



Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – April/May, 2024



Welcome to the summer term, a time of intense and varied activity, including: external exams for Year 11 and Year 13, sports events, many educational visits and the start of two building projects: the Sixth Form Centre and the RAAC roof replacement for the restaurant.

I hope you'll find the updates and information in this edition of the newsletter useful. To make it even easier to read, I've summarised the contents below:

Contents

- 1. Building for the future: RAAC update and progress on the Sixth Form Centre
- 2. Whole school photo
- 3. Attendance and monthly health spotlight, including RSE information
- 4. Exam support
- 5. Sixth Form financial support and apprenticeship opportunities
- 6. SEND support
- 7. Extra-curricular visits: Bletchley Park (Year 8), Magistrates' Mock Trial (Year 9)
- 8. WSA – uniform sale
- 9. Wednesday late bus, healthy travel options, out and about
- 10. What to do if you're not happy
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Our amazing parents who run the Waddesdon School Association (WSA), are looking for someone to step up to an organising role.

If you have time to give something back to the school community, please contact me directly.

Mr Abbott



But first...an article by Katie in Year 12

Since September, the Year 12 Charity Group have been working hard, alongside Mrs Bull, to raise money, and awareness, for the **Toilet Twinning project**, run by Tearfund.

The Charity's aim is to provide safe, clean sanitation to those less fortunate in Third World countries by funding projects that support communities to build their own basic toilet using local resources; to access clean water; and to learn about hygiene and sanitation.



A quiz night (with gifts generously donated for the tombola) was held on 18th January where we managed to raise an amazing **£266.62** for the project, allowing us to 'twin' a total of 4 toilets - making a huge difference to communities in **Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo**.

It was a privilege to be involved in such an amazing and important project and we hope that next year's cohort can raise just as much money, if not more!



RAAC to the future...

After several months of conversations with the DfE, a fair amount of patience and the appropriate steps required for a tendering process, we are pleased to let you know that work has now started on the **replacement roof** for the school restaurant.

If all goes to schedule, the restaurant will be back in use in **September** and we will be able to remove the temporary marquee.



Sixth Form Centre – laying the foundations

Work has well and truly started on the Jacob Rothschild Sixth Form Centre. Over the Easter break the **foundations** were laid and the steel structure will soon be in place as the building takes shape.

The Sixth Form Centre will be complete and ready to provide study space and state of the art facilities for all students in February, 2025.



If you want to follow developments as they happen, you can follow us on **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/waddesdonbuild/> #waddesdonbuild

Fundraising update

With your help, we can reach our fundraising target which will benefit your children directly, and future generations. As you can see below, we have now passed the £5,000 mark, but that the overall number of supporters for the project remains low.

If you can only contribute £5 a month, or a one-off donation of £10, please can you consider becoming a donor.

It would also help if you could share the link with family and friends as well as putting us in touch with any local businesses you think might be interested.

Waddesdon Church of England School

Search for a friend or appeal

Create a team

Fundraise for us

Donate now

1% Funded

£500K Target

£5,345 Raised

37 Donors

2 Fundraisers

enthuse Donate

Help us to build our Sixth Form Centre

About

Thanks to the generosity of the Rothschild Foundation and Buckinghamshire Local Authority, we are well on our way to building the Sixth Form Centre that the students at Waddesdon so badly need.

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

'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.' Margaret Mead

Whole School Photo

The whole school photo is now ready for order. You can view the photo by visiting www.schoolphotographs.co.uk.



Click on 'Order Photos' and enter these details:

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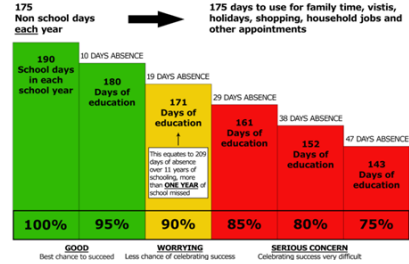
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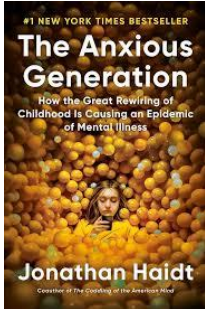
Attendance

Thank you for supporting your child(ren) to attend school every day.

Please talk to us about how we can support any specific issues that you are facing at home. Every set of circumstances is unique.



Looking back from the future



“I am convinced that in 10 or 20 years’ time, the world will look back in anger at our carelessness in exposing children and young people to addictive technologies, harmful content and permanent distraction through what Jonathan Haidt calls the **Great Rewiring of childhood and adolescence**.

It is time to wake up to the reality of the crisis in child mental health and its causes. Haidt’s book is a really significant step forward – but we need to take action together.”

Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.

To read more of this review of Jonathon Haidt’s book, click [here](#).



Supporting your Child’s Health – Monthly Spotlight

Students are always welcome to chat to teachers and other staff, but below is some helpful advice:

- **Begin from within.** Remember that phrase ‘you are what you eat’. Healthier choices enhance memory and concentration
- **Energise with exercise.** Being outside and deep breathing releases serotonin, stabilising our mood
- **Seek the sleep.** Getting enough sleep releases dopamine which is associated with motivation and concentration span
- **Build in breaks.** Regular breaks (eg listening to music) refreshes the mind
- **Hydration inspiration.** The brain and heart are composed of about 70% water so keep hydrated to maximise their potential

There are many helpful websites, for example: [Student Minds](#) and www.youngminds.org.uk

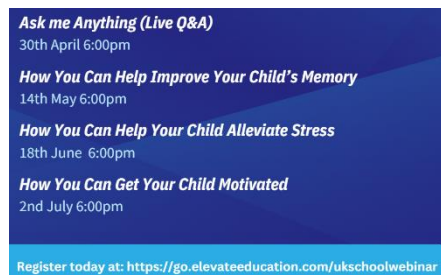


RSE at home (Relationships & Sex Education) with Brook provides a series of webinars for parents and carers.

- What is mental health?
- How are mental health and sexual health linked?
- How will I know if my child’s sexual health is impacting on their mental health?
- How can I support my child’s mental health?

[RSE at Home with Brook - Mental Health \(Buckinghamshire\) Tickets, Wed 15 May 2024 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Summer Exams Support for Families



Ask me Anything (Live Q&A)
30th April 6:00pm

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory
14th May 6:00pm

How You Can Help Your Child Alleviate Stress
18th June 6:00pm

How You Can Get Your Child Motivated
2nd July 6:00pm

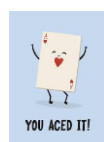
Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

We are working hard with students as they prepare for their summer exams, with a continued focus on **revision and well-being**.

With the exam season starting for students in Years 11, 12 and 13, we know parents/carers in the past have found the following [Elevate webinars](#) useful for revision support at home.

It is normal for students to find the exam period quite stressful; indeed, a certain level of stress is healthy and actually can help us to perform at our best. However, if a student's stress levels become too high, it can be worrying, so please encourage students to talk to us if they are struggling or get in contact with the relevant Form Tutor or Head of Year.

There is some excellent advice for parents/carers from **Healthy Minds** on how to help young people manage exam stress found [here](#).



English GCSE support

English revision **drop-in sessions** continue after school on Wednesdays: 3.15-4.15pm in C15. All welcome.

If you wish to support with your son's / daughter's English Language and English Literature revision, you might ask them to work on the revision booklet they were given in lessons before the holidays.



Sixth Form: Living Independently and Financial Well-being

We continue work with Years 12 and 13 to help them prepare for living independently as young adults. Year 12 have a **financial wellbeing workshop** in the summer term and Year 13 have been completing a series of form time activities to help them better understand credit, mortgages and budgeting, amongst other things.

Following their Predicted Grade Exams, if a Year 12 student has a day or two with no exams at the end of study leave, this [free online Open University Course](#) about **Managing Finances** would be an excellent activity to complete.

We've also recommended it to Year 13 as something they might want to do over the summer in preparation for their next steps. There is also [an excellent resource from The Money Charity](#) which we know students have found useful in the past.



Apprenticeships and the Waddesdon Manor Pathways Internship

A number of our Year 13 students are actively pursuing apprenticeships and traineeships for next year, with lots of success. One of the best portals to search for apprenticeships is here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

We've recently advertised an **internship with Waddesdon Manor**, with a starting salary of c. £22, 000. There is an open afternoon to find out more at the Five Arrows Hotel on 9th May. More information can be found [here](#).



And in this information below from the team at Waddesdon:

We are delighted to announce that the applications for our **paid annual internships**, 'Pathways', is open. If you are interested in developing a career in heritage, gaining experience and valuable skills for your future then this is the internship programme for you. We have multiple opportunities across the business, for example, Conservation, Learning & Collections, and Marketing & Commercial Events. We would love to invite you to attend our open day, 9 May, at the Five Arrows Hotel to provide an opportunity to talk to the Heads of Department to discuss the available roles in more detail. To register your attendance please email pathways@waddesdon.org.uk.

See the full list of opportunities available and how to apply via the link below.
<https://waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/current-vacancies/internships/>

Most Year 13 students now have quite firm **plans in place for next year**, but as always, we are happy to continue to support students with LinkedIn profiles, CVs, application forms and interviews after their exams and into next year. They just need to contact Ms McIver at school.

LinkedIn Profile Workshop for Years 12 and 13

To build on the work we've undertaken with Year 12 and 13 about creating **LinkedIn Profiles** in form time, students will find the following webinar on 23rd April (7-8pm) from the Bucks Skills and Enterprise Company useful.

For more information and to sign up [click here](#).

Special Educational Needs Support

ISEND Support Line

Information for Families

We are pleased to announce the opening of the ISEND Support line.

The line has been developed to make it easier for you to make contact with the ISEND teams and is open to parents and carers of any child or young person with a SEND need. Your call will be answered by a Specialist Teacher, an EHC Co-ordinator (EHCCo) or an Educational Psychologist.

We look forward to talking to you!

What does this service offer for parents and carers?

- Single point of contact with Buckinghamshire ISEND Education Teams
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), information, advice and signposting.
- Guidance on using the Buckinghamshire Local Offer

When can I contact?

The phone line is open Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm term time and reduced hours during the holiday periods. We are also open from 4pm until 6pm on Tuesdays.

How do I make contact?

Phone 01296 382135

Post 16 SEND Opportunities Showcase



Wednesday 12th June between 3.30 - 6pm
at The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury HP19 8FF
Come along and find out more about the different programmes offered by a range of specialist Post 16 SEND providers for young people with an EHCP



Around 14 providers will be showcasing in a calm and spacious environment. There will be a wide range of opportunities on offer;

- animal, farm, sports, mechanics, e-sports and performing arts based learning, offering a range of qualifications
 - personal development and individualised therapeutic programmes
 - Supported Internships, employability programmes and volunteering
- Suitable for young people from year 9 upwards with an active EHCP

No need to register - young people, parents / carers and professionals all welcome to drop in and chat to the providers

Any questions? sendneetteam@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Year 8 Visit to Bletchley Park

On Wednesday 8th May, Year 8 students have the fantastic opportunity to visit Bletchley Park as part of a trip organised by the **History** department. They will engage with a range of taught and self-guided learning opportunities to further enhance their knowledge and understanding of the World War II unit they are currently studying in History.

On the day, students should attend school in their uniform, including their school shoes. They must also bring a packed lunch and a drink as they would on a normal school day. The timings of the trip are planned so that we return to school for students to get their buses and to be collected at the usual time, but if there are any delays on the return journey you will be notified by the school.

As we wish to offer this experience to as many of our students as possible, I would like to remind you that **places on the trip are still available**. If you have not yet secured your child's place on the trip or are unsure if you have done so, then please do contact the Finance Office for further assistance.

Mr McGregor



Bang to Rights

Our Year 9 Beacon Group competed in the heats of the national **Magistrates' Mock Trial** competition in March. A criminal case is given to all participating schools who prepare a prosecution and defence case to role play against other schools in a magistrate's court room.

Our lawyers carefully constructed their arguments and delivered challenging questions, and our witnesses had a tough task being cross examined by the opposition school teams. They did a fantastic job performing under pressure and listening attentively to the case before having a robust discussion in the retiring room to decide and then deliver their verdict.

In addition, our court usher, Olivia Zhong was commended by the judges for her performance in ensuring that proceedings ran smoothly and Emily Spinage received the **best legal advisor award** for her excellent summary of the legalities of the case.

Overall, the judges noted that our team was well prepared and that they worked very well together. As a result, the team came second (from nine other schools) in the Milton Keynes heat and therefore progress to the **regional finals** in June for which they are now preparing a new case. The team were so supportive of each other throughout the process and did an excellent job of representing our school in the competition.



Pop-Up Pre-loved Uniform Event

in aid of the Waddesdon School Association, raising funds for the new 6th Form Centre, the Jacob Rothschild Building

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 2.30pm until 6:00pm

The WSA is pleased to confirm that this year the popular pop-up, pre-loved school uniform shop will be happening from 2.30pm until 6.00pm in the School Library, with thanks to Ms Staiano, the Librarian.

All the usual pre-loved school uniform stock will be there, including:

- Trousers: 2 pairs of high street shop branded school trousers for £4.00 (£2.00 per pair). Plus school uniform shop branded pre-loved school trousers at £4.00 per pair
- School Coats: A small supply of winter coats
- Duke of Edinburgh clothing: A small supply of D of E clothing for anyone doing the bronze, silver or gold awards
- Small supply of football boots, shin pads and trainers
- Small supply of girls' PE leggings
- PE base layers

Please note that payment at the pop-up shop sale is by card or cash only. If you can measure your child before attending please do.

For parents of students starting in September 2024 this is the day before the Stevenson's sale, so any uniform you cannot get from us you can buy from them!

Plea for all donations

All school leavers in Year 11 and Year 13, please donate all of your extra unnecessary uniform to the WSA by 28th June so we can use it at the sale. We really need:

- Year 7 – Year 10 ties
- Blazers, all sizes and condition
- Skirts, all sizes and condition
- PE kit, especially PE tops (non-rugby), and skorts

Please donate by placing clean uniform in a bag marked WSA and leaving at Thorp Reception.

Happy buying and donating. Emma Peck, pre-loved uniform co-ordinator for the WSA. Any questions, please contact me at wsa@waddesdonschool.com



Wednesday Late Bus

If they don't already, do encourage your children to take advantage of the late buses, 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, Quanton (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.



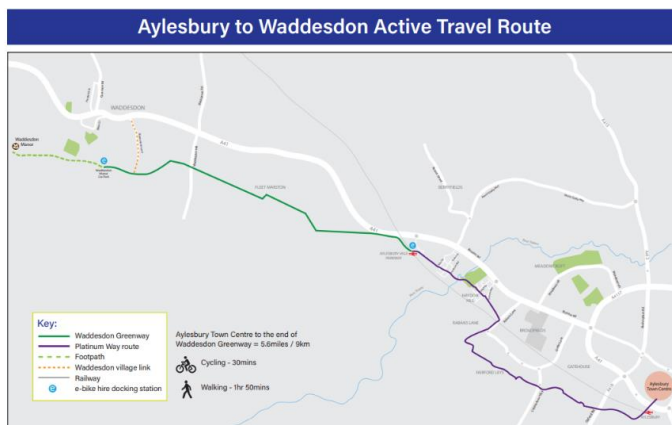
Travel to School

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.

The Platinum Way, or Waddesdon Greenway, provides a wonderful approach route to the school from the east. **Join many school staff and Sixth Formers who now use the overflow car park and then walk the five minutes to the school site in the refreshing spring air!**



Out and About



This **triathlon** is not associated with Waddesdon, but may be of interest to you and your child(ren).

Waddesdon Manor is currently recruiting for two **part-time Housekeeping Supervisors**.

They say: "We've specifically written the role to suit parents who may have school-aged children, with the hours being 10-3. We want to support the local area and employ someone from nearby, if we can."



The role descriptions can be found on our vacancies page here:

<https://waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/current-vacancies/>



Key Future Events

Monday, 29th April – **Year 12** Predicted Grade Exams week

Thursday, 9th May – Start of the **GCSEs** and **Year 7** Parents' Evening

Friday, 10th May – **Year 13** Leavers' Day and Ball

Monday, 13th May – Start of **A Levels**

w.b. 20th May – **Interform** week

Friday, 24th May – **Year 11** Leavers' Day

Monday, 3rd June – Staff INSET day – **WaddEd Research Conference**

Wednesday, 5th June – **Summer Exhibition**

Tuesday, 25th June – Model United Nations General Assembly – **Year 10**



Summer Exhibition – 5th June, 2024

creatives.waddesdonschool.com

instagram.com/waddesdonart

**ART
PHOTOGRAPHY
GRAPHIC DESIGN**

You are invited to our
**SUMMER 2024
EXHIBITION**
WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2024
4PM-7PM

Every year we transform the Art Department into an exhibition space to celebrate the work of our GCSE and A Level Art, Graphics and Photography exam students. Please come and join us at our summer exhibition. Refreshments will be available.

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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