



PARENT BULLETIN

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1st March 2024



Dear Parents/ Carers

As we approach the summer GCSE examinations, we are handing over our Student Leadership Team from Year 11 to Year 10s. There was a very competitive and rigorous application process and every student that entered an application showed such ambition and dedication to the school and students.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank our outgoing Year 11 Student Leadership Team, led by our Head Students Farrah Scofield and Toby Shepherd, for their commitment and innovation in supporting the school to set up new ideas such as the House System and the peer mentoring scheme. These legacy projects will now pass to the Year 10 student leaders to take on the challenge and to add their own stamp.

I would like to congratulate and introduce our two new Head Students – Rosie Delgado-Howell and Giorgio Fardella, who will be writing to you themselves in the coming weeks. They can't wait to get started and have begun, with their team of Deputy and Assistant Head Students to start their planning and organising teams.

Willingdon is fortunate to have such a compassionate and enthusiastic cohort of students that want to do well and to make improvements for everyone. The whole staff are looking forward to supporting the new Student Leadership Team, so do watch this space as we bring lots of exciting opportunities and events to your attention.

Kind regards

Mrs Lucy Collins

Visiting Teachers from the USA

We have four teachers joining us from Monday 26th February until Friday 27th April from the United States. They are currently at Brighton University who are partnered with Illinois State University in the USA for a visiting teachers programme.

The idea of the programme is that newly qualified teachers come to Eastbourne, live with host families and go into local schools for an 10 week placement. These students are about to graduate back home in the USA, after their 4 year degree programme and this enrichment placement in the UK is offered to them just before they graduate. Our four teachers are:

Mr Staley
Chemistry/Science



Mr Gomez
History/Political Science



Ms Klosowski
Maths



Mr Johnson
History



We hope they see the very best of our community here at Willingdon, and also get to explore the wonderful South East during their stay here in the UK.

They will be offering support and interventions in class, and even delivering some lessons of their own too.

We hope the whole community makes them very welcome.

EduLink SENCO bookings

The inclusion team are always very keen to work closely with our parents and carers of students on the SEND register and also to identify early any possible SEND concerns. To make meetings simpler we have set up on each parent EDULINK the option to book an in person or online meeting with the inclusion team if you have concerns about your child's progress. This could include worries about literacy, academic progress or neurodiversity. These appointments can be booked for 20 minutes with our senco and there are sessions available each fortnight. The bookings are made in the same way that parent evening bookings are made but each slot is longer.

For concerns and concerns related to attendance, friendship, behaviour or other pastoral concerns please do continue to liaise with your child's tutor. This is an additional support for those parents who are concerned regarding their child's SEND or possible SEND needs.

We hope this will support our partnership together,

Ollie Barber

SENCO

INTRODUCING OUR SUPPORT STAFF



My name is Mrs Beddows and I have worked at Willingdon for five years. My main role is Student Support Manager and I am the lead first aider in the school. Student Support covers a multitude of things eg illness, injury, no money on their "finger", loss of pencil case/shoes/coat, anxiety, argument with friends, relationship issues, or just someone to talk to etc etc. Sometimes it feels a bit like a triage centre! I thoroughly enjoy my job as I don't know what I am going to be faced with each day!

I am also Chair of Friends and have raised large sums of money for the school through the annual Sponsored Walk BBQ and Firework event. We organise smaller events throughout the year, such as a quiz night, bingo and refreshments at other school events. If any parent would like to join in, please contact me at friends@willingdonschool.org.uk. It is not onerous and can be fun!



My name is Mrs Lamberton and my role within Willingdon Community School is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Welfare Officer. Additionally I am a trained counsellor and use my counselling skills to support a number of our students.

I have worked at WCS for 17 years, enjoying different pastoral roles and having started in 2007 when my own children were students here. Away from school I enjoy travelling, walking around our glorious local countryside and I am looking forward to having my first grandchild in the Spring.



My name is Mrs Barrow and I joined Willingdon in 2007 as a science technician. My role involves, amongst other things, preparing all of the practical science lessons that are carried out by the students and providing demonstrations for the teachers.

In my spare time I enjoy Hotpod Yoga and baking for my family and friends.



I'm Miss Todd, I am Assistant SENCO and I have been at Willingdon for almost two years. I work in ARCCH, our Inclusion area. I coordinate the day to day elements of the Inclusion department, and deliver a range of interventions, including Forest School. My role is very varied, which I really enjoy. Outside of school, I love baking and long walks with my lovely Labrador.





National School Attendance Award

2022/23 Autumn Term



Willingdon Community School

Top 10% of all FFT Secondary Schools in England

FFT collects daily attendance data from over 10,000 schools. This data helps schools to track, monitor and compare their attendance every week through our Attendance Tracker system.

Awards have been given to schools with attendance in the Top 10% and Top 25% of all FFT schools nationally for the 2023/24 Autumn term.



Thank you to Deborah Brown who is a Senior lecturer in Primary and Early Years at Sussex University for the careers session she led to Year 10 students studying the NCFE Child Development course.

Rachel Forss joined the Year 10 and 11 assemblies today to talk about her career as a podiatrist and her incredible work leading a project on a parabolic flight. The project was to investigate the circulation changes that take place in the human body during different gravitational phases.



Dear Parents and Carers. Please can we request that all students come to exams in **correct uniform** and not wearing PE kit, unless they have a practical PE lesson on that day. **No hoodies** of any kind should be worn in school. If hoodies are worn, students will be asked to remove them and they will be kept in the year office until the end of day. To avoid this situation, please ensure coats and blazer are brought to school. **Correct equipment** should also be brought in for all exams, as this should not be lent out. Water bottles are only allowed with sport style lids, not screw tops.

STEM Club – KS3—returning from Thursday 7th March

A club for those with a passion for science or curiosity about STEM, where students can get hands on, with a range of interesting practicals each week to build their skills, challenge themselves, and have fun whilst learning more about STEM.

When and Where: 3pm - 4pm SC5

Contact: Mr Staley
Mr Osborne
tstaley@willingdonschool.org.uk
posborne@willingdonschool.org.uk



YEAR 9



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Big Futures Show – Tuesday 23rd April 2024

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for our **Year 9** students.

The Big Futures Show is a careers event which is organised by the Eastbourne Education Business Partnership and comprises of approximately 80 stands representing local companies and colleges.

Your child has the opportunity to attend this event, which we hope they will enjoy and find beneficial.

The date for the show is **Tuesday 23rd April 2024** and is being hosted at Eastbourne Sports Park, Cross Levels Way, BN21 2UF. We will travel there by coach for a slot, from 9.30-11.00am, then return to school for the remainder of the day.

We believe our students would gain a great deal of information from this event, meeting prospective colleges and taking part in the interactive sessions that the companies are providing.

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 **£9.70**, payable via ParentPay, to cover the entrance fee and transport costs. **This is now live on Parentpay.**

If you would like your child to attend, but require support with payment, please do contact me on the below email address.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser
srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

**READ
YOUR WAY**

Take part in the
Design Your Ultimate School
Library Competition.
Details on Edulink.
Deadline 6 March.



[#WorldBookDay](#)

Competition opportunity.
Design your ultimate school
library. Forms available on
Edulink or via Resources.
Some ingenious designs have
been submitted so far. Still
time to get involved.

[#inmyshoesWCS](#)

[#WorldBookDay](#)

Competition opportunity.
Design a National Book
Token. We'll send them off
and there are fantastic
prizes potentially to be
won. Time to get creative!
Forms available on Edulink
or via Resources.

[#inmyshoesWCS](#)



**DESIGN A NATIONAL BOOK TOKEN
COMPETITION**

Year 7/8: 9-12 years category

Years 8/9: 13-16 years category

Theme is 'Read Your Way'. Every reader is
different, and there's no right or wrong way
to enjoy reading.

Details and entry forms on
Edulink.

Deadline 6 March.
Hand in to Resources or
your English teacher.



Exciting to see students
book cover treasure
hunting this week.
One more week to go!



**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**
7 MARCH 2024

Hand in completed
[#WorldBookDay](#) treasure
hunt forms to Resources by
3pm on Wednesday 6th March.
Copies of forms available on
Edulink and via Resources.
Happy book cover hunting!

[#inmyshoesWCS](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



More Basketball tournaments for our students, this time the turn of Year 8.

The girls won 4/4 matches to finish 1st in the group whilst the boys won 2/4 to finish 3rd.

Some great talent on display and great enthusiasm from all to repre-



Well done to the Year 10 Basketballers for finishing 4th in the partnership 3v3 tournament



Great effort from the Year 11 boys this evening who finished 3rd in the Partnership 3v3 Basketball tournament



Well done to our students who participated in the Eastbourne Festival, competing in multiple numbers and styles of dance! Congratulations to all.



Well done to the Year 7&8 students who travelled to Christs Hospital, Horsham today to represent the school and compete in the Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships

YEAR 11

Dear Parent and Carers,

How to Help Your Child Succeed in Their Exams (A Levels and GCSEs) – Webinar for Parents & Carers
Thursday 14 March 8pm - [Zoom link is here.](#)

We're always looking for ways to support our wonderful children and parent, carer community. As you will know all of our students have received support for [Action Your Potential](#) to learn about their amazing brains.

On Thursday 14 March at 8pm Andrew from Action Your Potential will be delivering a live webinar for parents, carers and students all about how to help our children build learning, reduce stress, manage worries and build positive mental health every day as they prepare for their examinations. [Here is a short introduction from Andrew of what to expect from the session.](#)

In this workshop you will learn all about how to:

- *Daily Learning Routines to support exam success*
-
- *How to manage revision using Study Reps*
-
- *How to balance well-being and work*
-
- *How to manage the brain's worry system*
-

The exam challenge can feel insurmountable some days, we will show you and your child how to build daily behaviours to help plan and respond in the lead-up to exams.

Andrew is CEO of Action Your Potential, an organisation that works with over 170 schools across the UK supporting them to support their school communities to build powerful habits of well-being, mind management and learning. [A poster about the session is here](#) with a sign up link embedded in it.



[To sign up to this workshop please click on this link.](#) AYP takes your privacy seriously and won't use this information for anything other than informing you about this course and sharing support resources. [Our GDPR policy is here.](#)

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wright
AYP