

Let the
LIGHT
In

Autumn 2024



www.waddesdonschool.com



WADDESDON

Voice
magazine

In this issue

- P2 From the Headteacher
- P3 Trials and Tribulations
- P4 Meet the Chaplain
- P5 Chasing Glory
- P6 Peace on Earth
- P8 Demo Mode
- P9 Thanks and Praise
- P10 Gold Standard
- P11 Signpost to Success
- P12 Rocking the Boat
- P15 Outstanding in the Field
- P16 Chemical Reactions
- P17 Start Me Up
- P18 Money Matters
- P18 Dipple's Dilemma
- P19 In Remembrance
- P20 Rough Ride
- P22 Pitt Rivers
- P23 Wings of Imagination
- P23 Charity Week

About the cover

This term's cover shows Year 7's Lea lighting an advent candle during our school assembly. Several of our students lit a candle and we couldn't fit them all on the cover, so we have put them in a gallery that you can access via this QR code.



More Photos



From the Headteacher

Each day we start school with an assembly. Whatever the weather outside, or the emotional weather inside, I find that the assembly usually brings joy, light and the sense of togetherness and belonging which encapsulate the Waddesdon Way.

In an assembly a few weeks ago, a Sixth Former, Sophie, talked to the students and staff about kintsugi, a Japanese artform which takes something valuable that has been broken and re-makes it so that it becomes even more beautiful.

She explained, "No kintsugi art is the same, as no break pattern is the same. Each repaired pottery piece is unique. And the repair makes the pottery more valuable. We all have had moments in our lives that make us feel broken, and that can leave scars, but that's what makes us who we are. So don't hide your imperfections because they're what make us beautiful."

Another student, Lizzy, took this assembly as a source of inspiration for this year's Christmas card which you can see printed here. Combined with words from Leonard's Cohen's song, *Anthem*, the message in the design is that it is through the cracks in our flawed lives that "the light gets in".

This term's Waddesdon Voice is, as ever, a source of light, hope and solace in a world that can often feel broken and even unmanageable at times. It shows our students' hopeful engagement with difficult issues, demonstrates the richness of opportunities at Waddesdon and celebrates the light of learning.



Matthew Abbott

During this Christmas period, I sincerely hope that you will find light and comfort in the Christmas story, firm in the knowledge that the light shines even in the darkest of times. Whatever the words mean for you as you read this, I hope that you can both see, and let the light in'.

"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light that leads to life.'" *John 8, v. 12*



Leaving THIS TERM

All of our thanks and Waddesdon best wishes go to Mr McKain and Mrs Cross who are leaving us at the end of this term. Thank you for all the love and hard work that you have given us. We wish you well for the future.



Mr McKain



Mrs Cross

TRIALS
and
Tribulations

A group of budding barristers from our Sixth Form took part in a mock trial competition at Oxford Crown Court. Year 12's Martha was on hand to give us her court report.

On Saturday, 30th November, a group of Waddesdon Sixth Form students travelled to Oxford Crown Court to compete in a Mock Bar Trial competition against nine other schools.

As a part of the preparation for this, a team of students in Year 12 and 13 met at lunchtimes and occasionally after school to analyse witness statements for two court cases: R (the Crown) vs Leigh Hinton (a security guard accused of actual bodily harm) and R vs Vim Speed (an Olympic athlete accused of possession of controlled substances).

We reviewed the witness statements for the prosecution and the defence, looking for areas of disagreement, in the context of relevant UK laws. We then decided on roles, shared speeches and practised a run-through to prepare. Learning to deliver an Examination in Chief and a Cross Examination was particularly challenging.

Each student took on a different role in the team which included witnesses, a court usher and a court clerk, as well as prosecution and



defence barristers. In competition with other schools, one of our school sub-teams prosecuted Leigh Hinton, one sub-team defended Leigh Hinton and the final sub-team prosecuted Vim Speed.

We were delighted that the jury sided with our barristers in two of our cases. When we weren't competing, we became members of the jury to observe other schools. We also had the opportunity to interview real judges to gain their insight into the UK justice system.

The experience was an overwhelming success and all students enjoyed it thoroughly; it provided a very helpful team-building experience for us and really honed our analytical, problem-solving and communication skills. It was particularly impressive when two team members stepped up to take on additional roles as barristers with only 24 hours notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

Despite our school not winning the overall event, we still tried our best and created compelling cases in a short amount of time, with each person in the team performing their role to a very professional standard.

DON'T FORGET THE QR CODES!

Many of our pages have QR codes printed on them. You can scan these to access online content that we couldn't fit in the magazine, like image galleries and videos. Don't forget to look out for them!



Scan Here



Meet the Chaplain

“ Whether you find yourself facing a life challenge and the wheels feel like they are coming off, or whether you are enjoying the journey, I would love to travel with you. ”

This term, we welcome our new Chaplain, Rev Heather McCulloch. She told us a bit about herself, and what it is that she hopes to bring to life at Waddesdon School.



As I am writing this, I have just returned from a slightly perilous drive through the local hilltop villages in thickly falling snow. The freezing slush made my brakes useless and, heart in mouth, I turned back from Waddesdon down a steep slippery lane and thankfully made it home.

It strikes me that however planned and organised you are, you never really know what's coming next. Often when we take life at full tilt, max out our diaries, and say yes to all the invitations, something unexpected can tip our rattling cart over the edge without warning. Perhaps you have been facing something unexpectedly challenging, or maybe you are simply holding on and bracing for Christmas impact!

It is my immense privilege to be part of the Waddesdon School Chaplaincy team for this year and to be in school two days a week. I am a Christian chaplain, but I am here for everyone of any faith position or none, those who are unsure and those who are walking away from faith. Whether you find yourself facing a life challenge and the wheels feel like they are coming off, or whether you are enjoying the journey, I would love to travel with you. I hope to help make space in the busyness of school life and provide peace in the noise and constant movement.

My journey so far has taken me through a 12 year career in architecture, trying to make a difference to the built environment in specialist housing and healthcare; 12 years of training and, I hope, making a difference to clients practising as a personal counsellor; adoption of our youngest of three teenagers; 3 years of theological training in Oxford and 3 years' preparation for ministry in the Church of England.

I want to make a difference to the students here at Waddesdon in my final year of training. My passion is to see people becoming all they were made to be, to flourish and excel, to enjoy the fullness of life that they were designed to experience. That's why I'm here at Waddesdon, because I want to encourage you to inhabit every glorious corner of your being and celebrate who you are, whoever that is.

One thing I have learned is that it is not what you do, so much as who you are that counts. Making a difference to people can only really happen through relationship, trust, and listening. I am not here to convince you of anything, but I do want to see you, hear you, and learn from you – what do you really think, and why? Do come and chat to me or join me for one of our lunchtime spaces.

Soul Fuel runs every Wednesday lunchtime in the library. We provide a calm and quiet space, with mindful, reflective, and sometimes spiritual activities: an oasis in the middle of the busy week. Waddesdon Christian Union also runs every week on Tuesday lunchtimes, open to any student providing a space to talk about issues of life and faith in room C3 – bring your lunch.



In our autumn Interform competition, forms competed against each other for rugby and hockey glory. But who came out on top?

CHASING GLORY

On the week commencing 25th November it was Interform Sports Competition Week in the PE Department. It is a week designed to encourage physical activity, build camaraderie among students, and foster a healthy competitive spirit. It was a really wonderful week for all year groups to showcase their talents in hockey and rugby in a healthy competition. It was great to see students developing their confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the week. We hope the Year 7s enjoyed their first experience of Waddesdon Interform as we aim to encourage all students to participate and enjoy the excitement of the day.

Congratulations to all forms who won their competitions. We look forward to the next term's interform competition (football and netball) for a further fun-filled week.

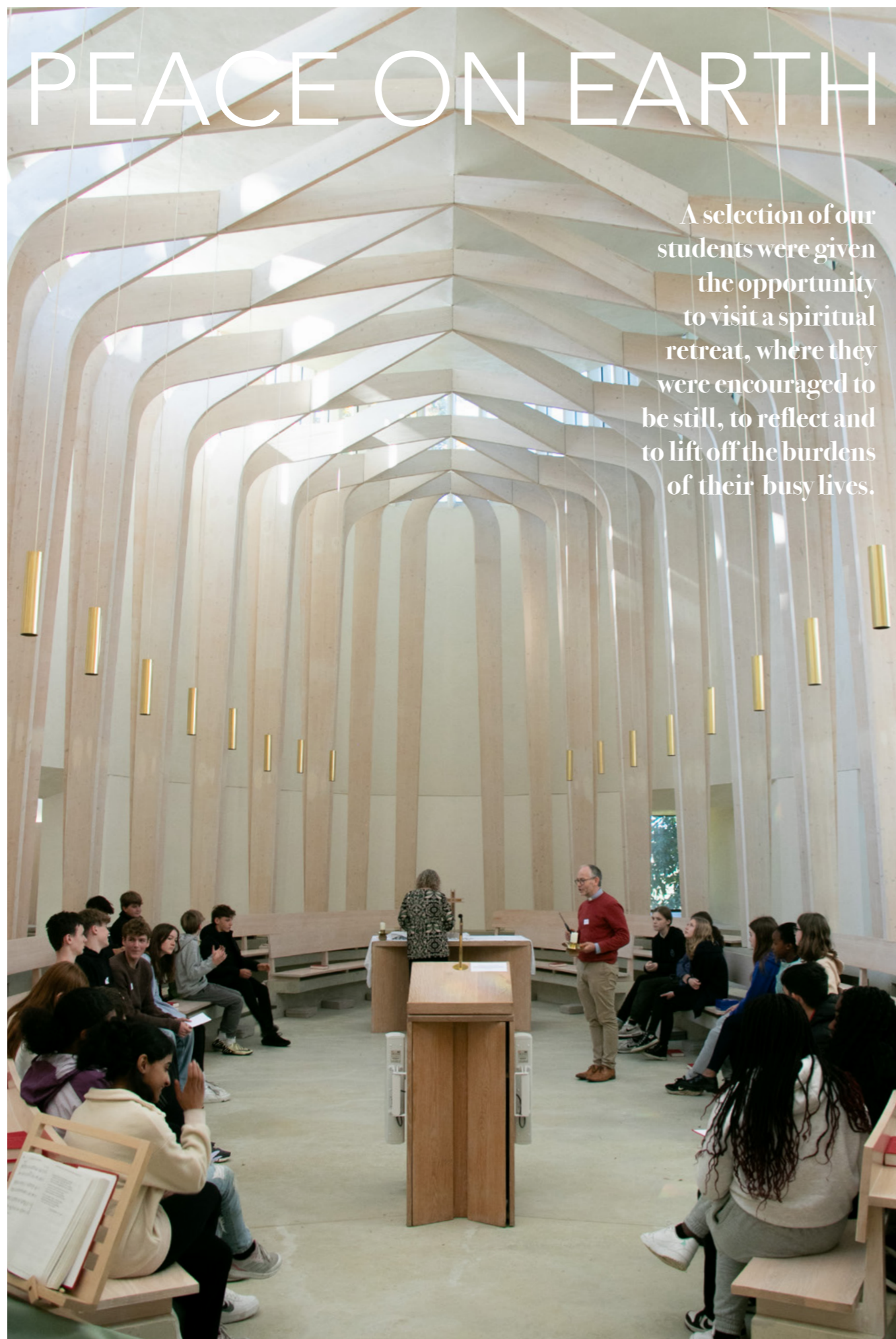


RESULTS

Year 7	1	2	3	Year 10	1	2	3
Rugby	EHA/VH	JBR	SB/VB	Rugby	IOG	SR/SW	JDA
Hockey	SB/VB	AR/AL	EHA/ VH	Hockey	IOG	SEV/ADI	SK
OVERALL	SB/VB	EHA/VH	AR/AL	OVERALL	IOG	SR/SW	JDA
Year 8	1	2	3	Year 11	1	2	3
Rugby	KT	FTU	CSP	Rugby	BJU	CAR	TN
Hockey	CSP	FTU	SC	Hockey	DMC	CAR	JCo/HD
OVERALL	FTU	CSP	KT	OVERALL	BJU	CAR	DMC
Year 9	1	2	3				
Rugby	JSM	TMC	MJB				
Hockey	MJB	JTA	ELH				
OVERALL	MJB	Joint: JSM & TMC					

PEACE ON EARTH

A selection of our students were given the opportunity to visit a spiritual retreat, where they were encouraged to be still, to reflect and to lift off the burdens of their busy lives.



It was a stunning autumnal day and the leaves were beginning to turn brilliant yellow against the arc of pale blue sky. After a meandering coach ride, we scrambled out into the crisp morning at Cuddesdon. The Ripon College buildings are rooted in the landscape and survey an expansive view over rolling countryside and fields of cows.

Charlie Kerr, the Diocese Chaplaincy advisor and our host for the day, met the students and gave us a short tour before we assembled in the modern, floor to ceiling glazed conference room to begin our day. After reflecting on what we wanted to receive from the day, Charlie invited us into stillness – the peace of the place beginning to soak away busyness and rush. The day unfolded with a series of contemplative exercises designed to be inspirational, inclusive, and invitational. Making space for people of any faith disposition to choose to engage in the unforced rhythm of God's grace, or to simply accept the space and peace in whatever way made sense to them.

After an essential doughnut break, and a chance to explore the grounds a little, we were invited to find a leaf and notice its intricacy and uniqueness as a picture of ourselves. Charlie explained the Ignatian concepts of 'Consolation' and 'Desolation' and, taking a section of our lives, we plotted consolation and desolation on a life graph.

At this point, we moved to the stunning modern chapel with its glorious crisp arches soaring upwards and clerestory windows providing glimpses of the immense trees outside. We were each invited to set a candle on a heavy stone in the centre of the space as we listened to some music. This was clearly a significant moment for many of the students who chose to sit and reflect for some time afterwards.

The remainder of the day was filled with other contemplative practices, as we enjoyed the different spaces and the time to slow down and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies.

With particular thanks to Charlie Kerr, Josh Lane (youth worker, Southcourt Baptist Church) and Mrs. Chapman who made this trip possible.

On 24th October a number of us went to Cuddesdon College of Theology (where vicars train). We had a phenomenal time. It was fantastic. We had the best time ever! We did a wide range of activities and had lots of fun. If this trip is offered again I would really recommend it.

I really enjoyed the retreat as I gained all the value I wanted at the beginning. It started as we entered Ripon College, known as the 'Holy Hogwarts'. We met Charlie from the Oxford Diocese, whom I had met before and he showed us around the place.

It was a very peaceful and spiritual day, an amazing way to refresh after a long half-term.

This trip was extremely moving and meaningful and brought out our spiritual side.

On a sunny autumnal day, 25 students set off on a spiritual journey. We travelled to Ripon College, which consists of a mixture of old, historic buildings and some contemporary structures all set in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

Over the day we took part in a number of activities called Stilling, Noticing, Dwelling, Mending and Blessing. They helped us to think about things like mental health, spirituality and mindfulness. We learnt how to be still and quiet, how to notice the things that give us joy and the things that make us feel sad. We also thought about letting go of the baggage that weighs us down and about forgiveness. The whole day was very peaceful and calming.





Our Year 7 English students created an imaginary village - and then had to take to the streets to defend it from unwanted development!

Year 7 English students enthusiastically spent their first half term creating a fictional village and its characters, which they brought to life through oral and written role play. 7AR developed the idyllic village of Havensbury, now under threat from a railway construction that could destroy half of it. United, the villagers held a town hall meeting, decided to protest and marched to defend their home. They crafted powerful slogans, made eye-catching banners and delivered inspiring speeches. Here's what they had to say:

We marched because our village was threatened with destruction, and we weren't just going to sit there and do nothing, so we marched! It felt powerful and felt like we would make a change.
Joey

As we marched, I felt so free, so empowered, so proud of our community. We are stronger together.

I stood up for what was right and banished the bad. It was such an amazing experience. I don't know if it helped, but at least I can say I tried instead of accepting fate and giving in.
Emily H

At first, I felt embarrassed and my stomach filled with butterflies. We did not do the speeches first because we would have lost our momentous start. As we walked back to the village hall, I felt the adrenaline pulsating through my body.
Leo

We marched to show we cared. As we marched through the streets, emotions were running high. I shouted as loudly



as I could—which was very loud—and I think we made a stand.
Felicity

I've just got back from the march, and I couldn't tell you how good it felt. At first, I thought about how embarrassing it would be, but really it was the complete opposite. Once we had set out as a village group, I started to feel proud of all of us standing up for what is right.
Emily T

I've just got back from the most magnificent march. It was thrilling. We charged around the village filled with rage but also courage. Even if they do destroy our village, they can't destroy our spirit!
Charlie



DEMO
MODE

Our annual Service of Praise and Thanksgiving is a reminder to us all to stop, reflect and celebrate the good things that we have. As Bongwiwe from Year 9 told us, she was grateful for the opportunity.



THANKS *and* PRAISE

On Wednesday 16th October, we had our lovely annual Service of Thanksgiving with the main speaker being Pastor Kane Dick from the Aylesbury Potter's Church.

The purpose of the service was gratitude and how we need to remember to be thankful and grateful for all the things we have. In his sermon, Pastor Kane told the story of the ten lepers who were exiled for their illness and how Jesus healed them all. However, only one came back to thank him.

Pastor Kane emphasised the importance of not taking things for granted. We need to be thankful for both small and great things in life.

The service began with a welcome by the Heads of School, Sophia Sunthareswaran and Charlie Starsmore, highlighting specific things each year group could be grateful for. Phoebe Thomas and Nia Ama Gbadamosi read the Bible verses during the service.

All year groups listened beautifully during the readings and speeches, so much so that when I read my speech,

I felt the school values of dignity, kindness and respect.

During the service, we had beautiful choir performances from Mr Judson and the School Choir. It made me feel calm and the mood in the room really contributed to that as well. I really got to understand more about thanksgiving, the lepers and being more thankful.

Mr Abbott also mentioned how, when feeling down or upset, he thinks about three things that he is thankful for and it cheers him up.

All students were politely reflective, and took part in the service well, even though some do not believe in Christianity. They respected and acknowledged the benefits of the service.





Back in the summer, our students travelled to Hillingdon for the District Athletics - and did us proud by finishing on the top step of the podium!

GOLD STANDARD

It is hard to imagine a blazing hot June day, but for the purposes of this article, you will need to cast your mind back to the middle of summer!

This year the District Athletics Championship was held at Hillingdon athletics track, and was a competition which saw 11 schools in the Aylesbury Vale District come together to compete in year group athletic disciplines ranging from track to field events.

Having shown commitment to athletics throughout the year and during the training season, the select students were well prepared and bubbling with anticipation for the competition that lay ahead.

From the first starter gun, right through to the last run across the finish line, our athletes gave it their all, with many outstanding, and some exceptional, individual performances, notably:

- Year 7, Carter throwing the discus just shy of 18m and Will launching the javelin 26m, both winning their respective Year 7 competitions;

- Jack's rapid Year 9 800m winning time of 2m 18s;

- Seb and Jacob for beating the opposition in the Year 10 Hurdles and 200m respectively, Jacob with a sensational time of 24.58 seconds, along with Ben's 1m 78cm winning High Jump;

- Bethany seeing off the competition with an outstanding 17m 34cm Javelin throw to win the Year 9 event;

- And Michelle and Eleanor taking the wins for the Year 10 300m and Javelin, recording 47.98 seconds and 21m 04cm respectively.

In addition to these exceptional individual performances, our athletes secured a further 22 runner-up finishes across the events of the day, including 4 in the most exciting event: the relays, where the Year 7, 9, 10 girls and Year 7 boys kept up with the competition and narrowly missed out on the win in this event. As the day drew to a close, there was a sense that the athletes had reached and, in many cases, exceeded their own expectations and potential;

the atmosphere was joyous, with all students beaming with pride for their contribution to the event.

When the points we tallied, each year group had given solid performances with 4 out of 8 second place finishes, but most notably the Year 9 girls blew the competition out of the water and are District Champions in their own right! The final results showed that overall, the girls team placed 2nd, narrowly missing the 1st spot by 35 points, and the boys replicated this by finishing 2nd with a slightly wider margin of 83 points on the top position. This meant that the final overall results put Waddesdon School Athletics Team as District Champions 2024 with an advantage on Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School of 54 points.

We are utterly thrilled that the students' dedication to athletics, and determination to perform to the best of their abilities, shone through the day. All of the athletes thoroughly deserve this win and should be so incredibly proud of themselves.

We hope that the news of this summer win helps lift you through the dark days of the winter!



Our Year 12 Art students magicked up a fairytale signpost as part of a Christmas display at the Manor. Evie told us about how they went about this enchanting quest.



Signpost to SUCCESS

Earlier this year Mrs Evans gave us the task of creating Fairytale themed signs for Waddesdon Manor's Christmas lights. We got to pick two fairytale locations each to base our sign on, and three of us - Immy, Jasmine and Eve - were able to decorate the signpost. Mrs Chapman prepared the signs for us by sanding them and painting them white so that we could begin to work on the project.

For the signs we used acrylic paint. We drew different versions of our designs so we could figure out exactly what we wanted on the sign, after which we began to actually paint. I chose the themes "Rainbow's End" and "Mermaid Point" - honestly, I don't know which fairytale it's from, even after doing research; I just picked it because I like ocean themed stuff!

For the signpost itself, we sewed leaves using hessian material; toadstools and mushrooms were painted to decorate the base. Jasmine made insects out of clay to place all over the signpost and a couple of the signs. The bugs are probably my favourite part of the sign as they are adorable!

We dedicated about a week of our art classes to work on our signs, although a lot of us had to work on them overtime - using a fair few of our study sessions - and a couple of us even had to take the signs home in the half term. It was all worth it in the end, though.

Having seen the sign in the Stables at Waddesdon Manor, it looks great





Our students put on an ambitious full-length production of *Guys and Dolls*, with a huge cast and a full band on stage. Year 10's Torin had a lead part as Nathan Detroit, and he told us about the hard work and emotions behind being in the show.

Rocking the BOAT

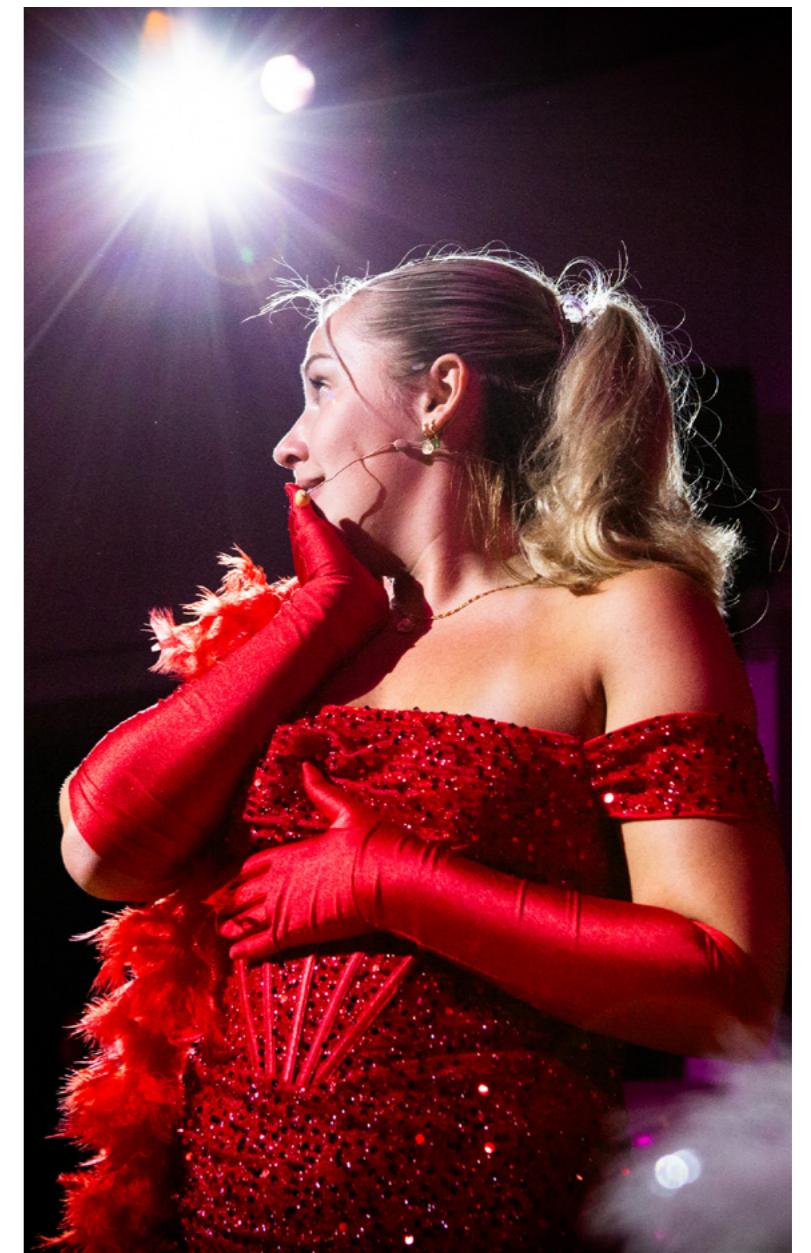
21st November was the opening night of Waddesdon's spectacular production of *Guys and Dolls*. The musical is set in the early 1940s as we follow a young, small-time gambler from downtown NYC called Nathan and another big-time successful gambler called Sky. The show is about gambling, morality, love and the influence of faith.

Auditions for the show started right before the summer holidays, with call-backs for lead roles taking place in September. Once the cast was announced, rehearsals took place straight away. The cast, crew and orchestra consisted of over 100 students from Years 7-13.

We all worked tirelessly over nine weeks to create a piece of magic. The first rehearsals consisted of dividing the cast into their separate groups to perfect their parts of the show: the principal roles on their multiple scenes, the gamblers ensemble on the many songs and scenes they had, the Hot Box crew on their dance and singing routines and the band to perfect the music. Not to mention the many hours of work done by the tech team to help perfect, and make the show so much better.

After months of rehearsing, in the final week in the lead-up to the show, it all started to come together. None of this would have happened without the exceptional talent and dedication of Miss Turner with help from the amazing Heidi.

These rehearsals were relentless for everyone, especially in the week leading up



to the show. I can remember the many hours Rylee and I spent on FaceTime trying to perfect our lines. I slaved over the script for weeks and I remember going mad at one point trying to retain it all, a problem I assume a lot of the cast had too. As soon as I had learned all of my lines, I could finally start enjoying rehearsals a lot more and allow myself to focus on my characterisation of Nathan.

The opening night consisted of two dress runs beforehand which enabled us to get to know the show a lot better and for us to make it run smoother. However, the downside of this was being VERY tired. I remember going home for an hour before the show not knowing where I would find any more energy. But when I took my first step on stage, that all disappeared.

I recall half way through my first scene when I wasn't talking, looking at Lydia and Emie, noticing that I could hear my heart thumping and thinking, "This is going to be a long ride". As the show carried on my nerves calmed down a lot. I could start to focus on the performance itself and not just delivering lines. By the time the last show rolled around I didn't feel many nerves at all and I could just enjoy it for what it was.

On that final night I felt a really odd sensation when I was going through the show one last time. I can remember feeling very strange that it was the LAST time we'd be doing this, not doing the same scenes again and not doing the same songs again. By the end everyone was very upset by this too, not just that Guys and Dolls was over, but that it was the last show ever, for some.

This production is by far the best I have ever been in. Everything about it was perfect. I am eternally grateful for being given the role of Nathan, as I enjoyed playing such a fun character so much.

What's more, I am also grateful for everyone around me. I made new friendships with different people and strengthened many more. The community this show created was something I had never seen before, full of love and support everywhere you looked.

But the heartbeat of all of this was Miss Turner. Her dedication and love for everyone shone through as well as her natural talent as a director. It could never have been as amazing without her.

The excitement I have for next year's show is immeasurable as I can't wait for another experience like this to make even more lasting memories which will stay with me for the rest of my life.



OUTSTANDING *in the* FIELD

Our bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award students took part in a challenging expedition during the summer. Jack and Jakub told us about what keeps them going when the going gets tough.



DofE expeditions are great experiences in both strengthening friendships and also exercise! Despite the efforts involved, these trips are about overcoming obstacles and persevering .

Getting the tent up is a lot of fun and involves a significant amount of

teamwork. Once the tents are put up we are ready to have more fun.

I love the cooking part of the trip because you have endless possibilities with any ingredients you can bring and the teachers give you lots of freedom...

Team morale is also important as it is what keeps us going through our walks. We enjoy munching sweets and taking many photos on our walks. It feels amazing to reach a checkpoint, knowing that we are getting closer to the finish. We also sang songs through fields and having a breeze of wind helped!





CHEMICAL Reactions

Our Year 13 Chemistry students travelled to Nottingham University where they had the chance to test their skills in the laboratory. Henry gives us his conclusion.

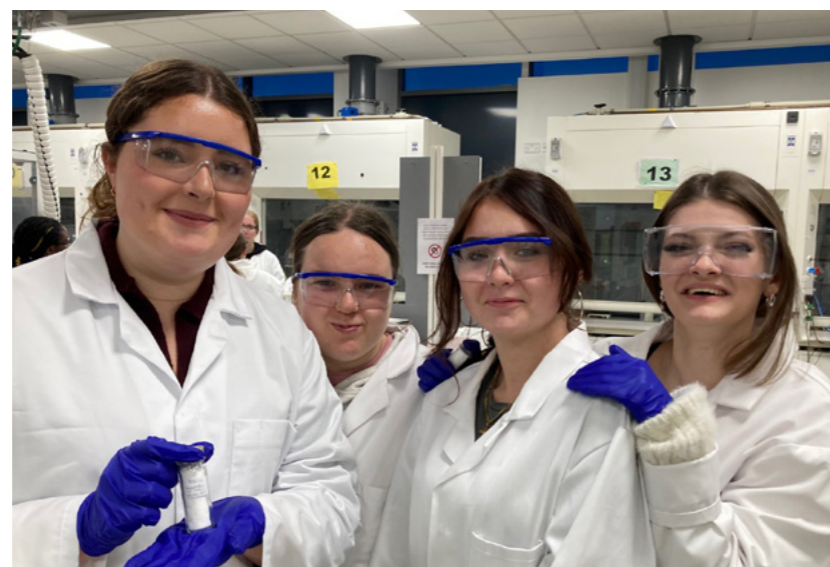
On 4th December Mr Carr and Mr Ewart accompanied the Year 13 Chemistry class on a school trip to Nottingham University. The aim of the trip was to explore the different analytical chemical instrumentation methods used to identify organic compounds and test our knowledge on this part of our course.

In preparation for the trip, our class produced and crystallised our own aspirin, which we formed from 2-hydroxybenzoic acid and an ethanoic anhydride. We then took the samples of our aspirin with us to see if any impurities were present, and to test our skills on using NMR spectroscopy.

When we arrived at the university, we attended an undergraduate-style lecture led by a Fellow of the Chemistry Department. This gave us a

brief overview about organic analysis and allowed us to consolidate further what we had been learning about in class.

As the day progressed, we toured different parts of the Chemistry Department, gaining insights into some of the £9m worth of machines and techniques that they have at the university and which we have studied in class. We also had the chance to speak with a Chemistry student, allowing us to ask questions and learn about their experiences.



Later on, we engaged in activities such as working directly in the lab. We had to follow all the correct procedures and were given a demonstration on how to test our aspirin samples. After using the machines, we printed off our results and then identified key functional groups present in our aspirin. Dr Tang, our host, said "I'm very pleased to say that ... [the aspirin samples] are of very good quality"!

The whole trip gave us a unique opportunity to see how what we had learned in school can be applied to real life situations.



Our Year 8s were given a potentially lifesaving lesson in how to administer CPR. Imogen and Martha told us more about learning this essential skill.

On 16th October Waddesdon School held our annual "Restart a Heart Day", with every Year 8 student taking

part in the event. We were trained in what to do when we come across someone who has had a cardiac arrest - and how to deliver CPR which could potentially save their life.

It was a great day, and we were fortunate to have the expertise of two volunteers from South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

During the course of the day, students were also given an opportunity to speak to volunteers about their own training and experiences which links in with our careers education programme.

Our visitors provided some really positive feedback at the end of the day, commenting on how we were great ambassadors for the school. Well done Year 8!



MONEY *Matters*



Year 8 students Sam and Isaac tell us about why they enjoy studying Finance - and how it equips us with important life skills.

This year in Year 8 Finance lessons, we have been learning about many aspects of finance including functions of money, income and expenditure, budgeting, banking, savings, credit and debt.

One lesson I have really enjoyed was about banks. Banks are

public limited companies that exist to make profits for their shareholders. In case you didn't know, shareholders are people or organisations who have invested some of their money in companies so that they can receive a share of profits and so that the value of their investments can increase.

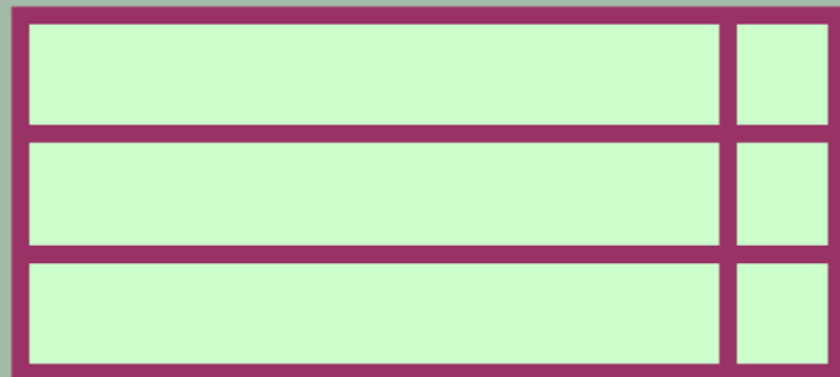
I am looking forward to learning about taxes and pensions. I think learning finance in Year 8 is a really helpful subject to master because it prepares us for adult financial responsibilities, which are vital to know.



It would be amazing if any parents wanted to get involved, emailing me your solutions to mdipple01@waddesdonschool.com.

I've had a complaint or two that they have been fairly easy, so I may start to make them more challenging. For now though, here is a bit of a classic:

Two Mars Bars are up for grabs, one for the first correct answer and one for the most elegant solution: How many rectangles are shown in this diagram?



I had several correct entries for last edition's puzzle, the highlights being entries from Sophia and Penny in Year 10, and Noah, Millie and Lynn in Year 13. Congratulations go to Lynn, whose solution was the most aesthetically pleasing! Please see me to collect your chocolatey prize.

A group of our Year 10s travelled to Belgium and France to visit the war cemeteries, to commemorate those who fought and died, including those from Waddesdon, and to see for themselves the trenches and battlefields. Rhiannon told us about what a valuable experience she found it to be.



IN REMEMBRANCE

In October, Year 10 had the opportunity to visit France and Belgium. We spent time at many war memorials, battlefields, museums and cemeteries.

On our visits to Essex Farm Cemetery, Flat Iron Copse Cemetery, Theipval Memorial and Tyne Cot Cemetery, we honoured the men from Waddesdon who fought and died in the war.

On the second night of the trip, George and I represented our school and

country by laying a wreath during the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This was dedicated to the 6 men of Waddesdon who are commemorated on the Gate.

We visited the Somme and Passchendaele. Though much of the landscape has now been restored back to farmland, we could see the landscape which influenced many of the trench positions and some of the areas preserved as they would have

looked (such as the Lochnagar Crater).

Our time at museums such as the Passchendaele Memorial Museum and the In Flanders Fields Museum added to our factual knowledge of the war.

The trip was an amazing opportunity for students to connect with our History, RS and English lessons and give more depth to our studies.



ROUGH RIDE



More Photos



Our GreenPower electric racing team had faced a hard road to the final this year, with only two of our three cars qualifying. Once at Goodwood, the final was challenging and incident-packed, with tyre problems and an unlucky collision. Year 10's Oli sums up the team's post-season reflections.

Last year our Green Power team made 3 electric cars using square-sectioned and L-shaped aluminium pieces which were cut and shaped to form the chassis. To ensure a secure and durable bond, we utilized a combination of JB Weld (a metal glue as an alternative to welding) and rivets. This provided a strong base for the vehicle, enabling us to mount the other components securely. Finally, around the outside was a layer of thin plywood for the bodywork. This enabled us to keep the car light and cheap.

Our F24 final racing experience was beset with troubles. One of our electric cars was damaged after a collision with another team's car; watching all of our hard work go down the drain so early was frustrating. Another of our cars had a wheel misalignment problem meaning every 2 or 3 laps we would have to replace the tyre. This taught us that wheel alignment is an important thing that we need to be able to change easily on race day.

The chequered flag is now a distant memory. These challenges led to creative solutions. For example, we developed a new way to adjust our steering system without fully disassembling, which had been a long and annoying process previously. Now, knowing the shortcut for next time, we can adjust more quickly



and accurately; this means less time lost during competitions. Instead of plywood we are using carbon fibre which is more expensive but weighs a lot less. These are the small adjustments that help us improve our position on the final standings.

"One of our electric cars was damaged after a collision with another team's car; watching all of our hard work go down the drain so early was frustrating."

This coming year, we're planning on using aluminium tubing; it's lighter, and the hope is that it stabilizes the car and makes it lighter. We're also



going to try to 3D print some of the parts, like our connectors, which would be easy to manufacture and reduce costs. The gears can also be 3D printed, which would remove the problem of our chain falling off, increasing reliability. We're also looking to implement a constant velocity joint into the steering assembly. This will allow for quicker pitstops and easier access in and out of the car.

These upgrades from the F24 season will improve our racing. There is always room for new upgrades, always searching for better efficiency, reliability, and of course, performance. If anyone or any companies would like to sponsor us to further support our engineering then please contact piveson@waddesdonschool.com.





Our Year 8 artists travelled to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, to find inspiration for their projects among its amazing artefacts.

To prepare for our trip to Pitt Rivers Museum we had to coffee stain four of our art pages. We were then ready to sketch out our inspiration from the masks at the museum. I took photos

of masks from different cultures, shapes, sizes and colours so I would have several options to pick from when I came to make my own mask. **Esther**

Pitt Rivers Museum was really interesting. I even saw the original Darth Vader's mask design in Star Wars! **Chermaya**

Pitt Rivers Museum was cool. I had been before, but this time it was even more interesting as it was part of our art project. We had to draw artefacts and did some annotations which helped me come up with ideas for my clay mask. **Maya**

It was a really interesting experience. I liked seeing the fans and jewellery from different cultures which date back years and years ago. **Scarlett**



There was a trip to Waddesdon Manor for our Year 7 Art students, who were looking at bird forms in art that would give them ideas for their own work.

We looked at fabulous bird sculptures in the dining room at Waddesdon Manor. It helped me with my drawing skills as I really paid attention to the shapes and colours. **Ottie**

It was fun and interesting to see all the bird-themed pottery. I have never seen animals made of paper. **Daniel**

We got to see some beautiful bird sculptures which gave me inspiration to create my own bird. **Luke**

I really enjoyed the trip to Waddesdon Manor because it gave me some inspiration to do some of my own art at home. I am really happy with the sketches that were inspired by the birds there. I am also pleased with the opportunity it gave me and hope that I get more opportunities in the future. **Frank**



WINGS OF Imagination

Charity WEEK

Since Charity Week was launched to students, parents and staff in October, we have been busy collecting items for over five charities. The aim of Charity Week is to collect for a range of charities, raising awareness of the importance of charities within our community and learning how to be kind to others.

All year groups participated in charity-themed assemblies, activities or PSHE lessons during the week. We then set up a collection table in the library and continued to collect items. Although the items collected have now been distributed to the various charities, we will still take donations and deliver them in time for Christmas.

This year we were able to support the following charities:

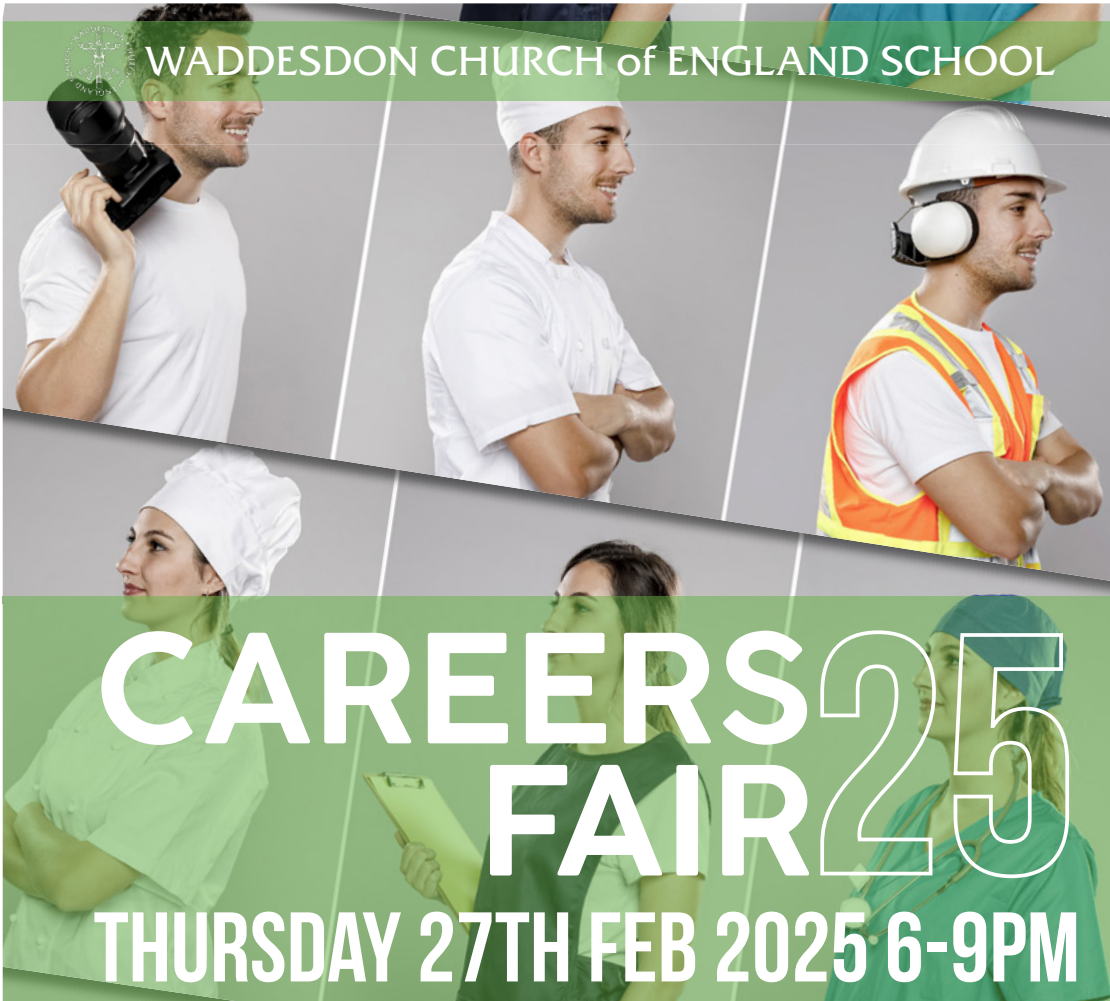
- Link to Hope – Family & Elderly Shoe Box Appeal
- Bernie Bus food bank appeal/ local food bank scheme / Vineyards Church, Aylesbury
- Pet food bank/local animal shelter food collection
- The Hygiene Bank (personal hygiene collection)
- Bucks Inspires Christmas Toy Appeal



Children from Little Oaks Pre-school also participated in the appeal. They had the pleasure of two Year 13 charity group students visiting the pre-school to deliver an assembly on kindness and giving.



WADDESDON CHURCH of ENGLAND SCHOOL



CAREERS FAIR 25

THURSDAY 27TH FEB 2025 6-9PM

WHY NOT BE INVOLVED?

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OTHER PARTICIPANTS FROM BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, LOCAL COLLEGES AND APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDERS TO SHOWCASE THE WORK YOU DO TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO BECOME MORE INFORMED ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF CAREER PATHS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT SCHOOL.
BONITA BRIDGES, PATHWAYS ADVISOR BBRIDGES@WADDESDONSCHOOL.COM

The views and opinions expressed in the Waddesdon Voice are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Waddesdon Church of England School. The publisher (Waddesdon CE School), authors and contributors reserve their rights with regards to copyright of their work.

No part of this magazine may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the school Headteacher.

The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. More information regarding Waddesdon CE School safeguarding can be obtained through our policies section of our website.

