



# Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – January, 2024

## And, we're off!

The first donations are in, and have already enabled us to raise £2,200 for our Sixth Form Centre. Thank you so much and Happy New Year!

Mr Abbott

**Waddesdon Church of England School**

Search for a friend or appeal

Create a team Fundraise for us Donate now

**< 1% Funded**

- £500K Target
- £2,190 Raised
- 5 Donors

**Help us to build our Sixth Form Centre**

enthuse Donate

If you would like to support us, please [click here](#) to go to our giving page.





## Essential information – New Year’s checklist:

- ✓ Let us know if any of your contact details have changed
- ✓ Each week, check that your child’s Parent Pay account is topped up so that they can continue to buy food from the restaurant
- ✓ Sign up for our new SIMS app (see below) so that you can find out more about your child’s successes in school and any issues you need to pick up at home.
- ✓ Make a note of key dates, including the Careers Fair, and Parents’ Evenings for Year 9, 11 and 13 (see back page)
- ✓ Use the revision guidance to chat to your son or daughter if they are in Year 11 or 13
- ✓ Consider whether you might want to become a School Governor

## New Year’s Resolution – to join the 100% attendance club!

Congratulations to a fifth of all our students who attended school every single day last term. In our end of term assembly, while acknowledging that people face different challenges, Mr Sturla celebrated their achievements.

Daily attendance, above anything else, makes the most difference to a young person’s chances of educational success and their ability to cope with the challenges of life.

With that in mind, please get in touch with us if your child is unhappy at school – for whatever reason - and do continue to talk to us about how we can support any specific issues that you are facing at home.

All children, and their circumstances, are unique. Let’s work together to get them into school.



## Keeping in touch with you

After a successful trial period with the Year 7 parent group, and as part of our increased engagement with parents across the school, we have now rolled out our communication facility to all parents from Year 8 to Year 11.



To take advantage of this, there are two steps in the process: the first is to register an account with SIMS Online, and the second step is to download the App and link your account to the App. You will receive a letter with instructions on how to complete these processes and you will have received the activation code to create your SIMS online account.

If you get stuck then there is a wealth of knowledge and help on our website - <https://www.waddesdonschool.com/communications/>. If you cannot find the solution to your problem on the website, then please contact Mr. Purchase (our IT Manager) through the office email address.

We encourage all parents to create an account and download the App so that you can monitor the progress of your child during their time at Waddesdon School.



## Interested in joining our Governing Body?

We currently have spaces on our Governing Body for any parents who are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, or would like to apply under our Foundation Governor criteria.

If you (or someone you know) would be interested in finding out more, please contact the school via the office email and direct your enquiry to me. I'd then be happy to arrange a time to chat through what it entails.

We are looking particularly for Governors with skills in Finance, HR, legal expertise, property, safeguarding and education. The Governing Body is a dedicated, professional and happy group of individuals who help to set the school's strategic direction and play an important role in holding the school to account.

**Post 16**

## Sixth Form Applications for September 2024

Thank you to all Year 11 families who attended the Sixth Form Open Evening and completed the initial e-form on the school website about subject interest. We are currently working hard on our subject option blocks to accommodate as many subject choice combinations as possible. We'll publish the option blocks on the link below in mid-January. Students will then need to complete the full e-application by 19th February.

We hold our Sixth Form consultations with students from February to the end of May in school. This is an informal conversation with students about their subject choices, their future career aspirations and an opportunity to answer any questions they have.

For more information about the application process:

<https://www.waddesdonschool.com/joining-our-sixth-form/>



## Inspiring futures - Year 12

Year 12 will be able to explore their future pathways further this term. After an introductory assembly, they will hear presentations from a university, degree apprenticeship provider and gap year company in Extension Studies. We will launch summer term work experience (letter home to follow in early February) and encourage students to attend our school Careers Fair on 22nd February. We run a Life after Waddesdon Evening for parents/carers in the summer term, but if you would like some introductory information in the meantime, please click here:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-to-study/what-can-i-do-next>

Your son/daughter will also be able to show you their personal Unifrog account. This is an excellent careers platform the school invests in, where students can complete psychometric careers tests, explore the different pathways more thoroughly, research entry requirements, access labour market information, create shortlists, look into super-curricular activities, and lots more. Following the presentations noted above, students have a guided research workshop using Unifrog to help them narrow down their options and make informed choices.

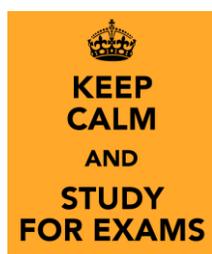


## Supporting your child with revision and exam preparation at home

At Waddesdon, we use the following steps with students to underpin a successful revision programme: plan, understand, condense, memorise/review and practise.

REVISION STEP	QUESTIONS WE ASK STUDENTS TO CONSIDER	HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FROM HOME IF YOUR SON/DAUGHTER IS STRUGGLING
<b>PLAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Are you able to put together an <b>effective revision timetable</b>?</li> <li>✓ Do you <b>chunk the content</b> down to make it manageable and stay motivated?</li> <li>✓ Do you plan in <b>breaks and rewards</b>?</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage a weekly routine (see planner below), with timetabled breaks and rewards.</p> <p>Use the revision planner below (or an online app e.g. <a href="https://www.mystudylife.com">https://www.mystudylife.com</a>) to write on exam dates and work backwards in terms of revision planning, using the syllabus to chunk down content to make it manageable.</p> <p>Help devise a daily checklist of small, achievable tasks to tick off as they go.</p>
<b>UNDER- STAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Are all of your class and homework <b>notes</b> up to date, complete and in order?</li> <li>✓ Have you gone through the syllabus/your work and used '<b>traffic lighting</b>'?</li> <li>✓ How can you improve your understanding of <b>challenging topics</b>?</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage your son/daughter to go back through their class notes and check all work is fully completed and in order.</p> <p>Using the exam syllabus or titles of class/homework, get your son/daughter to traffic light their level of understanding – 'green' for understood fully, 'amber' for some questions, and 'red' for don't understand yet.</p> <p>For 'red' topics, encourage your son/daughter to go back to the textbook or recommended resources online to improve their understanding. If still struggling, they can ask their teacher via Classcharts.</p>
<b>CONDENSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do you have a copy of the <b>syllabus</b> for each subject?</li> <li>✓ Do you use the <b>syllabus to structure</b> your condensed notes?</li> <li>✓ How effective is your <b>strategy</b> for creating condensed revision notes?</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage your son/daughter to use either <a href="#">mindmaps</a> or <a href="#">flashcards</a> to condense class work and homework, using the syllabus for subheadings. The exam board have to base exam questions on the syllabus, so that way they cover everything which can come up.</p> <p>Your son/daughter should focus on <i>key words</i> rather than copying out lots of info. The use of images and colours aid memory.</p>
<b>MEMORISE / REVIEW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How effectively do you commit the key content into your <b>long term memory</b>?</li> <li>✓ Do you plan in revision time to <b>memorise key content</b>?</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to your son/daughter about how they memorise the key information. Do they use pneumonics, repetition, images, self-testing etc.?</p> <p>Once learned, do they go back to review it and check they still remember it? Could you use corrected class quizzes</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do you plan in time to regularly <b>go back and re-test</b> yourself?</li> </ul>	etc. to test your son/daughter aloud and then do a re-test a few days later for an improved score?
<b>PRACTISE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do you know how to access <b>past paper questions</b> in each of your subjects?</li> <li>✓ Do you start with <b>open</b> book and then move to timed <b>closed</b> book practice?</li> <li>✓ Do you <b>assess</b> your past paper responses and know how to improve each time?</li> </ul>	<p>Once the above steps have been taken on a topic, is your son/daughter completing past paper questions to apply their knowledge and test their recall?</p> <p>Do they know how to access mark schemes and use these to mark their work – all publically available online? Could these be sent to teachers for marking via Show My Homework?</p> <p>If your son/daughter isn't confident on the topic or the question is challenging, it is good practice to have a go using the textbook to make notes and then write up in timed conditions.</p>



**The build up to the exam period can be a stressful time for students and current circumstances may well add to student anxiety.**

The following websites provide excellent sources of information for parents to support students with lots of different aspects of their mental health:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/coping-with-exam-stress/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-stress/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>



## Waddesdon Careers Fair - 22 February 2024

*Why not be involved?*

You are invited to join other participants from businesses, universities, local colleges and apprenticeship providers to showcase the work you do to enable students to become more informed about a wide range of career paths.

If you would like to take part, please contact me at school.

Bonita Bridges, Pathways Advisor

[bbridges@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:bbridges@waddesdonschool.com)



## Post 16 SEND Opportunities Showcase

Tuesday 6th February  
Between 3.30 - 6pm

The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd,  
Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Come along and find out more about the different programmes offered by a range of specialist SEND Post 16 providers



Any questions?

[sendneetteam@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendneetteam@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

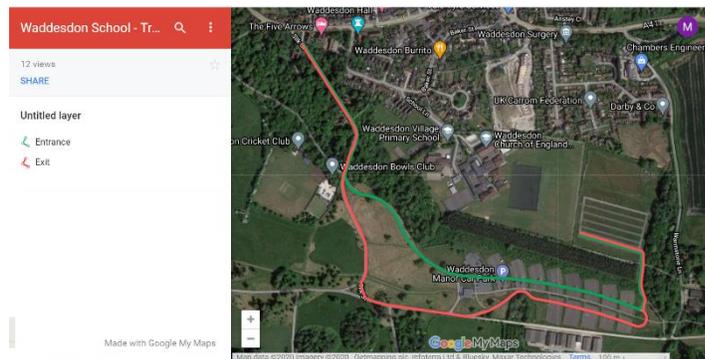
## Year 11 Food Students: NEA Practical Assessments

The Year 11 practical assessments for NEA2 begin on 15<sup>th</sup> January. These are an important part of the final GCSE, culminating in a 3 hour practical exam in the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> February.

It's a busy, inspiring time for the food students.

## Manor Overflow Car Park

The Manor have asked that parents keep to the first large bay which has a hardcore/gravel surface. This is to avoid anyone getting stuck in the wet ground.



During the Christmas period, one of our students had a severe allergic reaction to nuts while in London. This was an air-borne transmission.

Please remember that we are a nut-free school and that the consequences can be extremely serious, if not fatal, for people with nut allergies.



## 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](mailto: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 by 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.



## Key Future Events

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January – **Year 13 Mock Exams**

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January – **Year 11 Mock Results Day**

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January – **Year 11 Parents' Evening (in school)**

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February – **Big Gig** (music from Year 7 – 13)

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February – **Sir Juke fundraiser**

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February – **Year 13 Mock Results Day**

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February – **Year 13 Parents' Evening (in school)**

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February – **School closes for half-term**

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February – **Careers Fair**

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> February – **Year 9 Parents' Evening (in school)**



### Parent and Alumni Social - Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February

On Friday 2nd February, we will be hosting Mr Judson's 12-piece wedding band, Sir Juke, as they perform for parents and other adults (aged 19+) who are friends of the school to raise funds for the Evelina Children's Hospital and the new Sixth Form Centre.

Mr Judson is running the London Marathon for the Evelina, which has a specialist unit for children with achondroplasia; the same form of dwarfism that his youngest son was born with.

It promises to be a really fun night of well-known music, featuring some excellent professional musicians performing songs from the 60s to the present day, and all for a great cause.

You can buy tickets here - <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=1056>

***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."***



Website:  
[www.waddesdonschool.com](http://www.waddesdonschool.com)



Contact:  
01296 651382



Email:  
[office@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:office@waddesdonschool.com)