



# PARENT BULLETIN

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9th February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely holiday and feel ready for Term 4. I can't believe we are half way through the school year already, time has flown.

I wanted to start with a few thank yous from the end of last term.

**Our students - who have worked very hard in Terms 1-3.** I would also like to say well done to all of the students who have achieved great things outside of their lessons. I can't keep up with all the update posts, there are so many! From being in a winning sports team to taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award the list is endless. These are the things the children will remember and we encourage you to help your child sign up for more activities that we are providing.

**Friends of Willingdon School** – They have raised over £1000 from the Quiz Night and the cinema event with Year 7. They are really hoping that some more parents, particularly from Key Stage Three, can support going forward. Please register your interest with [Friends@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:Friends@willingdonschool.org.uk).

**Support staff** - It was great to hear from our support staff on the Friday inset and give feedback on some suggestions they had raised. We also celebrated the work that our team does which is invaluable to us as teachers and leaders. Thank you again to all of our support staff who are often our unsung heroes.

**The Ski Trip staff** - Thank you to the staff for giving up most of your holiday to take the group away. Particular thanks to Mr Gordon who led the trip and provided experiences children will remember forever.

**The Drama and Music departments** - After last year, we were quite sad we didn't get enough interest for a school show. Ms McCarthy took this challenge on and a year later, we had the most fantastic production which was absolute class. Well done to Ms McCarthy, in particular, for her relentless energy and enthusiasm for rebuilding Drama after the impact of covid lockdowns on many of our children. We hope, for our next production, we can get all of our students watching as the Year 8 really enjoyed the performance. Many of the primary school children from our feeder primaries said it inspired them to take part in their own drama club and show!

**Trip to Downing Street** - Well done to our science department who led the trip to 10 Downing Street to take part in a STEM activity. We were one of the only schools to be invited, so this was a real privilege. The opportunity we gave our Year 9 girls was truly a once in a lifetime. We are so proud of the students and our staff for this.

We look forward to welcoming our students back this week. Please can parents make sure students are prepared for a positive start back and are adhering to the dress code expectations. It is also crucial students have a bag for school with a pencil case and other important equipment in. This is listed on our website

<https://willingdonschool.org.uk/key-information/school-uniform>

This week Year 11 have their final round of mocks. It is absolutely crucial they prepare for these effectively. The exam boards have requested that all scripts are kept. Students need to do their very best to allow staff to give forensic feedback to improve outcomes. Subject teachers have provided students with resources to aid with their revision. If your child is unsure where to begin, please direct them to these resources.

Finally, we are keen to offer parents a chance to meet again with senior leaders to discuss any concerns they have or to come and look round the school. When we have offered times before, we haven't always had the best response. Therefore, if you are interested in a chat or a tour, could you please email [talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk) and we can find some mutually agreeable times for us all.

Have a great week.

Mrs May

Dear Parents / Carers

There will be another inset day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused. The L.A. have granted us this due to the incredible amount of administration time our new computer system took to embed which took away from our other Continual Professional Development time. We need to allow staff the curriculum planning time for 24/25.

Many thanks for your anticipated support.



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*Anxiety Literacy*

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# Southern Schools Book Award



Since September, we have offered a Southern Schools Books Awards club, where Year 7 students have engaged in reading the shortlisted books. This year's shortlist incorporated a range of different genres and styles, from murder mystery, to county lines, prose form and verse. Students were engaged in the storylines and character interactions. Votes have now been cast and the winner is to be revealed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February!

## **The half-life of love** by Brianna Bourne



It comes as a twinge, a signal that you've reached the exact half point of your life...Flint knows he will die at 16 so he's never really tried to live. With 6 weeks left, he returns to his hometown with his family, determined to go quietly. Science-obsessed September interns at the world-renowned Half Life Institute. She has never grieved the death of her younger sister who "half-lived" the previous year but she is determined to find a cure.

Chance brings the two together. A friendship – and then something more – starts to form. September's easy warmth gives Flint permission to enjoy his life, and in turn Flint allows September to grieve instead of hiding behind smiles and personas. But time's running out and Flint hasn't shared his secret yet – will their connection prove extraordinary enough to last beyond those last few weeks, or is their time together destined to end in heartbreak?

## **Truth be told** by Sue Divin



Northern Ireland. 2019.

Tara has been raised by her mam and nan in Derry City. Faith lives in rural Armagh.

Their lives on opposite sides of a political divide couldn't be more different. Until they come face-to-face with each other and are shocked to discover they look almost identical. Are they connected?

In searching for the truth about their own identities, the teenagers uncover more than they bargained for. But what if finding out who you truly are means undermining everything you've ever known?



**Crossing the line** by Tia Fisher



Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. Homework and being good at school stop feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing, trap houses and violence.

Making money feels good but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt.

And when his sisters' lives are threatened, Erik will have to cross one more line to save them.

Written in stunning verse, this is a poignant story about seeking safety and asking for help in times of crisis.

**This book kills** by Ravena Guron



When Hugh Henry Van Boren, one of the most popular and richest kids in Jess Choudhary's school, is found dead, the student body is left reeling and wondering who the murderer could be... Jess, a student under strict instructions to keep her record clean or risk losing her scholarship, finds herself at the centre of the investigation when it's revealed that Hugh died in the exact same way as a character in a short story she wrote.

And then Jess receives an anonymous text thanking her for the inspiration.

With time running out, Jess knows if she doesn't solve this mystery she'll finally have something in common with Hugh Henry.

She'll be dead too.

**The agency for scandal** by Laura Wood



Eighteen-year-old Isobel Stanhope is keeping a lot of secrets. There's the fact that she's head over heels in love with a Duke who doesn't know she exists; there's the fact that her family is penniless but nobody in society knows about it; and then there's her job at the Aviary, an investigative agency run by women that specializes in digging up scandal on powerful men.

When Izzy finds herself pulled into a case that involves gaslighting, blackmail, and missing jewels, as well as the Duke who holds her heart, can she and her friends untangle the web of secrets and lies to uncover the truth and protect the innocent? And when the stakes are

so high, what happens when the crush she's been hiding begins to turn into so much more?

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Big shout out to the following student who had the greatest **Bedrock achievement** last month:

**Indio C** who made *150%* progress in January

This month, students have been learning the following words:

### Top English classes for January:

9AT1

7AN2

9AM1



## LOST PROPERTY

Do you recognise any of these items?

If an item belongs to your child, please ask them collect from Student Support in the first week back.

Parents/carers of items with a student name on will already have received a phone call.



# SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



Well done to the Year 11s for winning the Eastbourne Schools Cup Final 🏆



A great game, played in great spirits and a fantastic goal by Zack Tarrant to clinch the 1-0 win!

A huge thank you to Bexhill College staff and students for accommodating us this afternoon and giving the boys a great experience!



And not to be outdone. The Year 7 girls were also in action winning 5-3. Well done to all involved



Huge congratulations to Year 10 prospective Head Students who all gave fantastic presentations to the whole staff! Public speaking is a great skill albeit nerve-wracking at times; these students really did themselves proud and gave a sterling account of themselves and their many ideas for future improvements in the school. Best of luck to all of you in the voting for the next stage.

# SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK

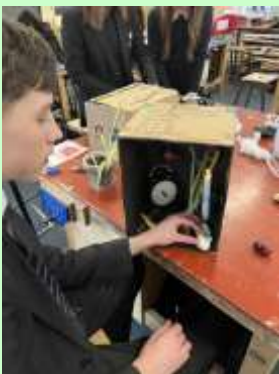


Huge well done to Izzy in Year 10, who recently competed in a Team Sports Acro competition and was placed 2nd. This is a huge achievement, and due to the nature of the performance takes a lot of training, trust and strength! Izzy is also a gymnastics coach for younger children, and dedicates a lot of her time to sharing her love of gymnastics. Well done Izzy, we are very proud of you!



Congratulations to Freya in Year 9 and Alannah in Year 11, who recently competed in the Southern Zonals Trampoline Competition in Worthing. Both students were placed top 20, which is amazing out of 40 competitors. Well done!

Year 10 art students have been working hard on their responses to the artist Sanchez Cotan. Phase one was to make an object collection box to create a painting from. Photos of their oil paintings will be posted so you can track their progress!





# SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



Well done to all the students that completed in the Annual Partnership Year 9, 10 & 11 Swimming Gala at Eastbourne College. Fantastic performances by all in the individual and relay events



Year 7 have been working towards producing an extended piece of writing in French, and the work produced, in controlled conditions, by some of our students is truly outstanding at this stage in their Language learning journey!

An amazing finale for French as we are moving on to Spanish after half term.



Last week the winners of the Christmas Bedrock Challenge went to Waterstones Eastbourne as part of their reward.



They were able to choose a book of their interest with the aim of building their own personal library.

# YEAR 8 - 11



## Film&Screen

Join the Film&Screen Saturday Club at East Sussex College. It's free and open to 13–16 year olds of all ability

East Sussex College is launching a Film&Screen Saturday Club which will explore the exciting world of media, film and television. At the Club you will be guided by expert tutors who will introduce you to the breadth of the industry. Through the programme you will develop your skills with access to professional equipment, tools and techniques. Joining the Club is a brilliant opportunity for any young filmmakers, producers, engineers and writers in the making!



**Find out more**

@natsatclub  
[saturday-club.org/join](https://saturday-club.org/join)

**Club location:**

East Sussex College – Eastbourne Campus,  
Cross Levels Way, Eastbourne BN21 2UF

**Club times:**

Saturdays, 09:00 – 12:00

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL  
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# YEAR 10

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

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



**Futures Fair, Friday 1 March 2024**

**Eastbourne College, Old Wish Road, Eastbourne,  
BN21 4JX**

Dear pupil

You are warmly invited to attend the annual Futures Convention at Eastbourne College taking place on Friday 1 March 2024 from 7pm.

If you have questions about what the best next step for you is after school, then I recommend you come and join us.

We will have a wide range of exhibitors who will be representing colleges and universities as well as a wide range of different career pathways. It is an ideal opportunity to ask questions, get advice on career options and even secure work experience.

A full list of the different stands will be available nearer the time but if you want to come along, ask your parents/guardians to book you a place or ask your teacher for help.

It would be great to see you there.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me.

Best wishes

Sarah Gordon  
Head of Futures

Dear parents and guardians,

You are warmly invited to attend the annual Futures Convention at Eastbourne College taking place on Friday 1 March 2024 from 7pm onwards.

The Futures Convention is perfect for pupils in Year 11 upwards. It is an ideal opportunity to ask questions about next steps, get advice on career options and even secure work experience. We will have around 60 exhibitors including representatives from a range of different career pathways, universities and colleges who will be there to offer their help and guidance.

A full exhibitor list will be available nearer the time but to book a place, please use this QR code to access our online booking form.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me.

Best wishes

Sarah Gordon  
Head of Futures

