

Community Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



3rd October 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Celebrating a Fantastic Open Evening

We were thrilled to welcome over 990 visitors to our Open Evening for Year 6 parents and students last night. The event was a huge success, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing student ambassadors. They were outstanding role models, showcasing everything that makes Willingdon a special place to learn and grow. We're already looking forward to March, when we officially welcome the next cohort into the Willingdon family.

Football Safety Reminder

We are once again speaking with students about the risks associated with slide tackling during football games at break and lunchtime. Unfortunately, we've seen a rise in injuries linked to this type of tackle, some of which have caused significant harm. We kindly ask parents and carers to reinforce the importance of safe and respectful play on the football pitch. Thank you for your support in keeping all students safe.

A Productive INSET Day

During our INSET day on Friday, a number of our staff visited local primary schools to observe excellent teaching practices and to ensure our Year 7 curriculum remains both challenging and supportive as students transition to secondary school. Other staff members took the opportunity to visit outstanding secondary schools, gaining valuable insights into high-quality subject delivery. Meanwhile, our support staff engaged in training focused on wellbeing and mental health, strengthening our ability to support all students. We also trained additional members of staff in first aid, enabling us to further expand our after-school extracurricular offer and safely run even more trips and visits.

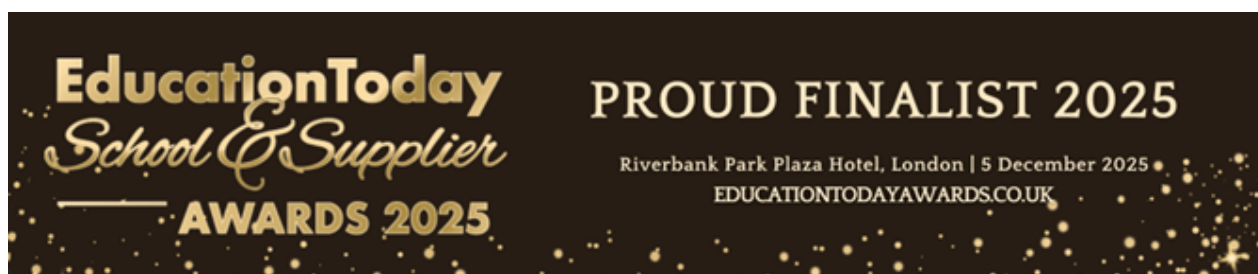
National Recognition for Willingdon!

We're proud to share some exciting news, Willingdon has been shortlisted for several national awards in the *Education Today* School Awards! Most notably, we are in the running for **Secondary School of the Year**. This recognition reflects the dedication of our staff, students, and wider community. We look forward to finding out the final results at the awards ceremony in December.

Best wishes,

Mrs May

Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 1

Tuesday 7th - Thursday 9th Oct—Yr 6 Open Mornings

Friday 10th Oct - Friends Quiz Evening

Thursday 16th Oct - Yr 11 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 21st Oct—Yr 7 Natural History Museum/London Eye Trip

Friday 24th Oct - End of Term 1

INSET DAYS 2025-26

Monday, 3rd November 2025

Monday, 5th January 2026

Thursday, 25th June 2026

September 2026 return to school

Inset Day - Wednesday, 2nd September 2026

Year 7 only will return to school on

Thursday, 3rd September 2026

Years 8, 9, 10,11 will return on Friday, 4th September 2026.

Sponsored Walk

PLEASE CONTINUE TO DONATE

Thank you for all the funds raised so far for the Sponsored Walk held last Friday, we will have the payment options available in ParentPay for the rest of this term, if you haven't yet had the time to donate. There is also an additional option in ParentPay for any donations that might have been raised, over and above either the individual or family, payment options.

Don't forget the funds raised by this years Sponsored Walk are going towards the 20.25 Challenge and specifically the cost of the installation of our outdoor canopy, providing our students with additional outside spaces, for when the weather doesn't always oblige!. The canopy will be ready to open before the end of this week, but we are looking for further funds to be able to then install glazing around the canopy, to help minimise any impact of wind coming off the Downs!



HOUSE POINTS UPDATE




29.09.2025

	Total Reward Points
Wilmington	15169
Cuckmere	14840
Pevensey	14755
Friston	13501

Hot Chocolate with the Head Winners

Congratulations to our *Hot Chocolate with the Head* winners this week! These students earned the highest reward points for their fantastic focus and engagement in lessons. We are so proud of their hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to learning. Well done to all our winners we look forward to seeing you next week during coaching time for your reward.

<p>Year 7</p> <p>Sinan D 7ZKE</p> <p>Taylee J 7SPA</p> <p>Phoebe K 7RKO</p>	<p>Year 9</p> <p>Charlie C 9NKL</p> <p>Hira A 9RCR</p> <p>Matthew B 9REL</p>	<p>Year 11</p> <p>Georgia W 11MET</p> <p>Jessica B 11MET</p> <p>Tanema R 11MJE</p>
<p>Year 8</p> <p>Sophie N 8SMI</p> <p>Abigail C 8ALE</p> <p>Cody S 8DBR</p>	<p>Year 10</p> <p>Austin L 10LCN</p> <p>Daniella B-L 10AME</p> <p>Angel H 10ARA</p>	

Treats with the Team

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	YEAR 11
Sophie W 7AED	Ralph A 8ALE	Isla W 9BMA	Tommy N 10ARA	Oliver G 11RGA
Florence L 7AED	Bethany N 8RHA	Jude S 9BMA	Amelia G 10AME	Jasmine H 11JHA
Jacob S 7EGA	Logan B 8RHA	Isaac B 9BMA	Alfie A 10AME	Nathan U 11MET
Aston O 7CPH	Lacey S 8SMI	Jessica D 9CFR	Dexter P 10AME	Poppy B 11JHA
Scarlett M 7CFA	Joshua F 8RHA	Joshua W 9BMA	Alfie B 10AME	Hayley S 11JHA

Willingdon Community School




Friends
OF WILLINGDON
Charity No. 1154283

Friday 10th October 2025
Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

Teams of up to 6 people
£5 entry per person

Bring your own food and alcohol. Tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Book your place via friends@willingdonschool.org.uk or ParentPay

with prizes & a raffle!

Sponsored by 

We are now getting ready for the first Friends Quiz Evening of the academic year, Friday 10th October. We are already getting many keen quizzers booking up, including a number of staff, that you can pit your wits against!! See you there!

Friends of Willingdon Community School



Bake Sale: Fundraising for Sri Lanka Trip

Some students in 8JWI will be running a Bake Sale on Wednesday to raise money towards the upcoming Sri Lanka trip.

We'd love your support, please bring along a little money on the day to enjoy some delicious treats and help with their fundraising efforts.

Non-Uniform Days

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 is now available via ParentPay. 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. More information on the next non-uniform day will be communicated in due course.



Willingdon Community School and Stone Cross Primary School presents

Illuminate Firework Extravaganza

Friday 7th November 2025

Huge Firework
Display

By Frontier Fireworks

Gates open 6 - 8pm

At Willingdon Community School, Broad Road, Lower Willingdon

Eastbourne Bonfire Society & Torch Lit Procession
Long Man Brewery, Catering Vans & Refreshments, Entertainment, Music, Stalls, Fairground & Lots of Family Fun!

Tickets £5 each (Pre-schoolers free)

Tickets available from Stone Cross Primary School, Willingdon Community School, British Queen Public House, Willingdon, Crafted Coffee Lounge, Stone Cross & Lite Bites, Cophall Roundabout
Limited tickets available, tickets are non-refundable.

PURCHASE NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Contact: friends@willingdonschool.org.uk or Foscs@yahoo.com Tel: 01323 485254

Sponsorship Opportunities!



*Be part of
the magic!*

We are looking for local businesses to sponsor our Illuminate Firework Extravaganza on 7th November!

Become a sponsor today and help raise vital funds for both Willingdon Community School and Stone Cross Primary as well as providing exposure to your business!

**Email us friends@willingdonschool.org.uk
for details of sponsorship packages**

The Friends of Willingdon have sponsorship packages for any local businesses that would like to offer sponsorship for the fantastic Illuminate Firework Extravaganza! Please get in touch via friends@willingdonschool.org.uk for further details.



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It's been a slightly shorter week for us all this week with Open Evening and today's INSET Day, but it's still been great to see our students making the most of the opportunities on offer.

On Tuesday, I was lucky enough to take 12 students along to the Bede's Scholarship morning. They had the chance to meet staff, tour the school and gain a better understanding of the application process. Hopefully, they came away feeling motivated and inspired to consider it as an option for next year.

We also had our Year 11 netball team representing the school brilliantly at the partnership tournament over in Seahaven. Not only did they play some excellent netball, but they also showed our school values throughout, we are really proud of them.

Looking ahead, I'd like to highlight the Year 11 Parents' Evening taking place in two weeks' time. The letter was emailed to parents on the 30th September, but can also be viewed on our website—<https://willingdonschool.org.uk/key-information/our-letters>. This is now live and accessible on Edulink. It is such an important opportunity for you and your child to meet with subject teachers, get feedback on progress so far, and discuss how best to prepare for December's mock exams. Engagement with Meet the Coach and the Exam Information evenings has combined to around 70%, and we'd love to see that number climb closer to 100% for Parents' Evening in a few weeks.

Finally, as promised, I've included a few photos from last week's Sponsored Walk. I'm sure you'll agree the outfits were fantastic and it was wonderful to see Year 11 enjoying themselves.

We wish you all a lovely weekend, and we look forward to welcoming Year 11 back for a full week on Monday.

Mr Cain

Head of Year 11






Year 11 Digital School Photos

The Friends of Willingdon Community School are offering parents the opportunity to purchase digital photos of their Year 11 child (which were taken last term in house for Arbor purposes), at a low cost, with all donations going to the Friends.

Mindful of the economic climate we are all now experiencing, Willingdon made the decision to take the photos in-house. This means that the digital images are still of high quality, but allows us to offer the digital photo to parents/carers in return for a small donation of £3.00.

You will be able to view the photo that has been taken when you log in to Arbor. We think that they are fabulous and hope you do too.

ParentPay is now open to purchase your digital image, this window will close on Friday, 3rd October, and any images purchased will be delivered to parents, via email, from Tuesday, 7th October onwards.



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We have had another very busy week at school, and we have been particularly impressed by the focus and engagement shown by Year 10 students in their learning. During lesson walk-throughs, we have seen calm, purposeful classrooms where students are fully engaged, and we are pleased with the way they are continuing to build positive relationships with their new Key Stage 4 teachers.

As you are aware, Year 10 passes quickly, and it is vital that students maintain this positive focus as they prepare for the demands of Year 11.

This week, the year group has also taken part in a uniform roll call on the playground. We are pleased to report that, on the whole, most of our students are meeting expectations, and we would like to say well done to those who do this consistently. We do, however, ask for your support in reinforcing the following points with your child:

- Skirts should not be rolled up.
- Blazers must be worn every day, a jumper is not a substitute for a blazer.
- Jumpers may only be worn under a blazer if students are cold. Otherwise, students should wear their shirt, tie, and blazer.

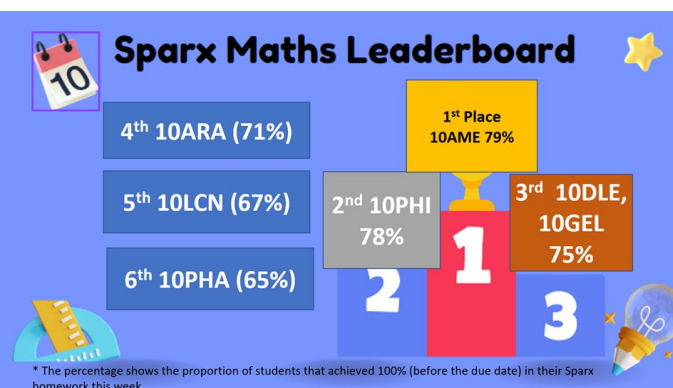
Trainers are not permitted unless it is a PE day. School shoes must be worn in line with our uniform policy. In addition to their academic studies, students have continued preparing for their work experience placements this week. During coaching time, they have been discussing their placements and identifying the skills they will develop in May. Students who still need support in arranging a placement have been able to request guidance.

If you have any queries regarding your child's work experience placement, please contact srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk.

We look forward to another positive week of learning and progress for Year 10.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 10 Team



ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE Year 10

The winners of this week's inter tutor group attendance challenge is...

10DLE = 95.4%

Willingdon COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Well done to 174 of our Year 10 students that have 100% attendance at school this week which is brilliant!



Well done to 186 of our Year 10 students that have '0' behaviour points logged this week!

Congratulations to the Year 10 Netball Team



Well done the Year 10 Netball Team for playing fantastic netball this week. The team represented the school in the schools partnership annual competition. The girls won their matches 7-0 v Ratton, 6-0 v Turing, 6-1 v Seahaven and 4-3 v Cavendish.



Well done to all of the Year 10 students that completed the school sponsored walk on Friday, 26th September. The year group represented the school brilliantly and we received very positive feedback from local residents and the public who met the students whilst completing the walk. Well done to 10LCN who were the first coaching group to get all their students finished and back at school. We hope they all had a great day and are looking forward to next year's walk where they will be able to dress up in fancy dress for their final sponsored walk at Willingdon.

**PUNCTUALITY
MATTERS**

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR
5 MINUTES
late each day
= **3** days off
in total



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Head of Year
Mr Keast / Ms Johnson

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Another busy week for Year 9! We all enjoyed the sponsored walk last Friday and Year 9 were the first year group to return in full and sign in, well done Year 9!

This week in assembly the year group got their first insight into the Options process during an assembly with Miss McKie. Students were given the following advice when considering their options

1. Think about your strengths and interests
2. Aim for a balanced set of GCSE
3. Don't just follow your friends, you may not end up in the same class
4. Ask for advice, talk to your coaches, subject teachers, Head of Year and parents and carers.

Students were also given a timeline of the process, which we have shared below

1. October: Initial ideas, students need to log onto the Google form and express an interest in different subjects, these are NOT their option choices. This will give staff an idea of which subjects will be run.
2. November – refining choices via another Google form, again this is NOT their final choices.
3. December – options booklet produced.
4. January – options assemblies and options open evening (Wednesday 14th January). Final option forms completed.



Congratulations to Isla W 9BMA, Jude S 9BMA, Isaac B 9BMA, Jessica D 9CFR and Joshua W 9BMA who won treats with the team for being awarded the most reward points in Year 9. We had a great conversation about options and future career choices, some very ambitious choices ranging from astronaut, professional footballer to physiotherapist and police officer.

Also, congratulations to Harry D (9RCR). We were contacted by Harry's very proud family after he put on a great performance at the weekend, he swam at the ESC County Chaser meet for Hailsham Swimming Club at the Sovereign Centre on Saturday against other swimmers from around Sussex. He entered 3 events, the 100 metre individual medley, 50 metre backstroke and 50 metre freestyle and got a medal in each event, 2 silvers (100 IM and 50 back) and a bronze (50 free) - also gained 2 new PBs in the 2 events he got silvers in. He is chasing, and is so close now to achieving the county qualifying time for the 50 freestyle. Hopefully he will get this soon! Harry is showing real commitment and ambition here – well done! Willingdon is incredibly proud of you.



Please do keep these lovely emails coming in. It's great to share all the student's achievements.

We wish you all a lovely weekend, extended for students by the Inset day. And look forward to seeing you all refreshed on Monday.

Kind regards,

The Year 9 Team



Head of Year

Mr Roche

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We would like to congratulate you and your children on another positive and productive week at Willingdon.

After a busy weekend recovering from the Sponsored Walk, we have now completed our fourth week back following the summer holidays. Students have settled well into routines, are following their timetables confidently, and are making strong progress in Year 8. There is a real sense of focus around expectations and maturity, and it has been encouraging to see so many pupils embracing these standards.

I am delighted to report that many students are demonstrating our core values, and it has been a pleasure to recognise their efforts with rewards. This week's winners are:

Ralph A

Bethany M

Logan B

Lacey S

Josh F

Each of these students has received chocolates and a photo has been taken to celebrate their fantastic achievements.

In terms of attendance, 8EMC topped the table this week and will receive biscuits as a reward next Monday.

There has also been a fantastic response to auditions for our school production of Annie. It was wonderful to see so many talented young people getting involved in extracurricular drama and music opportunities.

On the sporting front, the Year 8 boys' football team had an outstanding start to their County Cup journey, beating Ark Academy 10-1 in the first round. We look forward to more successes ahead!

Our Year 8 students also played a key role in the highly successful Year 6 Open Evening, where we welcomed more than 700 families to the school. Students acted as guides and subject ambassadors and conducted themselves brilliantly. We have received excellent feedback, and I am incredibly proud of how they represented Willingdon.

There has been much excitement around upcoming trips. The Valencia trip has seen a high uptake, and interest in the 2027 Sri Lanka trip has been very strong. Mr Smith has spoken with many students, and decisions about future opportunities will be made soon.

Please do let us know of any successes that your child has had outside of the school. It is always so good share this with the wider school community.

As we come to the end of a shortened week, I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday.

Kind regards,

The Year 8 Team



Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A huge well done to Year 7 for taking part in their first sponsored walk! We've had the most amount of positive comments ever from the local community praising the whole school cohort for the way they conducted themselves on Friday which is incredible!

Thank you to all those Year 7s who helped do the tours for this week's open evenings! They really represented our year group and school so well! We can't believe we are already looking ahead to meeting the future Year 7 cohort!

We hope everyone has enjoyed their early weekend and have a lovely relaxing time ready for next week!



The Year 7 Team

TRANSITION SURVEY 2025—Please complete the Google Form (link below)

We would like to congratulate our Year 7 students on completing their first few weeks following a full timetable. They have been an absolute joy to welcome into our school community.

We are especially impressed with their focus in lessons and the way they are already working hard to live out our values of personal excellence. Their positive attitude and commitment to learning has made a fantastic impression.

To help us better understand and support the transition process, we would be grateful if you could complete this short survey about your child's immediate experience of starting with us: [Transition Survey 2025](#).

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to working together to ensure a successful and rewarding year for all our Year 7 students and hoping they will all sign up for an exciting enrichment activity.



Year 7 Literacy Update

Read on to find out all about Year 7 Reading this term.

What training have students received?

Each week during coaching time, Year 7 students receive literacy training to help them to understand why literacy skills are important and how these skills will help them. We've focused on how to use Sparx Reader to build a careful reading habit. Year 7 students have weekly reading for pleasure lessons. These include termly reading conversations with their teacher, author videos for inspiration, and book talk to build excitement and recommendations that will help students to complete the empathy challenge #inmyshoesWCS.

Daily reading during coaching time

Coaches in Year 7 read to coaches daily for 10 minutes four times a week. The shared reading is a time to build empathy skills and enjoyment of a story.

Weekly careful reading

Each week students need to complete their Sparx Reader weekly reading target as part of their weekly homework. This builds stamina and resilience, which is a vital cross-curricular skill.

How can students build healthy careful reading skills on Sparx Reader?

- Put other devices away to help you stay focused during your reading.
- Go slower! Careful reading is not about skimming quickly.
- When reading longer texts, make a few keyword notes to help you to remember details.
- Try 10-minute sessions to keep your mind fresh and focused.

What resources are available at school to help students keep up to date?

- Year 7 homework club on Monday in IT2 from 3pm -4pm and on Thursdays in IT2 at lunchtime. Students are supported by learning mentors.
- Every break and lunchtime in the library, students have the opportunity to use Chromebooks to work on homework tasks.

How can parents support students at home?

- Use the weekly Sparx Reader emails to see if students are up to date and what they have been reading.
- Help students to establish a clear routine. Set a time and a place to read carefully without distractions.



**CARING FOR A LOVED ONE
WITH AN EATING DISORDER**

FREE WORKSHOP

Learn vital tools to support your loved one including: dealing with challenging behaviour, specialised communication skills, avoiding traps that may maintain the disorder, and supporting recovery.

2025

SESSIONS 1 & 2:
SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER

SESSIONS 3 & 4:
SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

SESSION 5:
TO BE AGREED

**AT THE OLD BANK IN
HAMPDEN PARK**



**THE SAM WEST
FOUNDATION**



THE OLD BANK
WELLBEING TRUST

CONTACT:

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