

# Community Bulletin

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22nd July 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year at Willingdon, we want to take a moment to thank you, our incredible community, for your ongoing support, positivity, and partnership.

This year, we've seen our school values of **Ambition, Respect, Courtesy, Compassion, and Honesty** reflected daily in the behaviour and attitudes of the vast majority of our students both in and outside of the classroom. Whether in lessons, around the school site, or out in the wider community, our students have consistently embodied the values that make Willingdon a truly special place to learn and grow.

We are especially grateful to all parents and carers for your continued engagement with the school. Your involvement is vital, and we truly appreciate those who have supported their children's learning journey so actively this year. Looking ahead, we hope even more families will take the opportunity to engage through **Parents' Evenings, Parent Forums**, and our **Friends of Willingdon** group. These are excellent ways to help shape the future of the school and build strong partnerships.

A huge thank you goes to those who have supported the **2025 Fundraising Challenge**. We're proud of the students who have already taken part and completed their activities, your efforts are making a real difference. We hope even more students will complete their challenges over the summer. Don't forget, there will be **another prize draw in September** for those who complete theirs in time!

To our **staff team**, thank you for your tireless dedication and energy throughout the year. Your passion for teaching, commitment to student progress, and the fantastic enrichment and extracurricular opportunities you provide are at the heart of our school's success.

This year has been filled with exceptional teaching, brilliant enrichment, and a huge range of extracurricular opportunities, all made possible by the tireless efforts of our staff body. Thank you for everything you do to make Willingdon such a vibrant and successful school.

As ever, we also say goodbye to a number of colleagues who are moving on to new roles. We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them sincerely for their contributions to our community:

- **Mr Bradford, Miss Page and Mr Clark** – leaving us to take on exciting new roles in other schools.
- **Our dedicated Learning Mentors** – who have provided so much support and care for our students.
- **Miss Meanwell (PSL)** – who has been a key part of our pastoral support team.

We also wish **Miss Dupont** all the very best as she begins her maternity leave – we hope all goes smoothly and look forward to hearing her happy news!

Thank you also to **Mr Werrett**, who has supported our cover team so reliably this year – your flexibility and commitment have been greatly appreciated.

Finally, a very special mention must go to **Mr Holt**, who leaves us to take up a **Headship at Chailey School**. We are incredibly proud of his achievement, though we will miss him enormously. Mr Holt has been the most **outstanding Deputy Headteacher**, offering unwavering support to students, staff, and families alike. His leadership, warmth, and commitment to Willingdon have left a lasting legacy. Congratulations, Mr Holt – Chailey is lucky to have you!

Finally, a reminder that Year 7 return to school on Thursday, 4th September and all year groups on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Have a wonderful summer!

Best wishes,

Mrs May  
**Headteacher**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Introducing a New Counselling Service - for students going into Years 10 & 11**

We are aware that capacity for counselling inside of school is limited due to the level of demand on the service and our own budget constraints. For this reason, we are providing parents/carers an opportunity to buy in to counselling for their child after school, which will not then affect their learning time. We are however, unable to offer this extra capacity for free. The current counselling offer within the school day, are provided on a priority basis, focusing on our disadvantaged students first.

These after school sessions, will be aimed at supporting emotional wellbeing and mental health. This service will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to sufficient interest. The sessions will be part subsidised by the school, to help reduce the impact of cost, being a barrier in accessing this service.

The counselling will consist of six sessions designed to provide support tailored to individual needs. Sessions will take place after school hours, generally once a week, either between 3pm-4pm or 4pm-5pm. This service will be provided by Miss Clarke, who is a trained person-centred counsellor, alongside working as our Year 7 Pastoral Support Leader with us at Willingdon Community School.

Please see the link for further guidance on what person-centred counselling entails:

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/about-therapy/types-of-therapy/person-centred-counselling/>

#### **Details of the Service:**

- **Number of sessions:** 6
- **Cost per session:** £50
- **School subsidy:** £10 per session (reducing the cost to £40 per session for parents of Willingdon students)
- **Total cost for six sessions:** £240 (with an initial deposit of £40, with the remaining balance of £200 payable in ParentPay, upon confirmation by Miss Clarke of sessions booked)
- **Availability:** First come, first served (subject to interest and/or suitability)
- **Timing:** Sessions are 50 minutes, starting at 15:00pm, or 16:00pm

If you are interested in booking your child on the sessions, please make payment via ParentPay by **Friday, 12th September**. This payment will register your interest but cannot guarantee a space, this can only be confirmed by Miss Clarke. If you require a reminder of ParentPay log in details, please contact us via [finance@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:finance@willingdonschool.org.uk).

Please note that after the initial deposit payment, the remaining payment balance for all six sessions will be required upfront, to secure a place in the programme. Payment can be made by ParentPay, if you require a reminder of log on details, please contact us. Any further enquiry regarding finance please email [finance@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:finance@willingdonschool.org.uk)

We believe this service will be a valuable resource for our students, helping them to navigate any challenges they may face.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Clarke [clarke@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:clarke@willingdonschool.org.uk). Please be aware that response to enquiries over the summer holidays may be affected by availability.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs May

**Headteacher**



Hello, my name is Miss Clarke and I have had the privilege of working at Willingdon Community School since October 2024 as Pastoral Support Leader for Year 7. It's been a rewarding experience, and I am excited to now be stepping into the additional role of School Counsellor for half a day from September to further support our students' mental and emotional wellbeing. This will support our current school counsellor Mrs Lorraine Lamberton.

In addition to my role at Willingdon, I have trained as a person-centred counsellor and volunteered with St. Wilfrid's Hospice as a Bereavement Support Worker - a counselling role. These experiences have deepened my understanding and desire of creating a safe, non-judgemental, supportive space for our young people. I also am passionate about breaking the stigma around therapy and reaching out for support.

I am really looking forward to continuing to build positive relationships with students and to be a part of each young person's personal and academic journey.