

20th June 2025



Behaviour for Learning... An Update for our Community

At Willingdon, we believe in creating a calm, respectful, and focused environment where all students can succeed. To help with this, we've been working hard to make sure our Behaviour for Learning policy is clear, fair, and supportive of every child.

Over the past year, we've worked with the Local Education Authority to review our behaviour policy. Only a few small changes were recommended, and we've already put them into action.

Thanks to feedback from parents, carers, and staff, we've made some key improvements:

- Fewer behaviour alerts sent home to avoid overload.
- Better support for neurodivergent students, with each department making changes to help meet different needs.
- We have adapted our Internal Suspension Room (ISR) by removing the booths so that it reflects a small classroom environment and building in movement breaks for students that are neurodivergent, with increased support from our Inclusion team. Furthermore, we are investing in core subject learning packs to ensure there is always a suitable amount of work available for the students to complete in addition to any work that is set by .

More regular meetings with families to keep improving how we support all students.

We are proud of the high expectations we set, and we know many of you chose Willingdon for this reason. These expectations help us stay focused on learning and kindness, and they are a big part of why our school is so popular.

Clear Steps for Managing Disruption

We know it helps everyone when expectations are clear, recent feedback through our consultation with a Parent Governor implied that there were misconceptions within the community regarding attendance to detention. Here's a quick guide to what happens if a student is disruptive in class:

- Lesson Removal: If a student is asked to leave a lesson, they will get a lunchtime sanction. They must attend, registers are taken.
- Missing a Sanction: If a student does not attend, we will look into what happened. Sometimes, we offer a 'reset' to help them get back on track.
- After-School Detentions: If behaviour continues, a detention may be given from 3–4pm or 3–5pm, depending on the situation. We have recently communicated the school expectations around this.

In Rare Cases: If a student keeps refusing to follow expectations, we may consider a different school placement. This only happens after lots of support has been offered. We do suspend, but only when it is necessary, and we have to be very mindful of the safeguarding of young people when we make such difficult decisions.

Some Reassuring Numbers

- Less than 1% of students ever reach the highest level of intervention.
- About 3% of students appear in our daily behaviour checks.
- We now use after-school detentions more often than the Internal Suspension Room, so students do not miss valuable class time.
- We have issues over 525,500 reward points this year and 84% of students have reached the Bronze threshold for reward points.

Working Together, Parents, Students & Staff

We are excited to be launching a new part of our approach:

A Behaviour Implementation Team - Through our latest parent survey, we will be inviting interested parents and carers to join this team. The aim is to bring staff and families together to keep improving how our behaviour policy works in real life. Students also have a voice in this. As part of our behaviour survey, students can share their thoughts and ideas. In July, we will be meeting with the Student Leadership Team to hear their views and suggestions directly.

More Positive Changes Based on Feedback

We have made some important updates this year:

- The Internal Suspension Room now looks and feels more like a classroom. It offers structured learning with online tools and teacher support.
- New behaviour data tracking helps school leaders focus support and keep policy use fair across departments.

Our uniform policy - We have worked closely with students and leaders to make sure the expectations are clear, fair, and something students can wear with pride. We now have a liberal Uniform Policy and ask that all in our community uphold the standards withing this.

As we head into the new term, students will move up to their next year group. This can bring new challenges as they grow and learn. We are here to support them, and we know you are too. In line with many other local schools, we will be investigating the use of Mobile Phone Pouches, following recommendations of becoming a 'school day phone free environment'. If anything, this allows children to have time away from their devices and promotes communication within the community. In the meantime, please can we remind parents of the compromising situation students are faced with when trying to have home-school communication in the school day using their own device. Phones should be switched off in their bag between 8.30am-3.00pm. Any urgent communication between student and home should be via the school phones.

We also request parent and carers to ensure their child is organised with the necessary equipment as this will be checked during coaching time. This includes a fully stocked pencil case, calculator and timetable for their lessons, stored in an appropriate school bag.

Finally, we are proud of the huge number of students who make great choices every day and of those who have shown real improvement this year, there have been many successes.

I have attached below, the behaviour survey again for all members of our community to complete and this survey will close on Tuesday 1st July.

[Parent Behaviour Survey - June 2025](#)

Thank you for being such an important part of the Willingdon community. Once we have taken feedback through the Behaviour Implementation Team and ratified the policy in September, we will share with parents and carers. We will be offering opportunities for parents to attend Parent Forums and for Parent/Carers to have tours of the school to see the policy in action.

Best wishes,

Mrs Townsend-Smith

Deputy Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 6

SAVE THE DATE

Year 10 Mock Interviews - Thursday 3rd July
YEAR 11 School Prom - Friday, 4th July
PHOENIX FESTIVAL - Monday, 7th July
YEAR 10 PARENT EVENING - Wednesday, 9th July
SPORTS DAY - Thursday, 10th July
Activities Day - Monday, 21st July

INSET DAYS 2025-26

Wednesday, 3rd September 2025
Friday 3rd October 2025
Monday, 3rd November 2025
Monday, 5th January 2026
Thursday, 25th June 2026

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

(staggered by year group from 12.20pm-12.40pm)



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
Tochi O 7ABE	Matilda B 8CFR	Olivia V 9PHI	Nathan U 10MET
Calista S-S 7RHA	Scarlet D 8REL	Florrie B 9PHA	Charitylouise D 10MDU
Jack H 7JWI	Amy B 8GST	Honor B 9PHI	Eva O 10MET
Abigail C 7ALE	Margo D 8TST	Kristi P 9GEL	Freya B 10MDU
Isabella B 7JWI	Aaryan W 8CEW	Alice M-C 9GEL	Jack D 10JHA



On Thursday 26th June, Max Salisbury, one of our alumni and a gifted musician, will be playing with Jo Hill on the BBC stage at Glastonbury.

Max plays in the National Symphony Orchestra and is a graduate of The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, ranked as number one in Arts, Drama & Music by the Complete University Guide 2025, and third in the world for music.

What incredible achievements - please tune it to watch Max take to the Glastonbury stage!

Student Leadership Updates

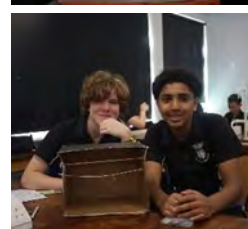
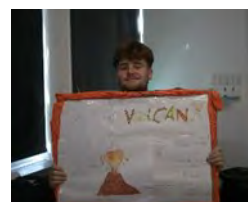
This Week in Willingdon

Year 10 girls have been thoroughly enjoying their energetic PE lessons out on the field, making the most of the warm, sunny weather we've been lucky to have. They've been playing the much-loved game of Stoolball — a fast-paced team sport that has everyone getting involved. Students have been working in pairs and as part of a wider team, developing their skills, encouraging each other, and building team spirit. It's been a brilliant way to stay active while enjoying the outdoors.



Over in the Music department, Year 7 have been working hard this week learning how to read music notation and developing their musical skills. They've also been practicing singing together as a class, following a backing track while keeping in time with the rhythm and pitch. Along the way, they've been strengthening their vocal confidence and learning to perform as an ensemble. These skills are fantastic preparation for the upcoming Phoenix Festival, where all our talented young musicians will have the exciting opportunity to shine on stage.

In Science this week, Year 9 have been working in groups to create their projects for the annual Science Fair. It is wonderful to see their creativity and interests represented through their work. Students have been working incredibly hard to present their findings in a fun, organized, way accompanied by thorough research related to their topics. Some of the projects being made this year include: the vibrations of a guitar, the science behind volcanoes, and how temperature affects a glow squid's ink. These projects have drawn upon our Year 9's ability to research, predict, present data, and carry out practical investigations. We hope they are thoroughly enjoying this exciting way to end the year.



This week, the Year 8 boys' PE group took part in a series of running races. Within their teams, a runner was chosen for each race depending on stamina and distance. This encouraged students to consider individual strengths and contribute to the team's success. The atmosphere was incredibly supportive, despite the competitive spirit on display. When speaking to a few of the students, many shared that they loved the activity as it gave them the chance to meet and chat with a wider range of classmates.

A Big Goodbye to Our Year 11s!

This week marked the final GCSE exam and the end of the Year 11 journey at Willingdon. You've all grown so much and achieved incredible things, and now it's time for the next exciting chapter. And to Year 10... it's your turn now — you're the eldest in the school! Step up, lead well, and make your final year count!

Student Leadership Updates

This Week in Willingdon

Travel Tales

This Monday morning, a group of 15 Year 10 students stepped into the labs at Eastbourne College. Guided by the college's incredible science staff, they delved into the fascinating world of chemistry — beginning with electrolysis, extracting elements from brine, and using various tests to identify the products. Next came a quick-fire recap on bonding and how substances are arranged, before the morning ended with a colorful bang: flame tests that lit up the lab. The students loved the experience — becoming more confident with lab equipment and deepening their understanding of key chemistry concepts. A huge thank you to Eastbourne College for such an inspiring and engaging start to the week!



On Wednesday, a group of our Year 9 and 10 students travelled to The Globe to watch a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. This incredible adaptation offered fresh and imaginative ways of bringing Shakespeare's classics to life. Set in the Wild West, with characters dressed as cowboys, the production captivated our students — deepening their understanding of the play and encouraging them to explore it from new and exciting perspectives.

"I really liked the Western theme, and it was impressive how they adapted the play without interfering with the story or dialogue." – Year 10 student

Also, this week, Year 8 made the most of our beautiful coastline by heading down to measure the length of the beach. They worked in small groups, collecting data and learning valuable fieldwork skills as part of their geography studies. The day was perfectly rounded off with well-earned ice cream and some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine by the sea.

Celebrating Ambition: Afternoon Tea with Top Achievers

On Monday, we were delighted to host a special **Afternoon Cream Tea** for the top 10 students in each year group who had earned the highest number of **Ambition achievement points** over the course of the year. It was a chance to recognise and reward their hard work, drive, and positive attitude — and we were thrilled to be joined by proud parents and carers.

We've since received some wonderful feedback from families who attended, highlighting how valued and motivated their children felt by this recognition.

This was the first in a series of events celebrating our **core school values**, and we're already looking forward to the next one — which will shine a spotlight on another key value in our school community. We hope to welcome even more families then!

- ◇ "Celebrating our children, being able to have informal chats with staff."
- ◇ "It was nice to be invited in to school and to hear our daughter has been recognised for her ambition. The lemon drizzle cake was good too. The teaching staff were all helpful and made the effort to stop and chat."
- ◇ "Being there I was so proud that he has achieved this knowing how much he struggles was a very proud moment plus the cake was delicious."
- ◇ "The informal nature and the cakes!"
- ◇ "Was lovely having everyone together, students, parents and teachers."
- ◇ "That it was a way of recognising student achievements. Refreshments were lovely and thanks to staff and students for arranging/serving. Linking to values reinforced behaviours."
- ◇ "It was good for our son to meet his Yr10 pastoral support; she took time to have a chat with him and let him know she was there for him if needed any support from now through to his GCSEs. Also the talk from Mrs May was good for parents and students to hear."
- ◇ "Everything, it was just a lovely experience."
- ◇ "Receiving the invitation in the post, made us feel special, loved the informal gathering and chatting with the teachers. Coffee cake was delicious! 😊"
- ◇ "It was really nice for the students to be recognised for their hard work and good behaviour, I felt like a very proud parent. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet the teachers, the tea and cake was a nice touch."
- ◇ "The staff were so kind and courteous and made a real effort to engage with every parent in their year group. (Food was yummy too!!) It was also lovely to have our children recognised for trying to do the right thing."





Summer Raffle

Prizes Include:

50p per
ticket

- £100 Cash
- EMSR Adventure Park - Entry for 4
- Jumpin Eastbourne - £20 Voucher
- Ordinary Climbers—Intro to Climbing Voucher
- Hobbycraft - Large Craft Jar x 2
- Polegate Equestrian - Voucher
- Tenpin—6 Free Games Bowling
- Taylors Sports Bar - Meal for 2
- Hand Blender donated by Tesco Eastbourne
- Drusillas—Entry for 2 x Children
- Buzz Active - Half price SUP hire
- Glenisters - Beautiful Bouquet of fresh cut flowers
- British Queen - Meal for 2
- Holly Blue - £30 Voucher
- Hailsham Pavilion—2 Tickets
- Urban Jump—£25 Voucher
- Skateworld—Entry for up to 4 people Including Skate hire
- Lite Bites—Breakfast for 2 people
- Lite Bites - £10 Voucher
- Tesco Hailsham -Snack food hamper
- Prosecco gift set x 2
- Rose Wine gift set
- Willingdon Cafe - Breakfast for 1
- Freedom Leisure Uckfield- Family Swim
- Bottle red wine - donated by Your Shop
- 3D Printed Dragon in egg
- Ladybird Beauty—Aromatherapy Facial
- Yankee Candle Gift Set
- Out of Bounds - Voucher
- Fishers Farm Park - 2 general admission
- Paradise Park - 2 Day park passes

Draw will take place online
at 5.30pm
8th July 2025!

*Tickets available
from student
support, at the
Phoenix Festival
and
Online!*

Scan me!



<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/willingdoncommunityschoolsummerraffle/Campaign/Details>



Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to take a moment to thank you for all your support so far this year. As we move into our fourth week of the final term, I'm really pleased to say that our Year 7 students are continuing to demonstrate impeccable behaviour – showing positivity, effort, curiosity, and leadership across the board.

This week has been a brilliant one for the year group. We've had fantastic successes, especially in sports. Following strong performances at Town Sports, we're excited that some of our students have been selected to compete at a high-level athletics event in Crawley. What an achievement!

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome many Year 7 parents into school for our celebratory Cream Tea event. It was a lovely opportunity to recognise and reward students for their fantastic start to secondary school. Thank you to all who attended!

Today (Thursday) has also been a highlight. We held our Inflatable Rewards sessions, which was a great success. This event was designed to reward students who have consistently demonstrated positive behaviour and high attendance, and I'm pleased to say that nearly all our Year 7s were able to take part.

In addition, students took part in a fascinating assembly with representatives from BAE Systems who work with the Navy and RAF. They gave an engaging talk on artificial intelligence (AI), and even brought along a robotic dog named Fluffy, who wowed students with tricks and navigation using AI!

Attendance this week has been excellent, with a peak of 97% – an outstanding figure. Thank you for your continued efforts to support your child's attendance and punctuality.

As we approach the summer break, I'm proud of how students are continuing to maintain strong behaviour, positive attitudes, and a clear focus in lessons. During my learning walks this week, I've seen many Year 7s showing the very best versions of themselves. It's encouraging to see how they're already stepping into Year 8 with confidence and maturity.

A few important dates for your diary:

- Phoenix Festival – Monday, 7th July
- Sports Day – Thursday, 10th July
- Activity Day – Monday, 21st July (Please make sure you are signed up!)

Activities include on-site sports, creative workshops, and a trip to the Sea Life Centre in Brighton.

Thank you again for your continued support. Wishing you a lovely weekend – and enjoy the sunshine!

Mr Roche and the Year 7 Team





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up another busy and exciting week here at school, I wanted to share a few highlights and celebrate some of the fantastic things our Year 8 students have been involved in.

On Thursday, we were fortunate to welcome MGA Productions in collaboration with BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, who delivered a fascinating and engaging presentation on artificial intelligence (AI). One of the unexpected stars of the show was “Fluffy” – the AI-powered robotic dog – who made quite the impression on students and staff alike!

This week also saw our students rise to the challenge of their English and Maths exams. I’ve been really proud of the mature and focused attitude shown throughout – it’s clear that they’ve been putting in lots of effort, and I know their teachers will be just as pleased with how they’ve approached these important assessments.

To round off the week, Thursday afternoon brought some well-deserved fun as students took part in our inflatable rewards session. We were delighted that 87% of the year group were eligible to take part – a real reflection of their hard work, great behaviour and positive attitude throughout the term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend, and thank you as always for your continued support.

Mr Keast and the Year 8 Team





Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take a moment to say a big well done to all our Year 9 students who have demonstrated excellent maturity and focus during their English and Maths exams this week. They have conducted themselves extremely well and have met exam expectations with a commendable attitude throughout the process.

There have also been further successes outside the classroom. Congratulations to all the boys who represented the school in the annual Bexhill College Football Tournament, a fantastic effort from everyone involved.

During lesson walkthroughs this week, it has been great to see Year 9 students so focused and engaged in their learning. Their enthusiasm and positive approach to lesson activities have been noted and are greatly appreciated by staff.

Looking ahead, coaching groups are now forming their Sports Day teams in preparation for both the athletics and inter-house events on Thursday, 10th July. Please encourage your child to get involved, represent their coaching group, and fully embrace the spirit of the day. We will share more details about Sports Day in the coming weeks.

Finally, we are excited to welcome Jon Young, former BBC presenter and broadcaster, to school on Monday, 30th June. He will be delivering a high-energy, thought-provoking assembly titled '**Blast Off – How to Become Totally Employable**'. It promises to be a fun, fast-paced, and inspiring session for your child.

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

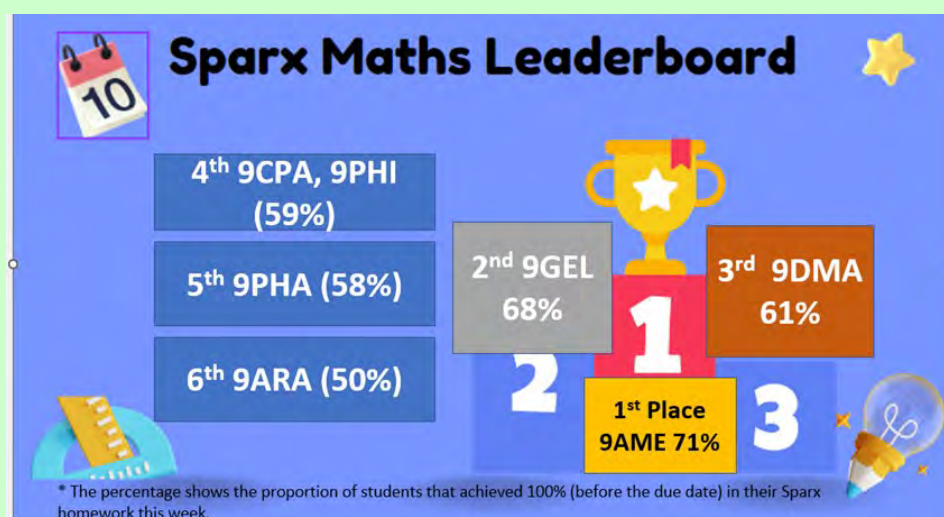
Kind regards,

Mr Gordon and the Year 9 Team

Congratulations!



Well done to the Year 9 boys' football team for winning the annual Bexhill College football tournament on Wednesday and adding the great success of the Year 9 girls winning the same event last week. The team competed against 9 other schools from East Sussex at the tournament and were successful beating The Eastbourne Academy school 5-1 in the final. Well done to all the boys that represented the school at the event and who demonstrated excellent team work, work rate and fair play throughout the event. During the event, Cole L was award the Player of the Tournament and Cole L and Lucas A were joint top scorers with 5 goals each.



Well done to 9GAME for winning the Sparx Maths Challenge this week and winning biscuits for the tutor group. 9GAME had the highest amount of students that achieved 100% for their Sparx Maths homework.



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well done to all our Year 10 students on another really positive week!

It's been a busy one – we've had the pleasure of supporting lots of students as they headed off to college open days at the Eastbourne, Lewes, and Hastings campuses of the East Sussex College Group. Students came back full of enthusiasm, having really enjoyed the experience and getting a real feel for what college life might be like. Hopefully, this has helped spark some motivation as we head into next week's final round of mock exams!

Just a quick reminder of the mock exam schedule for next week:

- Monday: Food Tech and GCSE PE
- Tuesday: Drama and Spanish
- Wednesday: History and Music

We also have our Year 10 Mock Interview Day on Thursday. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence and gain some experience of what real interviews might feel like. More details will be shared with students during coaching time next week.

If you have any questions about college applications or future taster days, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Rooney, our school Careers Advisor, or your child's coach in the first instance.

Lastly, a quick heads-up – on Wednesday, 9th July we'll be holding our Year 10 Positive Progress Evening. This is a chance for you and your child to meet with subject teachers to go through mock results and get clear feedback on next steps for Year 11 success.

Thanks again for your continued support – we hope you have a lovely weekend and we look forward to another productive week ahead!

Mr Cain and the Year 10 Team

Dear Students & Parents/Carers,

Due to the popularity of the Y10 Taster Days on Friday 20th and Tuesday 24th June at Seaford Head Sixth Form, they will be holding an additional taster day on **Wednesday, 16th July** for students that would still like to experience their Sixth Form and the subjects on offer.

Students that would like to attend should complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/wmFD7jEYcu>.

Please register any absence from school via Edulink/Arbor.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk or 01323 485254 ext 281.

Best wishes,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser



Head of Year

Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 students to the Prom on Friday, 4th July. Please see details regarding the timings and arrangements for the evening below.

To ensure safety of all, please can parents refrain from contesting the entrance of the hotel during the arrival of students.

We are committed to making this a memorable and enjoyable event for all students. To support this, we kindly ask that you reinforce the following expectations with your child:

- Entry to the event will be refused to any student who is suspected of having consumed alcohol or is under the influence of any substances. Security staff will be on-site to support this.
- Smoking or vaping is strictly prohibited at the venue. Any student found doing so will be asked to leave the event.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure a safe and successful celebration for our students. We are looking forward to celebrating the evening with your child and for them to have a fantastic time with friends and their teachers to mark the end of their journey at Willingdon Community School.

Warmest regards,

Mr Gordon and the Year 11 Team

Year 11 Prom – Friday 4th July at The Cavendish Hotel

Prom Schedule:

6:00pm onwards – Students can arrive at the venue and have photographs with friends and watch everyone arrive.

6:30pm–7:00pm – Mocktails served in reception of the hotel, with live entertainment from a magician.

7:00pm – Students will be seated and dinner is served, with the magician circulating tables as entertainment.

8:00pm – Speeches and prize draw.

8:30pm–11:59pm – Disco and time for students to have their complimentary professional photograph with the photographer who will be present for the whole evening. If students would like to purchase further photographs, this will be possible all evening.

If you are booking taxi's to collect your child, please can you arrange for them to be collect from 11.30pm.



Careers Page

Career of the Week



Estate Agent

Estate Agents

sell and rent out commercial and residential property, acting as negotiators between buyers and sellers.

Routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

- **A university course**
- **An intermediate apprenticeship** as a junior estate agent
- Working towards this role by starting as a trainee sales negotiator and learning on the job or as an administrator in an estate agency or lettings company and working your way up
- Taking qualifications offered by an industry body like NAEA Propertymark

Skills

Day to day tasks:

- Visit sellers and landlords to value properties
- Communicate regularly with potential buyers and tenants
- Arrange viewing appointments to show properties to potential buyers or renters.
- Negotiate between buyers and sellers
- Generate sales leads for mortgages and conveyancing
- Deal in person, on the phone and through email with solicitors, financial advisers and surveyors
- Manage auction sales
- Work to meet sales targets records

Subjects

Business Studies, Media and English.

Salary*

Basic salaries start at £15,000, rising to £40,000 and above for experienced estate agents. Estate agents often work on **commission** which means that you earn a percentage of the sale or rental price of any property you sell or rent on top of your basic salary.

Jobs

This sector is expected to grow by 4% by 2025.

*In 2020 the average salary was £31,461, up 3.6% on 2019

Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.



Department
for Education

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

Funded for young people who receive benefits-related free school meals.

Scan the QR code to see what's available and book a place.



Contact the team on
HAF@eastsussex.gov.uk



FREE for families receiving
benefits-related free school meals.