



Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – February, 2024

It's good to talk...

It was a pleasure to see so many parents at our Year 11 Parents' Evening last week. There is no question that it's always better to talk and I hope that you are finding the return to face-to-face consultations helpful.

If you are waiting for a Parents' Evening to raise a question, or just have a niggle about something, please get in touch with us before it becomes a real source of concern. You can always do this via the office@waddesdonschool.com email address. You should expect to hear back in 48 hours, so if you have had no reply by then, please ring the school office or re-send your email.

We look forward to seeing parents and carers at the Year 13 Parents' Evening on Thursday, 8th February, Year 9 on Thursday, 29th February and Year 8 on Thursday, 21st March.

Mr Abbott

Breaking ground

On 12th March, we will be holding a 'ground-breaking' event to mark the beginning of the building of the [Alice de Rothschild Sixth Form Centre](#). We expect to be able to begin using the building in January, 2025.

Your [donation](#) (either one-off, or on a monthly basis) will specifically ensure that the building is environmentally sustainable, has the technological infrastructure necessary to support its design and is sympathetically incorporated within the existing school site. The building of the Sixth Form Centre also enables us to improve the accommodation in other areas of the school, in particular our Enrichment Space which is dedicated for students with SEND.



Safer Internet Use – some sobering statistics

According to the Government's Online Data Initiative, 62% of adult internet users and **over 80% of children** (aged 12-15) have had potentially harmful experiences online. Research from the NSPCC estimates:



Now, more than ever, it is vital that you open your eyes to the potentially damaging impact of social media on your child's mental health – whatever their age. Talking about content, being included in a group and restricting phone use in the evening, as well as having a family rule to keep phones out of bedrooms, will all enable you to better safeguard your child.

We address Internet Safety in PSHE lessons and in assembly, but education at school needs to be supported by your active engagement at home. One way you could do this would be to share the information above and discuss how to block or report any unwanted messages.

In addition, we hope that the information here will help you to protect your child from the significant risks posed by unfettered access to the Internet.

Setting parental safeguards on your child's devices

If you're viewing this on a screen, tap (or click) the appropriate icon below.

If you're looking at this on paper, point your phone's camera at the appropriate QR code and tap the link that appears.

Follow the instructions on the website exactly, in particular setting the age of the child.

We recommend you set the device not to allow *any* apps or games to be installed without your permission.

Protect your settings with a strong password that is not known to the child.



Lied about their birthday?
They might have put themselves at risk.

If children in your care are turning 13, talk to them about each of these apps. If they're on it, they've lied about their age and the app will think they're older. Turn the clock back, change their virtual age to their real age and make them safer online.

SAFER SCHOOLS

Snapchat 13+ At least 13 years old

- Tap your (Bimoji) at the top left of the screen
- Tap the settings cog
- Correct your birthday and select 'Okay' to confirm

Yubo 13+ At least 13 years old

- Tap profile icon at top right of the screen
- Tap 'Edit'
- Tap 'Birthdate'
- Correct your birthday and select save

YouTube 13+ At least 13 years old

YouTUBE accounts are linked to Google Accounts, so you will need to use a desktop computer to change your birthday on YouTube/Google.

- Click your profile icon
- Click the settings cog
- Click 'View or change your Google account settings' under 'Google Account'
- Select 'Personal info' from the menu on the left
- Click the arrow beside birthday
- Click the pencil to correct your birthday
- Click 'Update'

TikTok 13+ At least 13 years old

TikTok don't have the functionality to edit your birthday within the app. To change your birthday, you can create a new profile with your correct date of birth, or ask TikTok to change it for you.

- Tap the 3 dots at the top-right of your profile
- Scroll down and select 'Report a Problem'
- Scroll down and select 'Other'
- Tap 'Still have problem?' and Ask TikTok to change your birthday

Instagram 13+ At least 13 years old

Instagram don't have the functionality to edit your birthday within the app.

To change your birthday, complete a request form which can be found in their help centre at this link:

bit.ly/instaAGE

Facebook 13+ At least 13 years old

- Tap 'See Your About Info' under your profile picture
- Scroll down to find your birthday under 'Basic info'
- Tap 'Edit' beside the 'Basic info' title

ineqe
enquiries@ineqe.com
+44 (0) 2080 230 000

Attendance Information

Attendance in school every day remains one of the most important partnerships between home and school. Year 7, 8 and 12 are leading the rest of the students with the highest levels of attendance.

While our Persistent Absence levels for Waddesdon are below the national averages, every child's education matters and so, if attendance dips below 90% (i.e. more than one day of absence a fortnight), then it may be that you need our support. Our attendance officer, Mrs Ackerlay, is on hand to provide assistance, as are Form Tutors and Heads of Year.



Please talk to us about how we can support any specific issues that you are facing at home. Every child, and their circumstances, are unique. Let's work together to get them into school.



What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and other sickness

Some parents have told us that it's hard to keep on top of the current guidance relating to a positive COVID result, or a bout of sickness.

You should refer to the links for the most up-to-date guidance which we follow as a school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

The current advice for health protection in schools when there is a case of diarrhoea and/or vomiting is:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>

You must keep your child off school for 48 hours after their last episode.

DfE advice (Sept, 2023) regarding [general cold symptoms](#) is that "children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above"



Supporting Your Child's Health – Monthly Spotlight

Measles

As you may know, cases of **measles** are rising. Anyone of any age who has not yet had a vaccine, is urged to get the MMR vaccine. This was introduced in the UK over 35 years ago and is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella.

There is more guidance on the [nhs.uk website](https://www.nhs.uk).

S.T.O.P. Bullying

Dignity, kindness and respect are the key words that underpin our school's Christian Values. We strive to create a safe and happy environment, believing that all bullying is unacceptable, and should not be tolerated.

Bullying is...

Several
Times
On
Purpose



Underpinning our bullying policy is the acronym S.T.O.P. SEVERAL TIMES ON PURPOSE. Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying can be: emotional, physical, verbal, written, cyber, sexual, prejudice-based and discriminatory.

For more information please look at our [policy](#).



Curriculum Matters



How can I find out what my child is studying?

You will find information relating to your child's programmes of study via the following weblinks:

[Key Stage 3 booklet](#)

[Subject pages](#)

[Sixth Form Prospectus from page 17](#)

If you would like more specific information, please contact the school via the office email address.



Sixth Form Pathways Focus

This term Year 12 and 13 have been focusing on their post-18 applications: university, higher and degree apprenticeships, employment and gap years. We've hosted a number of external speakers, along with school-led workshops. All students have a personal Unifrog account which is a fantastic source of careers information.

The following websites are useful for parents/carers:

- University: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers>
- Information on university student finance: <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk>

For Year 13s applying for student finance loans for this September, applications open in March. Ms McIver delivers an assembly on how to apply when this happens.

- Apprenticeship vacancies:
<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians>
- Employment opportunities: <https://uk.indeed.com>
- Gap Year opportunities:
<https://www.ucas.com/discover/gap-years>

We're encouraging students to complete CVs, cover letters and LinkedIn profiles in assemblies and form times. Students are welcome to seek feedback from us on these. An assembly was also delivered to Year 13 on interview technique.

It's fantastic that our Year 13 students are receiving competitive university offers as well as securing prestigious apprenticeships already!

WADDESDON CHURCH of ENGLAND SCHOOL

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS WANTED 4th and 5th JULY 2024

Do you own or work for a company that may be interested in offering a Sixth Form student a work experience placement on the 4th & 5th July or at a later date?

Our Year 12 students are currently trying to secure work experience placements for July 2024.

If you think this is something you could offer, please contact Miss Bridges at school on 01296 651382 or email bbridges@waddesdonschool.com



Year 12 super-curricular activities - something for half term?

We continue to encourage students to extend their learning beyond the classroom to deepen their understanding of their chosen subjects and enable them to complete stand-out applications in Year 13.

Please encourage your son/daughter to have a look at the following websites:

Wider reading, listening and viewing: <https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/study-here/outreach/digital/challenge>

Virtual work experience: <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience>

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses): Many universities offer these free of charge e.g. University of London: <https://www.london.ac.uk/study/courses/moocs> or search on Unifrog

Teachers also make recommendations in lessons and Mrs Staiano is promoting wider reading suggestions in the school library.



Practical Preparation in Food GCSE and A Level

Year 11 Food students will have their final NEA2 assessment during week commencing 26th February. This involves preparing and cooking three dishes in three hours. They will need to practise the dishes over half term, ready to produce their best work ever.

Year 13 will be in the following week, 4th March. They need to prepare three courses in three and a half hours.



Year 11 English Literature:

Parents can order the revision guide and workbook for *An Inspector Calls* from the school shop.



Art GCSE help day: Friday 12th April (Easter holidays)

We are holding a GCSE help day in the Easter holidays for all Year 11 GCSE students studying Art, Graphics or Photography. This day is designed to support students with their final preparations in advance of the exams which start shortly after we return from the holiday.

Students need to attend the full day between 9am and 3pm. They do not need to wear uniform but do need to bring a packed lunch, a drink, and a snack.

Plagiarism – exam requirements and exam malpractice

At this time of year, many students are completing Non-examined assessments (NEAs) for their GCSE, A Level and BTec courses. As part of this, they may be required to complete their own independent research.

It is vital that students are aware of the importance of correctly referencing sources as required by the exam specifications. Failure to acknowledge sources, or incorrect referencing, could be considered 'exam malpractice' and lead to a loss of marks or disqualification.



Students have been given detailed advice from subject teachers about the correct methods to use. If they are unsure of the correct methods, they should speak with their teacher.

According to the Joint Council of Qualifications, "Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts or ideas and trying to pass them off as your own. It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously".

Before submitting NEA work, students are required to sign the declaration of authentication to confirm that the work submitted is their own. If plagiarism is detected after this has been signed, the case must be reported to the exam board.

The Use of AI

AI use refers to the use of AI tools to obtain information and content which might be used in work produced for assessments which lead towards qualifications.

The use of AI chatbots may pose significant risks if used by students completing qualification assessments. Students must submit work for assessments which is their own. This means both ensuring that the final product is in their own words, and isn't copied or paraphrased from another source such as an AI tool, and that the content reflects their own independent work.

Any use of AI which means students have not independently demonstrated their own attainment is likely to be considered malpractice.

Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work is no longer the student's own
- Copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- Using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations
- Failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- Incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools
- Submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

Parental Support

At this time, we ask all parents/carers to be vigilant if their son/daughter is completing NEA research at home. If they are using AI chatbots or copying and pasting work from online sources, this could lead to their loss of marks or disqualification from the exam.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school for advice.

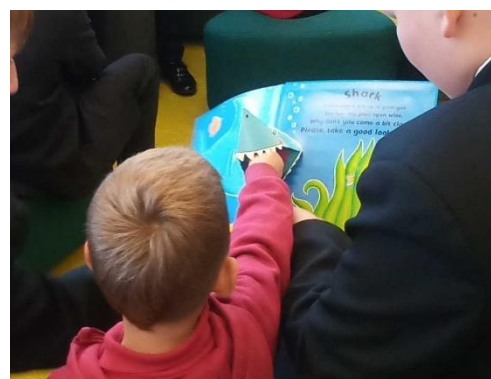
News from our librarian, Mrs Staiano

I am delighted to let you know that students will receive their free World Book Day voucher w/c 5th February from their form tutor (one for each student), the vouchers being valid from 15 Feb - 31 March inclusive. This year's WBD theme is 'Read Your Way'. Every reader is different, and there's no right or wrong way to enjoy reading.



Find out more at <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

To celebrate World Book Day, there will also be other celebrations in school on **Thursday 7th March** including a book related assembly, fun book related activities in the Library at lunch and break, and a visit from **Little Oaks** in the afternoon to read with some Year 7s.



Little Oaks Pre-school has been coming to visit a number of Year 7 and 8 Library lessons, and it has been wonderful to see the pupils really engaging with the younger children. There has been a re-enactment of Highway Rat, an animated telling of Monkey Puzzle and a fun telling of Puff the Magic Dragon (with singing!), to name but a few. The Waddesdon pupils have then split into pairs/small groups

to read to a Little Oaks child. A lovely initiative that benefits both sets of pupils and is a joy to observe. More dates have been planned for the future.

Please remind your child that the Library is open for ALL students to access books, and they can come and ask the Librarian about any books they are keen to see in THEIR [library!](#) #ReadingForPleasure

Year 8 Translations

On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of January, as part of a Languages Day, a French translation workshop was organised and the school welcomed three translators to work with all Year 8 students.

The students worked from a poem by Louis Aragon about the evacuation of Dunkirk. They started by translating literally and then proceeded to adapt their work to a meaningful translation. Some students were able to display some great creative skills and all worked well.

Madame Baker



Year 8 Beacon Group

Last Friday our students enjoyed a visit to Somerville College, Oxford in the winter sunshine.



It was an excellent opportunity for students to discover more about university life and to learn more about Oxford University itself.

We started with an Oxplore workshop to encourage students to think about 'big' questions - there was great discussion when they were asked to consider 'Does music matter?' with our students making excellent contributions to the conversation.

A tour around the college, with the library being a particular highlight, was followed by lunch in the grand dining hall. We then had a walking tour into Oxford and arrived at the Natural History Museum where students had the opportunity to handle specimens - both dead and alive! It was an inspiring day, not least because students came away discussing their own aspirations for the future.



Year 9 study into Friendship, Emotions and Sense of Self

Thank you to the students, parents and carers who gave their consent to take part in the psychology study into friendship, emotions and sense of self. The students who participated said they enjoyed taking part and found it thought provoking. The second part of the online questionnaires will take place in form time on 11th March for the students who have completed the first questionnaire.

Mrs George, Subject Leader for Psychology and Sociology

Green Power Sponsorship

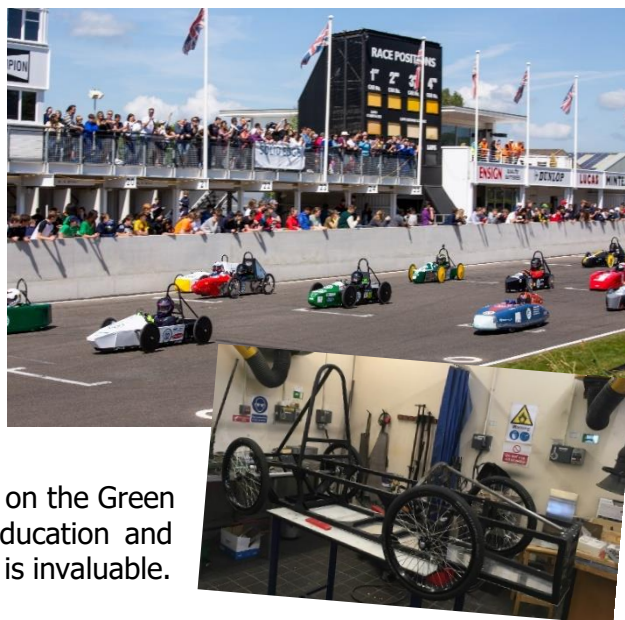
Our students are diving into the Charitable Green Power project, constructing a third electric car for a friendly national competition.

To make this a success for a third year in a row, we seek your support through individual or corporate sponsorship with CSR budgets. Your generous donations, big or small, contribute to our £3,500 goal, enhancing our students' hands-on learning as well as expanding our accessibility for more students to join.

For corporate sponsors, we will feature your logo proudly on the Green Power electric cars, showcasing your commitment to education and innovation. Individuals and companies alike, your support is invaluable.

- Individuals: Your donations, regardless of size, make a significant impact.
- Companies: Align your brand with education and innovation by supporting the Green Power project.

Contact Mr Peter Iveson at wgreenpower@waddesdonschool.com or scan the QR code to sponsor. Thank you for supporting our young engineers' dreams!



Support for Parents, Carers and Families



Post 16 SEND Opportunities Showcase

Tuesday 6th February
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

Access advice, information and guidance on pathways into employment and next steps

Any questions?

sendneetteam@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Help Your Child Manage Their Well-being with these FREE Online Workshops*
Every Monday 6pm to 8pm

Years 7, 8 & 9

- 11 March: Help your child to manage their behaviours (EMWB099)

Years 10 & 11

- 18 March: Help your child to develop confidence and resilience (EMWB112)
- 25 March: Help your child to develop positive friendships and manage peer pressure (EMWB113)

Also available

Everyday First Aid

- Tuesday 19 March at Berryfields Family Centre, 12pm to 2:30pm (EMEA042)

Thinking about Volunteering

- Tuesday, 26 March ONLINE, 9:30am to 11:30am (EMVW018)

*For parents and carers with a child in Years 7 to 11 at one of the following schools: Aylesbury UTC, Aylesbury Vale Academy, Beaconsfield School, Bourne End Academy, Buckingham School, Chalfonts Academy, Cottesloe School, Cresswell Community School, High Wycombe Academy, John Coot School, Mandeville School, Princes Risborough School, St William Roman Catholic School, Stony Dean School, The George School, Thomas Freeman School and Waddesdon CofE School.



SCAN ME



SCAN the QR code, CLICK on the course date link or PHONE 01296 383582 with the course code (eg. FM.....) For more information, text Kathryn 07770 641997

[buckinghamshiresadulthoodlearning.org.uk](https://www.buckinghamshiresadulthoodlearning.org.uk) [BucksAdulthoodlearning.org.uk](https://www.bucksadulthoodlearning.org.uk) [adulthoodlearningbc.ac.uk](https://www.adulthoodlearningbc.ac.uk)



Update from The Waddesdon School Pre-loved Uniform Shop

A huge thank you to all the parents, students and others who have donated good condition second-hand uniform to the Waddesdon School Association (WSA) at Christmas and early this year. The level of donations has not been this high for a long time.

You can bring the uniform items to the school's Reception in a bag marked WSA. All profits from the Pre-loved Uniform shop are being used towards the funds needed for the new Sixth Form Block.

For anyone who needs more uniform it is available here: <https://wsa.waddesdonschool.com/uniform-shop/>

If you have any problems ordering or collecting then please let the WSA know:

<https://wsa.waddesdonschool.com/contact/>

Finally, if you urgently need items, please do let us know through the above link.

The shop is run by volunteers, and good quality second-hand uniform items are for sale at around 25% of full price and available to be collected from Reception on set dates each half term.

The next collection date is:

Tuesday 6th February 2024 from 09:00

Either you OR your child can collect your ordered items from Reception.

Many thanks,

Libby Keane, Chair



Monthly food bank collection for Aylesbury and local villages

Donations will be accepted in the Library and Reception and will be collected each month.



Wednesday Late Bus

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

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.



Key Future Events

Monday, 5th February – **Year 8** Assessment Week

Wednesday, 7th February – **Year 13 Mock Results Day**

Wednesday, 7th February – Years 7, 9, 10, 12 & 13 **Report** release

Thursday, 8th February – **Year 13** Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday, 9th February – School closes for half-term

Monday, 19th February – **Year 10** Languages Speaking Mocks

Thursday, 22nd February – **Careers Fair** (6pm – 9pm)

Thursday, 29th February – **Year 9** Parents' Consultation Evening

Monday, 4th March – **Year 11** Second Mocks – English, Maths and Science

Wednesday, 13th March – Year 8 **Report** release

Thursday, 14th March – **Year 8 Options** Conference and Parents' Information Evening (6pm)



Final call!

On Friday 2nd February, we are 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.

There's still an opportunity to get a last minute ticket from school.



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



Contact:
01296 651382



Email:
office@waddesdonschool.com