



PARENT BULLETIN

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8th September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well done to our student body for a smooth and very positive start back. Attendance has been very good - above the national average. Students often can take a few days to get back into the routine of school but we have been so impressed with how quickly everyone has settled, especially the Year 7s.

I would like to draw your attention to our Ofsted Report which was released at the start of the summer holiday. We hope you are able to take some time to read this as we are very proud of our students and staff. One of our improvement points centres around engaging a small number of parents more with school life. We appreciate how lucky we are to have such a supportive parent body who do go above and beyond to engage in school life. We however, accept that time is precious and we need to find the best ways to keep you informed and engage with you regarding your children. We all believe that the success of our children is dependent on good partnerships with the home. We are keen to work with all parents and carers to support every child in our school. Whilst we might not always agree, we will always listen, accept feedback and reflect on whether we could do something differently.

We will be working with the SSAT (The Schools, Students and Teachers Network) to follow one of their parent partnership support programmes to see if there is anything educational experts suggest we could be doing differently or better to work with you all. Meanwhile, any feedback do let us know via the talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk address.

Last year, we had over 50 incidences of online safety concerns. Can we highlight the importance of adhering to the recommended ages for social media platforms. Some children are on these platforms before the recommended ages. They are often putting themselves at risk and not always realising it. Also, we would like to remind parents to have those regular check ins with their child's social media to ensure they are not putting themselves at risk of grooming. Any concerns, you can email safeguarding@willingdonschool.org.uk

We thank you again for your help this week in getting our students off to the very best start. Long may it continue!

Mrs May
Headteacher

You said, we did...



Following the feedback from the community (parents, carers, students and staff), we are no longer insisting on students having lanyards. However, some students liked these and found them useful. We also recognise for many, it allowed them to be organised and have their various cards placed in them. We do have a supply that can be ordered through ParentPay and will be prepared with your child's timetable on if they would like these to wear, or have these in their blazer pockets. Students have been allocated a pocket book for their passwords and timetable and are expected to use these daily.

EXCEPTIONAL PUNCTUALITY IS KEY!

Students need to arrive in time for the lesson to start at 8:30am. Along with all other Eastbourne schools, our registration will close at 9am. Any student arriving after 9am will be classified as absent for the morning session and receive an unauthorised registration (Coded U). An accumulation of 10 unauthorised absences will result in the School following the County Policy relating to attendance fines. If students are late between 8:30am and 9am, an immediate sanction is carried out to recognise the disruption to those students' learning that is then interrupted with late arrivals. We appreciate all the support parents give us in encouraging student to arrive on time to prevent any lost learning. Furthermore, all students should be arriving to each lesson on time to ensure they are not missing out on the engaging starters that often hook the learning, allowing them to make excellent progress.

We are currently refining the operating system behind the Edulink platform that informs you on reward and behaviour points to ensure it is bespoke to our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

We were unable to get this in place before the start of term due to the migration from our previous operating system to our new system, Arbor. We are delighted that we can now continue to use Edulink for parents and students. Reward points are currently being allocated, but there is a system failure as to reporting the numerical value so points will not appear on your system at the moment. We are working with Arbor to correct this and no student will be disadvantaged in the long run, as these will be added retrospectively.

We hope to have all this in place within 2 weeks, if not earlier. The usual system for managing student behaviour is still in place within school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will ensure students are aware of this too, so that they still feel the reward points they have started to achieve are valued.

Structure of School Day 2023-2024

Lesson 2 9.20am - 10.10am	Tutor 8 and 10 Break 7,9,11 10.10am - 10.40am	Tutor 7,9,11 Break 8 and 10 10.40am - 11.10am	Lesson 3 11.10am - 12.00pm	Lesson 4 12.00pm - 12.50pm	Lunch 12.50pm - 1.20pm	Lesson 5 1.20pm - 2.10pm	Lesson 6 2.10pm - 3.00pm	
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Click on the link to see our year team contacts <https://willingdonschool.org.uk/contact>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Student Player Profile 2023

Please complete the form to share sporting excellence from a club level and above. The completed forms and pictures will be used to create a display in the entrance of the sports hall. The deadline for this is Monday 11th September.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BO1qUxSKECxUIPUw2n8WFZMXMRb0yRpPhul38gYMWh0/edit#settings>

Uniform Expectations during the hot weather

There is no expectation to bring blazers in to school next week due the hot weather.

From w/c the 18th September, blazers should be worn every day.



[Click here for all our information on the music rooms, including joining our music enrichment clubs, at Willingdon](#)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Listen to your Imagination

Create Music are on a mission to bring music into as many homes in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex as possible.

Today at school all of Year 7 experienced the excitement of seeing and hearing a demonstration of the instruments that are available to learn. Learning to play a musical instrument provides children with an experience that enriches their lives in so many ways.

Through learning an instrument children will learn skills that help develop a lifelong love of music. Research has also shown that there are many other benefits associated with learning to play a musical instrument including:

- raising confidence, self-esteem and improving well-being
- improving teamwork, concentration and skills for learning
- connecting with new people and broadening horizons

Lessons take place either individually or in small groups during the school day and lessons for new pupils are due to start in the coming weeks.

If you would like to register your child for lessons, you can apply directly via our website: createmusic.org.uk/apply

If you would like to find out further information, we would like to welcome you to an online meeting. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes and you'll be able to find out about what's involved in learning an instrument, the curriculum followed, the costs, hiring an instrument and how you may be able to receive financial support towards lesson fees.

To register to attend a meeting please go to our [website](https://createmusic.org.uk).

We very much hope that your child will be interested in learning to play an instrument with Create Music.

Kind regards,

Create Music
createmusic.org.uk

To: Letter to Parents and Carers



Date: 4 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Your child's school has been looking forward to welcoming your child to the new school year, or to the school for the first time. The press coverage over the last few days around school buildings has understandably overshadowed the return to school for some children. Only one school in East Sussex was identified by the DFE as potentially requiring partial closure. Your child's school will of course let you know if any precautions need to be taken over the coming months.

I am writing to you now for two reasons. The first is to let you know about support which is available, if you need it, to help you help your child to attend school regularly. The second is to emphasise how important it is that schools and families should work together positively to ensure that children make the most of the opportunities for them at school.

Being at school regularly

Attending school regularly is important not just for individual children but for everyone in their class. Teaching works best when every child in the class can make progress day by day, building their knowledge, understanding and skills. For everyone to succeed as well as possible we need everyone in the class to be there all the time or as much of it as possible. Children also need to see their friends, keep up to date with what the class is doing and feel the sense of belonging which they will have if they go to school every day.

Children do become ill sometimes, but they should always be at school if they can be. There is guidance from the NHS on common illnesses and the best response here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There is more information about your role as a parent or carer and what help you can expect from schools around school attendance here: [how to seek support](#)

If you have any concerns or questions at all about being at school, please ask your child's school. They want to help you and make sure your child is happy.

Working together positively

Every team achieves the most when they pull together and when everyone feels respected and valued by everyone else. You and your child's school are a team, dedicated to giving your child the best start to their life. If you become concerned about something which is happening at school, the school will want to help sort it out. They may not be able to talk to you immediately because of everything they are trying to do, but they will want to make sure that the right person is able to talk to you as soon as they can. With courtesy, goodwill and kindness on all sides, problems can usually be solved; so please be as patient as you can and remember we are all human beings. We all do our best when we feel safe, respected, and valued.

Thank you!

Finally thank you for reading this letter and more important for all the friendship and support you provide to everyone at your child's school. I hope your child/children have a great school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Jeffery".

Alison Jeffery

Director of Children's Services

MESSAGE TO YEAR 7 PARENTS

Good afternoon,

Calculators ordered will be given out in maths lessons in a few weeks time, students do not need them in their lessons until then. Year 7 classes will have a calculator lesson where the calculators are given out and students are shown how to use them. Calculators will be available to purchase through ParentPay throughout the year.

Kind regards

Miss P Martin

Home-School Communication

As we come to the end of a hot first week back to school, we would like to advise you of first contact dates with the school. We have planned different events across the first two terms for each year group that will align with events happening in school. Please use the table below as a reference for when these key events will be happening. In the meantime, if you have anything you would like to discuss, please do contact the school. If relevant, email your child's class teacher or Head of Department for individual issues. For any well-being or non-subject specific enquiries, please email the pastoral team PSL@willingdonschool.org.uk. If you do not get a response within 48hours, please feel free to use our talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk.

Year			
7	Wednesday 27 th September - Meet the Tutor Parents' Evening	During the week beginning 13 th November – Year 7 first reports released	
8	During the week beginning 11 th December – Year 8 reports released		
9	Thursday October 19 th – Year 9 Positive Progress Evening	During the week beginning 11 th December – Year 9 reports released	
10	Thursday November 23 rd – Year 10 Positive Progress Evening	During the week beginning 20 th November – Year 10 reports released	
11	Thursday 14 th September – Motivational Information	During the week beginning 4 th December- Year 11 reports released	Thursday 7 th December – Year 11 Positive Progress Evening

ESCAPE Club

Every Wednesday
after school.

Find us in the school dining hall.

Toasties & fun &
games.

Everyone welcome!

MONOPOLY



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
FULL INFORMATION ON
OUR ENRICHMENT
ACTIVITIES FOR TERM 1**

[willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/
enrichment-programme](http://willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/enrichment-programme)



Willingdon Warhammer Club!

Monday Lunch time in LA2 with Mr Gardner

Build! Paint! Play!

Warhammer is a collection of strategy board games where you collect, build and paint your army of plastic figures.

This club is for those who already play or those who might be interested in getting into the game.

All years welcome!



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Stagecoach bus ticket prices

We have been made aware by parents of increases in bus ticket prices set by Stagecoach. All singles are £2 and returns range from £2.10 to £3.40 depending on location.

We know these are challenging times for families in our Willingdon community and, while we have no control over ticket prices, we continue to speak to Stagecoach on a range of issues including ticket prices.

You can raise concerns about the cost of transport to school by contacting Stagecoach directly or your local MP Caroline Ansell (Eastbourne and Willingdon), Maria Caulfield (Polegate) and Huw Merriman (Stone Cross and Pevensey).

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



Hello, my name is Rickie Mortlock. I am a member of the maths department here at Willingdon Community School. This is my 6th year of teaching in East Sussex. I grew up and spent most of my schooling in Florida where I loved my time as a student and at school, which is one of the main reasons for becoming a teacher. I have had plenty of jobs in all sorts of fields prior to becoming a teacher 6 years ago, but always knew that teaching was the career I wanted. I love sports and have played sports at all sorts of levels including earning a scholarship to play football at university in Florida out of high school. I currently play football for a team in Hove and American Football for a team based in Haywards Heath. I also coach American football at the University of Brighton, which is where I attended and played both sports at whilst doing my degree to become a teacher.

You can always reach me at my email rmortlock@willingdonschool.org.uk



My name is Cameron Fraser and I have recently joined Willingdon as a music teacher. Prior to this I worked as a music teacher in Lewes for 8 years.

Outside of work, my hobbies include running, reading, and traveling.

My email address is: cfraser@willingdonschool.org.uk

[Click Here](#)
[Click Here](#)



Reflect • Motivate • Support



*Blowing
Trumpets*

- Reflect -

[Click Here](#)

YEARS 10 & 11



EXPLORE

NEW HORIZONS

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

UNLOCK THEIR EXTRAORDINARY
eastbourne-college.co.uk



UNLOCK THEIR EXTRAORDINARY

There is no such thing as a typical Eastbourne College pupil. Each has their own strengths and passions, with areas in which they excel, alongside those that they enjoy. Pupils are challenged daily to be curious and open-minded so they discover what brings out their best.

We also encourage pupils to be confident while teaching them to be kind, courteous and considerate of others. Put simply, good people that others want to be with.

Find out why families are choosing Eastbourne College.

Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 21 September
eastbourne-college.co.uk

Why Eastbourne College?

- Holistic approach to learning, nurturing success in and out of the classroom
- Over 50 % A*-A at GCSE and over 75% A*-B at A-Level
- We sit in the top 4% of schools nationally for academic 'value added' which means on average our pupils achieve one grade above their predicted grade
- Diverse and exciting co-curriculum, offering everything from Art to Sailing
- Strong support network where pupils feel at home from day one



YEAR 10

Please see the below reminder regarding Year 10 work experience that will take place from 13th – 17th May 2024.

For those students that have found a placement, please can you email Mrs Rooney on srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk with the name of the employer, address, name of the contact, their telephone number & email address,

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Year 10 Work Experience / 13th – 17th May 2024

I am writing with regards to Year 10 work experience which will take place during the week of 13th - 17th May 2024. Please see the below requesting that students source their own work experience placements by **Friday 29th September 2023**.

Work Experience is an important part of education and supports young people to make career decisions, develop employability skills and support successful transition into Further Education, Higher Education, apprenticeships and the workplace.

Finding a work experience placement

We would ask that students find their own placement for work experience with your support. This could be a placement with you or other relatives, friends/connections, or by simply approaching an employer directly. Finding an own placement will mean that students will be able to undertake a suitable placement that is of interest and personally rewarding to them. It also helps develop communication, resourcefulness and initiative and will help ensure that they have access to a wide range of jobs and employers.

Should students be unable to source their own placement, we do have a database of available employers and placements, and we do our utmost to place students in a sector they are interested in. However, it can sometimes be challenging to find placements that are aspirational and match student needs.

Note: A work experience placement cannot be outside of the UK or in a place where your child would need to be over 16 to access it (i.e. a tattoo parlour). It is also a legal requirement that all employers have 'Employers Liability Insurance' in place unless the parent is a sole trader.

What happens next?

Students and parents start to explore options over the summer holidays. We would need to know of any confirmed placements by **Friday 29th September 2023** due to suitability, risk assessment and health and safety checks that will need to be carried out by East Sussex County Council. Please email me on srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk with the name of the employer, their address, contact telephone number & email address. Those students that are unable to source their own placement will receive support in finding a suitable placement during school time.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser

Tel: 01323 485254 ext 281

YEAR 10

REMINDER

WORK EXPERIENCE - 13TH - 17TH MAY 2024

For those students that have found a placement, please can you email Mrs Rooney on srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk with the name of the employer, address, name of the contact, their telephone number & email address.

YEAR 11



Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see the below link to book onto Plumpton College's next Open Event which is taking place on 20th September from 17.00 – 19.30.

[Plumpton College Open Event - 20th September](#)

YEAR 11 MOTIVATIONAL EVENING

As part of our on-going programme to ensure that parents and carers are kept fully informed about their children's education here at Willingdon, I am writing to invite students and parents/carers to our Year 11 Motivational Evening. This will be held on Thursday 14th September, starting at 5:30pm in the school hall.

We believe the evening will make a useful contribution towards helping achieve the best possible GCSE grades and to enable students to go on to the Further Education course of their choice. Through a programme of speakers, we will discuss key dates and offer advice on various subjects. We will also discuss strategies for coping with some of the pressures that arise in Key Stage 4.

We do hope that you will be able to join us on Thursday 14th September. We actively encourage students to attend with their parents/carers. We envisage the evening will last no longer than one hour, although there will be an opportunity to talk to staff at the end of the evening.

Please complete the google form, link below, indicating whether or not you will be able to attend the Information Evening.

[Year 11 Motivational Evening](#)

Anthony Roche

Head of Year 11