



PARENT BULLETIN

Follow us on social media



15th March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have managed to sign up to our Instagram account which our learning mentors have launched - <https://www.instagram.com>

This allows us to share good news stories with the parent body and the incredible achievements of our students both inside and outside of school. Our learning mentors are also leading on an incredible piece of Wall Art to celebrate our Alumni. If you are a previous Willingdon student, we would love to hear about your journey, as either part of our Wall Art project or to invite you in to share your experiences since school with the students.

Many thanks to the parents who gave up time to speak in assemblies about their careers. Students always prefer to hear from the experts and many students were very inspired from these talks.

We are also having an increased focus on our fundraising as a school. We accept that the vision we have for the development of the school needs us to be proactive with our wider community, to raise funds to achieve these plans. We have just launched our Just Giving page, aiming to raise money for our planned 4 G or Multi User Games Area (MUGA). We know this would not just benefit our students but the local community who could utilise these facilities after school, weekends and holidays. We have a lot of money to raise but we know, with your help, we will get there! If any parents work for companies where sponsorship could be possible, please do not hesitate to drop us a line on talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk

We have also been conducting research into establishing our own Forest School. Mrs May and the senior leadership team have been visiting other local schools with this provision on site, with the aim of establishing a provision in house for September 2024. More details will follow, but again, if any parents have an interest in this, we would welcome their guidance and support.

Well done to our dancers who represented us at the Dance Live in Guildford on Thursday night. Whilst you may not have won, you should all be very proud of yourselves. The students who managed to see your rehearsals were all impressed and we are pleased that Dance is growing in interest at Willingdon. We have already confirmed the Dance GCSE will run again next academic year.

Also can I thank parents/carers again for supporting our focus on good attendance. We are in the top 25% of schools for our current data. We know that excellent attendance does have a correlation with excellent outcomes.

Finally, we will be conducting some student voice into the newest craze of wearing fake eyelashes. The school policy is clear that they are not allowed, so please can you as parents and carers support us with this? We do accept that many children feel the lashes are helping them to feel more confident about their appearance. We will look to work with our students on their self esteem and confidence over the next few weeks to address the surge in wearing lashes.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs May

**We are taking part
in the SSAT School
Culture Survey 2024**
Have your say now



The **SSAT School Culture Survey** has been carefully designed to give school leaders insight into the culture of their school community. Using the three themes of Vision, Values & Moral Purpose, Leading People and Operational Management the survey aims to get to the heart of how staff feel about the school and their role within it.

The survey asks you to rate a series of statements on a scale of strongly agree to strongly disagree and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

All responses are completely anonymous. You will be asked to provide your role (senior leader, middle leader, teacher, support staff) and length of service (0-2 year, 2-5 years, 5-10 years, 10+ years) so that overall trends can be analysed using these metrics, however you can opt out of these questions if preferred. SSAT completes the data analysis, and the raw data will not be shared with the school.

Our school will then receive a summary report of the findings, giving us invaluable feedback on our school culture, our strengths, and our areas for development.

Deadline for completion:

29 March 2024

**Scan QR code to complete
your survey now**



Dear Parent/Carer,

Early Closure and end of term arrangements – Thursday 28th March.

Term 4 will end at lunch time and students will therefore be free to go home from 12.30pm. Students will be in normal lessons up until this time. The end of the day will however be staggered to prevent traffic congestion on Broad Road. Please see the timings below. Please would everyone respect our neighbours and not block access to their homes and driveways.

The school buses cannot be rescheduled to run early and therefore students will need to make their own transport arrangements.

Year 7 – 12:30pm

Year 8 – 12:35pm

Year 9 – 12:40pm

Year 10 – 12:45pm

Year 11 – 12:50pm

Students who receive free school meals should use the canteen at first break-time.

Yours sincerely,

Nadene Townsend-Smith

Next week our Head of Year 8 will be on a residential trip.

Year 8 Pastoral issues next week need to come to

Pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk with nsmith@willingdonschool.org.uk copied in

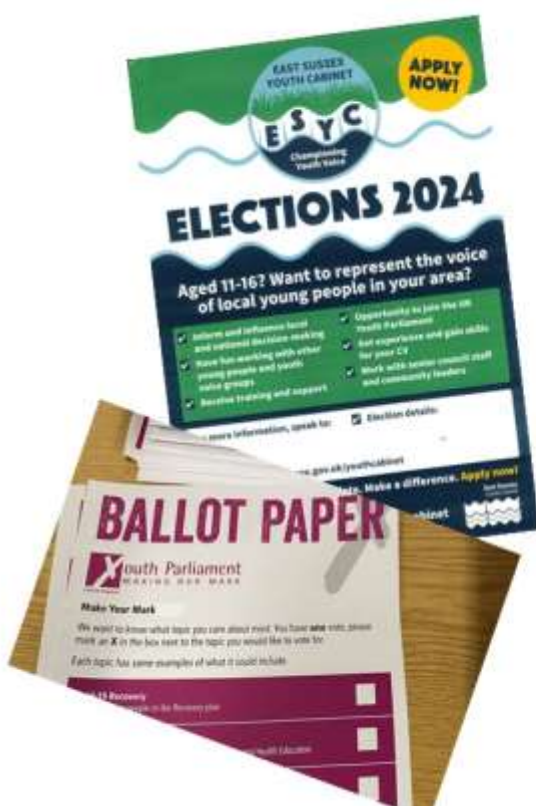
Year 8 Attendance issues

attendance@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8 Safeguarding

safeguarding@willingdonschool.org.uk

Thanks very much to our Year 7 baking team this year for raising funds for Red Nose Day which takes place this evening. They have given up their break times through the week and raised funds through selling their delicious cupcakes! Well done. All proceeds will be sent to Comic Relief.



After two months in which candidates had the opportunity to enter the democratic vote, we have now conducted our ballot this week and from a list of 16 nominations, the winning candidate is **Iris Stringer** in Year 7 who was elected as Willingdon School entrant for the East Sussex Youth Cabinet. The voting showed that our young people are concerned about a range of issues, including:

- Education and Learning
- International Relations
- Health and Wellbeing
- Rights Equalities and Democracy
- Jobs The Economy and Benefits
- Crime and Safety
- Culture Media and Sport
- Climate Change and Environment
- Transport
- Youth Work and Young People's Services



Iris will next be invited to represent our school and the concerns of our students at the East Sussex Youth Cabinet Welcome Evening where she will meet the other candidates from East Sussex as they collaborate together in making improvements for all our communities! Well done Iris – we are all very proud of you. Thank you also to Mr Gomez, our visiting American Student Teacher who has been fundamental in co-ordinating the vote.

We are noticing that a large number of students are not coming with the correct equipment for lessons and exams. Please can you ensure that your child comes to lessons with the essential maths equipment of pen, pencil, ruler, protractor and scientific calculator. Within a 2 week cycle of maths lessons we would expect all of this equipment to be used.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Rehearsals for Let's Dance continuing for a show at the Congress on the 26th March! Additions to the costume of glasses to match our spy theme



A great win for our Year 11 GCSE PE students vs Ratton. This has formed part of the preparation for their practical exam in PE and will go towards their final mark



Great turn out at table tennis club. The new ball machine set up and used by students! 🏓

Table tennis club is available to all students and abilities from 3-4pm in the Sports Hall every Tuesday



We are very proud of three of our students who represented their cheerleading team in Dallas at the NCA (National Cheerleading Association) Championships 2024.

Scarlett Nicholls, Summer Stebbings and Keira Lynch took part in the biggest cheerleading competition in the world, with over 1564 teams in different ages and divisions.

The competition took place in the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas where the cheer team spent the week leading up to the competition weekend practicing for over 6 hours each day.

The qualifying round was on Saturday and the team came through in 1st place with an almost perfect score. It is never a given in these competitions that you then go on to win the final and our three students, along with the rest of their team, showed great skill, fitness, composure and determination to come out on top as champions for their age and division. A huge well done to our three students Scarlett, Summer and Keira and we have loved hearing all about it since they've returned!



Great to know that ex student Fletcher Holman has started with Wolves U21s!

We aren't surprised to hear that he scored within 25mins too!!

Well done Fletcher and keep up all of your hard work!

Good luck to our Dance Live team!

They have worked so hard since September and it has been lovely to see the dance come together.

The students have developed a strong and committed team with students from across the year groups and today they have shown spirit and enthusiasm working together to produce a vibrant and colourful performance.



Our students participated in the “Biggest Football Session, EVER” event in line with International Women’s Day.

Students started the lessons discussing their female sporting inspirations, and then participating in a football tournament.

During the lesson, they were invited to vote for any of their class mates who they felt deserved to be recognised for their team work, fair play, commitment and personal excellence.

Those who received votes will be rewarded this week! Well done to all involved.

[#InternationalWomensDay](#) [#BiggestFootballSessionEver](#) [#LetGirlsPlay](#)



CAREERS



Please see the below free virtual work experience opportunity with Brighton and Hove City Council. This is available to students over 13 years old.

Please note that students will need to sign up with their email and password before they can take part.

[Business Virtual Work Experience: Diverse Roles Exploration](https://springpod.com)
(springpod.com)

Big Futures Show – Tuesday 23rd April 2024

An exciting opportunity for our Year 9 Students

A careers event organised by the Eastbourne Education Business Partnership and comprising of approximately 80 stands representing local companies and colleges hosted at Eastbourne Sports Park, Cross Levels Way, BN21 2UF.

We will travel there by coach for a slot from 9.30am - 11.00am, then return to school for the remainder of the day.

There are **45 spaces** available and it is therefore on a first come, first served basis. We kindly request that each student pays a contribution of **£9.70**, payable via ParentPay, to cover the entrance fee and transport costs. **This is now live on Parentpay.**

If you would like your child to attend, but require support with payment, please do contact me via the below email address.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser

srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk



YEAR 10 STUDENTS

DV8 Sussex will be holding an Open Day in both their Brighton and Bexhill Campuses on **Wednesday 27th March 4.30 - 7pm.**

DV8 offer courses in media production, games development and music production & performance.

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

BRIGHTON

Victoria House (next door to Mountain Warehouse)

125 Queens Road

Brighton

BN1 3WB

BEXHILL

41 St Leonards Road

Bexhill-on-Sea

TN40 1HS

To confirm your place, please email dv8admissions@londonlc.org.uk with details of which campus you would like to attend and if you are interested in the Games, Media or Music courses.

If you are unable to make the Open Day, they can offer a guided tours at a more suitable time. This will offer you the chance to view every area of the College and ask questions to their experienced marketing team.



We are excited to announce our MiniFest 2024 competition!

Are you in a band who would be interested in performing?

We are looking for local acts to perform at East Sussex College's MiniFest this summer, taking place at our Eastbourne campus, on Thursday 4th July.

MiniFest is the perfect way for local students to celebrate the end of the academic year with some great music! Past MiniFest headline acts have included VenBee, Karen Harding and Amelia Lily.

This year, we are opening up the stage to local acts in two categories:

- 14-19 year olds
- 20+ year olds

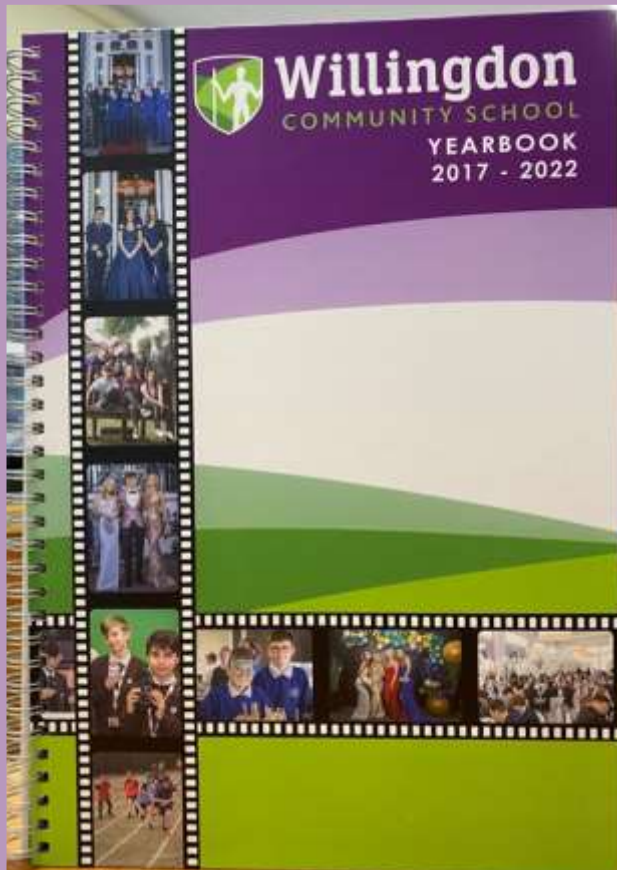
All entrants will have their band name listed on our website and the winner in each category will win £300, an opportunity to record in our professional recording studios and perform a 20 minute live set. Winners will also have the opportunity to bring a guest to the festival. The acts will be selected via a panel of judges including the Head of Music and the Event Management team.

To enter, just submit a video of you/your band performing to minifest@ecg.ac.uk and complete this [short entry form](#).

If you have any queries, please email minifest@ecg.ac.uk.

We look forward to receiving your entry! Best of luck!

YEAR 11



Year 11 Yearbook

To all Year 11s

Rf g g _ pck g bcprf _ r u c l ccb w r p c l r p p q d r p
r f c w c _ p m m i _ q q m m l _ q n r a q g j c,

The first stages of putting the yearbook together have started. The success of the yearbook depends on you!

Our first task is to collect in personal details and photographs from all Year 11 students. To help with this could you please check your school emails and follow the link to complete and submit the Google Form as soon as possible if you have not already done so. We still have — — students who have not submitted an entry!

You will be able to upload up to five photos within the form if you so wish. The Google Form asks a few questions such as, future career, best friends, favourite memory and also asks for a leaving quote. If there are any questions, you do not wish to answer please leave blank. You can amend, any of the information that you submit on your original Google Form by submitting another one and we will use the most recently submitted entry. If you have any concerns, regarding your submission, please email resources@willingdonschool.org.uk or pop in to the resources office and they will be happy to help you.

Students who have not yet submitted their form for the Yearbook have been emailed individually this week.