

Community Bulletin

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5th September 2025



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A very warm welcome back to Willingdon. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It was a real pleasure to see our students return this week, full of energy and ready for the exciting year ahead.

Today, I had the privilege of delivering the first whole-school assembly of the year, with a focus on ambition and pride. We spoke to students about the importance of striving to be their own personal best, not worrying about comparisons, but simply focusing on being the best version of themselves. It was a powerful message to start the term and one I hope will set a positive tone for the year.

We have a great deal to look forward to. Our Year 11 intervention programme begins immediately, and students are warmly encouraged to stay after school to make use of the school's resources and complete homework in a calm, supportive environment.

Our enrichment programme will be up and running from next week, offering a wide range of activities and opportunities for all students to take part in beyond the classroom.

We continue to offer free tea and toast every morning from 8.00am for all students, with other food options also available. This is a great way for students to start the day with a proper breakfast and prepare for learning.

We are aware that some parents have raised concerns about the later timing of lunch this year. Please do encourage your child to have a good breakfast and to eat food that will keep them going throughout the morning. We have also noticed that some students are choosing to spend a large part of their lunch money at break time. While it is fine to have something small at break, it is important that they manage their accounts carefully and ensure they have enough left for a proper lunch.

Over the summer, we have made a number of improvements to the school site and facilities. I will be sharing a short video soon to show you some of the changes and how we are continuing to invest in the school environment.

As always, if you or your child need any support, please get in touch with our pastoral teams. We are here to help.

We are also very keen to continue working closely with our parent community. Your support is so important to your child's success, and we truly value our partnership with you.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the term.

Best wishes,

Mrs May
Headteacher

Road Safety

AA analysis has shown that more than 6,000 children under 16 were injured while walking or cycling on UK roads in 2023. As schools reopen, the AA is reminding drivers to stay alert to protect young people, advising them to reduce speed in school zones, and to park away from school gates and zigzag lines. Here's the [press release](#). For more information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 1

Thursday 18th Sept - Meet the Coach Evening
Wednesday 24th Sept - Yr 11 Parent Info Evening
Friday 26th Sept - Sponsored Walk
Thursday 2nd Oct - Yr 6 Open Evening (early school closure)
Friday 3rd Oct - INSET Day
Tuesday 7th - Thursday 9th Oct—Yr 6 Open Mornings
Friday 10th Oct - Friends Quiz Evening (TBC)
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

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

Student Equipment 2025-26

Dear Parents/Carers/Students,

Here is a list of the items that all students need for school. If students have 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.

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

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

RSHE Overview Term 1 - Years 7—9

In RSHE, students explore important topics that support their safety, wellbeing, and personal development. This term, our Year 7 students are the first cohort to benefit from a fantastic new Transition resource developed by East Sussex, designed to help them settle confidently into secondary school. Meanwhile, Years 8 and 9 are focusing on key aspects of healthy relationships.

Please see below for an outline of the KS3 lesson content for Term 1.

Year 7 - Transition

- Resilience, emotions, expressing yourself, relationships and managing conflict.

Year 8 - Relationships

- Role models, healthy and unhealthy behaviours, harmful behaviours, gangs and exploitation, families and parenting, capacity to consent.

Year 9 - Relationships

- Stereotyping, assumptions, consent, boundaries, body image, and values.

Rewards

At Willingdon, we believe it is important to recognise and celebrate the achievements, effort, and ambition of our students. Rewards play a key role in encouraging positive learning habits, strengthening our school community, and motivating students to do their very best.

Students will be recognised for their hard work and commitment in the following ways:

Hot Chocolate with the Head- taking place with Mrs May and the other senior leaders, where students will enjoy a special reward for their outstanding effort and hard work.

Treats with the Team - continuing weekly, celebrating the students who have the top rewards points from the previous week.

Ambition Afternoon Tea - we will be holding afternoon teas to celebrate students who show outstanding ambition in their learning throughout the year.

Rewards Assemblies - held throughout the year where students can receive their certificates and badges based on their total awarded reward points.

We are looking forward to celebrating the many achievements of our students in the weeks ahead and continue to build on our strong culture of recognition at Willingdon.

Reward Point Mile Stones

Reward	Points value
Bronze	250
Silver	500
Gold	750
Platinum	1000
Diamond	1500

MESSAGE FROM KIER STARMER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Across England, millions of children and families are beginning a new school year.

As a father of two, I know well the pride and joy of watching your children grow up. But I also understand how juggling parenthood, work and other responsibilities can sometimes be difficult especially when the cost-of-living is still tough, childcare is expensive, and your time is tight.

Supporting families is at the heart of our Plan for Change. Over the past year we have started to deliver the change promised – new help designed to make your life easier and give your children the best possible start.

We are making high quality childcare more affordable by introducing 30 hours of government-funded childcare during term time, from the end of parental leave to the start of primary school, saving an average working parent up to £7,500 per year – money that stays in your pocket for your family's needs.

We are making family life easier too, with hundreds of school-based nursery places opening this September, and thousands more to come. This means more families can access government-funded childcare and perhaps manage with just one school run in the morning. This comes alongside expanding wraparound childcare available to you outside of school hours, including a free Best Start Breakfast Club which we will be rolling out in every primary school.

We are proud to build on the legacy of Sure Start through our Best Start Family Hubs, a growing network of welcoming spaces. Families can access a wide range of support and services to make the journey of being a parent a little easier – from expert advice on feeding your baby to how to support your toddler's learning and development at home.

Of course, this is just the beginning. This government will keep building support for you and your family to help make parenting easier and ensure no child's background dictates what they go on to achieve. I know that this is also a priority for local MPs and councils, who can provide more information about what is available in your area. I encourage you to get in touch with them directly.

To find out more about the support available to you and your family, including free breakfast clubs, eligibility for childcare offers, Best Start Family Hubs in your area and support with your child's early health and learning, visit our new site that brings this all together in one place: www.BestStartinLife.gov.uk

I also wanted to thank you, the parents and carers, and the grandparents, as well as the childminders, early educators, teachers and health workers, for all you do to give children the best start in life.

Nothing will stop me in my mission to back families like yours through our Plan for Change, to build a better future for you, for your children, and for Britain.

All best wishes,

Keir Starmer



Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

It was wonderful to welcome Year 11 students back today. They listened attentively and maturely throughout this morning's assembly, where we shared lots of important information about the year and term ahead.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sending out further details about college Open Evenings, our Exam Information Evening, and other key events, so please do keep an eye on your emails. As we shared with students earlier, it is such a busy but exciting time ahead and we hope that they take every opportunity afforded to them.

For now, we'd just like to remind you of your child's coach contact details, and highlight where any changes have been made from Year 10 should you need to make contact for any advice:

10MDU → 11MDU overseen by Mrs Angella-Foyle mangella-foyle@willingdonschool.org.uk (Mon-Thur) and Ms Arnold (Fri) harnold@willingdonschool.org.uk

10JBR → 11CHO overseen by Mr Honey choney@willingdonschool.org.uk

10MET → 11MET overseen by Mrs Elliott melliott@willingdonschool.org.uk

10SCR → 11RGA overseen by Mr Gardner (Mon-Thur) rgardner@willingdonschool.org.uk and Mr Osborne (Fri) posborne@willingdonschool.org.uk

10DMC → 11DMC overseen by Mr McGough dmcgough@willingdonschool.org.uk

10MJE → 11MJE overseen by Mrs Jenkins-Daynes mjenkins@willingdonschool.org.uk

10CAT → 11CAT overseen by Miss Attrill cattrill@willingdonschool.org.uk

10JHA → 11JHA overseen by Mrs Hardwick jhardwick@willingdonschool.org.uk

Should you need to contact Mr Cain (Head of Year 11) or Ms Taylor (Pastoral Support Lead), please use the Pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk address.

We look forward to working with you for the year ahead and sharing the Year 11 journey and all that is has to offer.

The Year 11 Team



Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 10

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

We are delighted to share that Year 10 have made an excellent start to their Key Stage 4 journey. On Friday, our first day back, students engaged positively and demonstrated real focus and commitment in their lessons. During lesson walk-throughs, it was wonderful to see such strong levels of engagement and enthusiasm for learning.

Attendance on the first day was very good, and we would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day. Consistent attendance is vital for success at Key Stage 4, and together we can help your child make the very best progress.

We look forward to building on this strong start and working closely with you to support your child throughout this important stage of their education.

Coaching groups for Year 10:

10PHI – Mr Higgins

10DLE – Miss Leonard

10LCN – Miss Connelly/ Miss Pennington (Monday & Wednesday)

10GEL – Mr Ellwood/ Mrs Childerley (Monday & Thursday)

10AME – Mr Merridue

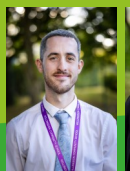
10ARA – Mr Ratcliffe

10PHA – Mrs Harrison

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday for their first full week back at school and starting more of their new option subjects.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

The Year 10 Team



Head of Year
Mr Keast / Ms Johnson

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We were incredibly excited and proud to see our new Year 9 this morning! They looked extremely smart in their uniforms during assembly. We have a very exciting year ahead with Year 9 starting the options process, we are in no doubt that they are set to have a very successful year.

The Year 9 Team



Head of Year

Mr Roche

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Welcome back to a new term at Willingdon. I am so pleased that Year 8 has begun on such a positive note. The children arrived today on time, and we achieved 98% attendance, a fantastic start! Students are in the correct uniform and well equipped for school, which sets an excellent example for the term ahead.

This morning began with a variety of assemblies and ice-breaking sessions with tutors to help students settle back in. Since then, they have had three lessons and conducted themselves impeccably. I am very proud of the way they have started and look forward to the term ahead.

A couple of dates for your diaries: in three weeks' time, we will hold our Sponsored Walk. More details will be announced very soon. Throughout the year, I will also be providing lots of opportunities for students to gain rewards and receive recognition for their achievements.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Turner, our new PSL for Year 8. Many students already know her from last year, and she has now joined us full-time. She has settled into the role brilliantly, and I know she will be a huge support to the year group.

I am really looking forward to working with the Year 8 team and students over the coming year.

Kind regards,

Mr Roche

Head of Year 8



Head of Year

Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Welcome to our Year 7s!

They have had a fantastic start, and we are so impressed how they came in yesterday. Equipment and uniform have all been amazing, as has their focus and respect shown in lessons.

Please be aware, from Monday students will be bringing home their 1st recall booklet. This is to be completed every night, with the students simply recalling what they have covered in each lesson that day and any key words. The rationale behind this is that there is evidence students are more successful in retaining information learnt, if they can recall it for a second time. This will make up this term's Homework – along with Maths and English, which will be only subjects giving homework this term.

Please can I ask you to support your child, by spending time every night completing this homework. From Term 2, your child will be getting homework from all subjects, so it is important to build these good habits now.

Have a lovely and restful weekend.

The Year 7 Team

Careers Page

YEARS 10 & 11

The Open Days for DV8 Sussex will take place on the following dates and times at their Brighton and Bexhill Campuses.

Wednesday 8th October 5pm - 7pm

Saturday 11th October 10am - 12am

The Open Days are a great opportunity to experience the different courses available at DV8 Sussex . You will have the opportunity to ask questions, meet their specialist industry tutors who will show you around their facilities and provide a fun taster of what it is like to study with them.

If you cannot attend these dates, and would like to arrange a visit, please contact them on the numbers below. Their offices are open Monday - Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm.

☎ 01273 550432 (Brighton)

☎ 01424 213890 (Bexhill)

For more information on the college, and the various courses available, please visit their website:
<https://www.dv8sussex.com/>

YEARS 9—11

Please see below information regarding work experience opportunities with the NHS.

These are being offered to students age 14 and above and will take place in the school holidays. Applications for the October half term cohort are now live and can be made on the following link:

<https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/about-us/get-involved/work-experience#:~:text=We%20run%20a%20work%20experience,us%20can%20be%20very%20fulfilling.>

Work Experience

Join us to find out more about careers within the NHS



Are you aged 14 or older?

Are you keen to find out about the many roles available in the NHS?

We would like to invite you to join us for our work experience (WEx) events where you will get the opportunity to see how you could part of the NHS.

We are keen to show you how your career pathway could look by offering varied placements across our teams to help offer insights into shaping your future careers.

Previous work experience

We successfully held our first Work Experience event in July 2025 with over 27 students from all over Sussex taking part.

WEx students had placements in various teams including psychology, finance, digital, communications and physiotherapy.



What to do next

Head over to our website to find out more and complete an application form.

You can access the application form here

Please ensure you check the dates with your diaries as we hold our work experience during school holidays.

We would love to hear from you, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Dates for your diary

27 - 31 October 2025

[Applications open 1 – 15 September](#)

16 - 20 February 2025


27 - 31 July 2025

[Link direct to our WEX webpages](#)

Spft.wex@nhs.net

[SussexPartnership.nhs.uk](https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

New! JUNIOR GYM

 HAMPDEN PARK SPORTS CENTRE



waveactive

Do you need somewhere to get fitter, exercise at your own pace and be within a friendly and controlled environment?

Join our very own Junior Gym where our instructor offers advice and coaching along the way.!

STARTING 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025

WEDNESDAYS



3:00PM –
4:00PM



4:00PM –
5:00PM

AGES 13-16 YEARS

ONLY £2.50!

Please bring appropriate exercise clothes & footwear as well as a water bottle.



www.waveactive.org



sporteastbourne@waveactive.org



01323 509859