

Parent Bulletin

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Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

27th September 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see parents in person at our first academisation consultation event on Monday. There were some excellent questions asked and we look forward to the second event which is being held online on Monday, 30th September to get greater parent feedback. The link is in this parent bulletin on page 2, should you wish to attend.

The first parent tours of current parents went really well, and we have another opportunity on Monday. Please sign up on page 2 if you are interested in joining me.

We were saddened that we had to move the Sponsored Walk, but we made the right call with this torrential rain and weather ! We are hoping for better weather next Friday when the event is now scheduled.

We would also like to share with parents that we are moving to in-person Parents Evenings for every year. We appreciate that sometimes online is easier for logistics but we feel meeting face to face is so important for us to develop positive relationships with our parent body. If anyone is unable to make the evenings, we can be contacted for information on your child's performance or an alternative time arranged.

We are very excited about our Open Evening this Thursday and are so grateful to our student body who are very keen to come and help in the evening. Please ensure you have given permission for this if your child has volunteered.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Emily May
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 1

SEPTEMBER

PARENT TOURS OF THE SCHOOL – MONDAY 30TH 8.15AM-9.45AM.

ONLINE ACADEMISATION MEETING—MONDAY 30TH 6PM-7PM

OCTOBER

SPONSORED WALK - FRIDAY 4TH

YEAR 6 EVENING (EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE) - THURSDAY 3RD

PARENT FORUM - WEDNESDAY 9TH - 6PM ONLINE

YEAR 11 PARENT EVENING—THURSDAY 17TH 3.15PM – 6.15PM IN PERSON

Year 11 Mock Exams (all week) - MONDAY 21st

Half Term—MONDAY 28th OCT—FRIDAY 1st Nov

OPEN MORNINGS

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 9AM

WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 9AM

THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 9AM

INSET DAYS

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER (YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS)

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER (YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS)

MONDAY 6TH JANUARY

(POSSIBLE YEAR 11 FRENCH/SPANISH SPEAKING MOCK EXAMS)

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

(POSSIBLE YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS)

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

TUESDAY 22ND JULY

(staggered by year group from
12.20pm-12.40pm)

TOUR OF THE SCHOOL REMINDER

Monday, 30th September -8.15am - 9.45am

[Tours of the school during the school day - September 2024](#)

Reminder of Parent Forum dates for this year

Wednesday 9th October 6pm - First half of the meeting Post 16 Options. Parents, please email stomalin@willingdonschool.org.uk for your suggestions on Agenda items.

Wednesday 4th December 6pm

Wednesday 5th February 6pm

Wednesday 19th March 6pm

Wednesday 30th April 6pm

Wednesday 11th June 6pm

ONLINE PARENT ACADEMISATION MEETING

MONDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 6PM-7PM

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BELOW LINK IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU.

[Online Academisation Meeting for Parents - Monday, 30th September 6pm-7pm](#)

REMINDER - Early School Closure - Thursday, 3rd October for Open Evening

The students will be in normal lessons up until the end of the day. The end of the day will, however, be staggered to prevent traffic congestion on Broad Road. Please see the timings below. Please would everyone respect our neighbours and not block access to their homes and driveways.

The school buses cannot be rescheduled to run early and therefore students will need to make their own transport arrangements.

Year 7 – 12:20pm

Year 8 – 12:25pm

Year 9 – 12:30pm

Year 10 – 12:35pm

Year 11 – 12:40pm

Microsoft 365 for Students

Students can download the complete Microsoft 365 suite, which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, to assist with their homework.

To download the Microsoft Office applications onto a Microsoft Windows or Apple macOS computer, please follow these steps:

1. Log in to office.com using your school email address and password.
2. Click the "Install Office" button located at the top right of the page.
3. Locate the downloaded file in your downloads folder and double-click it to begin the installation process.
4. Click "Run" and accept the security prompt to confirm the installation.

Important: Ensure you sign in to Office using your school email address and password. Otherwise, the software reverts to a demo version, which will not allow you to save documents.

To sign in:

1. Open any of the Office applications.
2. Click on "Account" and then "Sign In."
3. Enter your school email address and password to complete the sign-in process.
4. If prompted, accept the license agreement and select 'Office Open XML formats' as the default file type.

If you need any further help, please contact parent.ithelp@willingdonschool.org.uk

IT Department

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

Please note that all enrichment clubs on Thursday, 3rd October have been cancelled due to Open Evening and early school closure.

NEW ENRICHMENT CLUB

Girls Basketball is starting on Thursday, 10th October, 3pm - 4pm in the Sports Hall.

You do not need to sign up to our clubs, unless stated on the information, just turn up at the right time and the right place.

Maths Calculators

From next week calculators ordered through ParentPay will be available to collect at Reception. You will be emailed when the calculator is ready for collection.



[Click here](#)



The email address parent.ithelp@willingdonschool.org.uk is now the preferred email address to support parents seeking technical support related to Arbor and IT systems.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parent Governor Vacancy

Willingdon Community School has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you wish to stand for election as one of the parent governors of the school, you will need to complete a nomination form and election statement along with a declaration of eligibility (see below link). The nomination form, election statement and declaration form will need to be returned to the Clerk to the Governors, by **12 Noon on Friday, 11th October 2024**.

Parent governors keep the governing board aware of the parental perspective. They are a vital part of our team and I hope that there are parents willing to give their time and commitment to this important role. Also attached in the link below are details of what will be expected of a Parent Governor. On this occasion, we are particularly keen to recruit someone with experience in finance and accounting. Please see below link to the supporting paperwork, application forms and advert.



Supporting
Paperwork - Parent



WCS_GovernorAd_S
eptember.jpg

If more than one suitable nomination is received, I shall arrange for an online ballot (a paper ballot will be available if required) which will include the candidates' election statements. I shall arrange for all parents to be notified of the result.

If you are interested in being nominated and/or want further information, you might find it helpful to talk to contact me by email via the Clerk at clerk@willingdonschool.org.uk

You can view East Sussex County Council's website about Governors and their roles at:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/supportforteachers/schoolgovernors/becoming/>

Attached is also an extract from the Regulations concerning the qualifications and disqualification connected with the office of governor. Please read them carefully.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Branson
Chair of Governors

Enc. Supporting paperwork

Sponsored Walk

From the wet weather we have experienced today, we are pleased we made the decision yesterday to postpone until next Friday when the weather is looking dryer. That said, we can never fully rely on the weather and will continue to keep parents updated. We want to ensure all students are taking part where possible, or attending school to support the event. We appreciate this is the morning after our whole school Open Evening, but to ensure all students are accounted for and absences followed up etc, students will be required to be on time for 8:30am in their tutor base. There is still time for parents to make contributions to our fundraising event <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Willingdoncommunityschool> or via ParentPay. Where permission has been granted, students will be allowed to leave from 1pm once they have completed the walk and signed in at the last checkpoint back at school.

Parent & Carer



Lunch and Learn Online Workshops and In-person Family Hub Workshops with 'Me & My Mind'

Do you want to learn about children's mental health and how you can support your child with their wellbeing? If you do, these FREE webinars or our in-person small group workshops may be for you!

Lunch and Learn Webinars

How to support your child with worry and anxiety

Tuesday 22nd October 2024, 1pm to 2pm

Thursday 27th February 2025, 1pm, to 2pm

Wednesday 11th June 2025, 1pm to 2pm

How to support a worrying child with transition to secondary

Wednesday 21st May 2025, 1pm to 2pm

Small group in-person sessions

Supporting primary school children with anxiety and worry

Wednesday 2nd October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tuesday 8th October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Uckfield Family Hub

Wednesday 5th February 2025, 12pm to 2pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available, and we will be providing activities to make some items to take home with you to do with your child/ren

For more info and to book scan the QR code or visit:



SCAN ME

www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation

If you have any questions, please email mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk



All webinars are run using Microsoft Teams. You can access this on your phone or computer. You will be provided with the link when you book.



Information for parents/carers,

As you might have seen in the media, the Food Standards Agency has issued a widespread warning regarding the potential peanut contamination of mustard products – namely mustard, mustard powder, and mustard flour.

In respect of the service being provided to schools by Chartwells, **there are currently no products in our supply chain affected.**

Over the last week, our specialist Vendor Assurance team worked hard to establish whether any mustard products in our supply chain have been contaminated. At this stage, none of the products in our supply chain have been included on the recall list, but this is a fast-moving situation, so we will be taking the following proactive steps.

The students we feed with a known peanut allergy will be served whole food items this week, such as a jacket potato with a suitable topping for their specific requirements, such as tuna, beans, or cheese, with a plain salad and a piece of fruit. We have also introduced a further triple check process for all processed items, such as condiments and sauces.

Given the severity of those with an allergy, we will be putting out clear signage instructing any student with a peanut allergy to make themselves known to catering teams. This is particularly important for the pupils self-managing allergens in secondary schools, and whom might not be able to eat a dish or item they typically would.

We remain in dialogue with the Food Standards Agency and will keep you updated on our policy as the situation evolves. Please be assured that we take allergens extremely seriously and our teams are trained professionals.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with myself, or a member of my team, directly.

JAYNE WILLCOCKS

Regional Manager

As part of our work with Voice 21, we are collecting student voice on oracy through a survey. I have made the link available on Arbor for every student but, to encourage take-up, could I ask you to check with your child that they have completed the survey.

Voice 21 Student Survey

https://voice21.tfatforms.net/5122604?tfa_76=001P200000BEtnw



We are saying a fond farewell to Di James, our Attendance Manager who leaves Willingdon after 4 years in the role. Di has been an integral part in ensuring our attendance levels in school remain above the national average, and will be greatly missed.

Please ensure that email correspondence continues to be sent to studentabsence@willingdonschool.org.uk or attendanceofficer@willingdonschool.org.uk (for general enquiries), and voice messages to the absence phone line 01323 483144 where these will be picked up by our new Attendance Manager, Rachael Killey who starts in post this Monday.



Putting the 'fun' in fundraising to welcome our new Year 7s



**Our Student Leaders are hosting the
Year 7 Welcome Disco on Friday 11th
October 2024 in the Main Hall**

Year 7 disco 16.00-18.00pm

**£5 ticket includes a drink and snack token. Please
make payments by 7th October via ParentPay
which will open for payment on Monday 30th Sep
(all tickets will be assigned in advance)**



**We'll also have lots on sale on the night to raise
money for the school fund including food and
drinks, glow sticks and lots more! *(cash only, as
we cannot take card payments on the night).***



Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

We are very sorry we have had to postpone the Sponsored Walk until next week – but it does look a much dryer week next week, so less slippery under foot!

Can we take this opportunity to mention lost property: We are having some blazers and PE jumpers brought to the office as they have been left on the field or around the school but it is very tricky for us to get them back to their owners as most do not have names in them. Can we please ask for everyone to get names in blazers and PE jumpers over the weekend if possible?

Also a lot of Year 7s are riding bikes and scooters to school which is great physical exercise, however, we just wanted to ask that they use locks when leaving them in the bike racks, so there is no chance they can be taken by mistake.

Finally, please do get in touch if your child is involved in any activities outside of school and you'd be happy for us to share their achievements within our community, we'd love to hear about them!

Mrs Naylor

Head of Year 7



Head of Year
Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

Year 8 continue with their strong start to the year with lots of reward points being earned and positive feedback from teachers. It is really pleasing to see so many Year 8s engaged in their learning and making excellent progress in all of their subjects!

We would like to say a massive congratulations to Savannah in Year 8 for being awarded 'Coaches Player of the Season' for Hailsham U13's girls cricket team - Well done Savannah, you have done Willingdon proud! Please do get in touch if your child is involved in any activities outside of school and you would be happy for us to share their achievements within our community, we'd love to hear about them!

A final reminder that we have the Sponsored Walk coming up next week, Friday 4th October, please remember to fill out the google form for your child if you haven't done so already: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAHLWRJ_LhXI8cl0hs2vTxGtvcSraAqttzlob06zWjwwFJuQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Have a lovely weekend - the Year 8 team!



ACTION: Year 9 Options (student voice)

Dear Year 9s,

We are pleased with the positive start to the year we have had, and I want to share the following exciting news with you.

Each year we undertake student voice to help shape the option blocks that you will be choosing from in January time.

Please **complete the form below** by selecting 4 options that interest you:

<https://forms.gle/fBtPFSzVspbkpL1YA>

Deadline is Friday, 11th October.

These might not end up being the ones you choose in the end, but it is important we get this student voice as early as possible.

The more people that respond, the more likely we are able to provide option blocks that suit most people.

All best wishes,

Mr Holt

Deputy Headteacher



Head of Year
Mr Roche

Email - pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 10

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to express how impressed I was with the Year 10 students during my visits to their classes this week. Their continued effort and studious behaviour were truly commendable, and it's clear they are focused on their learning and future success.

I also wish to inform you that the deadline for any changes to GCSE options has now closed. We are looking forward to supporting the students as they settle into their routines and make strong progress in their chosen subjects.

Please can you begin to finalise your child's work experience for May next year. Should you have any questions or queries relating to this or any other areas then please do not hesitate to contact the year team on pastoral10@willingdonschool.org.uk.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Mr A Roche

Head of Year 10



Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11



As we continue to make our way through Term 1, we have launched an incentive with Year 11 for them to access their Leavers Hoodies earlier than usual. To build on the positive start made so far, we have proposed a term 3 release for the Hoodies providing students improve on their mock grades from Year 10 in the upcoming exams. This has been well received and voting has already begun on the colour! We will release more information on the prices once we have the finalised costings from our supplier.



Students attended
Bedes School

Bexhill College were the visitors to our assembly this week and we also had a group of students tour Bedes School in Upper Dicker to explore post 16 options. If there are any questions regarding college applications, please do contact us.

As the autumn sniffles start to appear, please continue to support us in getting your child/children into school. High levels of attendance are key to securing the grades that support progress onto post 16 provision.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Scowen

Acting Head of Year 11



Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

The Year 11 GCSE Art trip on Tuesday 1st October has been postponed. Parents and students involved will receive further information when another date has been agreed.

'Your future starts here!'



SEAFORD HEAD SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

TO FIND OUT
MORE
JOIN US FOR
AN

OPEN DAY

Thursday 10th October, 2024 -
evening event - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

There will be Talks at 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm - starting at Seaford Head Lower School on Steyne Road, followed by tours at the sixth form centre - just across the road from the Lower School - and there will be an opportunity to meet subject teachers and students.

Saturday 12th October, 2024 - morning event - 10 am - 12 pm

This is a more low key event with an opportunity to speak to Senior Leaders at the Sixth Form Centre - information stands will also be available.

If you would like any additional information please contact Clare Callard
Email: clarecallard@seafordhead.org or Telephone: 01323 872 723

