

Parent Bulletin

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Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

10th May 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Our GCSE examinations have now started for Year Eleven and the staff and governors wish every Year 11 the very best of luck. We had an assembly on Tuesday with Willingdon colour cupcakes to celebrate their hard work. A separate letter with instructions will come out later today for parents. Please read carefully the section about exams. There is clear legislation around collection of results and we often get last minute calls or emails in the holidays to sort different time collection. We need to get this done sooner as a community to help the exams team.

Year 10 start their work experience on Monday and staff are looking forward to visiting the students and seeing them thrive. This can often be a pivotal moment in a child's school career. They start to identify what they like or actually don't like having tried it! We often find Year 10 come back with a greater thirst for learning and clearer focus.

Year 9 students should all have their options letter confirming the choices. We can't please everyone but the options team have worked so hard to get as many first choices as possible. Any questions, please do contact pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

We have the Year 7 Positive Progress Evening fast approaching. If there is any teacher you aren't able to see, please do contact them by email to arrange a call or a meeting for another time. We have created the hybrid model of in person appointments and then online as parent voice was so split. We will review this later in Term 5 for the new academic year. We have no preference, we are trying to meet the needs of all of our parents.

Year 8 have been demonstrating excellent engagement across their lessons. Some of these activities can be seen on our school Facebook page. Particular credit goes to Year 8 English, where students have been developing their oracy skills through debate.

We are fast approaching the deadline day for teacher resignations. We face a difficult time in teaching with a recruitment crisis particularly in subjects like science and maths. However, the community and local area have now seen this spread to other subjects. We need to look after the staff we have as we are so lucky to have such subject expertise within our school. We also have staff committed to the wellbeing and nurture of our children. Staff and ourselves as leaders don't always get it right but that's being a human and we need to model to our children that's it's okay to make mistakes. It's how you respond to that which is important. We must work hard, together in partnership, if we are to be as successful as possible for the young people in our community.

We are keen to reach out to our parent body and I have personally contacted many from the parental survey to seek further clarification or guidance to fully understand the parent perspective. I would like to thank the parents that have spoken or are meeting me as the feedback has been really valuable and will help us understand your perspective on things more going forward. We have had so much positive feedback which is lovely to hear and an interesting comment which said that possibly 1000 of our community didn't manage to complete the survey because they are actually satisfied with what we are doing. I hope that's the case but we never want to assume this. I'm interested in the parents too who feel frustrations at the school. We want to work with you and I urge you to work with us. I will give parents more on an insight to the feedback from other parents next week and how we will look to address anything that is causing tension. We will also think about ways to communicate better with you as the Parent Forums are not well attended. We need to do what works for you and staff are supportive of that. Here is the link again:

Parent Engagement and Communication

Finally, education is a topic that everyone has an opinion on and we embrace that. I think we have all had our own experiences which have shaped us from our own schooling - positive and negative. We are always receptive to feedback and are very lucky to have a diverse leadership team as well as a talented governing body who challenge one another and always have the best interests of our community in their hearts.

Have a great weekend.

Emily May
Headteacher

Key dates

May

13th - 17th Yr 10 Work Experience Week

16th - Yr 7 & 8 Disco

23rd - Yr 7 Positive Progress Evening

24th - End of Term 5

June

3rd - Start of Term 6

5th - Parent Forum

6th/7th - Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

13th - Yr 10 Positive Progress Evening

17th - Yr 10 College Taster Day - Lewes

18th - Yr 10 Concert

19th - Town Sports Athletics

19th - Yr 6 Lone Taster Day

20th - Yr 7 & 8 - Big Bang Fair

24th - Yr 10 Taster Day - Hastings

24th/25th - Yr 10 College Taster Day Seaford Head

26th - Yr 6 Meet the Tutor Evening

27th - Yr 10 Mock Interviews Workshop

July

1st - Yr 10 College Taster Day - Eastbourne

2nd - Yr 6 Taster Day (1)

3rd - Yr 6 Taster Day (2)

3rd - KS3 Prize Evening

5th - Yr 11 Prom

9th - Yr 6 Coffee Morning/Parent Forum

10th - Yr 10 Mock Interview Day

11th - Phoenix Festival

12th - Yr 10 Taster Day - BACA

15th/19th - Morfa Bay

23rd - End of Term 6—Early finish

YEAR 6 TRANSITION SUMMER SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 24TH - FRIDAY 26TH JULY

WILLINGDON SUMMER SCHOOL (YEARS 5 - 8)

MONDAY 29TH - FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST

£45PER DAY / £150 FULL WEEK

Our Student Leadership Team

This term the Senior Student Leaders, comprising Head Students, Deputy Head Students and Assistant Head Students have been working hard to upskill to better equip them in supporting and leading our school student community. They have completed a series of training already with more to come! Mrs Beddows worked with them on Event Management as they look towards supporting the Year 7 and 8 discos this term and also the Phoenix Festival in Term 6. They have completed a training session on Racial Diversity organising a number of projects to improve diversity in the school's representation. This week they spent a day with our outside providers working on mental health. The course content covered a range of issues including how to spot the signs, how to signpost people for support and the different causes and impacts of a range of mental health concerns. The course lasted for 4 hours and involved an assessment at the end. We are delighted that the cohort **all achieved 100%** in the final assessment gaining them each their certificate in Mental Health Awareness. This will really support their school projects around transition and peer mentoring as well as their future prospects as they apply for colleges and sixth forms. They have welcomed their new team of senior prefects and subject ambassadors and will begin the work of delegating activities so that every student in the school has opportunities to lead in areas that interest them.



School Choir

School Choir are preparing to sing some fun pieces at the Phoenix Festival.

All welcome.

Rehearsals: Tuesdays 3pm in MU2





**It's time
to put the 'fun' in
fundraising**

Thursday 16th May in the Main Hall
Year 7 disco 16.00–17.30pm
Year 8 disco 18.00–19.30pm

£5 ticket includes a drink and snack token. Please make payments by 12th May via ParentPay. (all tickets will be assigned in advance—none on the night)

We'll also have lots on sale on the night to raise money for the school fund including food and drinks, glow sticks and lots more! (*cash only, as we cannot take card payments on the night*).



HOW TO ACCESS OUR SCHOOL INSTAGRAM!



1^o STEP

WHEN YOU OPEN INSTAGRAM AND HAVE SIGNED IN, CLICK THE SEARCH ICON ON THE BAR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN.



2^o STEP

THIS WILL BRING YOU TO THE SEARCH PAGE. IN THE SEARCH BAR AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE, TYPE IN 'WILLINGDONCS'.



3^o STEP

THIS WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR SCHOOL'S INSTAGRAM PAGE, THE MAIN POSTS ARE DISPLAYED IN A GRID.



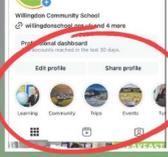
4^o STEP

OUR STORIES CAN BE ACCESSED BY PRESSING ON THE WILLINGDON ICON, THESE WILL INCLUDE DAILY UPDATES, OUTSTANDING LESSON WORK, POLLS AND COMMUNITY NEWS.



5^o STEP

STORIES LAST FOR 24 HOURS, SO TO VIEW PREVIOUS STORIES YOU CAN CLICK ON THE 'HIGHLIGHTS' WHICH ARE CATEGORISED.



6^o STEP

TO FOLLOW US, SIMPLY CLICK THE THE BLUE FOLLOW BUTTON ON THE PROFILE!



Year 7 disco

This will take place in the main hall on Thursday 16th May from 16.00pm - 17.30pm. Students should arrive at the main entrance to the school to sign in.

Year 8 disco

This will take place in the main hall on Thursday 16th May from 18.00 - 19.30pm. Students should arrive at the main entrance to the school to sign in.

All students will need to have pre-paid via ParentPay. The cost is £5 and includes a drink and snack. There are plenty more stalls with food and drinks offers plus glow sticks and other treats for them to buy should they wish to bring any cash with them - all the money raised will go towards the students' projects in school, (unfortunately we cannot take cards).

If the bus, train or coach is late, wait 20 minutes before going home or making your own way to school. Make sure you know what your parents or carers would like you to do if this happens.

Get on and off any vehicles carefully and let other passengers get off before you get on. When you get on, find a seat and stay in it for the whole journey. Use seatbelts if they are fitted. If there are no seats and you have to stand, move to allow others on the vehicle. Do not stand close to the driver and do not distract them.

If you are on a public bus, ring the bell once when you are near your stop, unless someone else has already rung it. Wait for the vehicle to fully stop before leaving and make sure you have all your belongings.

Behaviour

Treat everyone with respect, and follow instructions given by the driver and transport staff. If your behaviour on any transport is not what is expected, your school and the County Council may suspend or ban you from transport.

If you are told you are suspended or banned from travelling, it will be your parents' or carers' responsibility to get you to and from school. They will also be responsible for any damages or cleaning required as a result of your behaviour.

Bullying

Bullying of any kind will not be accepted on any transport, at any time. If you are being bullied or you see any bullying happening, tell someone you can trust as soon as possible. This could be a friend, teacher or family member. Stay calm and don't retaliate, make sure you keep a record of what happened. Listen and talk to your friends and support them if they are being bullied.

If you or someone you know is being bullied and would like advice, please speak to someone at your school or for more information visit our website at: eastsussex.gov.uk/bullying

Contacts and further information

Enquiries about entitlement to transport: Admissions and Transport Team

0300 330 9472

admissions@eastsussex.gov.uk

Enquiries about transport arrangements: Mainstream Transport Team

01273 335088

mainstream-transport.cts@eastsussex.gov.uk

Complaints or compliments: Compliance and Monitoring Team

01273 335577

compliance.cts@eastsussex.gov.uk

To plan your public transport journey:

traveline.info

More information is available on our website

Home to school transport information:

eastsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport

Bullying support and advice:

eastsussex.gov.uk/bullying

Lost Property:

For any enquiries about lost property please contact your transport operator.

Getting more copies of this leaflet

You can get our leaflets in a format to suit you. If you would prefer this information in an alternative format or language please ask us.



Home to school transport

Information for parents, carers and pupils

eastsussex.gov.uk

May 2024 24-25 011

Beach School East Sussex May Half term Club

Thursday 30th May 2024
Holywell Beach, Eastbourne

- Fires & marshmallows
- Rock pooling
- Games, crafts & fun

Find out more:



£28
Siblings £24

5-11 YEARS
10AM - 2PM

www.beachschooleastsussex.co.uk





Year
7

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Reward Success Criteria =
95% Attendance and above as a Year Group, for Term 5 & 6



If Year 7 meet their Year Group target they will all be rewarded with a trip to Chessington in Term 6!



Year
8

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE



Reward Success Criteria =
95% Attendance and above as a Year Group, for Term 5 & 6



If Year 8 meet their Year Group target they will all be rewarded with a trip to Chessington in Term 6!



Year
9

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Reward Success Criteria =
95% Attendance and above as a Year Group, for Term 5 & 6



If Year 9 meet their Year Group target they will all be rewarded with a trip to Thorpe Park in Term 6!



Year 9



SPEAKERS
for schools

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

FULLY FUNDED

VIRTUAL ✦
work experience



Summer Half-Term
28th - 30th May
Year 9 only!

Select 5 - 10 students interested in improving the lives of others! They will explore skills needed and careers available in a CARER themed placement.

- Placement is student-led: pupils will log in on individual devices and collaborate virtually with employers and pupils to complete a project brief over 3-days.
- Placement features: a virtual tour, Q+A and employer feedback.
- Placement is interactive and engaging throughout!
- [SIGN UP HERE](#) / [VISIT OUR WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO](#)



28th - 30th May 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (breaks included)

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH...

sadiyah.mir@speakersforschools.org

Careers

BrightMed

Applications for students to join the BrightMed programme here at BSMS are now open!

BrightMed is one of BSMS's widening participation programmes, working with students in Year 9 to Year 12 to increase awareness of what it takes to study medicine and healthcare subjects at university and pursue a career in medicine.

Students attend 4/5 in-person sessions on the University of Sussex campus, as well as a 4-day, 3-night Summer School in Year 12. These sessions cover a variety of medicine topics, with lectures from guest speakers, interactive activities, and study skills, all supported by current undergraduate medicine students at Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

Students must be currently in Years 8-11, living or studying in Sussex, and attending a state school to be able to participate in this programme. Spaces are limited on the programme and as such applicants will also have to meet additional criteria which can be found here: <https://www.bsms.ac.uk/about/info-for-schools-teachers-parents/widening-participation-to-medicine.aspx>

Please see the attached leaflet for more information, and do feel free to pass this to any interested students.

Applications close at 9am on Monday 15 July – the application form can be found here: <https://bit.ly/BrightMed2024>

If you or your students have any questions about the BrightMed programme, please contact outreach@bsms.ac.uk

Many thanks,

The BSMS Outreach Team

Zack Sizer

Widening Participation and Outreach Coordinator

Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Contact details

If you have any questions about the BrightMed programme please get in touch by emailing outreach@bsms.ac.uk



www.bsms.ac.uk

[@bsmsoutreach](https://twitter.com/bsmsoutreach)

Careers

Willingdon Community College are pleased to invite you to meet representatives from local further education providers

Monday May 20th

Students will have the opportunity to meet representatives during lunch or after school 3-4pm with their families .

When choosing a further education course or place of study, it is very important to think about which subjects interest you, the type of qualification you want and which style of studying suits you best, so come along and find out more

There will be representatives from:-

- University of Sussex
- East Sussex College
- Bexhill College
- Plumpton College
- Hailsham Community College
- Seaford Head School
- Heather Croft Training
- Eastbourne College



Social Media

X x.com/WillingdonCS

Facebook facebook.com/WillingdonCS

Instagram instagram.com/WillingdonCS

Follow us on Social Media to see what Willingdon are up to day to day.



Celebratory Student Leaders Lunch

Past and Present members of the Student Leadership Team met to wish each other well as Year 11s embark upon their GCSEs next week and our new team continue the legacy. A lovely time was had by all.



Our new Head Students, Giorgio and Rosie getting support and good wishes from our outgoing Year 11 Head Students, Toby and Farrah.



Past and present Deputy Head Students.



Our new Assistant Head Students have already started leading on a number of projects to support school fundraising and community projects.



Great to get the whole team of Senior Prefects together and welcome them all to leadership – they have some great ideas for school improvement.



At Willingdon our Learning Support Professionals (LSPs) had a special mention in our OFSTED report for their knowledge and ambition for our SEND students. Today the LSPs took delivery of their new uniform and look very smart! Their roles have changed through the years in line with the needs of our student body. LSPs still provide some support in the classroom for targeted students but due to the strengths of adaptive teaching by our teaching staff they are also busy delivering interventions which include physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, drawing and talking, personal care and sensory circuits. Their new uniform reflects how active they are as a team whilst still being at their very core, professional.

Social Media

X x.com/WillingdonCS

f facebook.com/WillingdonCS

ig instagram.com/WillingdonCS



Huge congratulations to our two Year 10s Summer Stebbings and Keira Lynch, and our Year 9 Scarlett Nicholls, for becoming Champions in the International Cheerleading 'Summit' Competition at the weekend, at ESPN Studios in Orlando, Florida.

Out of the whole competition, Shadow (all three of the girls) scored the highest mark out of all divisions with a 99.64 out of 100, placing them first out of 180 teams, and Mint (Keira and Summer) placed first out of 65 teams.

An outstanding achievement for the girls and the two cheerleading teams! We look forward to welcoming them back to Willingdon tomorrow and seeing their medals, cheer rings and the video of their winning performances.



Well done to the Year 9 boys that competed in the annual Bexhill College Football Tournament. Our teams competed against 10 other teams in the event. We won the whole event to win the trophy, along with the golden boot trophy for most goals and golden glove trophy for conceding the least goals.

Thank you to the college students and staff for inviting our students and hosting the day!