



# PARENT BULLETIN

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23rd February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

The start back to Term 4 has been very smooth. Thank you for helping us ensure students adhere to the uniform policy and come back prepared and ready to learn. Year 11 began their mock exams yesterday and we are hoping this round of exams will show an improvement in the data since November. Many Year 11s have their next destination planned and have a renewed energy for their learning. We have 40 interventions which are running for Year 11 and there is great attendance to the sessions. Please do encourage your child to attend and keep giving 100%. It can be at this time of year that we hear comments like 'I only need a .... Grade' or 'I only need two subjects'. It is important that as a community, we work together to value every subject and encourage students to do well across the board, not just in what they need in the short term.

Year 9 have now made their option choices and we have begun the process of meeting as many first choices as possible. This process does take a long time so students are likely to find out next term what their options are. The date will be confirmed on the release of options later this term.

Can I remind parents that we will no longer be running Activity Days in the same way as previous years? Parent voice remarked on the expense of trips in July primarily because coaches are so expensive for us at this time of year. Also, student voice has commented that trips should be littered throughout the year which has been the approach we are now invested in.

This week, we have had our external visit from our county advisor which went very well. He remarked on the strength of systems we have in place for behaviour and attendance. Our current data predictions for all year groups are also really encouraging. Behaviour and engagement in all the lessons we saw was very strong. We are now encouraging our teachers to take more risks with paired and group work so that students start to own their own learning more and think harder.

We have also welcomed an inspection from SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). The feedback was very positive and we look forward to receiving the report in the following weeks.

We have welcomed some American trainee teachers who will be spending the term with us. We are really excited at the plans they have to support our school and share strategies for effective teaching and learning.

I am in the process of developing our parental engagement strategy to further consolidate and strengthen our communication and links with you all. I would welcome any parents who would be kind enough to look at the strategy and offer any other feedback in person or by email. Please could you contact [talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk) if you would like to be involved.

The last two days have been busy with interviews preparing our school for September. We have made some very strong appointments which we are delighted with. So much lovely feedback has come from candidates regarding the courtesy and kindness of our student body, how engaged they are with their learning and how the ethos of the school is clear from the moment they enter the school. We will share more information on appointments later in the year once all appointments have been confirmed from references and checks.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs May

## **The Head Student Application Process is now concluded.**

All the candidates that entered an application have gone through a rigorous process involving many layers, including submission of forms, informal and formal interviews and they should **all** be enormously proud of themselves. The school is delighted to have had such a tough job in deciding between so many fantastic candidates. They really didn't make it easy!

The experience will be so beneficial for them in the coming months for college interviews and job interviews and the staff team are hugely looking forward to working with such a wonderful year group packed with committed and ambitious students.

Huge congratulations to the following students who have accepted the roles for the Student Leadership Team for next year. They will shadow current Year 11s for a few weeks and officially take over during Term 5 when the GCSEs begin for our Year 11s.

**Head Students** - Giorgio Fardella and Rosie Delgado-Howell

**Deputy Head Students** - Alex Martin, Katie Collins and Caitlin Ness

**Assistant Head Students** - Abigail Sweetman, Evelyn Burgess, Caleb Pout, Florence Baldwin and Megan Robins

## **SCHOOL REPORTS**

Dear parents/carers

This week we have sent home the second Year 7 reports of the year. We have again printed out copies for students to take home as well as emailing them to primary parents/carers. We would like to remind you that when communications are sent from our Arbor system, there is a tendency for them to be filtered into your email Junk folder, so please do check here. The reports we send home form part of the way we communicate with you about your child's progress whilst at school. Students will receive 3 reports over the year and teachers will discuss your child's progress in one of the parental progress evenings (parent evenings) we have for each year group. We also encourage staff to communicate to home if they have concerns, as well as to report back positively about students, throughout the year.

So you are aware, we will be issuing all year groups with their second reports this term. We aim to send the reports home during the following weeks.

*Year 7 week beginning 19/02/24*

*Year 8 week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> March*

*Year 9 week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March*

*Year 10 week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> March*

*Year 11 week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March*

As a reminder, parents' evenings for Year 11 is also this term, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. The Year 11 reports will be issued prior to this, so you have them available to discuss with teachers.

We would again like to invite you to provide any feedback about our reporting system by filling in this google form

<https://forms.gle/pYvZzSKapLTT7Gag8>

For Further details please pick up more information from Mrs Borrell and Mrs Alley in the food room

**Do you like cooking?  
Could you be our Young Chef of 2024?**



Olympic / Paralympic Games 2024

This year the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are to be held in Paris with athletes from across the globe competing. Every country in the world has its own special food dishes and flavours and as people have travelled, these different flavours have travelled with them. You should select one country and prepare a dish that best represents the food from that country. You will need to explain your choice of country and dish choice to the judges and why you have chosen these.

Mrs Borrell and Mrs Naylor will organise the first round of the competition in your school, one finalist from each year group ( years 7/8, and 9/10) will be chosen and then you will get together with the finalists from other schools where a team of judges will choose the overall Eastbourne Young Chef of 2024



We are excited to announce that Willingdon Community School has an official Instagram account! 🥳🥳🥳

Follow @willingdoncs on Instagram for daily posts about:

Our exciting upcoming school trips and events, the learning and achievements of our students, any updates and information given to students during tutor time, new additions to our popular school library, our alumni program and how we stay connected with the wider community.

Well done Year 10 for 95.5% attendance today at school which is well above national average. Keep it going for the rest of term 4!



**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS.  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**



[Click here](#)



## NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

On 9<sup>th</sup> February, Willingdon School were given the incredible opportunity to visit Number 10 Downing Street for a 'Women in STEM' event. A small group of Year 9 girls were filled with excitement as they passed through security at Downing Street before being given the once-in-a-lifetime chance to knock on the door of Number 10 to discover what was inside. The students then had time to hear from four pioneering women in STEM (Claire Coutinho, Dr Suzanne Imber, Professor Dame Angela McLean, and Dr Nikki Kanani) who shared their experiences and what led them to a career in STEM, including the many obstacles and triumphs they faced along the way. Every student reported afterwards how much this Q&A session opened their eyes to the wonders of STEM, with 100% of students claiming to have learnt more about STEM careers and 100% of them claiming that the trip made them realise women can also be successful in STEM. We were then very privileged to have been given a tour of the building, which provided insight into life as a Prime Minister, leading to one particular Willingdon student now wanting to pursue a career in politics! Overall it was a tremendously inspiring day, and one which will be treasured by all of the students for years to come.

### Quotes from the girls on the trip:

"It was a wonderful trip. One of the best I've ever been to"

"10 Downing Street was so interesting and full of history. I loved it!"

"We should do more trips like this"

"I found Dr Suzanne Kimber inspirational because she showed me that women can also be as successful and do as awesome things as men can. I also found Nikki inspiring as well."

"Dr Suzanne Kimber has got an amazing job in STEM, even though she didn't know what she wanted to do."

"Dr Suzanne Kimber named mountains, that's so cool!! I aspire to be like her"

"I loved the Q&A session because they explained everything well and helped me understand women also have a career in STEM"

"I loved the trip because it was really interesting to see women who love and are successful in STEM".

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## PICTURES FROM THE SKI TRIP 2024



A huge well done to Year 10 students Austin and Bode, who represented Brighton and Hove Albion U15s in a 2-1 victory v Bayern Munich 🏆

A fantastic experience for both boys travelling out to Munich to play 🌐

Adam Virgo and the Dare to Dream team joined Year 10 on Tuesday 20th February to discuss the importance of consistency and discipline. Drawing from his own experience as a former professional footballer with Brighton & Hove Albion and Celtic, and now working as a pundit and commentator, Adam spoke about how being determined, resilient and disciplined can help students to achieve their goals.



# YEARS 9 - 11



Plumpton College are hosting Open Events on Saturday 16th March and Saturday 15th June.

These Open Events offer a great opportunity for prospective students to explore the beautiful campus, talk to their experienced lecturers and find out more about the exciting career opportunities that the land and environment sector holds.

To book a place please click on the following link:

[Plumpton College Open Events](#)

## Careers Fair (Year 10) - Eastbourne Sports Park

There are still spaces available on this free of charge event on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Careers Fair will allow students to meet with a number of further and higher educational establishments, as well as other training providers and businesses.

Students will travel to Eastbourne Sports Park by coach for an hour slot at the school during the day and they will be in one of the below sessions.

*Session 1: 10:00a.m. Depart Willingdon Community School  
11:20a.m. Depart Eastbourne Sports Park*

*Session 2: 12:15p.m. Depart Willingdon Community School  
13:30p.m. Eastbourne Sports Park*

We believe our students will gain a great deal of information from this event. Some of those that are exhibiting at the fair are listed below with more expected to attend.

East Sussex College Group	De La Warr Pavilion	Brighton & Sussex Medical Group
Bexhill College	South Downs National Park Authority	British & Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM)
Plumpton College	Army	Youth Employability Service
DV8 Sussex	Wave Leisure	Army
The Military Preparation College	Chestnut Tree House	Defiant Sports
University of Sussex	Eastbourne Borough Council	Hydro Hotel
Eastbourne College	East Sussex County Council	Brighton University
NHS		

If you would like your child to attend, please could you book via ParentPay, where the cost of the trip will be set to zero.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Rooney  
Careers Adviser

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



# YEAR 11



## KEEP IN TOUCH OPEN DAYS

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

13:00 - 14:15

## THE MAKING OF YOU



Learn the MPCT way through outstanding leadership and training



90% of our learners progress into military or civilian roles



Financial support available



50% physical,  
50% academic

Thinking of joining us in August 2024? We look forward to welcoming you to one of our upcoming Keep In Touch Open Days which will be taking place across all **MPCT Academy** locations. Book your place to visit our unique training college and experience a taste of learning the MPCT way.

### APPLY NOW

## 0330 111 3939

[help@learningcurvegroup.co.uk](mailto:help@learningcurvegroup.co.uk)

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