



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

### Two-way communication

Welcome to October's newsletter! As a school which aims to serve its community the best we can, maintaining open communication matters to us. In part, that is why I started this monthly newsletter – to reach out to you and to respond to your questions or suggestions.



If you have a moment, please [click on the link here](#) which will take you to our annual parent/carer connectedness survey. 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.

Together with this newsletter, you will also have received the Curriculum Plan for all year groups and some specific revision material for Year 11. I hope that this information helps you to understand what your children are learning and how to support them at home.

Mr Abbott

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## Our commitment to action and improvement in race equality

Waddesdon School has been recognised for our commitment to improving race equality and prioritising an inclusive culture where staff, students, parents and partners of all ethnicities are equally valued, by being awarded the Gold level RACE Charter Mark.



Developed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network) and Fig Tree International, the Race and Conscious Equality (RACE) Charter Mark is for UK schools, academies and colleges, in both the state and private sectors, who wish to demonstrate their commitment to action and improvement in relation to race equality in all aspects of their work as educators, employers and community leaders.

Since achieving the Silver Charter Mark in 2022, we have used the Charter Mark framework to conduct a thorough review of practice and implemented more actions. We re-submitted an evaluation detailing our work towards equality so far and ambitious plans for RACE going forward.



Angelina Idun, Director of Education, SSAT said:

"I am delighted that Waddesdon School has been awarded the Gold RACE Charter Mark. Their application and action plan clearly show a positive ethos and culture which champions and strives for conscious equality and inclusivity throughout the school community."

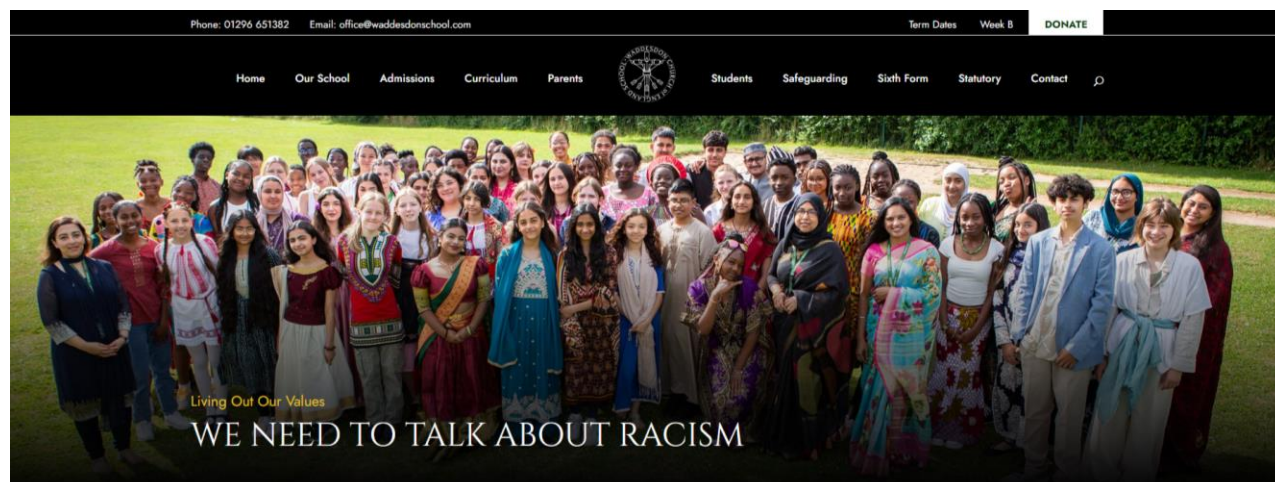
Ann Palmer, CEO, Fig Tree International said:

"I am absolutely delighted that Waddesdon School is receiving this recognition. This recognises their determination to make a difference, not only in their own school, but also in the local community. Waddesdon School is part of great group of schools and colleges who are part of the RACE Charter Mark community. We applaud them for their work and aspirations to build a more inclusive society."

### What next?

The achievement of the 'We Need to Talk about Racism' team, led by Ms Raqib and Mrs Ewart, in gaining this award is a sign that we are going in the right direction.

You can read more about the work of the 'We Need to Talk about Racism' group by clicking on this [link](#).



## What will my child learn this year?



In order to support parents/carers with understanding more about the learning journey that their sons/daughters undertake in their time at Waddesdon, we have produced a curriculum overview for each year.

The document provides you with a unit heading for the work in each subject for every half term.

Please be aware that this may change due to rooming requirements or the number of weeks in a term in any given year. But, on the whole, it should be a comprehensive overview of everything that your son/daughter will study. As well as being attached to the newsletter email, a copy of this will be available shortly in the Curriculum section of the school website.

Mr Cahill, Deputy Headteacher.

## Supporting homework – Period 6



Research tells us that independent learning matters and, as a school, we 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 after school 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.



## Year 11 Mock Exam Revision and Information

It has been so impressive to hear how many Year 11s have already started the revision and preparation process for their Mock Exams this December. We will be holding an information evening for students, parents and carers on Thursday 24th October at 6.30pm. Please look out for a separate letter with further information.

To support parents/carers at home, we have compiled a revision checklist which includes topics needed for the Mock Exams and suggested revision guides (included as an attachment to the newsletter email).

Please be aware that revision guides are not compulsory to purchase unless a department has advised otherwise; they are suggestions if you feel that an extra resource would be necessary.

## Parent Guide to Education – Advertisement

Parent Guide to Education is offering a free online webinar designed specifically for the parents and carers of Year 10 and 11 students, aimed at helping both parents and students maximise grades and minimise stress.

### Event Details:

"*The Secret to GCSE Success*" Webinar

Thursday, 3rd October 2024, 7-8pm

<https://events.parentguidetoeducation.com/secret-to-gcse-success>



Hosted by Emily Hughes, author of the 'GCSE Survival Guide for Parents' and founder of Parent Guide to GCSE, this webinar will equip parents with the tools they need to help their children prepare for GCSEs without the stress. Emily is a well-known expert on teen parenting, frequently featured in the media, and her practical, easy-to-implement advice has helped countless families navigate the GCSE journey.

### The webinar will cover essential topics such as:

- Why starting now makes all the difference.
- Revision tips and strategies that save time.
- The parent's role in supporting GCSE success.
- Motivating teens to stay on track without overwhelming them.
- A Q&A session to address specific questions from parents.

### Replay available:

Parents who cannot attend the live event will have access to a replay, as long as they've registered.



## Year 11 Drama Exam

The first performance exam for GCSE Drama takes place on Thursday, 17th October and remind them of the expectation that their child should be attending afterschool rehearsals with their group to prepare for the exam.



## Year 7 Activity Day

Year 7 have their team-building activity day on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October. The aim of the day is about students giving their best effort and building connections with others in the form via teamwork.

Please can we remind you that:

- Students wear non-school uniform
- Students should dress in clothes which will keep them warm and dry
- Students should wear clothes they won't mind getting muddy or wet

Mr Israr, Head of Year 7, has presented a run-down of the day to the year group, but if you have any specific questions, please direct them to him.





## 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.



## S.T.O.P. Bullying

Bullying is...

Several  
Times  
On  
Purpose

Unsure? Tell an adult



Dignity, kindness and respect underpin our school's values. We are about creating a safe and happy environment, part of which means that all bullying is unacceptable, and should not be tolerated.

Our bullying policy uses 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](#).



## What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19

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

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.**"

### **How to look after COVID-19 symptoms yourself (NHS advice)**

"It's not always possible to treat COVID-19. But there are things you can do to help ease some of the symptoms, such as a high temperature, a cough and breathlessness.

#### **Do**

- get lots of rest
- drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration (your pee should be light yellow or clear)
- take [paracetamol](#) or [ibuprofen](#) if you feel uncomfortable
- try having a teaspoon of honey if you have a cough – do not give honey to babies under 12 months
- try turning the heating down or opening a window to help with breathlessness
- breathe slowly in through your nose and out through your mouth, with your lips together like you're gently blowing out a candle
- sit upright in a chair to help with breathlessness
- relax your shoulders, so you're not hunched to help with breathlessness
- lean forward slightly – support yourself by putting your hands on your knees or on something stable like a chair to help with breathlessness

#### **Don't**

- do not lie on your back if you have a cough – lie on your side or sit upright instead
- do not use a fan to cool your room as it may spread the virus
- try not to panic if you're feeling breathless – this can make it worse"



### ***The Medical Room***

At Waddesdon, we have a Medical Room open during the school day (8am until 3.30pm) for our students. It is staffed by either the First Aid Officer or the School Nurse.

If students become unwell during the school day, we will care for them and contact you and, if needed, appropriate emergency services, hence it is really important that parents/carers provide us with sufficient and up to date information about any medical needs.

*Medication:* we stock paracetamol (500mg) and paracetamol suspension (250mg/5mls) which we can give to students as appropriate, as long as we have parental consent to do so. It is given between the times of 12.30 - 1pm. This is to allow 4 hours since arriving at school in case students have had any painkiller medication in the morning at home, and then 4 hours to elapse before arriving home when they may safely take another dose. Outside this half hour, we would contact a parent/carer to confirm no medication had been taken or will be given within 4 hours.

We do not stock ibuprofen (Nurofen, Calprofen) as the current NHS guidance (link below) advises this is not suitable for many children. We also do not stock antihistamine medication as there are so many different varieties available. In addition, this can be given once a day at home if it is taken for hayfever.

<https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/ibuprofen-for-children/who-can-and-cannot-take-ibuprofen-for-children/>

Please do contact us if you have any queries.

## Microsoft **Microsoft Office for all**

Every student at Waddesdon School has free access to Microsoft Office products while they are a student at the school. Access to the software is provided and authenticated through their school email address.

In a browser, navigate to [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) and select the option to **Sign in**. Your child will then sign in using their email address and password. Once they have signed in, they can click the **Install and more** button on the top right to install the software onto their machine. This process can be repeated on up to five different devices within the household.

Please note that this software is authenticated using your child's email address. If the email authentication is removed after the software has been installed, access to the software will stop. After your child leaves Waddesdon School, their email will be disabled and access to the software will stop. All files and documents will still remain, but you will have to obtain another licence to use the software.



### **Locker Usage**

We get frequent requests from students asking for access to a friend's locker, usually to get their PE kit out because the friend is absent or if they can't find them.

We remind them that lockers are not to be shared (unless this has been requested and each student has his/her own key).

If you think that this is something that your child needs to know, please can you remind them that they must not use another student's locker, nor allow another student to use their locker.



### **Waddesdon Charity Week: 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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 6th December 2024. Donations will be delivered by the school to the various charities in time for the festive season.

### Hope Shoe Box Appeal

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

Toys/small games  
School supplies/stationery  
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](https://www.facebook.com/BernwodeBus/?locale=en_GB)

Packets of cereal  
Long life fruit juice  
Sponge puddings  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fruit / 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>

Children's toys (all ages) - new only



## WSA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The WSA will be holding their annual Christmas raffle again this year. For the 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**

**Items should be dropped off in the school library marked 'WSA Raffle' any time until Friday, 29 November 2024.**

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase on Parent Pay until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, with the draw taking place in the first week of December.

There will also be an opportunity to buy raffle tickets during the school production of Guys & Dolls on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Travel Disruption

Thank you so much for coping with the travel disruption caused by the rain and roadworks recently. We appreciate that it has been a challenging start and end to many students' and families' days.

Last week, we shared the following information, so you are aware of the A41 diversion which takes the traffic from Aylesbury into Waddesdon.

If coming from Aylesbury, you come along the A41 as normal, passing the Miller & Carter at Aylesbury Vale Parkway, then go under the bridge. You continue along the A41 until you reach the HS2 roundabout, **turn right at the roundabout** (*it is currently signposted Quainton & Whitchurch, and will be updated with Waddesdon soon*). When you reach the end of the road, turn left at the new roundabout which leads you into Waddesdon village.



If you are coming down Waddesdon Hill, turn right onto the A41 and then take the first exit left at the HS2 roundabout. You then turn left at the new roundabout and this will lead you into Waddesdon village.

We will update parents/carers as soon as we have any further information.



## 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.



## Out and About

We have been asked to advertise a well-being workshop for students in Year 10 and 11.

For those of you who may be looking for a change of career, please see the event in November below.

***Considering a teaching career in Buckinghamshire? Find training and job opportunities at the Teach in Bucks Recruitment Fair! ❤️***

***📅 Saturday 9th November, 10am – 3pm***

***📍 Bucks New University, Aylesbury***

***📖 Book via Eventbrite: <https://ow.ly/9qBU50ToTAQ>***

**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

Help your child manage their wellbeing and mental health with these **FREE** online workshops and courses for parents and carers with a child in Years 7-11 only

**YEARS 7, 8 & 9**

**5-week course**

- Support your child's mental health and wellbeing

**YEARS 10 & 11**

**1-week workshops**

- Help your child cope with stress and anxiety  
Monday 7 October, 7-9pm  
FMWB105
- Help your child to develop confidence and resilience  
Monday 14 October, 7-9pm  
FMWB105
- Help your Child to Develop Positive Friendships and Manage Peer Pressure  
Monday 21 October, 7-9pm  
FMWB113

To book your place, please click on the link, scan the QR or phone the Enrolment Team on 0296 803582. For more information, text Kathryn on 07779 641997, with your name and the course date.

[buckinghamshireadullearning](#) [BucksAdL Learning](#) [adullearningbc.ac.uk](#)



## Opportunity to work as a Specialist Supply Teacher at Waddesdon

We are currently looking to extend our pool of occasional specialist supply teachers at Waddesdon. We call on supply teachers when we need to cover illness (often at short notice) and sometimes to cover for staff who are accompanying students on educational visits. All of our supply teachers are qualified, with relevant experience and expertise in one or more subject areas. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be, please contact: [aewart@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:aewart@waddesdonschool.com)



**WADDESDON**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

## **CLEANER REQUIRED (£11.98/hour)**

**£23,104 pro rata (Actual: £13,383 0.5792 FTE)**

We are seeking an enthusiastic cleaner to join our hardworking team to work 5 hours per day, 5 days per week, term time only (39 weeks/year). Hours: 3.15pm-8.15pm. (Shorter hours will be considered, in excess of 3 hours per day.)

**Please telephone the school for further details or download an application form from [www.waddesdonschool.com](http://www.waddesdonschool.com)**

*The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. We are an Equal Opportunities and Disability Confident Employer. We were awarded a Gold Award by MIND for Workplace Well-being.*

**School Lane, Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Bucks HP18 0LQ Tel: 01296 651382**

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



## **National Curriculum and Assessment Review**

Last week, the Government launched a curriculum and assessment review. According to the Department for Education it will "look closely at the key challenges to attainment for young people, and the barriers which hold children back from the opportunities and life chances they deserve – in particular those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, or with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)."

The review is seeking the views of parents and carers, as well as teachers and other stakeholders.

If you would like to contribute to this opportunity to shape the future of the curriculum from Year 1 to Year 13, please take part in the review by following this link: [CURRICULUM REVIEW](#).



## **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 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.



## Upcoming Events

w.b. 7<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Year 13** Predicted Grades (UCAS) confirmed  
Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Year 7** Team Building Activity Day  
Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Year 12** Visit to Northampton University  
Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> Oct – Green Power final – Glorious Goodwood!  
Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct – Annual Service of Praise & Thanksgiving  
Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> Oct – **Year 11** Report release and Mock Exam Information Evening  
Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – School closes for **half-term**  
Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – **Year 11** Pathways Conference  
Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – **Year 7** Form Tutors Parents' Evening  
Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – **Year 10** Parents' Evening



### Greetings from our new Chaplain

I am so pleased to be joining the incredible team of staff at Waddesdon School and I am looking forward to getting to know the students over the next year in my role as Chaplain.

I have a passion to see young people become all they are made to be, and to flourish as they engage with the wider world. I am ordained in the Church of England, but I am here to support every young person, of any faith or none, as they explore their meaning and purpose, and develop their identity.

Revd. Heather

***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)



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