



PARENT BULLETIN

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26th January 2024

Dear all,

It has been lovely to spend this week getting into as many lessons as we can as a leadership team and seeing excellent learning taking place. As a community, we have worked hard to ensure all lessons start promptly with a "do now" task. This allows students to enter the room calmly and have an immediate stimulus activity to think hard about. We have seen this consistently in action across the departments and students are understanding the importance of being punctual so they can engage immediately in the lesson objectives. This Friday lunch, I have had the privilege of spending time with three of our Year 7 students who attended Willingdon primary. The head of Willingdon primary shared their Year 6 books with me and I was able to see how much progress the students have made since being with us for two terms. I was really impressed with the confidence and the reflective thinking all three students showed. I have put some bullet point highlights of our conversation below for parents to read:

- The transition to Willingdon has been very good. They love the 'Our Space' area, their own kiosk and toilets. They are slightly worried about the next stage up to Year 8. We will ensure we look at this so the students are supported.
- They have found it easy to make new friends. One boy talked about finding 'his people.' He explained with more students in his year, he could find individuals who had more common interests with him.
- All three students are engaging in many clubs ranging from chess club to the High School Musical production that will be taking place in two weeks time.
- They are really enjoying English and Maths where they feel challenged. ICT because they get to develop their independence, MFL has many fun activities and Geography brings learning alive.
- They feel all the teachers work hard to develop great relationships with them but there was a special mention to Miss Timms, Mr Edwards and Mr Merridue.

At break today, I enjoyed meeting with two of our Year 9 students who both are representing England- one for Dance in the Czech Republic and one for golf. It was a great opportunity to talk through how they manage to keep up with their school work and fit in such a disciplined hobby. I am in awe of how they train for many hours a day and complete their homework so well. They are a credit to us! It has also been really lovely to see so many of our student successes celebrated on our social networking sites. We try our best to get as many as possible shared with you all so if you are not yet on facebook or our twitter and Instagram, do join us. We continue to conduct student voice regularly through google forms, regular break and lunch time student voice sessions and through external visit student voice activities. We are always receptive to feedback and we look forward to working with more students over the next few months.

I was delighted to meet with Miss Collins earlier and discuss the 28 applications for student leadership which we have received. The process of shortlisting has begun and there will be 12 students chosen next week to present their vision to all staff on Monday 5th February. Our current leadership team have been incredible and they will be leading the process of choosing our next team alongside myself and the Chair of Governors.

Finally, Willingdon hosted many headteachers and county representatives this week looking at the engagement we have with our SEND parents. We are hoping to support a charter to identify effective communication with all stakeholders. We know the challenges many SEND students and parents have faced county wide and we want to work with other stakeholders and schools to improve the dialogue that all parties are having. More information will follow on this shortly.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine which is finally breaking through!

Best wishes,

Mrs May



For bookings, contact Eastbourne Netball Club;
sgkennerison@gmail.com

Netball skills
tactical games
match play

EASTBOURNE
NETBALL CLUB

£30 PER
PLAYER

EASTBOURNE NETBALL CLUB
NETBALL CAMP

FEBRUARY HALF TERM - DAY 1
Year 2 to Year 11

Willingdon Community School
Wednesday, 14th February 2024
9.30am - 3pm

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM - DAY 2
Year 2 to Year 11

Willingdon Community School
Thursday, 15th February 2024
9.30am - 3pm



Reading with the Year 8's is a great experience provided by our school to build relationships with students in younger years; it's very satisfying to be helping support their reading journey at Willingdon. As well as helping to remind us of the importance of reading and supporting us in the exploration of new reading material from the school library, being a reading mentor has assisted us in the development of our language skills, which is particularly helpful in preparation for our GCSEs.

-Katie C on behalf of all Year 10 students who took part in the Buddy Reading

INSET Days for 2024/2025

Monday 2nd Sept 2024

Monday 4th Nov 2024

Tuesday 5th Nov 2024

Monday 6th Jan 2025

Friday 14th Feb 2025



During term 2 and 3 we have run a buddy reading project with students in the school library during tutor time. Here is some of the fantastic feedback we have had from our Year 7 students who participated.

Doing buddy reading has helped me improve my reading skills. I have also been able to learn new and challenging words. It has also helped me build my confidence as I had to speak out loud to my year 9 buddy. Reading is now a powerful passion for me and I will continue to read books in my school library.

-Maddie

In the Year 7 buddy reading I have experienced a range of new books which I have read to my buddy. This has helped build my confidence around reading and exploring new types of genres.

-Rose

I have enjoyed doing the year 7 buddy reading because I have read books that are new to me. It has also helped me learn new words. In buddy reading I have read: Dread Wood by Jennifer Killick, Super Side Kicks Ocean's Revenge and Monster Mansion.

-Liv



[Click here](#)

Willingdon Community School
presents

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th February 2024
6PM (doors open at 5.45PM)

Tickets are available
on ParentPay
Adult £7 / Child £4

Willingdon School
Broad Road
BN20 9QX



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



2 great results in 2 evenings for our footballers in [Sussex Schools FA](#) action!

Year 9 won 4-1 in Bognor Regis to progress into the 1/4 final of the County Cup!

Not to be outdone, Year 7 won 4-1 at home to The Weald School, also progressing to the last 8. Well done to all students involved 🏈



The WCS Robotics Society are still buzzing after the recent FIRST Tech Challenge Scrimmage event at Harris Academy Sutton! Twelve young engineers from Willingdon School had an amazing opportunity to share ideas, network with other schools, build alliances, and enhance our current robot in preparation for the national robotics competition in March at The American School in London!...

Fourteen of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Eastbourne Schools Girls Indoor Cricket competition at Hailsham Community College. Year 7 student and Hailsham Cricket Club player Savannah P captained the 'purple' team and Year 8 student Daisy S captained the 'Green team'. Apart from Savannah the other players have only just started their cricket journey and recently been attending our after-school indoor cricket club. We look forward to continuing our Willingdon girls' cricket journey next term, alongside our U15 team that competed before Christmas.



SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



Congratulations to Savannah Pike (year 7) who has managed to gain a place on the U14 MCC Programme at Eastbourne College! Well done Savannah, we look forward to seeing what you achieve in your cricketing career!

Year 10 childcare students creating a nursery day full of activities as part of the BTEC Childcare course.



Year 7 student Finley has managed to gain a place on the U14 MCC Programme at Eastbourne College, whilst still only being 11 years old! 🏏

Well done Finley and we look forward to following your cricketing career in the years to come 🍷



Fantastic to hear that Year 8 students Lucas and Reggie were representing Sussex Schools FA as the U13s won 4-3 v Kent ⚽

A great achievement for both boys, showcasing their footballing talent across the South East!



Many Year 11 students are using teacher feedback and paired observations to improve the quality of their literature responses.



One of our Year 8 students helping out as receptionist for the lesson.

SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK

Our Year 8 boys exited the County Cup at the ¼ final stage with a 5-3 loss to Shoreham Academy. Despite a strong opening 15 minutes, with lots of possession in the Shoreham half, we fell behind to a counter attack goal and in the process lost influential midfielder Will to injury. This seemed to spur the team into action though as neat through ball from Austin released Lucas to round the Shoreham keeper and slot into an empty net for the equaliser. We fell behind again to another counter attack goal and then Shoreham were awarded a dubious penalty to leave us trailing 3-1. A long range effort from Cole reduced the deficit just before half time and spirits were up during the break. Despite a fast start to the second half the Shoreham forward line managed to breach our defence twice to put them 5-2 ahead. The fighting spirit of the team was evident though as the boys really dug in to reduce the score to 5-3 and give them hope of a deserved comeback. However, the chances created did not go in and the final whistle went sending Shoreham through to the semi-final. The boys gave everything to the game and should be proud of their performance and their gracious attitude in defeat. Onwards and upwards with one more game remaining to secure the A League title.

Just some of the delicious new books that have been donated to the school library by a parent and now ready to borrow. Thank you so much. There are some Year 8 students with their eyes already set on the dystopian series! Links to our current lesson content in Year 8 English.

[#inmyshoesWCS](#)



Ezra has been selected for the Sussex U14 Golf Team for the coming year. Starting next week, he is about to embark on a training and coaching program that will see him compete in matches across the country. He has also qualified for The Reid Trophy, England golf U14 championship to be held in August.

Good Luck!

It was lovely to have hot chocolate with two of our students who are competing for England. One for golf and the other student is off to Czech Republic for the world dance championship

Amazing meteorology lesson in geography with Year 7s today, navigating the complex world of the Global Atmospheric Circulation!



SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



Five Willingdon students represented the school in this year's Sussex Schools Cross-country Championships in Brighton, at the Waterhall & RFC grounds. In the Junior Girls event Lydia V & Darcie G competed alongside over 280 other runners from across the secondary schools in the county. Luke G, Lucas A, Ben W & Ewan D-H made a four strong team in the Junior boy's race with again well over 280 runners. The course is mostly flat and fast with an absolute killer of a single-track hill halfway through; all athletes showed a tremendous amount of determination and commitment throughout their races. A special mention to Year 9 athlete Ben W, who qualified for the next round of this competition on the back of 5 months out injured, a fantastic achievement and we wish him all the best in the next round.



Congratulations to all our Year 7 and 8 athletes who took part in last week's Eastbourne Schools Secondary Indoor Athletics Competition. Willingdon placed in the top three out of the eleven schools for all four competitions, with the Year 7 Boys and Year 8 Girls coming in first place and, as champions, they will go onto represent the Eastbourne in the Sussex Games Indoor Athletics Finals in Burgess Hill on the 18th April. The Year 7 Girls team came a close 3rd and the Year 8 Boys narrowly missed out coming in 2nd place. A great performance all-round from the 40 Willingdon athletes that took part, showing great determination and support for each other throughout.

As hosts we had our Year 9 Sports Leadership Team running the event alongside School Games Coordinator Liz Price and the students did a fantastic job, officiating the track and field events as well as organising the equipment set up and welcoming the arrival of the teams.



Great to welcome Tim Brown, Community Manager from Eastbourne Borough FC to speak with some of our Year 8 & 9 students in school. We are looking forward to working with the club to develop our partnership in the coming months!

YEAR 10



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

26th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for our Year 10 students.

On Thursday 7th March 2024, there will be a careers fair at Eastbourne Sports Park which will allow students to meet with a number of further and higher educational establishments, as well as other training providers and businesses. There are no costs associated with this trip and it has kindly been arranged by Ratton School.

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

There are 90 spaces available and it is therefore on a first come first served basis. Although the trip is free of charge, please could you still book via Parentpay where the cost of the trip will be set to zero. This will be live in ParentPay from [Monday 29th January at 3p.m.](#)

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

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser