offer that will combine studies in school with work experience leading to apprenticeship opportunities in the local area.

Although the Evening was geared to current Year 11, it's never too early to inform yourself about the support and options available and the link below will take you to the presentation delivered.

Presentation Slides: [Year 11 Information Evening 12.09.24](#)

Should you have any further questions, do not hesitate in contacting colleagues below:

Curriculum – Mr Simon White – [swhite@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:swhite@wadhamschool.co.uk)

Careers – Mrs Beth Church – [bchurch@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:bchurch@wadhamschool.co.uk)

Sixth Form – Mar Harri Isack – [hisack@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:hisack@wadhamschool.co.uk)

## 2024-25 School Production – Spamalot!

Ms Middleton is excited to announce that this year's school production will be 'Spamalot.'

The musical is, in Eric Idle's words, "lovingly ripped from the film, Monty Python and the Holy Grail." A re-telling for the stage of King Arthur's quest, where along the way he meets the Black Knight, the knights who say "Nee," the Lady of the Lake and the terrifying bunny rabbit... ..all interspersed with songs such as "I'm not dead yet" and "The song that goes like this."

Once again, our production will take place at the Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster, to give performers and patrons a truly authentic experience.



The Show will run from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## Safeguarding – Contact Details



'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 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 5.00-7.00pm

Preparations are well underway for our main Open Evening for the year, taking place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</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 has been 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!

If your child would like to be involved and has not yet returned a consent form, full details can be found in this letter here: [558D421DC629614A0831C1F6A2087B26.pdf \(wadhamschool.co.uk\)](#)



## **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.

Richard Burgas  
24.09.24