



Middle School Weekly Update

Friday 17th September 2021



A great start to a fabulous year!

Two weeks into the school year and things are already looking promising. Our Years 5 and 6 have fully embraced the challenges of having different teachers and different rooms – it's almost as though they have been doing it for years! Of course, this is also down to the fantastic team of staff who are managing this new challenge: This year is quite different for everyone.

Year 7 are also looking like professionals, moving about the Academy as if they have been here for years. I can see all the achievement points rushing in each day – I suspect there might start to be a competitive edge to the Tutor Groups and their collection of these points very soon.

This week, Year 8 have been learning about their

new roles in Middle School. As the oldest year group in the "Red Ties" their role in school has suddenly increased, with the expectation of a new found responsibility, maturity and respectful attitude. Again, this is different for the pupils too: Over the past 18 months, all of our children have seen a huge shift in the world, and in their lives. We must all remember that, as we all relearn what the world should look like.

As we move into this term, I want to start developing roles of responsibility within Middle School. During the next week, I will be releasing some opportunities for the pupils to apply for some roles which will enable them to develop their leadership skills, as well as help us to gather a further feeling of unity and teamwork. Exciting times!

Ms Katie Walton
Vice Principal – Head of Middle School
kwalton@thejohnwallisacademy.org

“Carpe Diem. **Seize** the day... make your lives **extraordinary.**”

Robin Williams in Dead Poets Society

Pupil Voice

“The teachers at John Wallis are very helpful and kind, they help with any problems you have.” **(Emily Ho 7MHL)**

“I have enjoyed the new lessons and break times because there are a lot of new people to make friends with at The John Wallis Academy.” **(Jayden Johnson 7MHL)**

“When I first came in I was nervous but now I've been here a little longer I know where I am more and I've made lots of new friends.” **(Isobel Davis 7MHL)**



93.5%

Attendance

Has your child been at school every day this week? It is so important to attend every day, for each child's progress, health and wellbeing. Is there a problem that you need to discuss with your child's Form Tutor about attendance? Use Edulink to contact the Tutor and let's get everyone to school next week!

“I think school has been really good - I am loving it!” **(Ronnie Tsigarides 7JVE)**

“I don't have a favourite part about school because I actually like all of it!” **(Freddie Mitchell 7JVE)**



CLUBS, CLUBS, CLUBS!!

It's time to see what else is offered at the Academy! There are so many clubs on offer for Middle School – over 25 each week aimed at Middle School! It all depends on what pupils want to take part in, from Football (I know our football teams are going to beat the current record of winning the Kent Schools championships a few years ago!) and Netball (Miss Veness had over fifty Year 7 pupils attend Netball training), to Computing, Cheerleading, Dance, song writing, karate and so many more. Please encourage your child to get involved and try something new! There are so many opportunities ready and waiting.

Meet the Team... Time for the Tutors



Miss Tray – 6LTR

This is my sixth year at the Academy and what an adventure it has been! I am a Year 6 class teacher, and I am very lucky to be working across the Academy this year focusing on the teaching and learning within the classrooms. I am passionate about reading and believe it to be the key to unlocking a world of possibilities – if you see me around, please do ask for book recommendations, it is very likely that you will find me in the new library! ltray@thejohnwallisacademy.org



Mrs Owen – 7KAO

I am in my eleventh year of teaching but my first at the Academy. I am a keen traveller, reader and teach yoga on the side. I like to keep fit and spent the summer climbing mountains and going on long bike rides. I also love being by the sea and hope to move to the coast one day soon. I have my first tutor group here at the Academy and I have been lucky enough to have been given such lovely pupils. kowen@thejohnwallisacademy.org



Mr Smith – 8CSM

I am Head of Chemistry and teach both A level Chemistry and Physics. I am currently in my third year at The John Wallis Academy. I enjoy a variety of hobbies from learning about Astrophysics to building computers to creating DIY climbing frames for my two new kittens. csmith@thejohnwallisacademy.org

Important Info

It is Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 7th October so pupils in Years 7 to 13 will be finishing at 2.15pm.

It is really important that pupils have their own water bottle at school every day – this can be a TJWA bottle or one of their own.

Tank tops should now be worn every day. If pupils are hot in class, they can ask to remove them.



Pupils should have their own bag and equipment with them every day – this includes a pen, pencil, ruler and highlighter!

What's Coming Up?

Next week Year 7 will be taking part in CATs! No, this is not a project based on small animals, but an opportunity for us to find out more about the children's natural ability, and will help us to set them over the next two weeks. 'CATs' stand for Cognitive Ability Tests, and is a series of three 45 minute tests on a computer. These will be taking place from Wednesday.

Everyone throughout Years 5-8 will be given an opportunity to develop their leadership skills when the "Middle School Champions" roles are released! Please do encourage your children to apply.

Parent Voice

"After a rocky start to the new term's lunch time, the Leaders were very helpful and understanding of my concerns. The selection of food on offer is very good, as is the cost, and caters for all food allergies and diets. Do you do deliveries?"

Mrs Taylor – Year 8 Parent

Have you got something you'd like to say, or a question for the Newsletter? Email Ms Walton!



A Message from the Chaplain

Participants in the Brighton Marathon last weekend were furious after a blunder made the course 620 yards too long. Not what you need after running 26.2 miles.

In Jesus' time, under military law, any Roman soldier could command a Jew to carry his soldier's pack for one mile – but only one mile, no further. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus tells people that instead of going one mile, they should go two out of a free choice of love. In life we are sometimes encouraged to go the "extra mile", to go beyond what is expected of us. Is that something we do willingly? [Mr I Rich, Irich@thejohnwallisacademy.org](mailto:MrIRich@thejohnwallisacademy.org)

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The John Wallis Church of England Academy Page



tjwa_ashford



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