



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

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



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Headteacher's Update Letter 20.05.25**

The end of term is only 3 days away - but walk the site here at Wadham and you wouldn't necessarily know it!

We've never been a school to coast to the finish line, and once again it's hugely encouraging to see how hard everyone is working (even when temperatures in some classrooms are rising!) and making the most of their time in school to learn and achieve. Thank you!

Year 11 and 13 are embracing the daily challenge of GCSE and A-Level exams. The positive routines of exam briefings, informal 'de-briefings' by offloading to excited staff once the exam is over, and the adherence to our hybrid timetable really is helping manage the emotional load that is part of every exam season. You got this!

Students – well done in getting to half term with some BIG exams successfully under your belt, every day is another day closer to the next chapter in your lives, and we're excited for both the extended summer break you deserve, and the onward progression you'll achieve!

To everyone else, thank you for showing great pride in your school – in your appearance, in your playful, caring attitude shown to others and in the respect you give yourself and expect from others in taking your education seriously. Well done!

It's a real joy to watch what you do here every day, and I always look forward to checking in with my key groups throughout the week:

- To my Year 9's on the field – don't forget to bring a football if it is that important!
- To the Year 10 'crew' – thanks for looking after the Pavilion, I can't wait to see if we can secure funds to get this renovated and brought back into use!
- To Betsy and Judit – I'm looking forward to the next chapter of the story on Friday!
- 8RC and 8GD German – no contest, the 2 best classes I've taught this year 😊
- And finally, to Micky... I'm having a great week, thanks, and hope you are too. Thanks for the daily check-ins when we pass each other!

You each make a positive difference to my day and are just the tip of the iceberg in representing a student collective that makes working at Wadham so special.

Wishing everyone a positive and peaceful half-term break when it gets here.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas  
Headteacher



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



## Top Performing Students

Racing towards half term, I am delighted to share the "Top 3" in recent weeks and pleased to see a mix of familiar names and new arrivals!

By a single person, Year 7 have secured the top spot with the greatest number of students on the podium across the two weeks.

Well done, everyone, for your persistent hard work and positive attitudes 😊

### Week Commencing 06.05.25

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Olivia Moncur	Riley Morris	Alfie Charlesworth Caitlyn Edwards Charlie Napper	Jessica Henly	Emily Bending
<b>2</b>	Alfie Adaway	Amelia Davies Bertie Pattison	Logan Gregory	Georgina Ham	Kirsty Rowswell
<b>3</b>	Ellis Brown Millie England Emily Salter Finley Winter Tilly-Louise Watts	Erin Gentle	Lewis Larcombe	Charlotte Sharp	Ellie Vaughan-Mitchell

### Week Commencing 12.05.25







	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1</b>	Sophie Wicks	Rhona Ash Riley Morris Alatea Williams	Rhiley Clarke	Thomas Gibson	GCSE Exams
<b>2</b>	Evan Lock	Mya-Rose Wilson	Lola Hart	Eszter Kozari Zara Mapstone	
<b>3</b>	Jack Lee	Eliza Hodgson	Katelin White	Zuzanna Bamburska Ruby Bryant Georgina Ham	

## Homework Update - Achievements

I'm delighted to share the following information from the Seneca Platform regarding students' achievements regarding Homework in the last week.

We remain top of the leaderboard across Somerset, which speaks volumes for the work ethic of Wadham students in comparison to their peers and the commitment they continue to apply to their learning and wider studies.

Great work, everyone, for showing other schools how it is done and giving them a positive example to follow.

School name	XP
  <b>Wadham School</b> Crewkerne, Somerset <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px 5px;">School synced</span>	221,400
  <b>St Dunstan's School</b> Glastonbury, Somerset <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px 5px;">School synced</span>	153,558
  <b>Huish Episcopi Academy</b> LANGPORT, Somerset <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px 5px;">School synced</span>	101,788







## Well done to everyone below for making it into the Top 10!

Year 11 continue to dominate the "study time" leaderboard, achieving nearly **430 hours** of study in the last cycle.

Interestingly, it's encouraging to see the average study time of all year groups combined has increased by over 50 hours to **230 hours – well done everyone for stepping up!**

It's also great to see continued representation from all year groups on the "average score" leaderboard – with a sole representative from Year 8 defending her crown.

### – Well Done, Isabella-May!

Top students by study time				Top students by average score			
	Anna Rowswell	Year 11	18h 28min		Isabella-May Royle	Year 8	100%
	George Finch	Year 11	15h 33min		Andrei Radulescu	Year 9	100%
	Vivian Dawkins	Year 11	13h 41min		Zoë Neal	Year 11	100%
4	Millie Webster	Year 11	11h 56min	4	Lily Madgin	Year 10	100%
5	Kirsty Rowswell	Year 11	11h 49min	5	Lucas Linten	Year 9	100%
6	Jack Smith	Year 11	11h 3min	6	Emily Hutchings	Year 10	100%
7	Sophie Frackiewicz	Year 11	10h 57min	7	Daniel Bryant	Year 10	100%
8	Milo Phippen	Year 11	10h 43min	8	Jenny Pitman	Year 9	99%
9	Corey Foot	Year 11	10h 31min	9	Zuzanna Bamburska	Year 10	98%
10	Pixie Knott	Year 11	10h 15min	10	Amber Quartley	Year 7	98%

## Summer Uniform – Reminder!

Our sincere thanks to families where uniform has been a concern recently and changes have now been made – it's much appreciated.

Despite this, a very small number of students are changing out of expected uniform and wearing other items during the day. When challenged, most can replace these items with correct uniform, but we are keen to avoid this unnecessary conflict and the disruption it causes. Please be reminded of our policy in these specific areas:

- **Skirts need to be of a sensible length.** There is a concern being shared by adults in school and we have had communication from the community that some skirts are too short and are inappropriate to be wearing.
- **Shoes must be plain black and unbranded.**
- **Shorts** – Students may choose to wear tailored shorts, instead of full -length trousers or skirts. **Shorts must be black with no markings or symbols.**
- **Shorts must be the same material as permitted full length trousers.**
- Socks – **Socks must be plain black.**

Although this message is intended for a very small number of individuals, it is shared again for transparency of our expectation and as a big THANK YOU to everyone else that is wearing correct uniform and following our dress code.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

## PTFA Fundraiser – Brave the Shave!

Donation tins have been going around tutor groups during morning registration and judging by the weight and the significant rattle, it's clear we are well passed the £140 already raised and I suspect at the next update, Mr Straker-Nesbit's beard will be coming off.



It's been wonderful to have many students come and share messages of challenge and encouragement – I sense a real desire for the clippers to take me down to a Grade 1 and I'm keen to meet the positive spirit of everyone involved with a further offer of my own.

After half term and based on student demand (!) I'll create a lottery event for students and staff to have the chance to wield a clipper on the day, assuming we're going to smash the £500 target.

It will be open to all, although I hope people will have made a donation, with 3-5 lucky winners each getting a go with the clippers on the big day.

I'm immensely proud of the generosity and positivity shown by students and welcome the opportunity to reward a lucky few with a chance to be more directly involved. 😊

## Somerset Anne Frank Youth Awards

Somerset Anne Frank Youth Awards invites Somerset's creative writers of the next generation to submit their Anne Frank inspired work.

Every year we choose a quote from Anne Frank's diary and ask our entrants to write a piece based on it.

Your work can be in any form you choose - poetry, prose, a diary entry, or a short story with a maximum of 500 words.

The winners will get the opportunity to read their entries aloud at our Awards Ceremony.

There are four age categories:

School years 5-6 (Ages 9-11)

**School years 7-9 (Ages 11-14)**

**School years 10-11 (Ages 14-16)**

**School years 12-13 (Ages 16-18)**

This year's quote is,

***"You can always give something - even if it's just kindness".***

– Anne Frank

A shortlist of entries will be selected by a panel of judges and the final winners will be adjudicated by a special guest judge.

Prizes for each age category include:

**1st:** £75 in book tokens

**2nd:** £50 in book tokens

**3rd:** £25 in book tokens

Each shortlisted entrant will also receive a copy of 'The Diary of a Young Girl - Anne Frank' and a certificate of recognition.

How to enter:

We request that all entries are submitted via our [online form](#).

More information and a link to enter are available here:

<https://www.safya.org.uk/about-the-cwa>.



Richard Burgas  
20.05.25