### **Community Bulletin**

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



11th July 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has shown the very best of what it means to be a community school. Our Phoenix Festival on Monday involved a huge number of students who all showed the ambition to stand up on a stage and perform in front of their peers and other members of the local community. The good weather meant lots of families were able to enjoy quality time together embracing the talents of our Willingdon students. A huge thank you must also go to Mr Parry and Mr Fraser who have spent the last few months ensuring that our

students get the platform they deserve to show the world their efforts!

Yesterday was again an opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate success. Schools often have a challenge engaging all students in Sports Day, but Miss Attrill and her team managed to get everyone involved yesterday in one form or another, a truly excellent achievement! It was superbly organised, and the atmosphere around the school site was wonderful. For the first time ever, we set 3 new school records! A huge congratulations to Lewis Lydon (Y7) who set a new record for the 300m, as well as Kristi Prifti (Y9) for the 200m, and Nathan Burge (Y10) for the 100m. It will take some tough competition to beat their times!

Next week is our last full week in school, with our final day of term being a half day on Tuesday, 22nd July. Many students will be partaking in the Morfa Bay trip with some others making the slightly longer journey to Nepal! We wish all students the very best on these trips and I am sure they will display our personal excellence values in abundance.

With the lovely warm weather persisting, can I please ask you to ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day? We are also continuing to teach all the way up to the last day, so please ensure students come to school with the correct uniform and equipment ready to learn. Please remember that a school bag is part of our uniform expectations. Phones should be switched off and at the bottom of their bags, and if a student has a phone on their person we will ask them to hand it in to reception for the day.

This is my last contribution to a Willingdon Community bulletin as I move on to be Headteacher at Chailey School from September. I want to thank the entire Willingdon community for their support these last three and a half years as I note how much I will miss the students, staff, and parents/carers who I have been privileged to serve.

Mr Holt

**Deputy Headteacher** 

### **Parent Governor Results**

Firstly, we would like to thank both applicants for putting themselves forward for our Parent Governor role. In all we received 150 online votes and 15 paper votes from parents and carers.

We are writing to let you all know that James Martin gained the most votes. Many congratulations to James, who has therefore been elected to the governing board.

Once again, thank you to both candidates and to all those who voted. We are very grateful for your engagement with our school community. Your support makes a real difference.

Mrs Jane Branson

Mrs Sam Tomalin

**Chair of Governors** 

**Clerk to Governors** 

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 6**

Activities Day - Monday, 21st July

#### **EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Tuesday 22nd July 2025 (staggered by year group from 12.20pm-12.40pm)

### **INSET DAYS 2025-26**

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SEPTEMBER

Thursday, 4th September - Year 7 only (Year 10 T&T Trip) Friday, 5th September - All year groups in school



Please join us in congratulating this week's Students of the Week for their outstanding contributions to our school community. Students will be invited to a 'Treat with the Team' in recognition of their hard work.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
Isabella B 7NWE	Ethan T 8RCR	Zack M 9CPA	Jess B 10MET
Reagan M 7RHA	Demi G 8GST	Willow H 9AME	Рорру В 10ЈНА
Joshua E 7JWI	Rebecca C 8CEW	Daisy S 9PHI	Aimee W 10MET
Evie C 7NWE	Will B 8BMA	Aaron G 9AME	Riley C 10SCR
Evie B 7DBR	Jude S 8BMA	Jay N-S 9PHA	Mia M 10MDU

### Message received from Biffo



#### Good morning,

I work for Biffa (waste collectors), I had one of my streets crews clearing/tidying one of the pathways near your school last Friday, 4th July 2025.

The crew rung me up to see if I could make contact with yourselves to compliment how lovely and polite all the kids were who were going to the school. Our crew members stated that all the kids, from little to teenagers were all extremely polite, saying morning and thank you when they moved out the way so the kids could pass.

It's not often compliments are given, but the crew members wanted me to pass on their thanks and how much they appreciated how polite they all were!

You may have noticed that Edulink now no longer shows you student timetables. We have had to disable this as we prepare for next year and the change of timetable on our Management Information System. This will come back online on Edulink on the first teaching day back in September.

South Cliff Dental Group, **Trinity Trees** Eastbourne are pleased to advise you that they are now able to accept a limited number of new patients (under 18 years of age) to our practice.

If it has come to your attention that any of your students or their families are struggling to see an NHS dentist, please feel free to pass on our below details.

Please call us at 01323727550 or email at <a href="mailto:trinity.trees@nhs.net">trinity.trees@nhs.net</a> to register yourself or any other family member with us.



#### TRIP TO OXFORD

Last week, students enjoyed an exciting and inspiring trip to Oxford, where they explored the cutting edge of science and engineering at the Williams F1 STEM Experience. They learned about the fast-paced world of Formula 1, from aerodynamics to data analysis, and discovered the wide range of STEM careers that power the sport.

The day continued with a visit to St John's College, Oxford University, where students had the chance to tour the historic college, speak with current students, and gain valuable insights into university life and the pathways to higher education. It was a truly motivational experience that left our students excited about the future and the possibilities ahead!

Student feedback revealed that 100% of students learnt more about STEM from the trip, with 94% of students now feeling inspired to study at university and 88% at a top university like Oxford or Cambridge!

Here are some quotes from students:

"I really enjoyed it and feel I have benefited from going. I've learnt a lot and its given me a basic idea of what I want to do when I'm older e.g. go to uni and study there."

"This was the best trip I have ever been on and I would love to go on another one similar in the future."

"The trip was a thrilling and fun experience that deepened my knowledge of university life and

future careers, I was able to get a better understanding of STEM and it really helped me to broaden my knowledge beyond the school curriculum."

"This trip has encouraged my career path to go even further like going to university"

"I love how we are introduced to higher education from such an early stage and how we are able to experience exclusive trips."













### Reminder: Energy Drink Ban at Willingdon Community School

Dear WCS Community Members,

We would like to remind you that energy drinks are not permitted on the school premises to support the health, wellbeing, and learning of our students. The Government are currently considering introducing a ban on the sale of energy drinks to young people under the age of 16 as they can negatively affect concentration, behaviour, and sleep patterns, which in turn impact academic performance and overall wellbeing.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child does not bring energy drinks to school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Student Leadership Updates

Visit our website to find out about our latest trips and events, music and promotions

https://willingdonschool.org.uk/our-school/students-leadership/podcasts



### Click Here - <a href="https://youtu.be/uthcUB-\_i7w">https://youtu.be/uthcUB-\_i7w</a>

Visit the Fundraising page on our website to see the Sports Day Newsletter full of photos and information from the day.

https://willingdonschool.org.uk/our-school/students-leadership/fundraising

I wanted to take a moment to say how pleased and genuinely impressed I've been with our fantastic Year 7 students this week. It has been a week full of energy, enthusiasm, and pride.

On Monday, we enjoyed the Phoenix Festival. A truly incredible event where students not only performed but also played a vital role in organising stalls, selling goods and cakes, and contributing in many different ways to ensure the day was a resounding success. It was wonderful to see so many parents and family members attending in the afternoon to celebrate their efforts. The atmosphere was brilliant and a real testament to the hard work of all students involved.

Then, on Thursday, we held our Year 7 Sports Day. Their very first of many to come! The students threw themselves into all aspects of the day, from traditional track and field events to team sports such as table tennis, basketball, and rounders. The sun shone, the energy was high, and I couldn't have been prouder of how they represented the school. A special congratulations goes to Zach S, who achieved an outstanding five wins, excelling in both individual and team events. Well done, Zach, and well done to all students who gave their best and supported one another throughout the day.

Looking ahead, a quick reminder that Activities Day will take place on Monday, 21st July. Please ensure your child has spoken with the teacher leading their chosen activity, knows their meeting time, and has everything they need for the day.

As we move into the final week of term, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on how proud I am of this year group. Since taking over, it's been a privilege to watch their progress, from arriving in September as new Year 7s to the confident, mature young people they are now, ready to take on the challenges of Year 8 with ambition and resilience.

This week in assembly, we have been exploring our core values, particularly ambition and courtesy, and we had meaningful conversations around the theme of success through failure. The students responded thoughtfully, and I hope this message will inspire them to push themselves further and embrace new challenges, both now and over the holidays.

We had Treats with the Team this week with Isabella, Reagan, Joshua, Evie, Grace and Evie.

Please note that next week I will be away on the school trip to Nepal, but in my absence, if you need any support, please contact Mrs Naylor (previous Head of Year), Miss Clark, or Miss Turner via @Pastoral-7.

Wishing you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break. I'm very much looking forward to continuing this journey with such an inspiring year group as we move forward into Year 8.

Warm regards,

Mr Roche and The Year 7 Team



Head of Year Mr Keast / Ms Johnson

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

It's been another brilliant week for Year 8, and we wanted to take a moment to celebrate some of the fantastic things that have been going on.

On Monday, we enjoyed the Phoenix Festival, a real highlight in the school calendar, and we were so proud of all our Year 8 performers who took to the stage. It was a wonderful showcase of talent and creativity, and a great spectacle enjoyed by all who attended. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Thursday brought another exciting event with Sports Day. The sun was shining, the energy was high, and our students gave it their all. Well done to all our athletes who took part, your enthusiasm, sportsmanship and team spirit made it a fantastic day for everyone.

We'd also like to give a special shoutout to William Botting for earning his very first Blue Peter Book Badge, a lovely achievement that reflects his love of reading and commitment to creativity. Another big well done goes to Charlie Stephenson, who took part in the Eastbourne District Scouts Annual Acorn Hike last weekend. Charlie hiked over 20 miles, navigating with map skills, tackling challenges impressive second place, only a few points behind the winners!

We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Warm wishes,

Mr Keast and the Year 8 Team





Well done to all of Year 9 for another fantastic week. As we approach the final few weeks of the academic year, it has been wonderful to see students maintaining great focus and engagement during lesson walk throughs across all subjects.

This week, students thoroughly enjoyed their annual Sports Day on Thursday. A huge well done to everyone who took part in a range of events representing their coaching groups and houses, we witnessed some outstanding performances from our Year 9 students.

It was also a pleasure to attend the Year 9 Science Fair on Wednesday. The standard of work on display was exceptional, and I was particularly impressed by how confidently and clearly students explained and articulated the purpose and outcomes of their projects. Their enthusiasm and scientific knowledge was brilliant to see and discuss.

Congratulations as well to the Year 9 students who took part in the STEM trip to Oxford this week, they represented the school brilliantly, had a fantastic experience and created great memories.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch; pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Kind regards,

Mr Gordon and the Year 9 Team







It was lovely to meet with some of the Year 9 students during coaching time this week. These students have been working hard in lessons and met with myself. It was great to talk to the students and discuss their interests outside of school, work experience and their future career pathways.

### Year 9 Science Fair



### Year 9's Enjoying their STEM trip this week





It's been an incredibly busy week for our Year 10s, and one full of "lasts" as they begin to look ahead to the final chapter of their school journey. From their last ever Phoenix Festival to their final Sports Day on Thursday, it's been fantastic to see the students throwing themselves into everything with such energy and enthusiasm. We've loved seeing how involved and engaged they've been in all the events going on in school, really making the most of these final opportunities and celebrating their time here in style.

A big thank you as well to all the parents and carers who came along to Parents Evening on Thursday. It was great to see so many of you there, taking the chance to speak directly with subject teachers. These conversations are so valuable as students begin to focus on Year 11 and understand exactly what they need to do to start the year strong in September.

Outside of school, we've also had lots to celebrate, a huge well done to Chloe Farley, Lily Topham and Seren Gordon for their amazing achievements in activities beyond the classroom. You can find more about what they've been up to, along with some photos, below.

As we head into the final week of term, we're keen to keep standards high, especially around attendance, punctuality, and behaviour, so we can end the year on a real positive.

Keep an eye out next week for more info on Activity Day (Monday, 21st July). If you're unsure of any details or have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have a great weekend!

#### Mr Cain and the Year 10 Team

Chloe raced her Nissan Micra at Smallfield Raceway and won her race last weekend!





Last weekend Lily achieved her Red, White and Black Belt in kickboxing, this is one away from the black belt. She was the only one in her group to have achieved this level. Lily is now looking forward to working towards the next Black belt. We are very proud.

Seren is representing England at the Dance World Cup in Burgos, Spain. Seren competed on Wednesday in the Lyrical Solo class and won silver medal.







As we come to the end of this chapter, I want to say what an absolute pleasure it has been to be your child's Head of Year at Willingdon. Watching them grow and develop over the past five years has been a privilege, and I feel incredibly proud of the young adults they have become.

We had a fantastic final celebration at the Prom on Friday night at the Cavendish Hotel. The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and a real sense of togetherness. The students looked amazing, behaved impeccably, and truly made the most of their special night, it was a perfect send off for a wonderful year group.

Thank you for all your support throughout their time at Willingdon. I wish each and every student the very best for the future, they have so much to look forward to as they embark on the next step of their journey.

We look forward to welcoming them all back into school on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August to collect their GCSE exam results.

Warmest regards,

Mr Gordon and the Year 11 Team











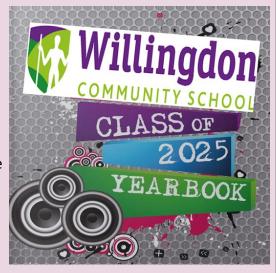
If you would like to purchase further photos of your child from the Prom please email NX Photography <a href="mailto:nicky@nxphoto.co.uk">nicky@nxphoto.co.uk</a>

A quote from Nicky Thomas our photographer 'I just wanted to say how pleasant and polite the students were on Friday night. An absolute credit to the school.'

#### Yearbook Reminder

Its not too late to order your child a copy of the Year 11 Yearbook. This is a great memory for all our students and also will contain all the photos from the Prom last Friday. You can now make payment for the Year 11 Yearbook via ParentPay. The cost of the Yearbook is £16. Collection of the Yearbook will hopefully be on GCSE Results Day. We will have very limited spare copies of the book to purchase on the collection day.

Deadline for ordering a Yearbook is Monday 14th July.



### Careers Page



July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers.

### **Re: College Applications and Careers East Sussex**

I hope that your child enjoyed the recent Taster Days.

Further to my letter dated 20th June, I am writing to provide an update regarding the college application process and the use of the *Careers East Sussex* platform.

By now, students should have completed the 'Your Profile' and 'Your Next Step' sections on *Careers East Sussex*, which were set as homework with a deadline of Friday, 4th July. We kindly ask that you check with your child to ensure this has been completed and if it has not, please ask them to do so as soon as possible.

From September, various post-16 providers will visit the school to deliver assemblies, offering students valuable information about the courses and facilities they provide. By the first week of October, colleges/sixth forms are expected to have uploaded their course details onto the *Careers East Sussex* platform. Students will receive further guidance on this process and will be informed when they can begin using the platform to submit their college applications.

We ask that all college applications are submitted by **Friday, 12th December**. Please note, however, that some post-16 providers have earlier deadlines and require applications to be made directly via their college websites:

- Eastbourne College (not East Sussex College Eastbourne) is already accepting applications, with a
  deadline in October. More information can be found here:
   <a href="https://www.eastbourne-college.co.uk/admissions/sixth-form-admissions/">https://www.eastbourne-college.co.uk/admissions/sixth-form-admissions/</a>
- **BHASVIC** has a priority application deadline of **Friday, 5th December**. Full details, including their open evening schedule, will be available on their website during the autumn term: <a href="https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/admissions/open-events">https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/admissions/open-events</a>

If they have not already done so, please could your child consider the courses that they may like to study during the summer break. Please see the below web links with the list of courses at the local colleges.

East Sussex College Group	https://www.escg.ac.uk/search/	
Bexhill College	https://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/courses/	
Plumpton College	https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/16-courses/	
Seaford Head Sixth Form	https://seafordhead.org/sixth-form-centre/sixth-form-prospectus/	
Hailsham Community College	https://www.hccat.net/sixth-form/subjects-offered/	
BHASVIC	https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/courses/search	

In addition, I have attached two documents to support you and your child in the college application process. One document outlines the various types of courses available at local colleges, and the other details the grades and entry requirements needed for those courses.

cont'd...

#### Cont'd...

When we return to school in September, some students may still be considering which A levels to take, or they may be undecided about whether to apply for a T Level or BTEC course instead. Please be reassured that students can apply for a variety of courses and attend interviews for all of them before making a final decision. For example, if your child is unsure which three A levels they would like to study, they can select four or five options initially and discuss these choices during their interview. Similarly, if your child is interested in A levels but would also like to explore a T Level, they can apply for both pathways and make an informed decision after interviews and further discussions.

If your child is undecided about which college they would like to attend, they are welcome to apply to multiple colleges and have interviews at all of them. This will help them gather more information and ensure they make the choice that best suits their interests and future plans.

If you have any questions, please email me on <a href="mailto:srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk">srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk</a> or call 01323 485254 ext 281.

Best wishes,

Sarah Rooney

**Careers Adviser** 

### **POST-16 OPTIONS**

A-levels – A-levels normally take two years to complete, full-time and are at Level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Students usually take A-level qualifications in Year 12 and 13, after completing their GCSEs. They would usually need at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 to be able to study them. Some colleges require you to have grade 4 or above in English and maths, or grade 5 or above in the subject you want to take. You usually choose the A-levels that you wish to study in Year 11, but you do have the chance to change your choices after receiving your GCSE results or after a week or so of the course if it is not what you expected. There is a wide range of around 80 subjects available, although exact courses on offer will change depending on the college or sixth form you choose. Subjects are mainly academic, but there are also some 'applied' subjects, which are more career focused.

BTECs – BTECs are vocational, work-related qualifications that aim to engage and inspire learners in a wide range of subjects.

BTEC Nationals are Level 3 courses (there are also Level 2 courses, which are the same level as GCSE) that are usually studied full-time at college. The content of your course and the knowledge you will gain depends on the subject you choose. The aim of a BTEC is to develop skills that apply to the workplace and will be beneficial for the future, and so your learning will be tailored around the specific sector you are studying. BTECs develop more practical knowledge and provide a different approach to learning, based alongside a theoretical background.

**T Levels** - these 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses to prepare students for work. T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

**Apprenticeships** – An apprenticeship gives a combination of on-the-job training with study (usually one day a week) meaning you can earn while you learn. With some apprenticeships you can even get a degree. It usually takes between one and four years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which level you take. Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industries and many high-quality, prestigious companies offer them.

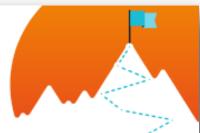
**Traineeships** – a traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that unlocks the great potential of young people and prepares them for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'. Designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment.

### Careers Page

### **Career of the Week**



## POST 16 OPTIONS MADE SIMPLE



Use the information below to help you understand the options available to you after Year 11.

IF I ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING GCSEs	I CAN MOVE ONTO LEVEL	AND CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS AND APPLY FOR
5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ 5+ Each State of the State of the State of	3	A LEVELS  3 or 4 MARICES
4+ 4+ 4+ 4+ a Grade 4 and above	3	T LEVELS 1
inc English and Maths at a Grade 3  Exact requirements vary according to the course	3	VOCATIONAL COURSES  1 to 3 SARACT COURSES
3+ 3+ 3+ 3+ inc English at a Grade 3 and Haths at a Grade 2  2+ 2+ 2+ inc English at a Grade 2 and Maths at a Grade 1	2 1	VOCATIONAL COURSES  1 STANCT COCKESS
4+ 4+ Exact requirements vary according to the employer.	3 2	APPRENTICESHIPS APPRY FOR VACANCIES
What if I get grades below 2 ?	ENTRY 3  PRE-ENTRY (ENTRY 18. 2)	VOCATIONAL SKILLS COURSES  TUNCTIONAL SKILLS COURSES  SUBJECT COURSES
MEDICACINA, DAMESON  © HORMODIA A CAMINO INCO	Speak to your Careers Ad	viser to help you explore the options in more detail.

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Eastbourne Sports Park | Hampden Park Sports Centre | Shinewater Sports Centre