



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

“Consider yourself one of the family”

As work continues in earnest for our production of *Oliver!* on 16th – 18th November, my office has been regularly resounding with the above line from one of its famous show tunes!

As a school which aims to serve its community, family and friendship matter to us at Waddesdon. In part, that is why I am piloting this newsletter – to reach out to you and to respond to questions or suggestions.



If you have a moment, please [click on the link here](#), so that we can build a better Waddesdon family. You will be able to complete the form in English, Ukrainian or Urdu (اردو). If you, or someone you know, needs to see the link in another language, please just let me know.

Wishing you a happy October.

Mr Abbott

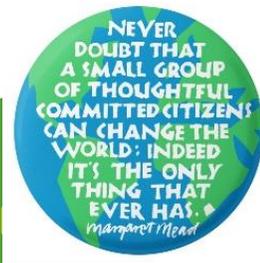
Charity Week (16th – 20th October)

Our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team are doing some amazing work tackling issues that they care about.

In the week of 16th October, they will be encouraging our student body to reflect on what charity means and how we can live out our shared values by helping others.

You will find information from Miss Bridges later on in this newsletter regarding the collections that we will be making during the week.

On Friday, 20th October, students will be raising awareness, and money, for Breast Cancer by holding a non-uniform day.



Supporting independent learning – Period 6



We know that independent learning matters and as a school value the place of meaningful homework and structured revision. For example, you can't become proficient in French or Spanish without regularly learning vocabulary and reviewing grammar at home.

Students who fail to complete three or more homework tasks over a two-week period are entered into our Period 6 after-school support sessions (in the first instance for four sessions, increasing in number for students who continue to struggle meeting homework deadlines). We ask that parents support their children by supporting us, if your child is unable to complete work at home.

We also run a voluntary afterschool homework club Monday to Thursday which all students are welcome to attend.

Homework is seen as one of the principal ways in which student achievement can be raised and it is important that homework is valued, so that it becomes routine. We believe the responsibility for completing homework in the first instance comes from the students themselves, alongside parents who may help provide structure and routine.



Preparing for Exams

This term, we are supporting our students with examination practice in Year 13, Year 10 and Year 11, with key dates being:

w.b. 2nd October: Year 13 Snapshot Assessment Week

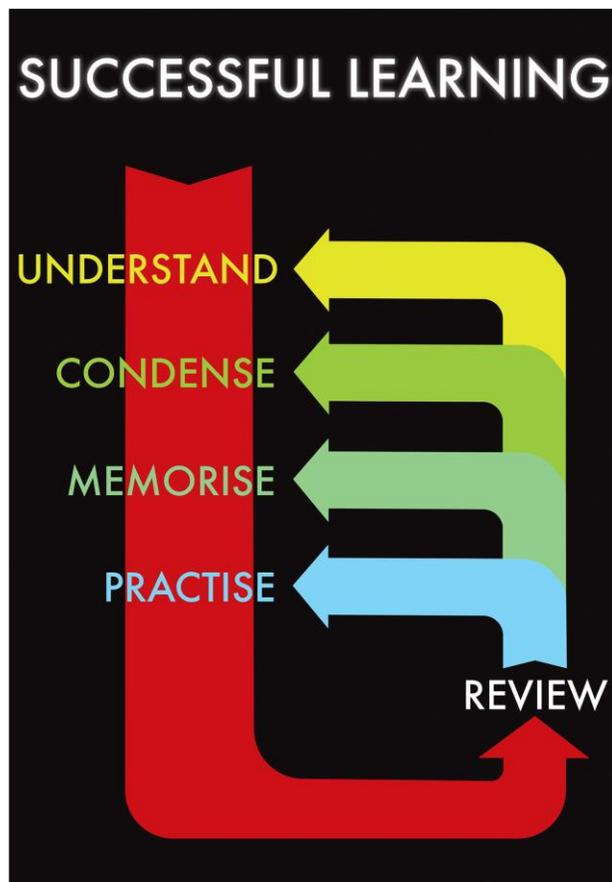
w.b. 30th October: Year 10 Mock Exam Week

w.b. 4th December: Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight

Based on knowledge of long-term retrieval and our experience of what makes the most difference, we encourage our students to consider five steps in their independent practice: understand, condense, memorise, practise and review.

There is a Year 11 Parents' Information Evening on 1st November to provide support and strategies to maximise revision and preparation.

CGP revision guides are available to purchase on ParentPay to help your son / daughter revise for their upcoming English Literature and English Language mock exams. The relevant books for English Literature are the Power and Conflict guide and workbook.





Attendance Matters

Thank you for your continued support on ensuring the highest attendance at school possible.

Our attendance officer, Mrs Ackerlay, is on hand to help you if you would like support so that we can overcome whatever issues you might be facing.



What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19

The NHS advises that people "stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- have a high temperature (*38C or above*)
- do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature. If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare."

"You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if you have symptoms. But if you or your child have tested positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day the test was taken if you or your child are under 18 years old – children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test if you are 18 years old or over."



Update on the Work in School

Our Business Manager and Site Staff continue to work to improve the accommodation following the closure of our restaurant.

The marquee is working well for lunch and break times, providing an effective eating and socialising space for our students. Over the course of the next week, it will be fitted with heating and the side panels reinforced so that we can continue to use it as the weather becomes more autumnal.



We are working with the Department for Education on two additional projects: firstly, we will construct a separate study space for our Sixth Form (similar to the picture you see here); secondly, it is likely that we will completely replace the restaurant roof and re-model the interior. Although this is a longer project, it will provide better facilities in the longer term for our young people. We'll keep you informed and up-to-date as things develop.

We are a Microsoft school and as such we administer our own Tenancy. What this means for you and your child, is that you can download and use Microsoft Office applications (e.g. Word, Excell and PowerPoint) for free on five devices while your child is a student at this school.

To access this facility all you have to do is open a web browser on your computer and go to www.office.com and click the Sign in button. Sign into Office 365 using the email address and password issued to the student when they started at Waddesdon. Once you have logged in, click the Install Apps button at the top right. Please note that this facility is only available while your child is a student at the school, and you are limited to five devices. Unfortunately we are unable to offer support if you have any issues installing the applications on your private machines.



The Waddesdon Greenway

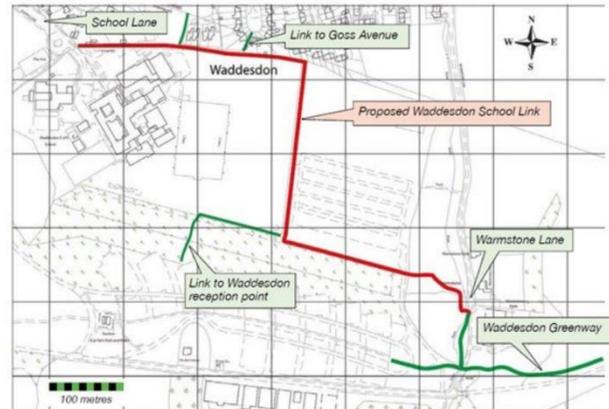
Construction work to upgrade an 800m path between the existing [Waddesdon Greenway](#) and Waddesdon schools is well under way.

The project is due for completion in October 2023.

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

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
- 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.



Wednesday Late Bus

The late bus is now up and running! We encourage our students to take advantage of it so that they can take part in extra-curricular activities (see [website.](#)) and also if they need to catch up on, or complete work.

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.



Waddesdon Charity Week 16 – 20th October 2023 – further details

Students and Staff will be collecting for a range of charities and raising awareness of the importance of charities within our community. The charity project will be launched at school throughout the week.

Although we will be looking at the role of charities in society, we would like to support a small number of them. We understand that a financial commitment to a charity is sometimes difficult, so we would like to collect items instead.

This year we would like to collect items for:

- **Link to Hope** – Family & Elderly Shoe Box Appeal
- **Bernie Bus 1000 can appeal** – local food bank scheme
- **Pet food bank/local animal shelter** food collection
- **The Hygiene Bank** (personal hygiene collection)
- **Bucks Inspires** Xmas Toy Appeal

If you would like to contribute to any of these charity collections, please see the list of items below. We will be taking donations in the library each day and will continue to collect items up until Friday 8th December 2023. Donations will be delivered by the school to the various charities in time for the festive season.

Thank you.
Miss Bridges

Citizenship Coordinator

Link To Hope Shoe Box Appeal

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebbox-appeal-2023/>

Toys/small games

School Supplies/stationary

Hygiene items

Hats, gloves, scarves

Sweets or chocolates (Best before June 2024)

Select items from family or elderly list

Shoe boxes/wrapping paper/transportation fees.



Bernie Bus 10,000 can appeal (collection for local food banks)

https://www.facebook.com/BernwodeBus/?locale=en_GB

Packets of Cereal
Long Life Fruit Juice
Sponge Puddings
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Fruit /Tinned Meat
Biscuits /Chocolate
Pasta Sauces /Instant Mash
Dried Milk
Toiletries /Baby Wipes
Bags for Life



RSPCA / Local pet food bank

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/costofliving/foodbank>

Dog food/biscuits/treats
Cat food/biscuits/treats
Small animal food/treats
Pet Toys



The Hygiene Bank

<https://www.thehygienebank.com>

New, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials including:

Deodorant
Shower gel/Shampoo
Make-up
Sanitary items
Nappies
Toilet roll
Laundry detergent/Surface cleaner



Bucks Inspires Xmas Toy Appeal

<https://www.inspirebucks.charity/our-projects1/christmas-appeal>

Childrens toys (all ages) New toys only.

WSA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



This year we have decided to hold a mini Christmas Fayre alongside the school show 'Oliver' which will take place on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th November 2023. With this in mind, the WSA will be providing a couple of stalls and will be selling raffle tickets prior to each of the performances.

The WSA will also be selling refreshments on each evening before and during the interval of each show. For the Xmas Fayre and raffle to be a success and to enable the WSA to raise vital funds for the school we are asking for donations.

Items required include:

- **Food items/festive drinks for Christmas hampers**
- **New toys**
- **Gifts**
- **Leisure tickets**
- **Toiletries**
- **Chocolates/sweets**
- **Tombola items**

Students will be asked to bring items into school between Monday 30th October and Friday 24th November 2023.

Items should be dropped off in the school Library.

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase on Parent Pay until Wednesday 29th November, with the draw taking place on Friday 1st December 2023.

Thank you for your continued support.

WSA



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

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

w.b. 16th October – **Charity Week**

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

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

23^d – 27th October – Half-term

w.b. 30th October – **Year 10 Mock Exam Week**

Weds, 1st November – **Year 11 Mock Information Evening (6pm)**

w.b. 6th November – **Year 10 Languages Speaking Mock exams**

Weds, 8th November – **Year 7 Form Tutors Evening with parents (by appointment)**



Green Racing Car in action – next competition...Sunday 8th October at Goodwood Races...

John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."



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