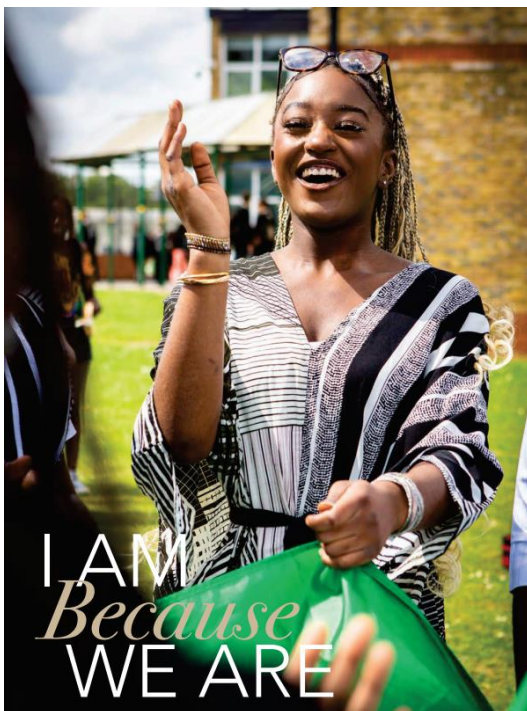




Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – September, 2023



Welcome to the first of, what will hopefully become a monthly, newsletter!

I am aware that you receive a number of emails and letters from us during the course of the week. This partly reflects the complexity of catering for the needs of 1000 students, but also the opportunities available at Waddesdon.

In order to streamline the information you receive and to connect with you more regularly, I am piloting a Parent Newsletter this term.

I would welcome feedback on how we can best keep you in touch with school, however long your association has been with Waddesdon.

With all good wishes,

Mr Abbott

'Living out our Values' Week



The publication of this newsletter coincides with the school's 'Living out our Values' week. During the week, we will engage with the student body about how we can embody the values of Dignity, Respect and Kindness through active citizenship.

Students will discuss how they can be actively involved in, and lead, our shared work to combat different forms of discrimination, respond to the climate emergency, contribute to the community and speak out against bullying.



Update on the Work in School

Since being given the 'all clear' for the Central Block on Wednesday, 6th September, we have been working closely with the Department for Education to provide an alternative restaurant space for eating and Sixth Form study.



On Friday, 15th a temporary marquee was constructed in the courtyard area between the Thorp Building and Sixth Form Group Study area. It has a similar capacity as the current restaurant (300 spaces).



We have also worked a specialist structural engineer to understand what steps we need to take to re-open the restaurant area.



Attendance Matters

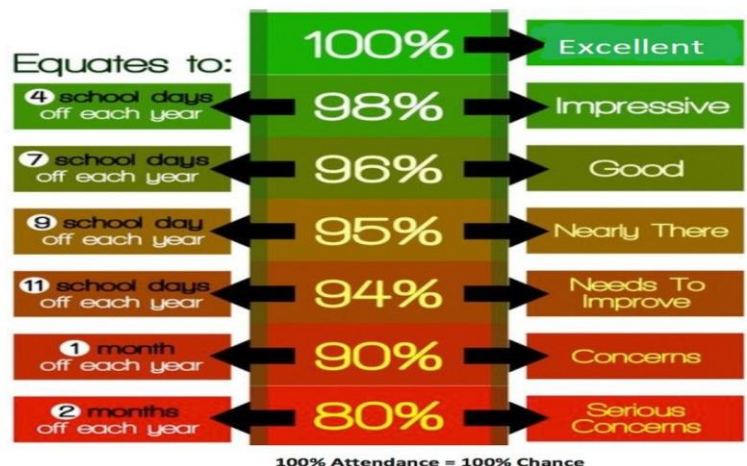
If you are reading this newsletter, the chances are that you are amongst the vast majority of our parent body who know how important daily attendance is for well-being and academic success.

We understand the barriers to attendance that some children face, including emotionally based school avoidance.

However, we are determined to work with you to ensure that all children attend and make progress; this is because all children matter and because the data for future outcomes of students who are persistently absent makes stark [reading](#).

In 2019 secondary school pupils who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths **missed 10 more days on average over the key stage** than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

Please talk to us about how we can support any specific issues that you are facing at home.





Extra-curricular Activities and the Wednesday Late Bus

There are a number of extra-curricular activities which run throughout the week at lunchtime and after school. These are announced to the students regularly in assembly, with updates posted on our [website](#).

As it can be difficult for students who live further afield to attend these, we run two late buses on a Wednesday. The routes are outlined below:

Route 1: Westcott, Ashendon, Upper Winchendon, Quainton (The Green), Pitchcott, Oving (Bowling Alley), North Marston (Pilgrim PH), Whitchurch (on request), Hardwick (on request)

Route 2: Kingswood, Grendon Underwood (all stops if required), Springhill (prison), Edgcott, Calvert (Green), Charndon (on request), Marsh Gibbon The Plough (on request), Ludgershall Village Hall (on request)

The buses will return to their depots in Aylesbury and so the bus company (Motts) have also indicated that they would be happy to drop students to a central point in Aylesbury, if required.

Both buses will leave school at 4.35pm, with the longest journey time taking approximately 45 minutes.



We are a Nut-free School

Although it may be tempting to follow this heading with an off-the-cuff remark, for children and staff who have nut allergies, this can be a life and death situation. Last year, we very nearly had a serious allergic reaction from someone who was unaware of a latent allergy.

For that reason, we ask that you respect the request not to bring in food stuffs which contain nuts or traces of nuts. Our school nurse, Mrs Leach writes,

"At Waddesdon, we want to make sure our students with allergies feel safe at school as we have a number of students with a range of allergies.

These students could be at risk of serious harm if they have an allergic reaction, so we ask that everyone does what they can to help us keep them safe.

We are a nut free school so please ensure that no products containing nuts are brought into school (including peanut butter, cereal bars, chocolate spread, shop bought cakes and snacks).

If you are unsure, please don't hesitate to contact us."



Travel to School

Thanks to you, we were awarded Green status for our work a School Travel Plan which supports considerate travel to and from school, including the impact on local residents.

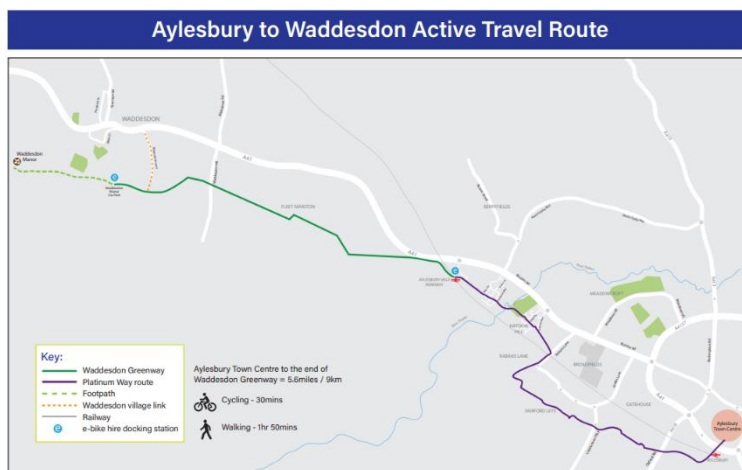
Our [Travel Plan](#) encourages you to commit to doing **one of the three following things** to make the world and our local environment a better place:

- Walk, scoot or bike to school
- Use Waddesdon Manor's overflow carpark (as advertised in the letter in the first week back)
- Consider using the five minute walking bubble when dropping off and picking up

These things will not only make the world a better place, but they will also contribute positively to your child's mental well-being.

The newly opened Platinum Way, or Waddesdon Greenway, provides a wonderful approach route to the school from the east.

We would love to be able to install additional bike racks due to increased demand.



What to do if you're not happy about something

If you're not happy about something, please let us know and we will work with you to resolve the issue.

Our [Complaints Policy](#) outlines the steps you can take, but the simple message is to **get in touch with us**. If you send your concern to office@waddesdonschool.com, it will be directed to the right person.

You should expect to hear back in 48 hours, so if you have no reply then, please ring the school office to check the progress on your complaint.

Even in moments of high emotion, we ask that you consider how best to convey your complaint. If the issue cannot be resolved by email or a phone conversation, then it is usually best to arrange a face-to-face meeting as lengthy email exchanges tend to become counter-productive.



Important Upcoming Events

Weds, 20th September – **Year 12 Parent/Carers Information Evening**

Tues, 26th September - **Open Day and Evening** for Year 7 in-take (2024)

Weds, 27th September – Staff Appraisal Day (**INSET**) – no teaching for students

Mon, 2nd & Tues, 3rd October – **Year 7 Team-building**

w.b. 16th October – **Charity Week**

Weds, 18th October – **Annual Service of Praise and Thanksgiving**

Frid, 20th October – **Year 11 Report** issued



Year 10 Activities Day, July 2023

"Be determined, never give up; treat people you work for, with, or who work for you with dignity and respect." [Greg Dyke's advice to young people setting off into their working life]



Website:
www.waddesdonschool.com



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