



PARENT BULLETIN

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24th November 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to have a number of you visit us over the last two weeks on our parent tours. We will offer another round in term three and four.

Recently we have conducted student and staff voice on our lunch and break times. 540 students and 72 staff took part. As a result of the feedback, we have decided to increase lunch by ten minutes and reduce tutor and break by five minutes each.

Very valid points were made about lunchtime feeling rushed, there being not much time for interventions or extracurricular and staff wanting more time to set up for practicals in their lessons.

Students and staff did raise concern about the previous time we had a longer lunch and how a minority of students misbehaved. We are going to have to ensure we work harmoniously as a community and avoid problems happening from boredom of a longer lunch.

Thank you to our year ten parents and carers who attended our first parents evening of the year. We hope you found it informative and valuable.

We wish you a lovely weekend.

Mrs May

Reward points update

We are currently in the process of back dating the 0 points awarded to students when our system wasn't communicating effectively with Edulink. We do have to do these manually hence the time lag. No student will be disadvantaged, as we aim to have these put on before the Christmas cut off. They may not feature exactly how they were, but we will ensure the totals are correct.

We have also found a way forward to allow our bulk points for excellent behaviour and attendance to be added at the end of this term, so we will be adding these at the end of next week. Please be reassured these points are not forgotten and we are doing what we can to address.

There will be an opportunity to feed forward ideas on our rewards system in the new year, as we now have a new member of senior leadership working to refine the system further.

ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM DAY - NOV 2023

Thank you to all the students for their engagement and fabulous innovations on Alternative Curriculum Day on Tuesday. It was lovely to see the students leading their own learning and contributing to the planning of the day.

Years 10 and 11

As part of their statutory entitlement to RSHE, our KS4 students enjoyed a range of talks, with different formats, lengths and venues, focussed on careers, post 16 choices, including university and apprenticeships. Tutor based activities included work on budgeting, financial choices, debt and fraud. Over 20 staff contributed their time to either record or deliver talks about adaptability, resilience and routes through education and jobs. HR, finance and the business team put together real-world examples of budgeting, tax, wages and accounting sessions in a marketplace activity. We also were able to invite guest speakers from the worlds of construction and business who also gave their time freely. Feedback from the student exit tickets on the day was really informative with lots of positive feedback, suggestions for future events and requests for further careers talks.

KS3 STEM Day

STEM(Science, Technology and Mathematics) and STEAM (STEM + Arts) are the primary emerging labour markets that our students need to be aware of. 1 in 5 jobs in the coming years will be in STEAM and currently only 25% of those are filled by females.

All year groups had the opportunity to work in teams, emulating real-life team working arrangements that they may need in the future. Collaboration, cooperation, compromise and solution-finding were at the heart of the activities that built on curriculum learning and educational visits that have occurred over the last two terms.

Year 7 designed seismic resistant buildings, costing the project following design processes and pitching solutions. Year 8 completed engineering research, designed prototypes and gathered at the end of the day to share their designs. Year 9 followed up their Towner Gallery visit with a series of creative textiles sessions culminating in the most spectacular fashion show!

Massive congratulations to all the student contributors and especially to the winners of the design projects.

Thank you to all the staff, collaborators and tutors for leading the events.



Y8 STEM Skills Fair School Trip

On Tuesday 21st November, nearly 100 Year 8 students from Willingdon School headed to the London Science Museum for the annual STEM Skills Fair! This was a hugely exciting opportunity for students to hear from a range of women in STEM about their careers through the 'Honest Q&A' session, followed by a interactive 'Meet the Employer' session where students took part in a range of challenges linked to STEM careers. Students then had some time to explore the rest of the museum to discover more about the world of science and STEM.

Based on student feedback, 92% of students learnt more about STEM through the London Science Museum trip, and 72% of students increased their interest for STEM in terms of a career path.

Parent Feedback:

"Today my daughter went on the trip to the Science Museum in London. I wanted to thank you for organising it, she had a brilliant time. She told me all about what she had learnt regarding illnesses and medicines and is now even considering a career in therapeutic radiography. She has definitely been inspired!"



SCHOOL TOURS FEEDBACK

I just wanted to say thank you again to yourself, Mrs May and the staff team for inviting us to tour the school 'in action' and taking the time out of your hectic schedules.

"We all know teens can exaggerate things (after all we were all one once!) and that it's a rite of passage for them to moan about school, so the opportunity to tour the school with a member of the leadership team and see what it was REALLY like was invaluable as a new school parent. I took time off from work to tour the school and it certainly allayed any worries that may have been creeping in about what school life is truly like these days. I also got the opportunity to ask some questions I had face to face.

To see the pupils day in action, warts and all, confirmed for me what a great place of learning Willingdon Community is. You can see how every child is respected and valued by the staff and how much goes in to helping every child succeed, regardless of their academic starting point or their daily life challenges. I am more confident than ever now in the decision we took for my child to attend this school. Thank you to all the staff"

"My child was given the fantastic opportunity to attend Forest School for a term. She comes home beaming and full of a confidence we don't often see in her in relation to the school environment. It's also much easier to get her into school now on non forest school days!"

Dear Mrs May and Mrs Walters

Thank you so much for the school tour earlier and your time. It was so good to be able to have some of our questions answered individually and get a student's eye view of the school.

We were very impressed by the student's engagement in the lessons we were able to see. We also found it very interesting to see that the hallways at changeover time weren't quite like the Viking hoards as we'd been led to believe by our son 😊

Thank you again for giving us this opportunity, we will take it up again given the chance and I'd highly recommend other parents take up this offer also, it was very insightful!

Find out about cuts to our school next year due to the Government.
#schoolcuts: <https://schoolcuts.org.uk/schools?>

Willingdon Community School

-£218,563



Cuts in 2024-
25

-£215

Cuts per pupil
in 2024-25

Impact in East Sussex

150 of 174 schools in East Sussex face cuts in 2024.

-£10.4M

Cuts in 2024-
25

-£164

Cuts per pupil
in 2024-25



[Email your MP](#)

Share what's happening to Willingdon Community School



[Twitter](#)

[Read about our data methodology](#)

We will be serving our school Christmas Dinner on Friday 8th December. Payment for this can be made on ParentPay from Tuesday, 28th November.



Christmas
• **Concert & Fayre** •
Tuesday 12th of December
4.30PM to 8.30PM

The fayre part is free for all. If you wish to attend the concert at 6.30pm, the tickets are as follows:
Adults: £5 (each ticket comes with raffle tickets) **Under 16: £3** **Toddlers on laps: FREE**
There will also be an interval with a bar for the adults and treats for the children.

A celebration of the wonderful musicians and performers we have at Willingdon.
From soloists to large ensembles; The String Ensemble to a High School Musical Teaser.
We have Christmas magic and cool bands, all presented by our Year 11 music students.
This year the student leadership team are organising the Christmas Fayre to fall before the concert.

You can come and shop for Christmas,
buy refreshments and immerse yourselves in the jolly Christmas spirit before the concert.



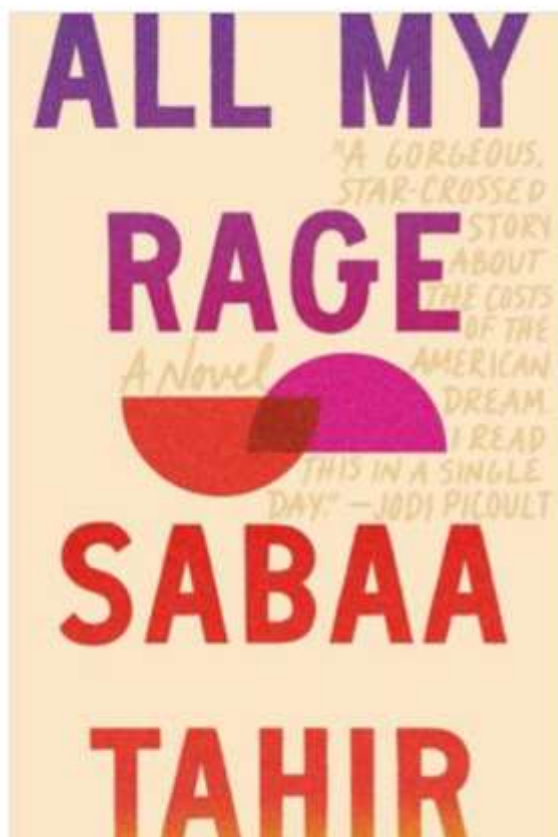
Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Tickets available for purchase on ParentPay now!

REMINDER

DRAGON'S DEN– PARENTS NEEDED TO SUPPORT!

On the 5th December at 6pm-7pm, we are holding a Dragon's Den meeting for staff to come and bid to the Friends on how they wish to spend the money raised. We are looking for 7-10 parents to be part of the panel who will support our Chair for the Friends with the decision making. If you are interested in being involved, please email agwilliam@willingdonschool.org.uk



Creating a culture of reading!

WCS is proud to support the UKLA 2024 Book Awards. Some of our amazing staff have volunteered to be part of the judging panel and read 24 books over the next few months.

This week we would like to recommend *All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir.

Noor and Salahudin are growing up as outcasts in their small desert town of Juniper, California. More than best friends, the two become family as they battle love and loss in a story that crosses generations and continents. Salahudin must scramble to save the family business after the death of his mother. Whilst Noor dreams of attending university as a way of escaping her cruel uncle and leaving Juniper forever. When Salahudin's attempt to save the family business fails, he and Noor reflect on their friendship and how far they will go for one another.

There are two copies of this text in the school library for students borrow.



Congratulations to the following students for being at the top of the Bedrock Learning leader board last week.

Carson S	8AN2	114 points
Amy-Leigh C	9AN1	71 points
Oliver W	9AB2	68 points
Charlie S	7AT2	67 points
George I	7AT2	60 points

THIS WEEK



Harry Doree is a member of The Hastings Dojo which is affiliated to the Shinpi Izumi Dojo. He has been learning and grading in Goshin Ju Jitsu since early 2021 and last weekend he was graded and awarded his orange belt. This is a huge achievement- well done Harry!



Well done to the Year 9 Netball Team for their 10-6 victory.



Year 8 involved in excellent team work building their rollercoaster for STEM day.



Good luck to Year 8 student, Rocky, who is off to Birmingham this weekend for the British Kickboxing Championships! We wish you all the best!

Reflect • Motivate • Support



Same Boat Parenting

[Click here](#)

YEAR 9 - 11

There are still a few places left on next year's Battlefields Trip to Belgium.

This 2 day trip will be taking place on 22nd and 23rd March 2024 and involves visits to museums and significant sights of remembrance .

There is an evening meal, an overnight stay in a local hotel and an opportunity to visit Leonidas Chocolate shop in Ypres.

The total cost is £282.

To secure a place please make a deposit payment of £82 via ParentPay by 30th November.

YEAR 11

FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT NEED A BIT OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

ICAN
CAREERS EVENT
2023

**CAREERS EVENT FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
THEIR PARENTS & CARERS**

**CAREERS
EVENT**

East Sussex
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

>SKILLS
EAST SUSSEX



ICAN - CAREERS EVENT

28 NOVEMBER 2023

4:30PM - 7PM

**THE KINGS CENTRE,
EASTBOURNE BN23 6PT**

This event is aimed at those who might need a bit of additional support with their next steps into education, training or employment.

You are invited to meet education and training providers who offer a variety of career pathway options, employers and apprenticeship providers with current or future vacancies. You will have the opportunity to take part in mock interviews, pre-screening for live vacancies or work/skills discussion with an employer.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER AND
FIND OUT MORE**



East Sussex
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

>SKILLS
EAST SUSSEX

