



PARENT BULLETIN

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3rd November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a great first week back despite the gloomy weather faced. Well done to our student body who have settled calmly and engaged well with the learning. We would also like to say congratulations to our Year 11 students who have approached their first round of Mock GCSEs with such maturity and determination. We hope the results and subsequent feedback help students to make better progress towards their target minimum grades.

We are delighted that Mr Cain will be joining the leadership team as Associate Assistant Headteacher in charge of rewards, extra curricular and enrichment activities. More information will be shared with parents about his vision and strategy in the next two weeks. We also welcome Miss Brown to the leadership team as Associate Assistant Headteacher in charge of literacy. Miss Brown will be speaking at our Parent Forum on Wednesday, 8th November at 6pm. Currently, there are only 4 parents signed up and we would love to reach out to more of you. The letter with more information is on the next page and the agenda currently is:

1. *Homework – All years - Mr Holt*
2. *Reading and Reading Ages – All years – Mrs Walters, Miss Brown, Mrs May*
3. *Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) – All years - Mrs Borrell*

We would like to open our doors again to parents who would like to meet with a senior leader and have a tour with the school in action during the day. The times these will take place are listed below.

Friday, 17th November 8.30am-10am

Thursday, 23rd November 2023 8.30am-10am

Please click on the below link to book onto one of these tours. We will also see your child's class if you wish or we can avoid it if you would prefer! This is a great way of seeing the school, warts and all! The parent tours we did last year were very successful and we appreciated the parent feedback and observations made.

Visits to the school during the school day - Term 2 2023

We hope to see many of you at our Fireworks Event next Friday, 10th November from 5pm. This is our biggest fundraising of the year and we need all the support we can get in raising much needed funds for the school.

Finally, we are delighted to have three more ex-students join us in our staff body. Michael Carr, ex-Head Student has joined our learning support team. Matthew Wakefield, ex-Deputy Head Student and Lowri Lambird-George, ex-Head Student have joined our learning mentor team. They are inspirational and having recently completed their Willingdon journey, can add such value to our school and support our students so well through the advice and guidance they can give.

Best wishes,

Mrs May
Headteacher

SAVE THE DATE

WHOLE SCHOOL AWARDS EVENING - WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER 6.30PM - 8PM

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Forum

We are writing to invite you to our first Parent Forum this academic year. These forums are a fantastic way to keep you updated with our school improvement plan and national educational policy.

Wednesday, 8th November 2023

6pm – 7pm - By Zoom

Homework – All years - Mr Holt

Reading and Reading Ages – All years – Mrs Walters, Miss Brown, Mrs May

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) – All years - Mrs Borrell

Please be reminded that these forums are not an occasion to discuss individual students. Please refer any individual issues to your child's Tutor or Head of Year.

If you would like to attend the above Zoom Parent Forum, please complete the below google form and a zoom code will be emailed to you.

Parent Forum 1 - Wednesday, 8th November 2023

If you are unable to attend this forum, we will place any relevant powerpoint slides on the school website for you to view.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E May
Headteacher



Eastbourne British Legion - Poppy Campaign 2023
26th October - 11th Nov
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER !
Could you please spare a couple of hours or more
to help with our Poppy Appeal ? If you can,
Phone 07746 948888 or 01323 417625

Willingdon Community School and Stone Cross Primary School presents

Illuminate Firework Extravaganza

Friday 10th November 2023

Gates open 6 - 8pm

At Willingdon Community School, Broad Road

Huge Firework
Display

By Frontier Fireworks

Eastbourne Bonfire Society & Torch Lit Procession
Long Man Brewery, Catering Vans & Refreshments,
Entertainment, Music, Stalls, Fairground & Lots of Family Fun!

Tickets £5 each (Under 5's free)

Tickets available from Stone Cross Primary School / Willingdon Community
School & the British Queen Public House

Limited tickets available, tickets are non-refundable.

PURCHASE NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Contact: friends@willingdonschool.org.uk or Foscs@yahoo.com Tel: 01323 485254

Tickets are available to purchase from main reception, Student Support and on ParentPay - ParentPay will close midday Wednesday, 8th November.



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

12 Days of Christmas

To be in with a chance of winning a prize in December, you need to have 100% attendance throughout November. Allowances will be made for authorised circumstances e.g. medical appointments

Prize Draws will be from Friday 1st December for 12 days, ranging from chocolates/sweets, to gift cards and vouchers.



ENRICHMENT CLUB NEWS

Music news

Calling all singers!

Willingdon Voices is back and ready to rehearse for the Christmas Concert.

We have two concerts this year.

1. Our annual Christmas Concert at school on December 12th.
2. A big singing concert with other schools at The Kings Centre in Eastbourne on December 13th.

Both are after school around 6pm to 9pm.
More details nearer the time.

**TO TAKE PART YOU NEED TO START
ATTENDING THE SINGING CLUB.
THURSDAY 3pm to 3.45pm in MU4**



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PE CLUBS

We plan for PE clubs to continue as usual this term, however, for the next two weeks we lose the sports hall due to exams. In the event of poor weather, clubs may be cancelled last minute but we will do our best to let students know in advance and parents know via the school website, Facebook and Twitter. Badminton club will not run until Thursday 16th November.


DR KATHY WESTON
EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES TO PARENTING

Reflect • Motivate • Support

[Click here](#)



Empty Nesters



Holiday activities and food (HAF) - bookings now open for December holidays

You can find out what's available and book a place on the [HAF booking website](#).

Get ready for the winter holiday. The Government's Holiday activities and food (HAF) programme funds a range of exciting activities for young people. The activity sessions are free to children who receive benefits-related free school meals. Parents can check if they qualify by reading the East Sussex County Council website [Free school meals page](#).

Sessions are free to those on benefit-related free school meals. There is a great range of clubs spread across multiple venues in East Sussex. They all offer a free healthy meal, engaging activities and a safe space to make new friends. There are clubs offering sport, animation, theatre, art and crafts, forest school, music, and lots more.

You will find more information about the programme on the ESCC [Holiday Food and Fun webpage](#).

A smaller number of places will also be available to children and young people in the groups below:

- Referred to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Disabled or special educational needs, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Young Carers
- Have a disabled sibling
- Referred to the School Mental Health Teams
- Gypsy, Roma & Traveller
- Children in Need (CiN), children on a Child Protection Plan (CP) and Looked After Children (LAC)
- LGBTQ+
- Refugees

Best regards

The HAF team

THIS WEEK



Despite the weather conditions, the Year 9 team was able to progress to the 3rd round of the County Cup on Wednesday, with a great 3-0 win!

Well done to all of the students involved.



A huge well done and thank you to our Year 10 and 11 students, who taught French and Spanish last term to pupils from Polegate and Willingdon Primary schools. Two very successful days!

We are looking forward to collaborating again for our Latin day at Willingdon Primary, and transition work with year 6 pupils at Polegate, in the summer term.



One of our amazing students, Chloe, has been racing throughout the summer at Smallfield Raceway. She competes in a Nissan Micra K11. This was her first season out on the mud and she won her championship! She received this amazing trophy over the half term.

What an achievement. We are very proud!

Years 10 & 11



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

UK University & Apprenticeship Fair – Amex Stadium / Tuesday 14th November 2023

We are now able to offer Year 11 students a limited number of places on the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair trip on Tuesday, 14th November, details below. Unfortunately, those students who are studying Spanish have their mock exam on the same day as the trip so they will be unable to attend. Apologies for any disappointment that this may cause.

The UK University & Apprenticeship Fair is a great way for students to explore which university or apprenticeship might be right for them. This informative event will provide students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. These will include Russell Group universities (such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham & Exeter), red brick (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield), modern institutions, as well as many of the UK's biggest apprenticeship providers and local colleges. In addition, there will be some seminars that students will be able to attend including UCAS (University & Colleges Admissions Service) personal statements, why take an apprenticeship, university life/courses, and Russell Group universities.

The date of the fair is **Tuesday, 14th November** and is being hosted at Brighton Amex Stadium. We will travel there by coach for a two-hour slot, from 10.30a.m. - 12.30p.m., and then return to school for the remainder of the afternoon. We believe our students would gain a great deal of information from this event, meeting prospective colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers.

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 **£12.10**, payable via ParentPay, to cover the coach fee. If you require assistance with payment, please email or call me on the contact details below. Students are required to wear school uniform and bring food/drink along with them. Those students that receive free school meals will have a packed lunch provided for them.

Please note that this is now live on ParentPay.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser

srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE – PLEASE BOOK BY MONDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER



3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 Mock Interviews - Thursday 14th December 2023

On Thursday, 14th December, we will be holding our Year 11 mock interview day to give students in this year group another opportunity to practice their interview technique before their college interviews next year. I am writing to enquire if you may be able to support us with this or if you have other family members or contacts that could possibly assist.

We are proposing that the sessions will be at the following times and that they may fit in with your other commitments.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
8.40 – 9.10a.m.	10.50 – 11.20a.m.	1.30 – 2.00p.m.
9.10 – 9.40a.m.	11.20 – 11.50a.m.	2.00 – 2.30p.m.
9.40 – 10.10a.m.	11.50 – 12.20p.m.	2.30 – 3.00p.m.
	12.20 – 12.50p.m.	

You will be allocated 30 minutes for each interview (3 or 4 interviews per session) which can be split as you see fit (e.g. a 15 minute interview & 15 minutes to write up notes). Further details about this, along with suggested questions, will follow nearer the time.

Those attending can participate in one, two or all three sessions, and refreshments and lunch will be provided.

If you are able to help, I would appreciate it if you could contact me on the below email or telephone number. We would be most grateful for any support.

Many thanks in advance.

Best wishes,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser

T: 01323 485254 ext 281

E: SRooney@willingdonschool.org.uk

College Applications

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that your child has had a good week back after the half term break.

You will find attached to this email information which shows students how to choose the courses/apply for their college placement, should your child wish to do this at home.

In order to move onto this stage of the college application process, the initial 'My Profile' section of Careers East Sussex must be complete (a number of students have been completing this, as well as their personal statement, during tutor time). If you/your child require guidance on completing the 'My Profile' section, or require their login details, please contact Sarah Rooney on the contact details below.

College applications need to be completed by **Friday 1st December** at the very latest as all applications need to be checked, given a reference by tutors and sent to the colleges prior to the Christmas holidays.

Due to the vast amount of applications being submitted by schools in the local area, we strongly recommend that applications are submitted earlier than this, by **Friday 24th November**. The sooner the application is submitted, the quicker your child will have an interview and offer of a college place.

Should your child require any support with their college application or personal statement, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Rooney on srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk or 01323 485254 ext 281.

Best wishes,

Alison Borrell

Head of Department of Technology & Enterprise, Careers Leader

Associate Assistant Head