



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Tuesday 1st October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 01.10.24

Goodbye September, hello October!

Autumn is probably my favourite season, not least because I love the vibrancy and change of colour in nature as all the summer greens give way to autumn yellows, browns, reds and golds, but also because it means that Christmas is on the way!

My commute to school takes me past all kinds of scenery, and in particular I look forward to the climb up the hill, out of Maiden Newton and the descent through Winyard's Gap some 10 miles later. 'Mindfulness' is a much-used word, but I never tire of the view as the landscape falls away at this part of my journey, and I value the restorative effect that having time to simply 'see' the fields, hills, clouds and hedgerows has on me.

We all lead busy lives, but let's not forget that we are fortunate enough to live and work in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, and as autumn continues to unfold around us, let's find time and opportunity to acknowledge our surroundings.

Whether or not we have a personal faith that links nature and God we can all rejoice in its beauty and uniquely restorative qualities.

So, stop, breathe deeply and look outside...

So many shades of gold

Autumn

Another miracle we take for granted

Another expression of the artist's vision

**The blending of the autumn hues
with the setting sun**

Warm

Comforting

Perfect

Thank you for autumn, Lord

Amen

A prayer by Jon Birch, [Prayers for Autumn \(faithandworship.com\)](http://Prayers for Autumn (faithandworship.com))

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



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



Top Performing Students

Another week, another round of celebrations! It's great to see new names added below, as well as some familiar characters that continue to go from strength to strength.

Well done, everyone!

Week Commencing 23.09.24

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	Mason Wilson	Riley Morris	Jacob Lewer	Ciaran Emmerson Georgina Ham	Jayden Bryant Izzy Sousa Amber Stoodley
2	Evie Webster	Max Wallbridge	Lola Hart	Ruby Bryant	Lewis Whaites
3	Finley Winter	Liv Tasnier	Molly Lafford	Benny Storey	Nicole Ndlovu

Welcome to our Student Leaders!

Following successful interviews either side of the summer holiday, I'm pleased to announce this year's senior student leadership team:

Year 13 Leaders

Patrick Cummings	Student President
Ethan Bailey	Head of Gibson House
Ellena Bennett-Martin	Head of Berry House
Lara Deakin	Head of Cooper House
Izaak Gregory	Head of Powell House

Year 11 Prefects

Jamie Sheehan	Lily Hockey	Mollie Barratt
MJ Jones	Rebekah Harris	Edie Pattison
Mollie Best	Darcy Andrews	Amber Stoodley
Millie Webster	Crystal Hawkins	

Both student groups spoke passionately at interview about change projects they would like to action, with support from the School Council and wider community.

I'm sure you would wish to join me in congratulating all of the above students on their recent appointments and we look forward to hearing of the legacy they will leave after a productive year in post!

.....possible change to the House names, anyone?

Uniform Update – Coats not Hoodies!

Recent update letters have praised how well students are wearing uniform and adhering to our dress code. This positive message continues and I remain grateful to parents and carers for ensuring that students leave home with correct uniform and equipment for the day, or leave with a note explaining what the issue is and how it is going to be addressed.

We have seen very little need to isolate students that choose to wear uniform incorrectly.

With summer weather well behind us, please can I remind everyone that hoodies or zippy tops are not permitted as a substitute for an overcoat or jacket. Full guidance can be found in our policy on the website here: [Wadham School - School Uniform](#)

This week we are monitoring and reminding the small number of students that are wearing hoodies that they need to be removed, and replaced with a school jumper or overcoat if required.

From Monday 7th October students that do not remove hoodies when asked will be placed in ISR until uniform is worn correctly. This is already an established expectation, but I hope this reminder and delay in action will enable conversations in the home to take place regarding the need to wear a coat if cold.

Do please contact the school if there are potential barriers in meeting this expectation.

Student Survey Feedback - Toilets

I'm delighted to share that students have embraced the opportunity to give their views on how well they feel this term has started. All students have been able to complete the survey, with the overwhelming majority of students saying they feel safe and happy in school. Survey results agree with what external quality assessors of the school have already said – classrooms are calm places where teachers can teach and students are able to learn.

The survey report is being discussed with student leaders at the next School Council meeting, generating an action plan that will help us to continue to improve as a result of student voice. As ever there is always room for improvement, and on this occasion it's best summarised as follows:

Feedback from the survey has identified that students are most concerned about behaviour in the toilets, most notably in the girls' toilets. This involves groups of students not moving on from the toilets, as well as groups 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 the food waste that is dropped on cubicle floors and placed deliberately down the toilet. This behaviour is more prevalent among girls in Years 8 and 9, with an immediate and detrimental impact on other students who are unable to use these toilets. This is unacceptable.

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.

Another Knockout Performance by Moken!

Year 10 Boxer, Moken Mills, continues to impress in the ring with another win under his belt.

Competing in the Barum Box Club, Moken put all his energy and training to best use in winning the event and being awarded with a unanimous Gold medal.

Well done Moken – we continue to watch your progression in this sport with great pride and excitement!



Independent Learning Update – Sparx!

The use of Sparx Maths is well established in many schools and Wadham is no different. This is because the Sparx platform increases in challenge in response to students' development of knowledge – it is a proven and effective means of raising outcomes!

We've been using Sparx Maths for some time, and this year introduced Sparx Reader as part of our strategy to develop a culture of reading across the school.

Activities are being set as homework and I'm delighted to share some really positive outcomes since the start of term:

- An impressive number of **76,187** questions have been answered correctly in Sparx Maths so far this year.
- So far **144 books** have been read, with **currently 400 hours** of careful reading through Sparx Reader.
- **Well done** to Evie Webster, Edward Oleen and Charlie Hughes for the highest number of Sparx Reader points this week.
- **Well done** to the following students who are currently the highest XP level in school for Sparx Maths:

Student	Year Group	Sparx XP Level
Anna Rowswell	11	77
Shi Jie Lin	10	56
Lily Madgin	10	52
Emily Hutchings	10	45
Andrei Radulescu	9	42

Richard Burgas
01.10.24