



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 02.12.24**

My update this week begins with a well done and 'thank you' to our Year 11 and 13 students for successfully navigating their mock exams. Always a busy week, students are to be commended for their maturity and concern shown to being in the right place at the right time, with everything they needed to complete their exam paper.

The mock exams serve 2 important functions:

- 1) They enable students to demonstrate under exam conditions what they know so far.
- 2) They enable students to experience and familiarise themselves with exam conditions!

With these first mocks now under their belt, all eyes turn to the Results Day in a couple of weeks' time and then to the GCSE Information Evening when we return in January.

In other news, field closures due to wet weather have increased footfall around the school site at break and lunch, with an increase in litter as a result. We have plenty of bins and everyone is reminded that it is our collective responsibility to keep everything clean and tidy, not least to avoid the growing number of seagulls that arrive each day expecting a free meal!

We have also seen an increase in poor language and behaviour during social times, perhaps in part in response to the field being closed – restricting some students from running around to let off steam – but perhaps also in response to an emerging confidence among a minority of students that feel it is OK to use abusive and offensive language to target others, including adults.

This is not acceptable and goes against the culture of tolerance, respect and kindness we have worked hard to embed. Students that persist in using offensive language or behaviour to cause upset or harass others will likely be removed to internal suspension, or indeed, be suspended.

Assemblies are being delivered this week to remind everyone of our expectations.

Although this message does not apply to the majority of students, it is shared for absolute transparency and to give reassurance that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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



## Top Performing Students

It's all change at the top with only 5 students from last week holding their places on the podium.

Well done to the 13 new students joining them – a reminder that as we celebrate House Points on a weekly basis, it really is everyone's game with everything to play for.

Mr White has launched the Christmas 'Cash-in' and we're looking forward to seeing record numbers of students use their House Point totals to unlock some fabulous rewards.

Well done, everyone, for your continued hard work!

## Week Commencing 18.11.24

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Archie Blunn	Lewis Watkins	Alfie Windsor	Emily Harwood	Ellie Vaughan-Mitchell
<b>2</b>	Emily Salter Finley Winter	Olivia Donahue Emma Pitman	Lola Hart	Holly Williams	Kirsty Rowswell
<b>3</b>	Cody Adams	Eliza Hodgson	Gracie-Marie Andrews Corey Wadkins	Darcy Broome	Elijah Brown

## Independent Learning Update – Sparx!

**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>	Olivia Moncur	Hedley Egge	Jack Hansford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lily Norton	Joe James	Nicole Zondo
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anna Smeeton	Keegan Robinson	Ruby Miles

**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
Jessica Harris	Hedley Egge	Lerryn Brown	Kyra Richards	(Mock Exams)

## Reverse Advent has Begun!

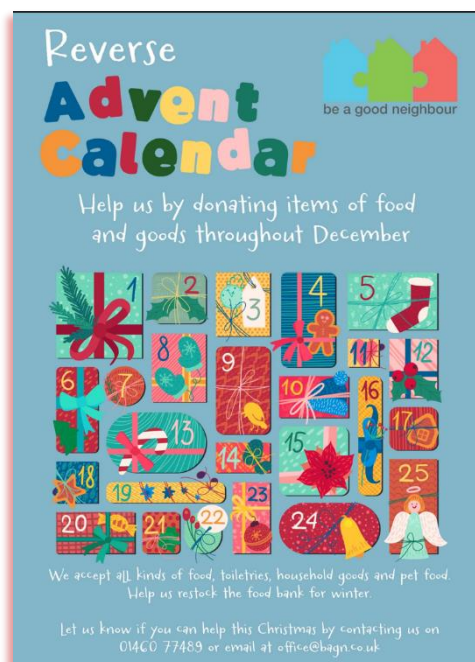
As in previous years we are proud to support local foodbanks through the work of the "Be a Good Neighbour" scheme at Crewkerne Community Church.

From today until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, we're asking for donations of toiletries, dried food, tinned food, long-life milk, cereal, biscuits, etc to be collated.

We recognise that the cost of living crisis is affecting many families, so are grateful of all and any donations received.

Please ensure donations are brought to the Pastoral Hub by 3.00pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you so much for your support.



## Christmas Cash-in!

Recognition of student achievements has taken a new form with the introduction of a "Christmas Cash-in" incentive currently underway.

Launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, students have continued to rack-up their House Points with totals unlocking rewards in the final week of term.

Student totals will be 'locked' on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December and students will receive a token from their tutor on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December that will unlock the rewards they have achieved.

A poster with further details about the rewards on offer is at the end of this letter. As many families will be able to track House Points on the Arbor App, you'll be able to see which particular reward you are likely to achieve.

Sincere thanks to Mr White for devising this scheme – we're confident it will be a hit with students and something we build upon in the future.

## Early Christmas? - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December!

A reminder that it will feel like Christmas has come early at Wadham with 3 key events taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December:

- Christmas Jumper Day 2024
- Christmas Dinner at lunchtime
- Carol Concert 5.00-6.00pm

The day will be non-uniform for all students and staff, with people able to wear a Christmas jumper should they wish. Donations will be given in support of Save the Children.

Pre-ordered Christmas dinners are the only hot food being served on the day, cold food items can be purchased from the New Sports Hall.

And finally, details of our Carol Concert can be found at the end of this letter – do sign up using the QR code on the poster to secure your place!



# Christmas Cash-in 2024!

See what your House Points will unlock this Christmas!



**Bronze Reward 100-150 House Points**  
**Canteen Christmas Treat**



**Silver Reward 150-200 House Points**  
**Canteen Christmas Treat**  
**& Hot Chocolate during a lesson**



**Gold Reward 200-250 House Points**  
**Canteen Christmas Treat**  
**& Hot Chocolate during a lesson**  
**& 3 tickets for the prize draw**



**Diamond Reward 250-300 House Points**  
**Canteen Christmas Treat**  
**& Hot Chocolate during a lesson**  
**& 3 tickets for the prize draw**  
**& Movie during a lesson with popcorn!**



**Platinum Reward 300+ House Points**  
**Canteen Christmas Treat**  
**& Hot Chocolate during a lesson**  
**& 3 tickets for the prize draw**  
**& Movie during a lesson with popcorn**  
**& 15 tickets for the prize draw**



## Christmas Draw Prizes

**1 x £40 Voucher**  
**1 x £30 Voucher**  
**1 x £20 Vouchers**  
**8 x £10 Vouchers**  
**8 x Trip with friend to Costa**  
**Voucher (During lessons)**

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Christmas at Wadham

19 | Dec | 5 PM

Join us in the Main Hall,  
Come in your most festive Christmas  
jumper for our carol singalongs.

Followed by Hot chocolate and  
Mince pies



Use the QR Code above to book your place at the Carol Concert!



## Ilminster Town Council Public Consultation

**We would like to ask you to complete a survey about our community and it's future. We are asking the residents about the following topics**

- **Tennis Courts**
- **Playparks and skatepark**
- **Refreshment kiosk**
- **Public toilets**
- **Activities**
- **Help and support**
- **Newsletter**
- **Ilminster area resilience group and volunteering**

**You can complete the survey online at <https://forms.office.com/e/AwacNFsSe4> or by scanning the QR code below. The closing date is 9th December 2024.**

**All replies are anonymous. Thank you for your participation.**



Richard Burgas  
02.12.24