



Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – September, 2025



Today we welcomed in the new academic year with a whole school assembly in the Sports Hall. As part of the start to the new year, we considered the Bible verse that underpins our educational philosophy, 1 John 10:10. I invited the students and staff to reflect on what enhances 'life in all its fullness', and what diminishes it.

The deep sense of the joys and challenges that we all face during a year, expressed beautifully in the quotation below:

"A full life is the abundant, broad, deep, **rich sense of living together** through all the ups and downs, twists and turns, joy, pain, elation, depression, dancing, weeping, singing and mourning..."

As the new year starts, my hope for everyone in our community is that we continue to sustain one another in good times and bad. At Waddesdon we will endeavour to do this for each and every young person and for their families.

Mr Abbott

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Thank you

The opening of the Jacob Rothschild Sixth Form Building was a significant moment for our school community last April. Since that point it has provided the venue for a research conference, interactive session for Years 7 & 8 with an author and, wonderfully, a production of the play, *DNA*.

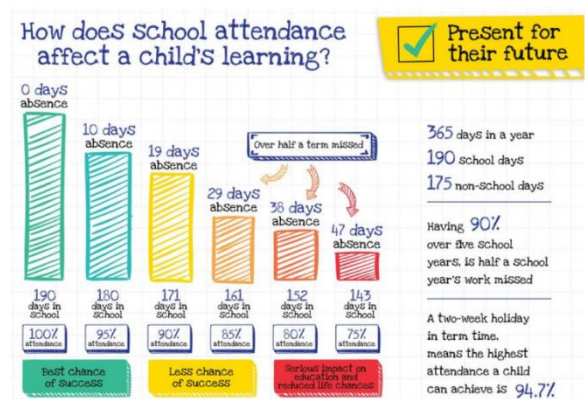
Thank you for all the support we received from our parent community. The Donor Wall will be in place in the auditorium shortly, representing the generosity and kindness of your donations.



Present for the Future

If you are reading this newsletter, the chances are that you are amongst the vast majority of our parent body who know how important daily attendance is for well-being and academic success. In fact, every day of attendance at school now, is a present for future successes.

We are determined to work with you to ensure that all children attend and make progress; this is because all children matter and because the data for future outcomes of students who are persistently absent makes stark [reading](#).



In 2019 secondary school pupils who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths **missed 10 more days on average over the key stage** than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths. We also saw this evidenced in our summer exam results. The correlation between school attendance and attainment was striking.

We do understand that some children face barriers to school attendance, including emotionally-based school avoidance. Please talk to us about how we can support any specific issues that you are facing at home.

You will also find support information on Buckinghamshire's [Present for their future](#) webpage.



After school support at Homework Club

We provide homework support for students to help them complete their homework. These run every day of the week, except Friday, and provide students with free IT access as well as support.

Starts: Monday, 15th September

When: 3.15pm - 4.20pm every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Where: R11

Everyone welcome.

We also provide supervised study in our **Period 6 sessions**. These sessions are provided as a sanction for missing homework, rather than support to get it done. If you think your child may need to develop better homework habits, the place to start is at Homework Club.



Do you believe your child is a young carer?

If you believe your child qualifies as a young carer, but the school does not yet know please do email office@waddesdonschool.com and one of our staff will be in touch to make a referral to Bucks Young Carers and ensure your child is supported in school.

Bucks Young carers - <https://carersbucks.org/information-for-carers/young-carers/>

The young person cares for someone with at least one of the following:

- a physical disability (including sensory impairment)
- a learning disability
- a long-term illness, with clear diagnosis
- a terminal illness
- a mental illness, with clear diagnosis
- drug or alcohol dependency
- or who is elderly



Information Evenings for Year 7 and Year 12 Parents/Carers

Please see below two information evenings about which you should have received a letter:

Year 7 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday, 16th September – 6pm

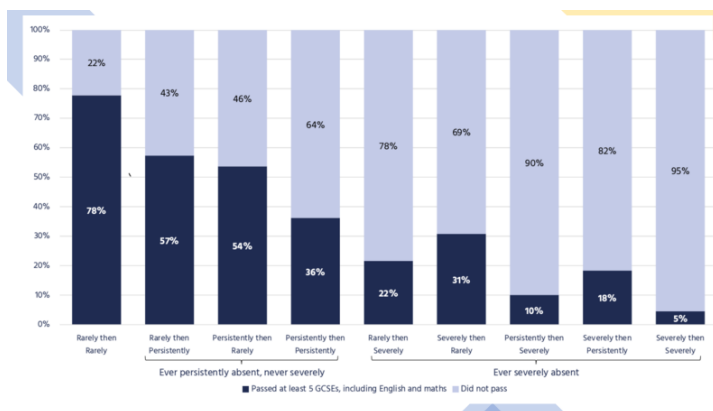
Year 12 Parents' Information Evening: Wednesday, 17th September – 6pm

If you ever miss a letter or want to check what we've sent out, please check our [letters page](#) on the school website.

Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening – Tuesday, 9th September

We know that starting Year 11 can feel like a daunting moment in your child's educational journey. As a school, we have found that the more that we approach this year in partnership with you, the better it is for your child. In addition to the information provided on the evening, the following **four tips** will help you have a good start to the year:

1. **Attendance and Punctuality matter** - there is a wealth of data to show the clear link between students with high levels of attendance and pass rates at GCSE.
2. **Home environment** - support your son/daughter by providing them with a space to work in the house which is not locked away in their bedroom.



3. **Plan the week** - at this stage there is no requirement to be doing hours and hours of revision. But it will help to start with small amounts of work which look back on Year 9 and Year 10 work, and start to create revision resources.
4. **The power of sleep** - by ensuring a good amount of sleep each night, it helps young people to remain more positive and able to learn. As difficult as it might sound, insisting on phones being off at night and away from bedrooms will be a big step in ensuring healthy sleep patterns.

As always, if you have any questions about the year ahead, please contact Mr Nilan or Mr Cahill.

We also look forward to seeing you all for the **Year 11 Mock Exam Information Evening** on 23rd October at 6.30pm.



Supporting your Child's Health – Monthly Spotlight

Why Vaping could have a long-term impact on your child's health

As you are aware, some young people are attracted to using e-cigarettes (vaping) for a variety of reasons.

As vapes are relatively new, the long-term effects are as yet unknown which is why there is a major £62 billion UK study assessing and tracking 100,000 young people over 10 years.

The addictive nicotine in a vape (which we already know has a negative effect on a child's developing brain), can encourage young people to vape who may never have thought about cigarette smoking.

Along with a number of other artificial additives and chemicals, the effects of vapes are causing alarm amongst health professionals, especially with illegal ones containing dangerous levels of lead, nickel and chromium.

Please note, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy a vape or have a vape bought for them.

There is a lot of advice for parents but please do always chat to us if you are concerned. A couple of helpful websites are:

<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/help-others-quit/young-people-and-vaping/>

<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>

The school medical team



Apply for free school meals



All academies, free schools and maintained schools in Buckinghamshire have a duty to provide free school meals to eligible children who attend school full time.

Check if your child is eligible

Your child is entitled to free school meals if you receive:

- Universal Credit - with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- An income-related employment and support allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit

If you receive Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit

If you are entitled to Child Tax Credit and also Working Tax Credit, you'll be eligible for free school meals:

- during the 4-week period immediately after your employment ceases
- after you start to work fewer than 16 hours per week

How to apply

If you would like to apply, please do so by completing the application form on the following website: (copy and paste if the link does not open). <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Support for YOU



**Buckinghamshire
Family Learning**

**Wellbeing Online Course and
Workshops**

To book your FREE place, contact our enrolment team on 01296 383582, scan the QR code or click on the link.
For more information call/text Kathryn on 07770 641997



 SCAN ME

**Y7,8&9- Support Your Child's Mental Health and
Wellbeing (FMWB057) 5 weeks**

24 September - 22 October 2025
7pm-9pm

**Y10&11- Help your child build Confidence, Friendships
and Manage Stress.
(FMWB022)**

Monday 13 October- 7pm-9pm

 SCAN ME

**Support your Autistic Child at Home
(FMAC134)**

Thursday 25
September 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Support your ADHD Child at Home
(FMAC135)**

Monday 6
October 7:00pm-9:00pm

 SCAN ME

  [buckinghamshireadulthoodlearning](#)  [BucksAdLearning](#)  [adultlearningbc.ac.uk](#)

 Funded by
UK Government



**Buckinghamshire
Family Learning**

Everyday First Aid

Led by a front line medic.
For parents and carers of children at school in
Buckinghamshire

**Monday 29 September, 9:30-12:00,
Elmhurst Family Centre, Aylesbury**

 Use a defibrillator

 The recovery position

 How to treat
a person
who is
choking

 CPR training

 SCAN ME

To book your FREE place, click on the date above, scan the QR code or call 01296 383582 and give the code
FMFA042 1ELA

  [buckinghamshireadulthoodlearning](#)  [BucksAdLearning](#)  [adultlearningbc.ac.uk](#)

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Key Dates for 2025 - 26

KEY DATES

The [Parent Handbook](#) contains all the useful information that parents/carers need for this academic year, including educational trips and activities and associated costs. Please find some of the key dates for your diaries below:

Parents/Carers' Consultation Evenings

Year 7	Thursday, 4 th June
Year 8	Thursday, 19 th March
Year 9	Thursday, 23 rd April
Year 10	Thursday, 13 th November
Year 11	Thursday, 22 nd January
Year 12	Thursday, 26 th February
Year 13	Thursday, 12 th February

Parents/Carers' Information Evenings

Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening	Tuesday, 16 th September 6.00-6.30pm
Year 8 Options Parents'/Carers' Information Evening	Thursday, 12 th March 6.00-7.00pm
Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening	Tuesday, 9 th September 6.00pm
Year 11 Mock Exam Information Evening	Thursday, 23 rd October 6.30-7.00pm
Year 12 Parents'/Carers' Information Evening	Wednesday, 17 th September 6.00-6.30pm
Year 12 Life After Waddesdon Evening	Thursday, 18 th June 6.00-7.30pm

Exams and Assessment Weeks

Year 7 Assessment Week	w/b Tuesday, 14 th April
Year 8 Assessment Week	w/b Monday, 2 nd February
Year 9 Assessment Week	w/b Tuesday, 2 nd June
Year 10 Mock Exams	Tuesday, 28 th April
Year 11 Mock Exams (All subjects)	Wednesday, 3 rd December
Year 11 Mock Exams (Core only)	w/b Monday, 2 nd March
GCSE Exams	Friday, 8 th May (TBC)
Year 12 Predicted Grade Exams	Tuesday, 28 th April
Year 13 Snapshot Assessment Week	w/b Monday 29 th September
Year 13 Mock Exams	Thursday, 8 th December
A Level Exams	Monday, 11 th may (TBC)

Wednesday Late Bus



From 1st October, your child(ren) will be able to take advantage of the late buses, if they want to 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.

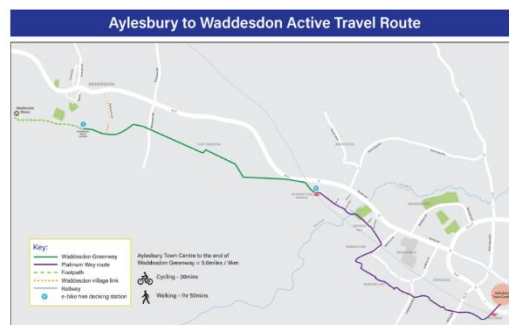
Both buses will leave school at 4.35pm, with the longest journey time taking approximately 45 minutes.



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 car park
- Consider using the five minute walking bubble when dropping off and picking up



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.**



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.

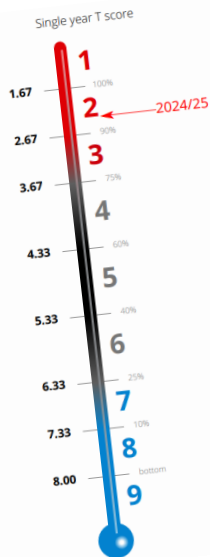
You should expect to hear back in 48 hours, so if you have no reply by then, please ring the school office to check the progress on your complaint.

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

Tuesday, 16th Sept – **Year 7** Parents' Information Evening
Wednesday, 17th Sept – **Year 12** Parents' Information Evening
Tuesday, 23rd Sept – **Open Day and Evening** – normal school
Wednesday, 24th Sept – **INSET** Day: Staff Appraisal
Wednesday, 1st Oct – **Year 7** Team Building Activity Day
w.b. 6th Oct – **Year 13** Predicted Grades (UCAS) confirmed
Wednesday, 15th Oct – Annual Service of **Praise and Thanksgiving**
Friday, 24th Oct – School closes for **half-term**
Wednesday, 5th Nov – **Year 7** Tutor appointments



This year's A Level results put Waddesdon in the **top 10% of all schools for progress**. We are very proud of the work that our young people put into preparing for their A Levels. They did themselves, and their families, exceptionally proud.

We wish them all the very best as they progress to University, Apprenticeships and Work.



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