



PARENT BULLETIN

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6th October 2023



Curriculum – what your child learns with us

In a time where schools are asked to do more far beyond the classroom, it is worth reminding ourselves that our primary focus is giving students a good academic and moral education. At Willingdon Community School, a huge amount of thought and evaluation goes into our curriculum. Our most recent Ofsted report stated that: “Leaders have created a curriculum which is carefully planned and sequenced. Content is ambitious for all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.”

We know that when our students leave us in Year 11, we want them to leave with more than just a good set of exam results, we want them going out into the world showing ambition, respect, compassion, courtesy and honesty. Each year we review our curriculum to ensure that it is meeting the requirements of our local and national context and keeping up to date with the ever-changing world and the challenges this brings.

I recently spoke to 130 trainee teachers at Brighton University about what makes our curriculum special at Willingdon Community School. I was able to talk with immense pride about our students and their engagement with the 19 subjects on offer at Key Stage 3, and 23 we offer at Key Stage 4. The breadth in which our curriculum has is down to the fact that we know that it is better for students to keep as many doorways open for as long as possible as they might not know what they want to do with their futures yet.

Sometimes for parents and carers, it can be hard to illicit a response from children about what they are learning at school, but we have worked hard to ensure that parents and carers can access these details clearly on our website: <https://willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/curriculum>

On the curriculum section of our website you should be able to view useful roadmaps which give you the overview of each subject over the 5 years:

You can also find a subject booklet which provides parents/carers even more detail about what is taught in each subject.

If you cannot find the answers on our website, please feel free to contact me to talk through any curriculum and teaching and learning queries.

All best wishes,

Paul Holt

Deputy Headteacher

Homework:

At Willingdon Community School, we are guided by the following when it comes to setting homework:

Further details including a schedule for when homework is set can be found here: <https://willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/homework>

Homework at Willingdon School

Purpose:

- Encourages self-discipline and study habits.
- Reinforces class work and consolidates learning.
- Provides additional assessment opportunities.
- Gives students experience of **working on their own**.
- Develops a sense of **responsibility**.
- Involves **parents/carers** in the educational process.

Minimum frequency:

Year 7 and Year 8:

English, Science, and Maths = weekly (30 minute duration)
All other subjects = fortnightly (30 minute duration)

Year 9:

All subjects = weekly (30 minute duration)

Year 10 and Year 11:

English, Science, and Maths = weekly (1 hour duration)
All other subjects = weekly (45 minutes)

*excludes core PE

Best practice:

- Homework is planned and **embedded** within the curriculum.
- Homework is posted on **Edulink** with **clear instructions** and **attached resources**.
- It is made clear whether a child will receive **feedback** for that piece of work.
- The task is **explained** in class to the students before they leave.
- **Adaptations** are made to resources for those who need them.
- Homework has a **clear purpose** and is explicitly linked to what students are learning in class, it is not a tokenistic add-on.



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

"Homework has a positive impact on average (+5 months), particularly with pupils in secondary schools.

Education
Endowment Fund
(2017)



Thank you for all the generous donations so far!!
Lots of House Points going to students for their contributions 😊

We have filled the first crate - on to the next!

We are collecting for Eastbourne Food Bank up until the end of term.

All donations welcome - but here is a guide of their current needs

CURRENT SHOPPING LIST - OUR STOCK LEVELS ARE LOW ON THESE ITEMS & DEMAND IS HIGH

UHT MILK
POT NOODLES
JAM AND OTHER SPREADS
SHAMPOO
CEREAL
COFFEE
MEAT PIES
PACKET MASHED POTATO
PACKET SOUP
CHILDREN'S TOOTHPASTE

WE ARE WELL STOCKED FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

BAKED BEANS
TINNED SOUP
PASTA
PORRIDGE

THIS WEEK



A great start to the season for the Year 9 team winning 8-0 in the County Cup today.



Following on from Year 7 & 8 Netball losses, as well as a Year 10 football loss, the Year 7s got the PE Dept back to winning ways, winning 7-3 into the 2nd round of the County Cup.

ENRICHMENT CLUB NOTIFICATION

Match of the Day Club has changed days.

It will now be held on a Monday lunchtime in EN4 and not Tuesday.

YEAR 10 & 11

FREE virtual work experience opportunities

Springpod provides Virtual Work Experiences, University insight content called “Subject Spotlights” and routes into Apprenticeships for students. Working directly with world-leading employers and organisations, as well as top universities to provide students with invaluable online experiences to help prepare them for life post-school and develop their core skills.

It's **free for students to sign up and participate** in the programmes. Every course is curated by the organisations themselves to provide as much support and development for students as possible with input from industry professionals, University academics and more! Some of the courses have live talks and some are On-demand, so there's something for every student to engage with.

All opportunities can be started and completed flexibly during students' studies or in their own time!

If students would like to sign up please click on the following link:

[Springpod virtual work experience opportunities](#)

Below you can find a PDF of all of the upcoming programmes.

[Downloadable PDF](#)

HC
HAILSHAM
SIXTH FORM

OPEN EVENING
17TH OCTOBER '23
6:00PM - 8:00PM



@hailsham_sixthform

*'be the very best
you can be'*

www.hccat.net/sixth-form

LAW APPRENTICESHIPS



DENTONS

Meet Dentons: Life as a Solicitor Apprentice at the World's Largest Law Firm

Is your child considering a career in law? Did you know that they can get a law degree and becoming a Solicitor through doing an apprenticeship? Join our free insight webinar with Dentons to find out more about applying, what the programme looks like, and how you will be supported throughout.

On: 21st November 2023 at 6.30 - 7.15pm

For: Students and parents of those in years 10 to 13.

[Book your place today](#)



IBM

IBM Apprenticeships Webinar!

Is your child looking to solve some of the world's biggest problems ranging from Artificial Intelligence, to sustainability and data science? If so, you won't want to miss out on this **free** and interactive insight webinar with IBM. Take part in a Live Q&A session with the recruitment team, go through each step of the application process, and speak directly to current apprentices to learn about life as an IBMer.

On: 17th October 2023 at 6.30 - 7.30 pm

For: Students and parents of those in years 10 to 13.

[Book your place today](#)



ACCA

ACCA 'Careers in Business' Expo

ACCA are pleased to bring back "Careers in Business", the virtual expo, this time in partnership with Success at School!

Throughout the day, your child can take part in multiple live and interactive sessions all about Apprenticeships, University, T-Levels, Careers, Wellbeing and more.

On: 6th December at 8.30 - 5.30pm

For: Students and parents are encouraged to join.

[Register your interest here](#)