



# CONTACT

Terms 3 & 4 2022

## April

**Fri 1st - END OF TERM**

**4 / School closes at  
12.30pm**

**Tue 19th - START OF  
TERM 5**

**Fri 29th—Charity Nepal  
Quiz Night**

## May

**Mon 2nd - BANK  
HOLIDAY**

**w/c Mon 9th - Year 10  
Work Experience**

**w/c Mon 16th - GCSE  
Exams start / Year 8 End  
of Year Assessments**

**Fri 27th - END OF TERM  
5**

## June

**Mon 6th - START OF  
TERM 6/ Year 9 End of  
Year Assessments**

**Thu 9th - Year 10  
Parent's Evening**

**Tues 14th - KS3 Awards  
Evening**

**Mon 20th - Year 10  
Mocks all week**

## July

**Fri 1st—Year 11 Prom**

**Mon 11th - Year 7-9  
reports issued**

**Thur 14th - Phoenix  
Festival**

**w/c Mon 18th - Morfa  
Bay/Year 7/8 Camp**

**Wed 20th - Year 10  
Reports issued /  
Activities Day**

**Thu 21st - Activities Day**

**Fri 22nd - END OF TERM  
6 - SCHOOL CLOSSES  
12.30PM**

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Thursday, we enjoyed our Upper School Prize Evening in person for the first time in 2 years. It was wonderful to have some of our past Year 11 students return to celebrate their successes from the previous year. To hear how brilliantly they are getting on made us all beam with pride that we helped these students have the very best start to their future educational and career pathways. Well done to all of our prize winners and we look forward to our Lower School Prize Evening in July 2022. Details will be confirmed shortly.

We are saddened to announce the retirement of Mrs Fionnuala Rodgers who has been with us for over 26 years. Mrs Rodgers became our Deputy in my first year of headship and as many of you know, she took up the acting headship role when I went on maternity leave twice. She has always been an inspirational Art teacher who loves her subject and has helped deliver GCSE results in the top five per cent of the country for the past five years running. She has also been an exceptional leader, holding strategic overview of teaching and learning as well as continual professional development across the school. We know she will be looking forward to visiting her family in New Zealand and more regular visits to her hometown of Donegal. We would like to thank her for her kindness, support and leading by example in everything that she ever did. She will be so sorely missed.

Mrs Townsend Smith and Miss Walters have both stepped up to be our Senior Deputy Headteachers, deputising for me in any time of absence. We also welcome Mr Paul Holt who joins us as a Deputy Head from Lewes Priory School. Mr Holt will be introducing Latin to our curriculum for Year 7 in September and will be leading on curriculum, timetable and the options process for 2023. We will also be welcoming Mr Jake Lambert from mid June who joins us as Assistant Headteacher from Hailsham Community College. Mr Lambert is a History specialist and will be leading Teaching and Learning alongside our literacy strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 11 for their continued efforts towards their final exams. Their commitment to their studies is commendable. They are working so hard, many attending morning interventions, lunchtime clubs and after school sessions. I hope they focus on taking a break this Easter to ensure they have some rest time before the start of exams in Term 5. There are a number of Easter interventions aimed at helping and supporting some students to catch up if they have fallen behind. Mr Gordon will be sharing the timetable shortly. I also would like to say that 100% of our Year 11 have planned their future destinations, which is an incredible achievement already and represents how ambitious this year group are.

Continued on next page...

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your continued support. This year has possibly been the most challenging of all years for staff. We have suffered more staff absence than at any other time in the pandemic. We have been determined not to close to support our student and parent body, however, this has involved staff taking on many cover lessons and duties to ensure the student body were safe and given a good education. I would like to thank staff for their hard work and always prioritising the needs of the students.

I appreciate that communication is key to an effective relationship with our parent body. If ever you do not receive a reply to an email, please ensure you do email [talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk) My senior team monitor this email account and will ensure responses are made efficiently and effectively for you. You all play such an important role in your child's education and we do very much value our partnership with you. We might not always get it right, but we are always happy to admit when we have got it wrong and will continuously strive to do the very best by every child.

We have attached below a Google form for you to complete on Parents' Evenings going forward. We are very interested to know whether parents would welcome a return to in-person sessions. We are also interested in your views on whether it is necessary to meet with all staff at a Parents Evening. As you are aware, some of our staff teach over 100 students within a year group. They are only able to fit in 40 appointments to any one evening. We welcome parent feedback on how we can make the evening work as effectively as possible for our parent body.

[Parents' Evening Questionnaire](#)

Have a wonderful Easter all.



Mrs May, Headteacher



Mr Jake Lambert

Assistant Headteacher



Mr Paul Holt

Deputy Headteacher

## Change to the Structure of the Day after Easter

- 8:30-9:20 – Lesson 1
- 9:20-10:10 – Lesson 2
- 10:10-10:35 – Tutor time
- 10:35-10:55 – Break
- 10:55- 11:45 – Lesson 3
- 11:45-12:35 – Lesson 4
- 12:35 – 1:20 – Lunch
- 1:20-2:10 – lesson 5
- 2:10-3 – Lesson 6



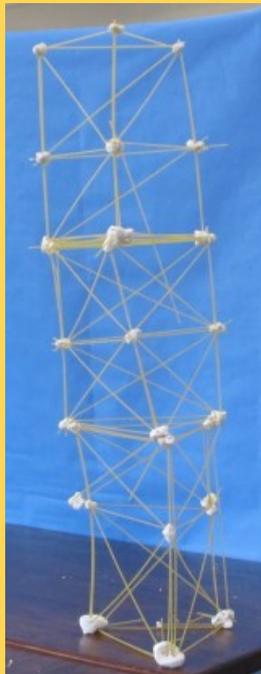
The Local Authority is responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for local authority maintained schools. Foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools and academies are responsible for setting their own term dates.

East Sussex County Council is consulting on a draft proposal for school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2023/2024. We would like to hear the views of schools, parents/carers, and other key stakeholders on the proposed dates before they are finalised and published. The consultation opened on 18 March 2022 and will run until 28 April 2022. All comments must be received by this date.

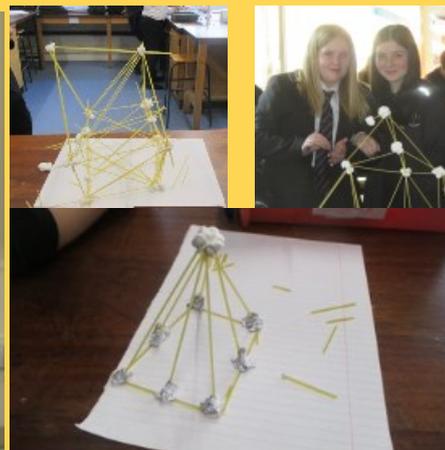
The consultation can be viewed on the Council's [Consultation Hub](#) or at the link <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/copy-of-es-school-term-and-holiday-dates-2023-2024>

# Science News

## Science Week



The Science challenge was to design and build a tower out of dried spaghetti and marshmallows. There were some amazing creations.



gcse science  
**live!**

A group of Year 9 and 10 students recently attended the Science Live 2022 show in Brighton. This is a fantastic event run to inspire and enthuse students in the field of Science. The event took place at the Brighton Dome and we attended lectures throughout the day. The schedule was made up of eminent scientists discussing their work and research. The talks enabled the students to see first hand how science can drive progress in a range of fields from future energy production to chocolate development!



The talks were very informative and the students were given the opportunity to ask questions directly to the scientists. Willingdon was very willing to contribute to the discussions and lots of questions were raised by our students.

The scientists talking included, Professor Winston - human fertility specialist, Professor Steve Jones - Geneticist, Dr Anna Ploszajski - Material scientist, Dr Helen Czerski - Oceanographer and Dr Kate Lancaster – Nuclear Fusion Researcher.

There was also a GCSE Examiner to give the students some top tips for exam success.

The Day was very enjoyable and all the students were all brilliant from the start of the day to a rather delayed homeward journey!

*Mrs Ellis*

# English News



World Book Day – well done to all of the students who took part and enjoyed becoming detectives to solve the Murder in the Library during the week of World Book Day – following clues and checking suspects!



We have created a beautiful display with some of our students' excellent arts and crafts on show in our library.



## Southern School's Book Awards

Students took part this year, reading five selected short listed novels. We then had the opportunity to attend the awards evening at Hurstpierpoint College, where students could hear directly from the authors. Our students voted for *Lock the Doors* as our winner with *Tsunami Girl* in second place. On the evening itself, we were thrilled when *Lock the Doors* won and Vincent Ralph found this an emotional experience. *When We Were Lost* was the runner up. It was interesting for students to hear the authors reflect on their character choices and the stories that inspired them – especially when they wanted to create characters that reflected themselves. Chris Riddell kept spirits high, and everyone on their toes, as he sketched reflections of the novels content and the author's reactions. We then had the opportunity to meet the authors along with Chris – an experience our students will never forget. Well done to all who took part and I hope you enjoy Carnegie Shadowing which starts in April.



# English News



## #inmyshoesWCS empathy reading challenge

This year KS3 students have been developing their empathy skills by reading a range of diverse texts and exploring how these help us to see life from someone else's perspective. KS3 students have more than 2100 books registered on their challenge, explored more than 50 emotions when empathising with characters and have taken part in more than 1700 reading conversations.

It is great to see so many more students reading a wider range of authors. Click [here](#) and then click 'present' to view the books currently listed on our empathy challenge that are all available in the school library. You can click on the book covers to find out more information about the texts. Students can also suggest other texts that have helped them to develop their empathy skills. A fantastic way to build ideas for our library stock.



## Could you help to give the gift of reading to Year 7 and 8 students in September?

Thank you to all who have made contributions to the Friends of Willingdon Bookbuzz fund on parent pay. This year we were able to allow all Year 7 and 8 students to take part thanks to the generous donations from our community. It is fantastic to see students reading these books and discussing them with their peers.

We are currently fundraising to give the gift of reading to next year's students. So far, your donations mean we can support 60 students in Year 7 and 8 to take part in Bookbuzz, where students choose their own book to keep from a fantastic range selected by the Book Trust. If you would like to make a £3 donation to the Friends of Willingdon to support reading for next year's cohort of readers, please go to parent pay and look for Bookbuzz.



# PE News

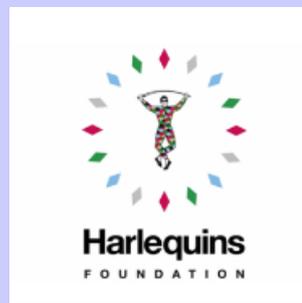
Congratulations to Poppy Thomas in Year 11 and Rosie Delgado-Howell in Year 8 for their fantastic efforts at the Sussex Schools Cross Country in Brighton in January. The course was very challenging, with 200 competitors in each race. Poppy came 55<sup>th</sup> and Rosie came 19<sup>th</sup>, meaning she had qualified to represent Sussex in February, which is amazing! We are very proud of both girls for all of their hard work, commitment and resilience when training for such a tough race! I would also like to thank their families for taking them to compete allowing them to represent the school.



Congratulations to Abi Urban, Year 10 who competed in the Southern Zonal Trampoline competition, in Somerset. She came 15<sup>th</sup> out of 30 in the second round of the competition. The standard was exceptionally high and consisted of 400 trampolinists from all across the South of England. The PE department are very proud of Abi's achievements, particularly her commitment to training and travelling such a distance to represent Willingdon Community School!



In February half term, the very talented Gracie-May, Year 10, performed at the Eastbourne Performing Arts Festival, winning the highest score over 7 solos & winning the age 14 Aggregate Trophy, 3 Golds, 1 Silver & 1 Bronze medal! A fantastic achievement! Congratulations, we are very proud Gracie-May.



Congratulations to Year 10 student Oscar for being selected into the Harlequins Rugby DPP Pathway during the February half term! A fantastic achievement and well-deserved. Keep up the hard work Oscar.

# PE News



## Schools Partnership Final

Congratulations to the Year 7 football team that have made it into the Schools Partnership Final. Willingdon put in a great performance to beat Cavendish 1-0 in a tough game in the semi final.



Congratulations to the Year 11 football team that have made it into the Schools Partnership Final. Willingdon put in an outstanding performance to beat a very strong Cavendish team 5-2 in the semi final.

## Dance Show at the Congress Theatre

25 students from Years 7, 9, and 10 were picked to be part of a dance show at the Congress Theatre this term. They have worked incredibly hard over the past 2 months coming to rehearsals twice a week and during lunchtimes. The piece Toxic was choreographed by Miss Page who did a brilliant job.

We are so proud of their achievement and would like to thank Miss Page for all her hard work. Well done to all the students involved. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm for dance. We hope Dance will continue to be inclusive and encourage all students to enjoy and take part in.



Congratulations to Ewan Delgado-Howell, Rosie Delgado-Howell and Ben Wright for their fantastic commitment to the Sussex Schools Cross Country competitions. In the whole of Sussex, Rosie was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Ewan 8<sup>th</sup> and Ben 5<sup>th</sup>! This is outstanding achievements from all students, showing amazing resilience in such a top level competition. The PE department would also like to thank the parents for taking their children to these competitions to ensure they could represent Willingdon Community School.

# Music News

The new music room is now a professional rehearsal space for GCSE music students. Willingdon students are enjoying using this in lessons and as an after-school space to practice. Year 10 are currently curating their own concert that will be for friends and family on May 25<sup>th</sup>. They have full autonomy over all of it, from content to visuals, to working with the site team on logistics, ticket design, production and stage management. Here they are rehearsing, the band are working on 'Feeling Good' by Nina Simone and the duo learning jazz standard 'Cry Me A River' by Arthur Hamilton. We also have incredible pieces from Encanto, ACDC and the list goes on.



Meanwhile the French pop song and video is coming together for the big French Pop Song competition, good luck Year 8!



# Music News

Sometimes all Year 8 need is a Year 10 mentor. Well done Year 10, you were great teachers.



The music department is full to the brim during lunch times, every room taken. Just how we like it! There is so much talent here!

## Summer Term Music Clubs

| MUSIC                       | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Lunchtime Practice rooms    | Year 7 only  | Year 8 only  | Year 9 only  | Year 10 only                                       |
| Lunchtime clubs             | KS3 Homework drop in                               |  | ALL KS3 The Big Sing                               | ALL KS3 Ukulele Orchestra                          |
| After school clubs          | ALL KS3 MAC CLUB imovie, Sonic Pi and Garageband   |  |  | ALL KS3 Willingdon School Band                     |
| After school Practice rooms | Open to ALL must be pre-arranged with your teacher | Open to ALL must be pre-arranged with your teacher | Open to ALL must be pre-arranged with your teacher | Open to ALL must be pre-arranged with your teacher |
| After school MU4 3-4pm      | KS4  | KS4  | KS4  | KS4  |

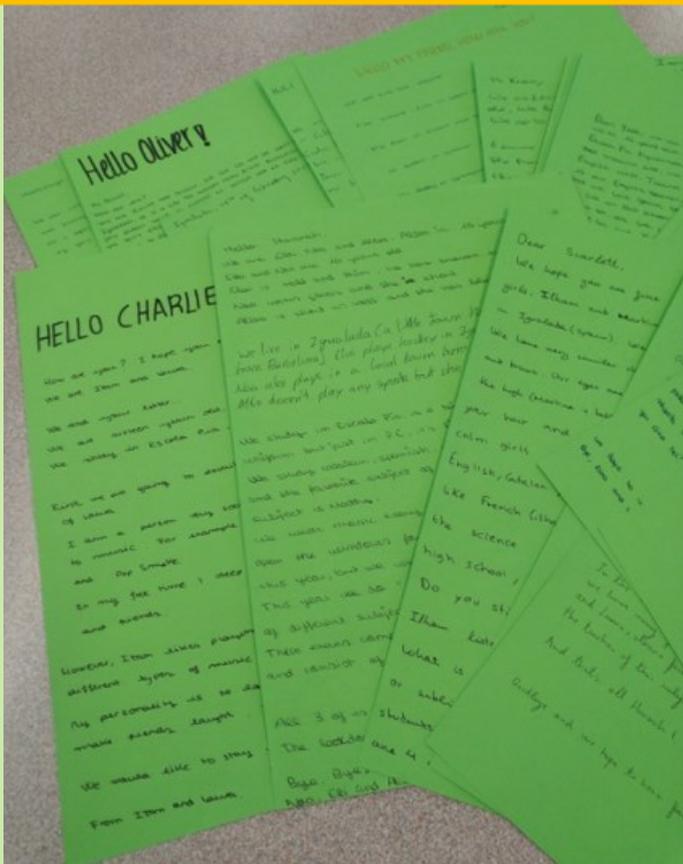
# MFL News

Our Spanish partner school featuring Willingdon in their Open evening....



Spanish exchange  
Escola Pia- Igualda/ Barcelona

Year 11 have received their first letter 😊

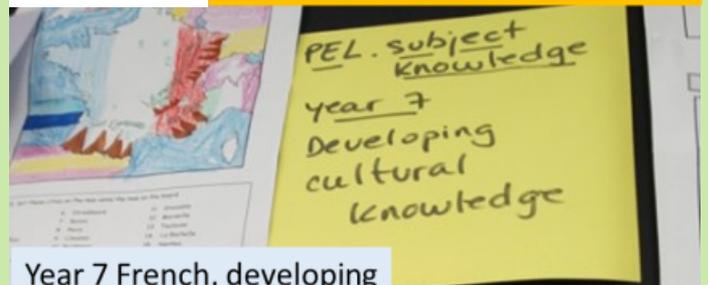


Another very successful term for the language department where students had the opportunity to engage with their Spanish partners in Barcelona via letters and Zoom. Year 7 students successfully switch from Spanish to French and embraced the challenge. Year 8 French students are working hard to enter a national singing competition in partnership with the music department! Fingers crossed we make it to the final!

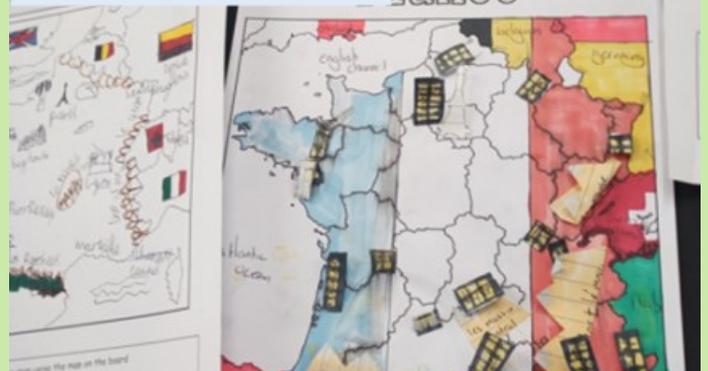
*Mrs Philibert-Lockyer*



Year 9 student had their first Zoom meeting with their Spanish pen pals, asking and answering questions in both languages. This was a fantastic challenge for our students you practised their language skills "live".



Year 7 French, developing cultural and geographical knowledge.



Year 7 French engaged in the famous one pen, on dice translation game.



# MFL News

Year 8 French students have been rehearsing hard their French song to enter **The French Pop Video Competition** which will be submitted to the **Institut Français** on Friday. Well done and Bonne chance!!



**INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS**  
ROYAUME-UNI

# Fundraising for Nepal



© UNICEF/PFPG2015  
-3197/Panday -  
School girl (13) holds  
a book that she  
found among the  
rubble of a destroyed  
school in one of the  
severely earthquake-  
affected districts in  
Nepal.

In April 2015, a large 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal. 9000 people were killed with thousands more injured mainly due to the 600,000 structures in and around Kathmandu that were destroyed or damaged. This included up to 80% of schools.



In July 2022, Willingdon are supporting the trip of a lifetime for 21 students who will spend two weeks helping to build

back classrooms that were destroyed in the earthquake. All of the money raised will go to the building project which works mainly in the more rural areas outside Kathmandu. This includes hiring local builders, engineers and masons and working together as a group to rebuild facilities returning education to a generation of children. They will also be teaching basic English to support education and raise children's confidence and providing fun activities for the children.

Every penny we raise will be used directly to support these communities and we are very grateful for every penny that people are able to contribute.. If you are able to give, we have set up a Just Giving Page or via Parent Pay for fundraising events [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-collins-709?utm\\_id=1&utm\\_term=WD3mKmRkD](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-collins-709?utm_id=1&utm_term=WD3mKmRkD)

# Fundraising for Nepal



# Willingdon



COMMUNITY SCHOOL PRESENTS

## Fundraising Quiz Night



Raising money for our School Team 2022 travelling to Nepal who will be rebuilding school classrooms in rural areas still damaged from the 2015 earthquake. All proceeds going towards building costs. You can also donate via our JustGiving page

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-collins-709?utm\\_id=1&utm\\_term=WD3mKmRkD](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-collins-709?utm_id=1&utm_term=WD3mKmRkD)

**Friday 29th April.**

**Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start**

**Ticket Price includes table nibbles. £5 per adult, £3 per child.  
Maximum 8 team members per table. Book your table via ParentPay (use the notes section for team name and number of players) or email [lcollins@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:lcollins@willingdonschool.org.uk) including team name and number of players**

**There will be a raffle and various goodies on sale including drinks and snacks so do please bring some extra money and your game brain for great family evening out!**

# Fundraising for Nepal



**Willingdon**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



## SWIMATHON



Raising money for our School Team 2022 travelling to Nepal who will be rebuilding schools classrooms in rural areas still damaged from the 2015 earthquake. All proceeds going towards building costs.

In acknowledgement of the greatest mountain on Earth —our intrepid team (plus any daring family supporters!) are going to swim the height up and down Mount Everest—at 8849 metres that's a lot of lengths!! They'll be using the money to represent Willingdon Community in Nepal. If you can, please do sponsor our team on Parent Pay! Or via our JUST GIVING page.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-collins-709?  
utm\\_id=1&utm\\_term=WD3mKmRkD](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucy-collins-709?utm_id=1&utm_term=WD3mKmRkD)

Thank you to Eastbourne College School for the loan of their state-of-the-art swimming pool. Event will be held at Eastbourne College on Saturday 30th April. Old Wish Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4JY 9.30am start—12.45pm.

# Careers Fair

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 80 Year 10 students attended a careers fair at Eastbourne Sports Park and had the opportunity to meet with the following exhibitors:

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| East Sussex College Group         | Brighton University                |
| Bexhill College                   | Brighton & Sussex Medical School   |
| Plumpton College                  | Institute for Contemporary Theatre |
| Gildredge House                   | JTL Training                       |
| Seaford Head 6 <sup>th</sup> Form | Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge |
| DV8                               | ESCC Adult Social Care             |
| BHASVIC                           | Eastbourne Borough Council         |
| The Military Preparation College  | East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service  |
| University of Sussex              | Army                               |
| McDonalds                         | Drusillas                          |



# Celebration of Success

Last week saw the return of our annual Upper School Prize Evening, with a packed hall full of students and families, the evening was hosted by two of our current Year 11's.

Guest speaker, Steve Sallis, formally an academy footballer for Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club for 8 years, gave a very inspirational and motivational talk about self belief and success.

It was lovely to see students return as young adults, who had left us last year. Many preparations and organisation went in to the evening. Musical performances by our current Year 10 & 11 were sensational, it was beautiful to listen to. Congratulations to all of our prize winners. A fantastic evening of celebration.



# Amazing Job!

One of our students 'saved' an elderly woman's life after he heard her in distress from his bedroom window. Charlie Higgins, who is a student here at Willingdon Community School, rang an ambulance on the night of Sunday, January 23, after hearing the woman in pain. "I could hear her moaning and she sounded in pain." Charlie rang the ambulance and raised the alarm. His family are really proud of him, as are we all at Willingdon. He took it really seriously. "The paramedics said that if he hadn't raised the alarm she could have died. We are extremely lucky to have such a caring young man here at Willingdon and we couldn't be prouder.



## Most oversubscribed Secondary School in East Sussex

Thank you to our students for being amazing role models and to our staff for working so hard to make us a school which so many wish to go to. Please visit our social media pages to follow the link to read about the most oversubscribed schools in East Sussex.

## ESCAPE Club

Every Wednesday  
after school.

Find us in the school dining hall.

Toasties & fun &  
games.

Everyone welcome!



# TEENAGE HELPLINE



Helpline and online support and advice for young people, including relationships & sexuality, education, careers & mental health

<https://www.teenagehelpline.org.uk/>

Like us on Facebook to receive news & updates :

[www.facebook.com/Willingdon-Community-School](http://www.facebook.com/Willingdon-Community-School)



Willingdon's on Twitter! We now have 1,450 Followers!

Follow @WillingdonCS on Twitter for updates, information and to celebrate students achievements!



*"Congratulations to the Yr 10/11 Rugby Team Who competed in the School Partnership Rugby Competition on last week. The team played some fantastic rugby and were unbeaten during the event, beating tough opposition in Lewes Priory School 25-5 in the final to win the competition!"*

*"Yr 10 are rehearsing like mad for their May concert for parents and friends. They are curating, managing, planning, and staging it themselves."*

*"Phew, what a busy last couple of weeks in the music department, Yr 11 have been recording the last few pieces of coursework. What a professional bunch of musicians. We even have complex polyrhythmic tap dancing being recorded as part of a composition."*

A reminder that part of the basic equipment needed in KS3 includes a basic set of colouring pencils.

Homework tasks set for KS3 will require coloured pencils so please could you ensure that your child has access to some to fully engage in the art curriculum.

If there are any issues please do not hesitate to get in contact with Miss Aguir.

You can raise FREE donations for Willingdon Community School EVERY time you shop online. Just use [#easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com)! Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! Please support us!



When you shop @AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to Friends Of Willingdon Community School. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1154283-0>



[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)



After a long period of inactivity due to Covid, we are relaunching the Friends of Willingdon. We have raised loads of money in the past to support the current students. We are looking for more volunteers to join our merry band. If you are interested, please contact us on [friends@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:friends@willingdonschool.org.uk)

We will respond as soon as possible. We will not judge. We care about you and your wellbeing.

**YOU CAN SPEAK TO ANY MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM, YOU CAN IDENTIFY THEM BY THE PINK LANYARD**

[Talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:Talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk)

This email address will be monitored by the Safeguarding Team, during the school week, at weekends & during school holidays