



# Middle School Weekly Update

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## A big, warm welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers and Middle School Pupils,

Welcome back to what I genuinely hope will be a truly thrilling and exciting year. I have always believed that education is a journey, and in my mind, Middle School (Years 5-8) gets to be the true adventure in the middle!

In the last week we have already started the journey and we have all adapted and overcome some incredible challenges. The start of last week saw the vast majority of pupils come in to school to have the first of two covid tests to ensure the safety of us all as we came back after the Summer.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, our brand new cohort of Year 7 arrived, and in the Theatre we gave out the new, red Middle School ties! This was a fantastic moment as the children turned into the



very first Middle School pupils. Their day was filled with tours, familiarisation activities and gifts: They truly embraced the culture that we set as an Academy.

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, we then welcomed back Years 5, 6 and 8. The sea of red by 9am was a wonderful moment: After a year of planning for the changes that we wanted in place for our pupils, it was finally time to see it all in action. Personally, I think the red ties look great and help us as a school to embrace what it will mean to be Middle School.



2021-2022 is going to be a year to remember.

**Ms Katie Walton**  
Vice Principal – Head of Middle School  
[kwalton@thejohnwallisacademy.org](mailto:kwalton@thejohnwallisacademy.org)

“For there is always **light**, if only we’re brave enough to **see it**.  
If only we’re brave enough to **be it**.”

Amanda Gorman

## Pupil Voice

“Year 8 still felt a bit scary at first, because it was difficult to remember where you were going. Then it became really fun. Now we are the oldest in Middle School, it feels different, more grown up.”  
**Piper Grant-Ross – Year 8**

“As a Year 8 we are expected to show the younger years in Middle School how to act and behave – we need to show responsibility.”  
**Sude Ozyurt – Year 8**



96%

## Attendance

This year, one of our big foci is attendance. Attending school is so important, for our mental health and wellbeing, but also for our academic progress and attainment. If you aren’t at school, you can’t learn: It’s really simple. Our aim this year is 96%... and Middle School need to win the race! Let the Attendance Championship commence (ask the pupils!).

“The first few days were a bit nervey and difficult, but it gets much easier the more days you do. I’ve really enjoyed Science.”  
**Kaleb Weston – Year 7**





## Pupil Voice

"I really like the new schedule because it gives a wide and varied timetable to what we had before. We get to experience new lessons like Computer Science and Performing Arts with teachers from Secondary school." **Kaiden King – Year 6**

"It is great to have lunch at the restaurant as we get a varied choice and larger portions. Cowboy Pie was a real treat!" **Tia Simmons – Year 6**

## Meet the Team...



### Mr Palmer – Leader of Years 5 and 6

Eight years ago, I made a life changing decision to become a teacher. I enjoy a team ethos and building a respecting, trusting relationship with each of my classes. I would describe myself as strict, yet funny, but my class would describe me as fair and rubbish at dad jokes, which I guess is pretty accurate. Please feel free to say hello if you see me around the Academy. [dpalmer@thejohnwallisacademy.org](mailto:dpalmer@thejohnwallisacademy.org)



### Mr Lound – Leader of Year 7

When I joined the Academy, I trained as a Maths teacher. I have always wanted to be more involved with the pastoral care of our students. My role is to make sure you are settled at the start of Year 7. I am also responsible for your behaviour both in and out of the classroom along with your progress. I own over 30 bow ties and wear a different one each day! [glound@thejohnwallisacademy.org](mailto:glound@thejohnwallisacademy.org)



### Mrs Sandhu – Leader of Year 8

I am a Science teacher and the Year 8 Leader. I am currently in my 5th year at The John Wallis Academy. I enjoy travelling and have been lucky enough to travel to Antigua, Santorini, Germany and India. As well as travelling I have a huge interest in reading books, mostly how the universe developed and how we have got to the stage that we are. I am looking forward to this new academic year. [ksandhu@thejohnwallisacademy.org](mailto:ksandhu@thejohnwallisacademy.org)



## Important Info

The timings of the day have changed. Here are the timings for Middle School:

### AM Tutor time 8.30 – 8.45am

P1 8.45 – 9.35am

P2 9.35 – 10.25am

### BREAK 10.25 – 10.45am

P3 10.45 – 11.35am

P4 11.35 – 12.25pm

### Y5&6 LUNCH 12:15 - 1pm

Y7&8 LUNCH 12.25 – 12.55pm

### Y5&6 PM Tutor time 1 – 1:25pm

Y7&8 PM Tutor time 12.55 – 1.25pm

P5 1.25 – 2.15pm

P6 2.15 – 3.05pm



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

## What's Coming Up?

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 will have their fingerprints taken next week – this means that they will then get the full range of food served in the Restaurant! Don't forget to top up Wisepay!

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> is photo day! Best uniform and faces!! (Year 7 have already been snapped, so this is for Years 5, 6 and 8).

I've got lots of plans... Head Boy and Girl, Prefects, Newsletter journalists, trips, secret surprises... the Newsletter is the place to get all the information you need!

## Parent Voice

"The passion and commitment that TJWA Middle School staff put into their roles is second to none. Nothing is ever too much trouble. It's so reassuring to know that at the heart of everything, sits the welfare of each child attending the School."

### Mrs Vining – 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

I hope you had a good summer. Thank you to those who watched my appearance on Countdown and the many generous comments I have received. It was good fun, but time goes very quickly! Imagine you wake up every day with £86,400 in your bank account. But at the end of every day whatever you don't spend is gone. Surely you would do everything in your power to spend it. We get 86,400 seconds every day. Time goes quickly. It doesn't carry over to the next day. It doesn't earn any interest. Why waste it. Take every moment and make something of it. Make something positive.

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full – Jesus (John Chapter 10)*



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