



Waddesdon C of E School | Parent Newsletter – Jan/Feb, 2025

What a difference a year makes...

A year ago, we launched the fundraising campaign for your child’s Sixth Form Building. As you can see from the graphics below, we started slowly ... but are now heading towards achieving **25% of our £500K target**.



Thank you to everyone who has supported this campaign, especially at a time when money is tight. A copy of the recent Sponsor-a-Seat letter is on the second page if you are still intending to contribute.

Mr Abbott

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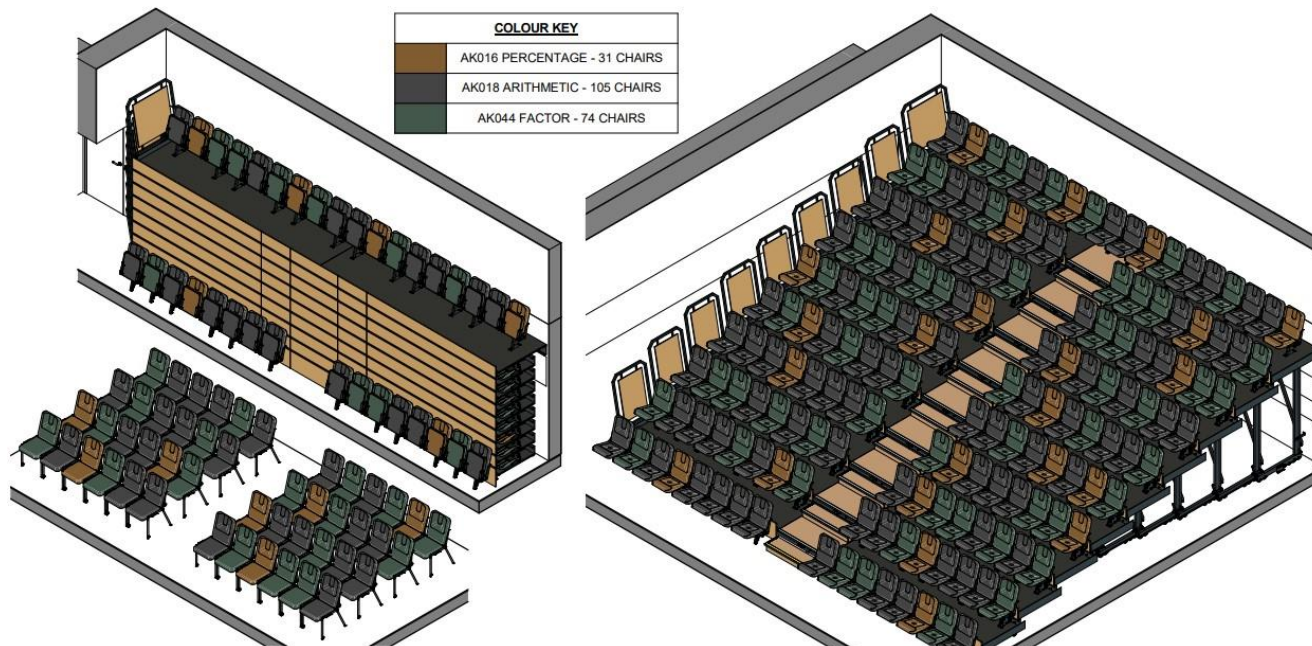
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Sponsor-a-Seat

Due to open in February 2025, the [Jacob Rothschild Sixth Form Building](#) will provide focused study areas, a performing arts and lecture space, an innovation and enterprise suite and a reflection room. It has been designed to meet our young people's needs, enabling them to flourish, as they move from school to further study, employment and adulthood.

In a final push to get the funding we need to ensure the interior is as good as the exterior, we are inviting you to be part of our Sponsor-a-Seat initiative in the performing arts space/lecture theatre.



There are 105 **grey/silver** seats, 74 Waddesdon **green** seats and 31 **gold** seats.

If you would like to sponsor a "seat of learning" in the new space, simply go to the [School Shop](#) (no account necessary) or select an amount on [ParentPay](#) if you have an account linked to Waddesdon School.

We are suggesting: silver seat: £50; green seat: £75; gold seat: £100+

If you have already been a major donor for this once-in-a-generation project, we will allocate a seat to you in recognition of your support for the school. You can also commit to a monthly donation, which will also qualify you for a seat by clicking on the donation links on our [Sixth Form Building webpage](#).

If everyone were able to commit £50 to the build, giving as little as £5 a month, we would be able to raise £50,000, an amount which would make all the difference.

With many, many thanks.

Matthew Abbott

Headteacher, Waddesdon CE School



Essential information – New Year’s checklist:

- ✓ Let us know if any of your contact details have changed
- ✓ Each week, check that your child’s Parent Pay account is topped up so that they can continue to buy food from the restaurant
- ✓ Check you have access to our SIMSApp (see below) so that you can find out more about your child’s successes in school and any issues you need to pick up at home.
- ✓ Make a note of key dates, including the Careers Fair, and Parents’ Evenings for Years 9, 11 and 13 (see back page)
- ✓ Use the revision guidance to chat to your son or daughter if they are in Year 11 or 13



New Year’s Resolution – join the 100% attendance club!

Congratulations to students who had 100%, or improving attendance, last term. In our end of term assembly, while acknowledging that people face different challenges, we celebrated their achievements.

Attendance in December across the year groups was affected by seasonal illness, but held up well against previous years. Particular congratulations to Years 7, 8, 9 and 12.

Year 7: 95%; Year 8: 95%; Year 9: 94%; Year 10: 93%

Year 11: 92%; Year 12: 94%; Year 13: 92%

Daily attendance, above anything else, makes the most difference to a young person’s chances of educational success and their ability to cope with the challenges of life.

With that in mind, please get in touch with us if your child is unhappy at school - for whatever reason - and do continue to talk to us about how we can support any specific issues that you are facing at home.



Keeping in touch with you

This is a reminder that we use the SIMS App to facilitate communication regarding your child's progress at school.

If you have any issues using the facility, please start with the wealth of knowledge and help on our website - <https://www.waddesdonschool.com/communications/>.

If you require further support, please email the office FAO Mr. Purchase.



Interested in joining our Governing Body?

We currently have spaces on our Governing Body for any parents who are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, or would like to apply under our Foundation Governor criteria.

If you (or someone you know) would be interested in finding out more, please contact the school via the office email and direct your enquiry to our Chair of Governors, Andrew Howard.

We are looking particularly for Governors with skills in Finance. The Governing Body is a dedicated, professional and happy group of individuals who help to set the school's strategic direction and play an important role in holding the school to account.

Post 16 **Sixth Form Applications for September 2025**

Thank you to all Year 11 families who attended the Sixth Form Open Evening and completed the initial e-form on the school website about subject interest. We are currently working hard on our subject option blocks to accommodate as many subject choice combinations as possible. We'll publish the option blocks on the link below in mid-January. **Students will then need to complete the full e-application by Monday, 24th February.**

We hold our Sixth Form consultations with students from February to the end of May in school. This is an informal conversation with students about their subject choices, their future career aspirations and an opportunity to answer any questions they have.

More the application process: <https://www.waddesdonschool.com/joining-our-sixth-form/>



**Inspiring
Futures**

Supporting our Sixth Form for Life beyond Waddesdon

Having submitted a fantastic set of university applications, we are currently supporting students in **Year 13** with apprenticeship, employment and gap year opportunities and applications. Students will all be seen for one-to-one support, with local employers coming into school to meet with students to promote their apprenticeships or internships. Interview support is also available at school for university, apprenticeship, employment and gap year opportunities.

Building on their visit to the University and Apprenticeships Fair at Northampton University last term, this half term **Year 12** will hear presentations from a university, degree apprenticeship provider and gap year company to help further inform their career options and applications. We'll introduce students to the Personal Statement, as well as supporting students with CV writing and LinkedIn Profiles.

You might hear through the media that the Personal Statement format is changing for 2026 and is now split into three sections where students answer these questions:

1. Why do you want to take this course/subject/apprenticeship?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course/subject /apprenticeship?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

All students and families are warmly invited to our **school careers fair on Thursday 27th February**. Students all have personal Unifrog accounts which they can show you at home, which is a brilliant careers tool for all post-18 options.

We've prepared a [resource](#) for parents and carers so that you have access to the information you need and can support your son/daughter at home. We update it each year for our Year 12 *Life after Waddesdon* Evening in June.

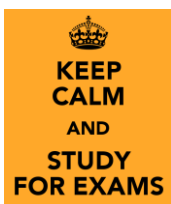


Supporting your child with revision and exam preparation at home

At Waddesdon, we use the following steps with students to underpin a successful revision programme: plan, understand, condense, memorise/review and practise.

REVISION STEP	QUESTIONS WE ASK STUDENTS TO CONSIDER	HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT FROM HOME IF YOUR SON/DAUGHTER IS STRUGGLING
PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Are you able to put together an effective revision timetable? ✓ Do you chunk the content down to make it manageable and stay motivated? ✓ Do you plan in breaks and rewards? 	<p>Encourage a weekly routine (see planner below), with timetabled breaks and rewards.</p> <p>Use the revision planner below (or an online app e.g. https://www.mystudylife.com) to write on exam dates and work backwards in terms of revision planning, using the syllabus to chunk down content to make it manageable.</p> <p>Help devise a daily checklist of small, achievable tasks to tick off as they go.</p>
UNDER-STAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Are all of your class and homework notes up to date, complete and in order? ✓ Have you gone through the syllabus/your work and used 'traffic lighting'? ✓ How can you improve your understanding of challenging topics? 	<p>Encourage your son/daughter to go back through their class notes and check all work is fully completed and in order.</p> <p>Using the exam syllabus or titles of class/homework, get your son/daughter to traffic light their level of understanding – 'green' for understood fully, 'amber' for some questions, and 'red' for don't understand yet.</p> <p>For 'red' topics, encourage your son/daughter to go back to the textbook or recommended resources online to improve their understanding. If still struggling, they can ask their teacher via Classcharts.</p>
CONDENSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do you have a copy of the syllabus for each subject? ✓ Do you use the syllabus to structure your condensed notes? ✓ How effective is your strategy for creating condensed revision notes? 	<p>Encourage your son/daughter to use either mindmaps or flashcards to condense class work and homework, using the syllabus for subheadings. The exam board have to base exam questions on the syllabus, so that way they cover everything which can come up.</p> <p>Your son/daughter should focus on <i>key words</i> rather than copying out lots of info. The use of images and colours aid memory.</p>
MEMORISE / REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How effectively do you commit the key content into your long term memory? ✓ Do you plan in revision time to memorise key content? 	<p>Talk to your son/daughter about how they memorise the key information. Do they use pneumonics, repetition, images, self-testing etc.?</p> <p>Once learned, do they go back to review it and check they still remember it? Could you use corrected class quizzes</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do you plan in time to regularly go back and re-test yourself? 	etc. to test your son/daughter aloud and then do a re-test a few days later for an improved score?
PRACTISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do you know how to access past paper questions in each of your subjects? ✓ Do you start with open book and then move to timed closed book practice? ✓ Do you assess your past paper responses and know how to improve each time? 	<p>Once the above steps have been taken on a topic, is your son/daughter completing past paper questions to apply their knowledge and test their recall?</p> <p>Do they know how to access mark schemes and use these to mark their work – all publically available online? Could these be sent to teachers for marking via Show My Homework?</p> <p>If your son/daughter isn't confident on the topic or the question is challenging, it is good practice to have a go using the textbook to make notes and then write up in timed conditions.</p>



The build-up to the exam period can be a stressful time for students and current circumstances may well add to student anxiety.

The following websites provide excellent sources of information for parents to support students with lots of different aspects of their mental health: <https://www.themix.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/coping-with-exam-stress/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-stress/>



Year 11 Food Students: NEA2 Practical Assessments

The NEA2 practical assessments for Year 11 Food students will commence on **20th January** and will be conducted during lessons over a three-week period. These assessments form a crucial component of the final GCSE grade and will culminate in a **3-hour practical exam** scheduled for the week beginning **3rd March**.

This is a busy, enjoyable, and inspiring period for our students, showcasing their skills and creativity in food preparation and presentation.



Art Events for Year 10 and Support for Year 11

Later this term you will receive a letter about the following educational visits:

- Year 10 Oxford Photography visit: 7th February.
- Year 10 Art visit to galleries, including the Tate Britain Turner Prize: 12th February.

Year 11 Art and Design students are invited to a specialised 'Help Day' on the 14th April (during the Easter break). Students will come in on that day from 9am -3pm to finish any last parts of their External Unit before they return after the Easter break.



Supporting your Child's Health – Monthly Spotlight

'Ear 'ear for the New Year: helpful advice about ears:

People can live with a range of hearing difficulties, but here is some general advice from the Medical Team:

Hygiene – wash outer ear gently and regularly. Your outer and inner ear mechanism is wonderful and very fragile.

Ear wax – is important. It traps dirt, dust and odd particles. **Don't poke** - anything smaller than your elbow into your ear. Cotton buds are a big NO – causing more harm than good by pushing hardened wax further into the ear and can leave traces of cotton bud behind.

Look after your ears by: turning down the volume – ear pods, headphones and speakers.

Wear ear protection – if in noisy environments and with swimming. **Don't forget sunscreen** – when the sun does shine!

Hearing tests - temporary or permanent hearing loss can be due to a number of reasons: a blockage (hardened wax), infection, injury or occasionally a medical condition. If you are worried about any issues with your or your family's hearing, it's easy to access a hearing test. There are free online tests for those aged 18+ (eg the RNID) which indicate if you should seek a more thorough NHS test. For those aged under 18, please refer to your GP to arrange a formal audiology test.

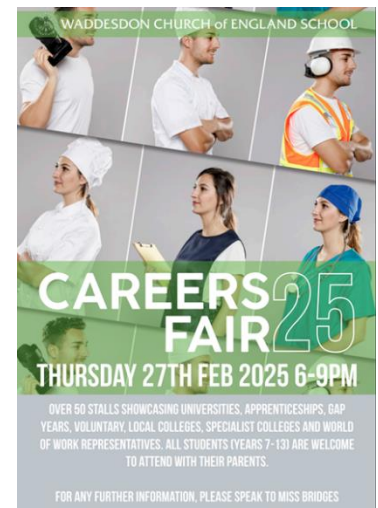
Waddesdon Careers Week: 24th –28th February 2025

During Careers Week, all students will be able to participate in career-related assemblies, form time activities, PSHE lessons and subject specific information.

The Careers Fair is held on Thursday 27th February 6-9pm. Organisations unable to attend the Careers Fair have been invited in to deliver lunchtime presentations and workshops during Careers Week.

We normally have over 50+ stands at the Careers Fair and the following organisations are booked in to attend, with more representatives being confirmed before the end of January.

Aberdeen University, Aberystwyth University, Abingdon & Witney College, ACE Football Academy, Andrew Eades Chartered Surveyors, Army Careers, Ask Apprenticeships, Astra Teaching School, Banbury, Bicester & Oxford College, BCA College, Bedfordshire University, Buckinghamshire College Group, Buckingham University, Bucks New University, Cardiff University, Champney's Beauty College, Coventry University, EKFB, Essex University, Falmouth University, Harper Adams University, Hertfordshire University, Lancaster University, Leicester University, Mears Undertakers, NHS Careers, Northampton University, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford University, Plymouth University, Project Trust, Reading University, Richardson's Chartered Accountants, Royal Navy, Sheffield University, Solent University, Staffordshire University, Thames Valley Police, The Engineering Trust, The Hart Veterinary Centre, This is Base, Tiggywinkles, University of East Anglia, Woburn Safari Park





Year 12 Work Experience: Thursday 3rd July – Friday 4th July 2025

To complement our careers programme, after Year 12 Predicted Grade Exam week in the summer term, all Year 12 students will spend two days on work experience placements or carrying out career-related activities. Work experience brings significant benefits for young adults; students will be able to experience the realities of day-to-day working life, ideally in an area of work in which they have some real interest and linked to their post-18 applications. It will enhance the post-18 options and careers-related work we have been completing with Year 12 this year, and it will be of great benefit to students as they write the first draft of their personal statements just prior to the summer holidays. Teachers will also be able to recognise work experience in their academic references.

Aims of our Work Experience Programme: To introduce students to the world of work (beyond part-time employment), its demands and disciplines and to develop students' employability skills. It also brings the curriculum to life by demonstrating how subjects can be applied and valued in the workplace.

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS WANTED 3rd & 4th JULY 2025

Our Year 12 students are currently trying to secure work experience placements for July 2025.

Do you own or work for a company that may be interested in offering a Sixth Form student a work experience placement on the 3rd and 4th July or at a later date?

If you think this is something you could offer, please contact Miss Bridges at school on 01296 651382 or email bbridges@waddesdonschool.com



Wednesday Late Bus

We encourage our students to take advantage of our late bus 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 Disruption: advance notice for two separate events

HS2

Between **Monday 9:00am 20 January – Friday 12:00am 31 January 2025** general verge works will be undertaken along the **A41 Bicester Road**.

The works will include the installation of new drainage, with temporary sheet piling being installed to support the edge of the carriageway during the period of the works. These sheets will be removed when the works have been completed.

There will be a 24-hour lane closure, controlled by traffic lights during the duration of these works:

There will also possibly be a closure on **Waddesdon Hill from 31st January to 10th February** to complete the tie-in with the new roundabout and the bridge.



In both cases, we will adjust our days accordingly and record lateness sympathetically. We are also liaising with the bus and taxi services and will update you if there are any changes to the normal service.

You can find a range of information about the programme at a more localised level for Buckinghamshire. You can also sign up via email for regular local information and updates, using the following link:

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-buckinghamshire-and-oxfordshire/>

If you need any further details, please contact the HS2 team who can be contacted on **08081 434 434** or by sending an email to HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk quoting reference number **HS2-25-117303-E**.



Out and About

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

February Half Term Cricket Camps. Prepare for the 2025 season with highly experienced County Coaches. Enhance your cricketing skills with fun drills, nets & games.

We have assembled a top coaching team: - David Ripley (Level IV coach and former Head coach of Northants) will be joining the camp on the 17th & 19th February. Other Coaches include - Nick Broome (Level III Coach and Northants U16 Coach), Brendan Fourie (Level III Coach and former First Class cricketer) and Bailey Dingley (Level II Coach and Stowe School Assistant Head of Cricket).

Open to players of all abilities. Girls & Boys. **Venue:** Stowe School.

Bookings: info@cricketcoachingmasterclass.co.uk

An advertisement for 'Cricket Coaching Masterclass'. It features the logo 'CCM' and the text 'CRICKET COACHING MASTERCLASS'. Below this, it says 'February Half Term Cricket Camps. Prepare for the 2025 season with highly experienced County Coaches'. It is 'Open to players of all abilities. Girls & Boys'. The event is at 'Stowe School, 17, 19, 20 & 21 February'. There are two sessions: '8-10 yrs (9.30am – 12.30pm)' and '11-13 yrs (1.30 – 4.30pm)'. The cost is '£35 per day or £120 for all 4 days'. There are four small photos showing children playing cricket. At the bottom, it says 'For further details and to book please email: info@cricketcoachingmasterclass.co.uk'. Logos for 'Specialist County Coach - David Ripley (Northants CCC)', 'Proudly Supported By' (with logos for 'Sporta' and 'Quickscore'), and 'HS2' are also present.

Thrive: A Wellbeing Journey for Young People in School Years 7-11

Tuesday 14, 21 & 28 Jan 2025, 6-8pm at Risborough Youth Centre

This face to face course aims to improve young people's wellbeing by:

- Boosting self-esteem and confidence
- Learning how to manage and understand emotions
- Learning how to build and nurture healthy relationships
- Practice techniques for nurturing self-care and wellness

This is a partnership project between the Family Hub Service and Risborough Youth Centre.

Please book by [clicking on this link](#) or email: FamilyHubGroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Thrive: A wellbeing Journey
For young people in school years 7 to 11
Make a great start to 2025 with this free course.

- Boost your self-esteem and confidence
- Manage and understand emotions
- Build and nurture healthy relationships
- Discovering the unique qualities that make you special
- Practice self-care and wellness

Hot food is provided!
FamilyHubGroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

SCAN ME

Date
Tuesdays 6pm to 8pm
14, 21, and 28 January 2025

Location
*Risborough Youth Centre
Hawthorn Road, Princes Risborough
HP27 6BT

To book your place scan the QR code
Please stop off at Risborough School Community Sports Hall for pick up and drop off.

Online How to Deal with Stress, Anxiety and Low Mood Course for Young People

Wednesday 26th February to Wednesday 26th March (5 weekly sessions),
6pm – 7pm on MSTeams

For young people aged 11-19 (25 with SEND)

This course aims to help young people name, express and normalise emotions, explore techniques for managing them and explore the relationship between thoughts, feelings and actions.

Who is it suitable for? Young people who struggle to manage their emotions (including anger), young people with low mood or mild anxiety, young people who are experiencing stressful situations. It is important that referrers and parents/carers know that we are not trained medical professionals or counsellors.

Please book by [clicking on this link](#) or email: FamilyHubGroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



**How to deal with...
Stress, Anxiety
and Low Mood**
Online course for young people

Would you like to feel better about life? Do you feel stuck and need some tips on how to move on?

If you're in school years 7 and above then our 5-week, online course could be for you! Sessions run on **Wednesday** evenings.

5 sessions cover:

- What stress, anxiety and low mood actually are
- Strategies to feel better
- How to deal with setbacks
- Planning for a brighter future

For more information or to secure your place, scan or click the QR code.

If you need help please email familyhubgroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Starts February 2025

SCAN OR CLICK ME

26 February to 26 March 2025

6pm to 7pm

Present in support of **Family Hub Network** Buckinghamshire



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.

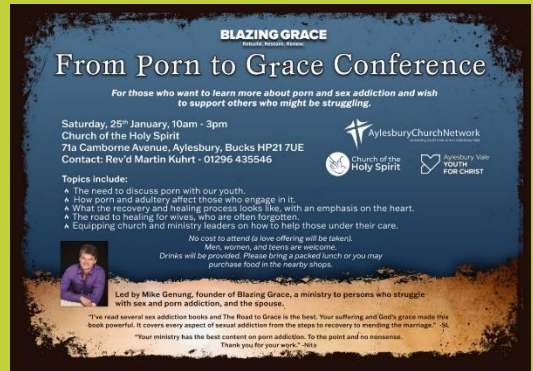
You should expect to hear back in 48 hours, so if you have no reply by then, please ring the school office to check the progress on your complaint.

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

- Thurs, 9th Jan – **Year 13** Mock Exams
- Tues, 21st Jan – GCSE **Presentation Evening** (for current Year 12)
- Weds, 29th Jan – **Year 11** Mock Results Day
- Thurs, 30th Jan – **Year 11** Parents' Evening
- Thurs, 6th Feb – **Big Gig** (music from Year 7 – 13)
- Weds, 12th Feb – **Year 13** Mock Results Day / **reports issued**
- Thurs, 13th Feb – **Year 13** Parents' Evening
- Fri, 14th Feb – School **closes for half-term**
- Thurs, 27th Feb - **Careers Fair**
- Thursday, 6th March – **Year 12** Parents' Consultation Evening



Waddesdon Careers Fair – Thursday, 27 February 2025

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

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