Community Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



18th July 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we approach the summer holiday, we want to remind everyone about the importance of safety during this time. With the school closed, it's essential to stay vigilant and ensure a safe and enjoyable break whilst enjoying valuable leisure time.

Sea Safety:

If you're planning to spend time at the beach, please prioritise your safety and that of others. Always swim with someone else, stay within designated swimming areas, and pay attention to lifeguard instructions. Remember to keep an eye on changing tides and weather conditions.

Fire Safety:

With our beautiful downland areas being tinder dry, fire safety is more critical than ever. Please avoid lighting any barbecues or campfires in these areas and report any suspicious behaviour to local authorities. Be mindful of any fire restrictions in place and always prioritise safety when exploring our natural surroundings.

Staying Safe Online:

Extended periods of downtime can lead to increased screen time. Encourage healthy online habits by setting boundaries for device usage and engaging in offline activities as a family. Remind your children to be aware of their online presence and to practice kindness and respect in all interactions.

ARCCH Values:

As we enjoy the summer, let's remember our school's ARCCH values of Compassion and Courtesy. Whether interacting with friends, family, or even strangers, embodying these values can make a significant difference in our community.

Safeguarding Support:

During the summer break whilst the school is closed, safeguarding support remains available through various agencies. If you have any concerns or require assistance, please reach out to Children's Services.

If it's an emergency, call 999.

If you're worried about a child or teenager and need advice quickly, you can contact Children's Services through the Single Point of Advice (SPoA) on <u>01323 464222</u> or alternatively email them using this link <u>email SPoA</u>

Their opening times are: Monday to Thursday, 8.30 am to 5 pm. Friday, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

If you have a serious concern about a child that cannot wait until the next working day, you can contact the Emergency Duty Service on <u>01273 335905</u> (weekdays from 5pm to 8.30am. Also weekends and bank holidays.)

If you become aware of any issues involving online abuse or the misuse of phones on social media, please report them directly to the police, as the school cannot take action such incidents when it is closed and these are out of school matters.

For additional resources, visit the safeguarding and student mental health pages on our school website where there are details of other support services/ charities. https://willingdonschool.org.uk/student-welfare/student-welfare/student-mental-health

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Miss Walters

Deputy Headteacher

End of Term Update from the Senior Leadership Team

It has been wonderful to see the updates from the residential trips at Morfa Bay and Nepal this week and the incredible experiences our students have enjoyed beyond the school setting. We are also looking forward to Activities Day on Monday and trust that all students will continue to represent Willingdon's core values while taking part in these enriching opportunities.

As we reflect on the year, we are proud of the many individual successes our students have achieved, both within school and through their involvement in community enrichment activities. It has truly been a memorable and rewarding year.

A few key reminders as we approach the end of term and look ahead:

• Return to School in September:

Thursday, 3rd September: Year 7 students only (plus Year 10 Travel & Tourism Coursework trip)

Friday, 4th September: All year groups return

Please note: Full school uniform is required for all students, regardless of whether they have PE on their timetable. No PE kit will be needed on either of the first two days.

• End of Term - Tuesday:

Students will leave school from 12:20pm and a staggered dismissal will be in place to help reduce traffic congestion, please be considerate of our local community and neighbours.

GCSE Results Day:

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students on Thursday, 21st August, 10am-12pm to collect their GCSE results and celebrate their achievements together.

We will send out a community notice in early September to remind families of expectations for the new term.

Until then, we wish all of our students and their families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

Warm regards,

The Senior Leadership Team

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-12.35pm)

Year 7 12.20pm, Year 8 12.25pm, Year 9 12.30pm, Year 10 12.35pm

To avoid congestion outside school, please do not park directly outside school, park along Broad Road by the field or surrounding roads. Thank you for your understanding.

INSET DAYS 2025-26

Wednesday, 3rd September 2025 Friday 3rd October 2025 Monday, 3rd November 2025 Monday, 5th January 2026

RETURN TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER

Thursday, 4th September - Year 7 only (plus Year 10 Travel & Tourism Coursework Trip)

Friday, 5th September - All year groups in school

Student Equipment 2025-26

Dear Parents/Carers

Here is a list of the items that your child needs for school. If your child has all the right equipment for every lesson, they will be able to start working straight away and will be confident to complete all tasks.

If you find it hard to buy these items because of financial difficulties, please talk to your child's Coach or Head of Year. They can help you.

Compulsory items

Students must have these items in school every day.

- Schoolbag large enough to fit A4 books, pencil case, water bottle and reading book
- Pencil case
- Black or blue pens at least two
- Purple pen
- HB pencil at least two
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Highlighter pens at least two
- Protractor
- Calculator scientific model, such as
 Casio Classwizz FX-83GTCW *
- Reading book Key Stage 3 students

*This can be bought from the school at a good price.

Recommended items

Students may wish to bring these items to school to support with their classwork.

- Colouring pencils
- Glue stick
- Pencil sharpener

Ms H Arnold

Associate Assistant Headteacher

^{**}Students can borrow a reading book from the school library.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF WILLINGDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Now we are coming to the end of this school year, the **20.25 challenge** will also be moving to a new phase, with all funds from our upcoming Sponsored Walk in September 2025, also going towards the challenge project.

Thank you so much to everyone that has taken part in this, we will be pleased to announce the student winners of the prize draw on Tuesday (22nd) morning and shortly after, the total amount raised, so far.

Parentpay will remain open till 9.00am on Monday (21ST July) for any further donations, so we can make sure that every student who has taken part, is put into the Grand Draw.



Phoenix Festival

Thank you to everyone that supported us with the Phoenix festival on Monday 10th July, we are really pleased to announce that we raised a total of £1904 including the raffle. A massive thank you to all the local businesses that donated prizes for this, who are including in this Bulletin, as without them this wouldn't have been possible!

Ice Creams

Ice creams were really popular when we had the van in after school recently, they will be there again this Friday (18th) for the chance to get the last Ice cream treat of this school year! Cash would be preferred as it keeps the line moving quicker, but the ice cream man is able to take card payments.

From all of us in the Friends group, we hope you all have a great summer and we will look forward to more fundraising events next year!



Friends of Willingdon: Grab a Fully-Loaded Pencil Case for Just £5!

The Friends of Willingdon are offering ready-to-go pencil cases that include all the compulsory equipment your child needs (except a calculator and reading book) for the great price of £5.

Each 30cm clear pencil case (with a choice of purple or green zip) contains:

√ 30cm ruler

✓ Rubber

✓ Protractor

✓ 1 purple pen

✓ 1 red pen

✓ 2 blue pens & 2 black pens

✓ 2 HB pencils & sharpener

✓ 2 highlighters

These kits meet the school's required equipment list and are a convenient way to make sure your child is prepared for the year ahead.

All proceeds from sales go towards supporting projects and activities that benefit the whole school community. Every purchase helps!

You can order a pencil case for your child on ParentPay.

2 Deadline for orders: Friday 08 August 2025



Important Message - Activity Day - Monday 21st July

We are expecting Monday morning to be very busy as we have 9 coaches departing to three different locations for an action packed day. We have done our best to control traffic outside the school by staggering their arrival and departure times, but to help prevent further traffic and potential delays, please could we ask parents / carers to support us by not parking or dropping off their children on Broad Road outside the school on the morning of Monday 21st July (particularly between 07:20 - 08:20)

Thank you.

Non Uniform Days

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support.

We know how much our students value non-uniform days, and many have expressed how keen they are for us to continue offering them throughout the year. However, in the past, these days have not consistently raised the funds we had hoped for.

From your feedback, we understand that remembering to send in £1 on the day can be a challenge. In response to this, we are trialling a new approach: a single upfront payment of £5 to cover all five planned non-uniform days for the academic year.

This payment can be made via ParentPay will remain open until mid-September. We hope this change makes things easier for families and ensures we can continue running these much-loved events.

Thank you once again for your support.

Mrs May

Headteacher



Reminder

All letters for our external trips can be found on our website

https://willingdonschool.org.uk/key-information/activity-day-july-21st-2025



18th July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Summer 2025 - Uniform Ordering Procedure

We are writing to advise you of the uniform order process for Summer 2025.

We are asking Parents to place their order via ParentPay. You should already have ParentPay log in details for your children in Years 7-10 and for Year 6 parents the log in details have already been sent to you. Please note we do not take debit/credit cards.

If you wish to collect your child's order **before the end of the school summer term,** all pre-paid orders must be placed on ParentPay by **Monday, 21**st **July 2025. Please collect your orders ASAP in case of any returns.**

For any late orders placed during the summer break we will make these orders up ASAP and we will email you when your order is ready and arrange a day for you to collect your order from school on the following dates ONLY.

Friday, 25th July between 9am - 1pm (new date due to works going on in school the following week)

Friday, 22nd August between 9am – 1pm

Monday, 1st September between 9am – 1pm

Please note any orders placed after the 29th August cannot be guaranteed to be ready for collection before the beginning of the new term.

There will not be the facility to try on uniform in school, so you would need to email us via uniform@willingdonschool.org.uk if you subsequently needed to make a return or exchange. After the end of the school summer term, you will only be able to make exchanges or returns on the above three dates. There will also be no facility to purchase extra uniform at the time of collection as all orders must be placed on ParentPay. If you do have a return it must be returned to school before the end of August. Any orders placed after the 1st September and needing a return or exchange must be returned within 30 days.

If you do not have ParentPay login details, these can be requested by emailing agwilliam@willingdonschool.org.uk by Monday, 21st July.

PLEASE NOTE – Uniform will not be available to purchase/try on at any other time during the holiday period or on our Inset Day on the 3rd September. *It is therefore advisable to order and collect your uniform in plenty of time before the end of the summer term, in case exchanges are required.*

If you need to return any items for an exchange, please ensure you return the item in its original condition, complete with tags attached and with the bag, so we are able to resell the item.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Tomalin

Headteacher's PA

Student Timetables

You may have noticed that Edulink no longer displays student timetables. We have had to temporarily disable this feature as we prepare for the new academic year and implement timetable changes within our Management Information System. Timetables will be available again on Edulink from the first teaching day in September.

As part of the timetable update, we are also reviewing student class groupings. When students progress into the next academic year, it is normal for class groups to change from what they were previously. Below is some information to explain how we structure student groups in Years 7–11.

All year groups are divided into two halves (Side 1 and Side 2), with each half further split into coaching groups of approximately 30 students.

Year 7

Classes are arranged based on what best supports each student's academic progress. As this is an academically driven process, students are not grouped according to friendship choices from primary school. However, they still have the opportunity to see their friends during break and lunch times.

This model applies to all subjects except Science, English, and Maths, where students are placed into sets determined by the relevant departments. Please refer to the table below for the current structure of how we organise students within each year half for these subjects.

It is important to note that groupings are fluid and may change throughout the year based on ongoing teacher assessments and input from our pastoral team.

	English	Maths	Science	General	Rotation subjects	PE (taught in gender groups)
Year 7	1 depth 3 mixed	2 depth 2 mixed	1 depth 3 mixed	4 mixed	Mixed	2 depth 2 mixed

Year 8

As students move from Year 7 into Year 8, they will have chosen a language to study—either French or Spanish. This choice results in one French class and three Spanish classes in each year half. These language classes also form the teaching groups for Geography, History, Drama, Art, RSHE/Religious Studies, and Music, and are all mixed-ability.

Because of this restructuring, students are unlikely to remain in the same groups as they were in Year 7 for these subjects.

As in Year 7, students will continue to study a range of rotation subjects throughout the year. These include Design Technology, Food Technology, Music Technology, Computer Science, and Enterprise. Groupings for these subjects may also differ from those in Year 7.

English, Maths, Science, and PE are set by the respective departments. Please refer to the table below for the current model showing how students are arranged into groups within each year half for these subjects.

As always, please note that groupings are fluid and may change during the year based on teacher assessments and pastoral team guidance.

		English	Maths	Science	General	Rotation subjects	PE (taught in gender groups)	
Yea	Year 8	1 depth	2 depth	2 depth	4 mixed	Mixed	2 depth	
	i cai o	3 mixed	2 mixed	2 mixed	4 IIIIXEU		4 mixed	IVIIXEG

Year 9

As students move from Year 8 into Year 9, there may be some slight adjustments to class groupings. As in Year 8, the main block of subject groupings is determined by the language choice - either French or Spanish. This means that students will remain in the same language class group for Geography, History, Drama, Art, RSHE/Religious Studies, and Music. These groups are mixed ability and are put together with input from subject teachers and the pastoral team to support the best possible academic progress.

Students will also continue to study a range of rotation subjects throughout the year. These are Design Technology, Food Technology, Latin, Computer Science, and Enterprise. Groupings for these subjects are likely to change this year, again based on feedback from teaching staff and pastoral leaders to ensure optimal learning experiences.

English, Maths, Science, and PE groupings are set by the relevant departments. Please see the table below for the current model used to organise students into groups within each year half for these subjects.

As always, it's important to note that groupings are fluid and may change throughout the year based on teacher assessment and guidance from our pastoral team.

	English	Maths	Science	General	Rotation subjects	PE (taught in gender groups)
Year 9	1 depth 3 mixed	1 depth 1 higher 2 mixed	2 depth 2 mixed	4 mixed	Mixed	2 depth 2 mixed

Year 10

Students in Year 10 will begin studying the GCSE subjects they selected in Year 9. These option choices were shared with them during Term 4, and their subject selections now determine their class groupings for most of their timetable.

In cases where an option subject has multiple classes running at the same time, departments have created class groupings to ensure the best possible academic progress for all students.

As with previous years, English, Maths, Science, and PE groupings are set by the relevant departments. Please refer to the table below for the current model showing how students in each year half are arranged into groups for these subjects.

Please note that class groupings remain fluid and may be adjusted during the year based on teacher assessments and input from our pastoral team.

	English	Maths	Science	PE (taught in gender groups)	
Year 10	1 depth 3 mixed	Set 1	2 mix triple	2 danah	
		Set 2	1 Double Higher	2 depth 2 mixed	
		2 mixed	2 Double Mixed	2 mixed	

Year 11

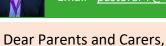
As students move from Year 10 into Year 11, very few changes will be made to class groupings for option subjects. Any adjustments that do occur will be made by subject departments, based on how students have performed throughout Year 10. These changes are designed to support the best possible academic progress as students prepare for their final GCSE year.

As in previous years, English, Maths, and Science classes are set by the relevant departments. Any changes to these groupings are also made at the department level, with the aim of maximising student progress in Year 11.

Please refer to the table below for the current model of how students are grouped within each year half for these subjects.

As always, it is important to note that class groupings are fluid and may be updated during the year based on teacher assessments and input from our pastoral team.

	English	Maths	Science	PE (taught in gender groups)
		Set 1		
Year 11	1 depth	Set 2	1 triple	2 depth
	3 mixed	Set 3	3 mixed double	2 mixed
		2 mixed		



As we approach the end of what has been a fantastic school year, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Year 7 students and you as parents and carers for your continued support and the many successes we have celebrated throughout the year.

Having taken over as Head of Year for the final term, it has been an absolute pleasure to witness firsthand the incredible progress our students have made. From those early days in September when many were understandably nervous, uncertain, and still developing their confidence and maturity. The transformation has been truly impressive.

Our Year 7s now display a remarkable level of independence, responsibility, and resilience. Their ability to problem solve and take ownership of their actions has grown enormously, and I'm incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

Throughout the year, students have immersed themselves in all aspects of school life. From drama and music productions to sporting fixtures and club involvement, they have shown real enthusiasm and commitment. Many students have also taken part in fundraising initiatives and sponsorships, generously giving back to the school community. The energy and effort they have demonstrated across all these areas has been inspiring.

As we wrap up the term, I'm pleased to say that students are calm, focused, and excited for their final few days. Monday's Activities Day will see many students enjoying either our in school programme or the trip to the Sea Life Centre. Please ensure your child is fully prepared for the day knowing where they need to be, what to bring, and what time they should be collected. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at pasterial-7@willingdonschool.org.uk.

The week will conclude with our Year 7 Rewards Assembly, where we will be recognising students for their achievements, growth, and contributions. Awards will include Amazon vouchers and other prizes across a range of categories.

A special mention must go to some of our standout students:

- Zach S for excellence in Athletics
- Jude T for representing Brighton in Football
- Callista S for outstanding performance in Athletics and qualifying for the Regional Pony Club Championship in Eventing see below picture.
- Talal G for winning a national short story competition

Of course, these are just a few of the many students who have represented Willingdon at an incredibly high level. We are proud of them all.

As we head into the summer holidays, I want to thank you again for your continued support. I hope you and your families enjoy a restful, safe, and enjoyable summer break. I am already looking forward to what promises to be an excellent start to Year 8 in September.

Kind regards,

Mr Roche and the Year 7 Team





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final days of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has truly been a fantastic year for our wonderful Year 8 students. It's been a year filled with growth, positivity, and countless moments of pride as our young people have really embraced and lived out our values of ambition, respect, courtesy, compassion, and honesty. Watching them develop both personally and academically has been a genuine privilege.

We are incredibly proud to share and celebrate the achievements of one of our own, Sonny-Rey C, who represented both Willingdon Community School and Sussex at the prestigious English Schools Track and Field Championship, held from Thursday, 10th to Saturday, 12th July. Sonny achieved an outstanding personal best and placed 4th in the Junior Boys Shot Put, with an impressive throw of 14.35 metres, placing him 8th in the UK! We know Sonny has a very exciting future ahead, and we wish him all the very best as he prepares for the English National Championships this summer.

The past few weeks have also been full of exciting events that have brought our school community together in the best of ways. The Phoenix Festival was a fantastic experience, full of creativity, energy, and enthusiasm, and it was a real joy to see so many Year 8s getting involved. Sports Day was another highlight, with impeccable behaviour and brilliant team spirit from all students, it truly was a day to remember.

Looking ahead to our final few days, we're very excited for Activities Day on Monday, which is set to be a wonderful way to round off what has been a successful and joyful year. And on Tuesday, we'll come together for our end-of-year rewards assembly to celebrate the many achievements of our students and to acknowledge the hard work and dedication they've shown throughout the year. Just a quick reminder that Tuesday will be a half day, with students finishing school early.

As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support this year, it makes such a difference, and we are so grateful to work in partnership with you. We wish you and your families a wonderful, restful, and well-deserved summer break, and we're already looking forward to continuing our journey together in Year 9, supporting our students as they keep growing, learning, and thriving.

Have a fantastic weekend, and from all of us on the Year 8 team. Thank you and see you in September! Warm wishes,

Mr Keast and the Year 8 Team



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to all our Year 9 students who have been working hard at school this week, as well as those who are currently representing the school so positively on our residential trips in Nepal and Morfa Bay.

Students on these trips have been enjoying incredible experiences, from going on safari in Nepal to coasteering along the Welsh coastline, all while demonstrating the school's core values. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and enthusiasm they have shown.

Looking ahead to our Year 9 Activity Day on Monday, 21st July, please ensure you have checked all relevant information for your child's activity. Staff leading the trips will have shared key details regarding timings, equipment, and any other important requirements. If you have not received this information, please contact the school as soon as possible. We hope all students have a thoroughly enjoyable and enriching experience on the day.

Please also note that the last day of term is Tuesday, 22nd July. Year 9 students will attend school from 8.30am to 12.30pm and will follow their usual timetabled lessons. We will also be holding a Year 9 Rewards Assembly to celebrate the many successes and achievements from Term 6.

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish all Year 9 students a safe and restful summer break as they prepare for the exciting challenges of Key Stage 4.

It has been a pleasure to lead the year group this term, and I look forward to continuing to support your child through Years 10 and 11.

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. On your child's return to school in September the year team can be contacted on pastoral-10@willingodnschool.org.uk

Kind regards,

Mr Gordon and the Year 9 Team









Morfa Bay 2025









Nepal 2025









Well, what an academic year it's been!

There have been so many events, highlights and positive moments across the year, far too many to list, but it's been brilliant to see the development and progress our students have made throughout their GCSE courses so far. It leaves us with an exciting year ahead moving into Year 11.

Since taking on the Year Group towards the end of the year, we've already seen a few "lasts" for our students, moments that really mark the beginning of the end of their school journey. It's an exciting and emotional time, and it brings a renewed focus on making the most of every single opportunity and hopefully a motivation to want to do well and succeed.

With that in mind, we'd like to encourage all students to really maximise what they're offered, both in lessons and beyond. Whether it's a question in a lesson, a mock exam, a revision session, a school trip, or something outside the classroom, each experience is a chance to grow, develop, and be the best version of themselves. Ultimately, we want them to leave us next summer with results they can be proud of – results that will open doors and set them up for the next step in their journey. Staff will be here to support students along the way, as will you as parents/carers, and we are confident the students can rise to the challenges being a Year 11 student brings.

Therefore, looking ahead, we're already planning a positive and purposeful start to Year 11 in September, and we wanted to share a few key dates with you before the summer holidays begin.

Key Dates for the Autumn Term:

Thursday, 18th September – Meet the Coach Evening

Wednesday, 24th September – Year 11 Parent Information Evening

Friday, 26th September – School Sponsored Walk

Thursday, 16th October – Year 11 Parents Evening

This will also be coupled with various college and sixth form assemblies for the students in school, to help provide them with the information they need to make informed choices regarding their next destinations.

Please pop these dates into your calendar, we'd love for you to join us.

Thank you once again for all of your support this year. From all of us in the Year 10 Pastoral Team, we wish you and your family a restful summer.

Best wishes,

Mr Cain and the Year 10 Team

Careers Page

Career of the Week



*In 2020 the average salary was £31 461, up 3 6% on 2019

Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.

There will be 8% more Animal Care jobs by 2025.