



## Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – June, 2026



In last month's newsletter, I provided you with the results from our parent survey into the use of mobile phones, in particular smart phones. Since then, the law has changed, with the provision to ban mobile phones in schools coming into force on 29 June, 2026.

While the school is already essentially a phone-free environment, this will mean that children and young people will also not be able to use their phones while on the school site at the end of day. If necessary, they will

be able to contact you from our reception area. Where phones have historically been used to support some subject areas such as Photography, we are looking into alternatives.

There are some exemptions for Sixth Form students and also some considerations under the Equality Act (e.g. diabetics use of mobile phones). These will be carefully considered against the legislation.

In addition, I have now had confirmation from the bus companies, that alternatives to smart phone tickets are available on all services, meaning that we will contact our new Year 7 in-take and the parents of the children in Primary Schools to reassure them that they do not need a smart phone on transition to Secondary School. I believe that this will, on balance, remove social anxiety and enable our children to live happier and healthier lives.

Mr Abbott

### **WSA** Volunteers needed

#### **WaddFest, 16<sup>th</sup> July**

The WSA are looking for help to run the BBQ and refreshments stall. You would only be required to do a 30min shift/s (on a rota basis). It would make a real difference to the event. If you are able to help please email [wsa@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:wsa@waddesdonschool.com)

#### **Sports Day, 17<sup>th</sup> July**

Can you spare an hour or two in the early afternoon to help sell drinks and snacks to the students? If so, please email [wsa@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:wsa@waddesdonschool.com)



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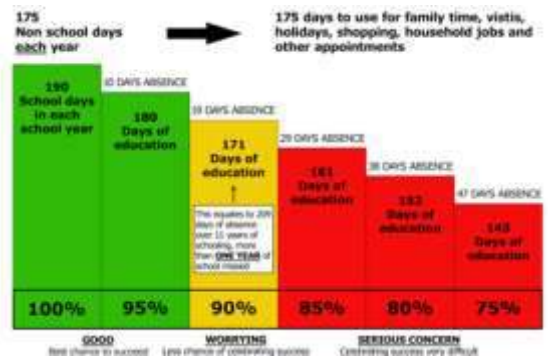
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## Attendance

Thank you for continuing to support your child(ren) to attend school every day. Our attendance figures continue to improve, with Year 7 leading the pack and Year 10 slightly lagging behind.

- Year 7 - 96.3%
- Year 8 - 93.9%
- Year 9 - 94.1%
- Year 10 - 92.6%
- Year 11 - 93.7%
- Year 12 - 93.8%
- Year 13 - 92.1%



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



## Respect the sun, drink water and your skin will thank you!

With warmer weather, it's really important that all students have a water bottle and also apply sunscreen before school.

Sunscreen should have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 (protection against UVB - ultraviolet) and a UVA (protection against radiation) symbol in a circle.

For those of us who have been sunburnt, we know it is never a good thing, it is very painful and damages the skin. Ice packs should never be put on sunburnt skin, just cool the skin with water or aftersun lotions.

Try to avoid the strongest sun between 11am and 3pm and cover exposed skin as able.

Enjoy the sun, but respect it!

The School Medical Team



## Diversity Week

On **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June** students are invited to attend school in cultural heritage dress.

If they would like to share information about their cultural heritage and traditions, students should come to school in clothes that they would wear to a formal celebration. Those who do not wish to take part should come to school in normal school uniform on that day.



## Sixth Form Building: Wall of Thanks

Some of you may be wondering when your name is going to appear in the Sixth Form auditorium following your kind donations to our 'Sponsor a Seat' campaign to support the costs of the auditorium retractable seating.

During the last 12 months we have been looking into various solutions to recognise our supporters. We are now ready to go ahead with this project and have collated a list of donor names and annotations ready for final proofing.

We are hoping for an end result, in the Waddesdon school colours of green, gold and grey, that looks similar to the images below:



If you would still like to donate, you can do so by clicking on the following link:  
<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=1056>

Thank you once again for all your support.

## WADDES DON ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION 2026



### Wednesday 3rd June: 4pm - 7pm

We are delighted to once again be holding our summer Art & Design Exhibition showcasing the GCSE and A Level work by students studying Art, Photography, Graphic Design and Media Studies.

This is this a wonderful event that celebrates the hard work of our creative students as we transform the entire Art Department into a gallery space.

You are invited to drop in any time between 4pm - 7pm when the exhibition will be open and refreshments will be available for you to enjoy as you walk around. Students will also have an opportunity to look around the exhibition during their Art, Graphics and Photography lessons on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.



### WSA Quiz - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June: 7pm - 10pm

✦ Are you the cleverest parents in the school? ✦

Dust off those thinking caps and gather your dream team for our **WSA School Quiz Night Extravaganza!** Join us on **Friday 19th June, 7pm – 10pm**, for an evening packed with trivia, and a little (or lot of) friendly competition.

🍹 A **licensed bar** will be open at very reasonable prices, and while we'll take care of the drinks, it is **'bring your own snacks'**, so feel free to go gourmet or grab your favourite crisps and chocolates.

🏆 There will be **prizes** for our top teams, plus a special **wooden spoon prize** for last place!

👥 **Tables are just £40 for up to 8 people**, making it a great value night out with friends, family, and fellow school parents. (Please note that this is an event just for adults and therefore students and children are not invited)

⚠️ Be quick, **tables are limited** and this event will sell out fast! Book early via ParentPay to avoid disappointment and secure your spot in what promises to be a quiz-tastic evening.

Will your team be crowned champions... or proudly claim the wooden spoon? Either way, we can't wait to see you there!



## Waddesdon Sixth Form Applicants - Foundation Day 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

We are delighted that so many of our Year 11 students have applied to Waddesdon Sixth Form, particularly at this exciting time with our new building. We have now held all of our consultations and were very impressed by how students represented themselves, along with their high aspirations for the future.

For students who have applied to Waddesdon Sixth Form, we released our conditional offer letters just before half term. If your son/daughter has not yet shown you the letter, please read it through with them at home and keep it somewhere safe as it contains important information about their next steps.

**We look forward to welcoming all offer holders to our Foundation Day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.** This is a very important day in school to enable students to confirm their subject choices and supports them to make the best possible start to our Sixth Form in September. Students must let us know if they are unable to attend. All details, including timings, the subject timetable and what to wear, are included in the offer letter.

We hope that students' GCSE examinations continue well and that all their hard work pays off.

If you have any questions or we can support in any other way, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Best wishes,

Ms McIver  
Head of Sixth Form

## Author Visit and Book Sale



The Football World Cup starts on 11th June and coincides with the author of the Ultimate Football Heroes books, **Matt Oldfield**, who is coming to visit the school on **Monday 13th July** to talk to Year 7 and 8 students.

There will be an opportunity to pre order his books via the online school shop nearer the time of his visit. Pupils (open to all years) will then be able to come to the library that lunchtime to collect their books and ask Matt to sign them.

More details to follow!

Ms Staiano, School Librarian





## Mobile Phones in Exam Halls

Ofqual's Chief Regulator, Sir Ian Bauckham is urging students not to take mobile phones or smart devices into exam halls as the summer 2026 GCSE and A Level series begins, warning that doing so puts their qualifications at serious risk.

Last summer, there were 2,225 cases of mobile phone and smart device cheating, and this has remained the most common category of student cheating every year in which exams have taken place since 2018.

Of those cases, 545 resulted in students being disqualified from some or all of their qualifications, while 1,240 cases resulted in a loss of marks. For those students, the consequences may be serious and lasting.

## Out and About

We are sometimes asked to advertise community events. These are not associated with Waddesdon, but may be of interest to you and your child(ren).

**Every School Holiday** **Holiday Adventure Clubs**  
@The Caldecotte Xperience

**Action-packed days your child will love — and you'll feel good about booking!**

Looking for an active, outdoor holiday club that gets children off screens and into fresh air? Our Holiday Adventure Clubs offer safe, supervised fun, packed with confidence-building activities, led by experienced instructors.

**Ages 5 - 15** **£37.50 per day** **Ofsted registered**  
9:00am - 5:00pm Children's outdoor activities

**Play Half Term Summer Holidays** **Early bird offer** Use code **EARLYBIRDADVENTURE** to get 10% discount. (Check our website for early dates)

**Scan to book**

✓ Extended day option (8:30am - 5:30pm) for an additional **£5.00**

Action4Youth | The Caldecotte Xperience, Milton Keynes, MK8 5AB **ACTION 4 YOUTH**

**What's included**

Every day is designed to help children **move, explore, build confidence and make friends** — all in a safe, supportive environment.

**Activities may include**

- Water sports & bushcraft
- Climbing & abseiling
- Arts & crafts
- Bouncy castle & juggling
- Survivor-like hunt & rocket challenge
- Team games & confidence-building challenges

(Activities vary by age, weather and day)

**Why parents choose Action4Youth**

- Delivered by **highly experienced, qualified instructors**
- Safe, supervised outdoor environment
- Children grouped by age
- Focus on confidence, resilience and teamwork
- A fun alternative to traditional holiday childcare

Scan the QR code for more information

**Unforgettable adventures — Book early, places fill quickly!**

Action4Youth Ltd  
11447th Ave, 1010008 | Company No. 3068400  
www.action4youth.org | Tel: 01295 9341 0088 **ACTION 4 YOUTH**

**BUCKS COUNTY SHOW**  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026  
**SCHOOL OFFER!**

**FREE Child Tickets!**

You can book entry tickets online and take advantage of our **FREE child ticket** offer. Get up to **3 FREE child tickets** (up to 16yrs) with each full paying Adult or Over 65 ticket. To redeem, simply use code **SCH100L26** at checkout. Visit [www.buckscountyshow.co.uk/tickets](http://www.buckscountyshow.co.uk/tickets) or scan the QR code

\*The Offer valid online only. Must be booked using the code SCH100L26. Not valid with the use of any other offers. Offer ends midnight 26/08/26

## Tennis coaching

Waddesdon tennis club have started their coaching programme offering both junior and adult classes from May onwards.

Online booking link below:

<https://www.edwardharwoodtennis.co.uk/tennis-coaching/#book-now>



## Pop-Up Pre-loved Uniform Event

*Raising funds for the school and supporting families*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 2.30pm until 5.30pm**

The WSA is pleased to confirm that this year the popular pop-up, pre-loved school uniform shop will take place from 2.30pm until 5.30pm in the school library, with thanks to Ms Staiano, the librarian.

All the usual pre-loved school uniform stock will be there.

Please note that payment at the pop-up shop sale is by card or cash only. It would be helpful if you could bring your child's measurements with you.

For parents of students starting in September 2026, this is the day before the Stevenson's uniform sale, so any uniform you cannot get from us you can buy from them.

### **Plea for all donations**

Please would school leavers in Year 11 and Year 13, please donate all their unwanted uniform to the WSA by 26<sup>th</sup> June so it can be used in the sale. We really need:

- Year 7 – Year 10 ties
- Blazers, all sizes and condition
- Skirts (with school logo), all sizes and condition
- School jumpers (any brand)
- PE kit, especially PE tops (non-rugby), sweatshirts for Years 7 and 8, rugby shorts, girls' PE leggings and skorts
- Waddesdon School raincoats

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

*Note:* WE DO NOT TAKE SHOES/TRAINERS/ASTROS/FOOTBALL BOOTS/ SHIRTS OR BLOUSES unless they are NEW.

Do not worry if the items are damaged or need hemming as we can repair the uniform, but if you can put it through the wash before donating, it would be appreciated.

Happy buying and donating. If you have any questions, please contact Emma Peck, pre-loved uniform co-ordinator for the WSA, at [wsa@waddesdonschool.com](mailto:wsa@waddesdonschool.com)



### **Lockers**

Please remember that all lockers must be emptied before the summer holidays to enable cleaning and maintenance (although keys do not need to be returned if the usage will continue into next year).

Parents/students in current Years 11, 12 and 13, who have a locker, are asked to return the key and number tag to the Finance Office before their last day in school, whether the students plan to return next year or not.

The key deposit will be returned in cash when the key and number tag are returned. Any lost keys must be reported to the Finance Office.



## 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.

**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 carpark
- 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](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.

The [Parent Guide to School Complaints](#) provides this helpful advice to parents and carers:

## How complaints go wrong

Tensions can run high when you're concerned about your child, but some approaches make matters worse.

### Using social media

Sharing your complaint on social media can be harmful to those involved and will not lead to a quicker resolution.

### Building a crowd

Other parents may share your views, but your complaint should be specific to you and your child.

### Targeting people

Making it personal to individual school staff members can take things too far, keep it to challenging school policy.

### Behaving aggressively

Abusive and aggressive behaviour will never be tolerated by a school and can lead to consequences for you.

### Only use AI with caution

AI doesn't always get it right when citing laws and can make a complaint more complex than necessary.

### Lacking partnership

Having a good relationship with your school is important and it benefits all to move on after complaints are resolved.

Parentkind



Department  
for Education

Ofsted  
raising standards  
improving lives



IET  
IMPROVING  
EDUCATION  
TOGETHER



Parent-friendly  
schools



# Events in June

W.b. 1st<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 MFL **speaking mock exams**

W.b. 8<sup>th</sup> June - Interform competitions

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June – Visit to **Oxford New Theatre** (Year 10, Drama)

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June – Visit to **Freud’s house** (Year 12, Psychology)

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June – Year 12 **Life after Waddesdon** (6pm – 7.30pm)

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June – **Year 11 Ball**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June – **Granada Trip** (Year 9/10, Spanish)

w.b. 22<sup>nd</sup> June – **Diversity Week**

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Visit to Whipsnade Zoo (Year 12, Biology)

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June – Thanksgiving for 6th Form Building and **Holy Communion**

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June – **Sixth Form Foundation Day** – Year 11

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June – **Model United Nations General Assembly** – Year 10;

## Cultural Heritage Day

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June – visit to **Othello at Waterperry Gardens** (Year 12, English)



## Year 13 Leavers’ Day – May, 2026



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



Contact:  
01296 651382



Email:  
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