



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 10.10.24**

The recent changeable weather has made break and lunchtimes more entertaining, with students and duty staff dashing on and off the field in response to the many downpours we have experienced. Wind and rain often conspire to unsettle learning – a natural phenomenon that has to be considered and catered for when teaching. I'm pleased to say that despite the recent run of poor weather, life has continued here calmly and with minimal disruption.

Students continue to show great maturity and care for their learning, which is to be commended. Every day I find examples of where their spirit and determination to do what is right over what is easy is freely applied, to the benefit of themselves and others.

A perfect example is our field. We ask that students take responsibility for keeping it clear of litter, and generally this expectation is followed. When we have concerns, students are quick to correct mistakes to ensure the field remains open.

"Opportunities not Obstacles" – a mantra I believe really does help you keep an open mind and positive outlook on the world. There will always be challenges ahead of us, but it is how we set ourselves to meet these challenges, and the actions we take, that determine how successful we will be.

"It's just relentless" one student told me last week, when I asked him how he felt the term was going, but he had a real sparkle in his eye and cheeky smile as he said it. Like many I speak to, I am humbled by the way our students embrace challenge and truly see only opportunity.

***Dear Lord,***

***Clear my mind of any distractions  
and help me focus on what's truly important to me.  
Remove any doubts, confusing and limiting beliefs.  
Light my path and straighten it before me  
so that I will never stray from Your plan for me.  
Banish all anxiety, fear, stress and negative emotions from my mind.  
May Your will be clear and my future bright.***

***Amen.***

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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



## Top Performing Students

Routines are well established and House Points continue to roll in!

A superb result for everyone listed below – it's great to see your hard work from last week rightly rewarded!

### Week Commencing 30.09.24

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Toren Hyland	Logan Fowler Ella Priddle Oscar Sansom	Daniil Lyszyk	Jessica Henly	Sophie Frackiewicz
<b>2</b>	Emily Harwood	Tanya Greenough	Rhiley Clarke	Karmel Adaway Josie Bulmer	Edie Patisson
<b>3</b>	Alfie Adaway Lily Norton	Pearl Guppy	Caitlyn Edwards	Lucy Wood	Izzy Sousa

### Independent Learning Update – Sparx!

A very special shout out to **Isabella-May Royle** in Year 8, who was the first student to achieve a Gold Reader Pass.

An avid reader, **she is currently number one across the school** with over 3000 Sparx Reader points! Well done, Isabella-May, you are absolutely smashing it!

**Well done** to the following students who achieved the highest reading points last week for Sparx Reader:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1 <sup>st</sup>	Emma Bennett	Logan Fowler	Alfie Charlesworth
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Summer Swaffield	Oscar Sansom	Thomas Shire
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fred Cox	George Broom	Edward Oleen

**Well done** to the following students who achieved the highest XP points last week for Sparx Maths:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Summer Swaffield	Harley-James Turner	Caitlyn Edwards	Carlota Generoso	Ashlee-May Larcombe

### **Marcus Serves Another Ace!**

Marcus King in Year 11 continues to impress on the Tennis court with another sterling performance in the recent Somerset County Championships that took place over the summer.

For a second year running, Marcus was crowned the U16 Boys' Champion, and went on to compete in the U18 Championship, making it all the way to the final.

I think it's only a matter of time until this trophy is added to his collection!

Well done, Marcus, on this significant sporting achievement at County level.



### **Scholastic Book Fair: 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October**

A reminder that we will be hosting a Scholastic book fair from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. This is a great opportunity for students to purchase the latest book releases. In addition, any money spent will result in vouchers for new books, for the school library.

All Key Stage 3 students will be given the opportunity to visit the fair during the school day and the fair will be open to all year groups at break and lunch to make purchases. Please see the attached poster for further information and a selection of the titles that will be available at the fair.

Payments for the book fair can be pre-made by following the links below. Either ordering vouchers for your child to spend or making an online payment for a specific amount. Please be aware no change will be given for the vouchers or online payments. Alternatively, students will be able to pay by card or cash on the day.

There is also a fantastic opportunity for Key Stage 3 students to win a book voucher to spend at the fair. Having recently launched Sparx Reader across Key Stage 3, students are awarded Sparx Reader Points for all the reading they complete.

We will be giving our top 5 readers a £5 voucher. The competition will run from 1<sup>st</sup> October and those students earning the most points by 3pm, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, will be rewarded.

Link to payments:

[Find school - Scholastic Book Fairs](#) Please select Wadham Community School.

[Book Fair Gift Vouchers - Scholastic Book Fairs](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs E George, School Librarian, at [egeorge@wadhamschool.co.uk](mailto:egeorge@wadhamschool.co.uk).

We look forward to your support and welcoming as many students as possible to the book fair.

## **Positive Social Norms – Lunchtime Behaviour**

It's great to see students out on the field thoroughly enjoying themselves either in football matches or playing catch. Every year group has a dedicated space for play, and generally these boundaries are respected.

This has led to a positive feeling at social time – a familiar routine, a known expectation. Unwanted behaviour has been minimal, and often only when emotions on the pitch have boiled over!

When footballs are left at home, however, play can become dysregulated. Recently we are seeing pockets of unwanted behaviour where students (typically boys) are playfighting, wrestling and piling onto a friend, who is lying on the floor.

In order to safeguard against upset, injury and damaged clothing, we have asked students not to engage in this type of 'play.' Going forward, students will be asked to leave the field for the remainder of the session if this continues.

## **Wadham School Late Bus**

We continue to benefit from a late bus service that leaves Wadham at 4.30pm each day, making a stop in Merriott before dropping students off in the centre of Ilminster.

Like all school transport, the Late Bus is provided by Somerset County Council, and all students travelling on this bus must follow the same rules and expectations as they would using their normal school bus each day.

This means that seat belts must be worn and all passengers must remain seated throughout their journey. The driver (and also other passengers) should not be distracted by loud or inappropriate behaviour and everyone has the right to feel safe and respected by the way they are treated – this is universal and isn't something that stops at the school gate.

I would ask parents of students that use school transport to give a reminder of this expectation, to address recent concerns we have received regarding behaviour on a couple of buses, and the late bus in particular.

As ever, I am grateful for your support.

## **Meet the Tutor Evening – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

A reminder of our first formal opportunity for parents to meet their child's tutor to discuss how well they have settled into their studies this term.

We also publish an initial 'settling in' report ahead of this evening to aid discussion, with teachers commenting on attributes for positive learning.

The Evening will take place from 4.00-7.00pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Full details, including how parents can book their appointments, will be published in a letter being sent early next week.

We look forward to seeing as many families as possible at this Meet the Tutor Evening.

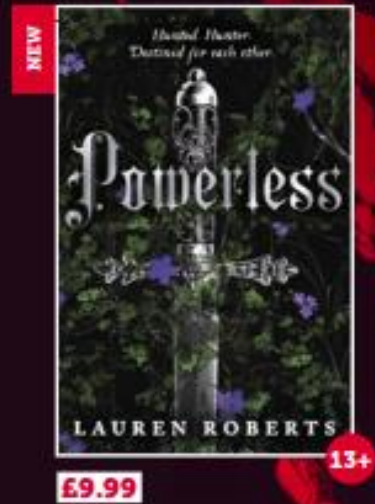
Richard Burgas  
10.10.24



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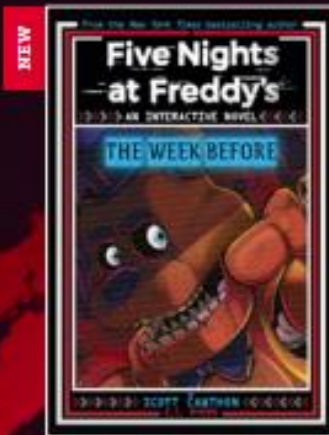
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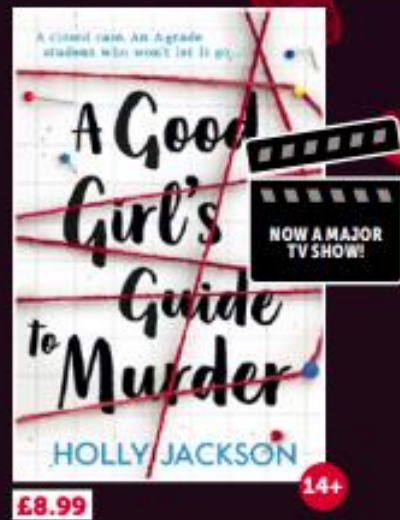
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- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in **£5, £10, £15, £20 and £25**. Go to [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers) to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List – please ask your school for details.

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