



# PARENT BULLETIN

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2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers



These photos illustrate the magnificent efforts shown by the Year 7 and 8 students in cross country this week during their PE lesson approaching the final hill and finishing line. I use this as a metaphor for the work in the school this week and we are proud of the students who remain focused and working hard up to half term. So many students are giving it their all at the moment, whether that be in Sports, Performing Arts or in exam preparations. This is where the ambition in Willingdon truly lies. We hope that you have purchased tickets to

come and see High School Musical, our first major production since Covid. I commend the students and staff for giving up so much of their free time, including all day Saturday, to make this a success! Whilst there are many tired faces amongst the student body this week, the energy in the school from being ambitious and working hard throughout their lessons and extra-curricular activities keeps the momentum going.

## Teaching

This academic year we are focusing on our Progress Every Lesson (PEL) strand of **Engagement**. We know that if students are engaged, they will want to learn. We have decided upon three main priorities in order to improve engagement in the classroom.

Our three priorities to improve engagement:

### Priority 1 – Get students talking:



In order to develop oracy by students discussing their thoughts and thinking hard about their responses.

**How? E.g Think, Pair, Share:** Students are given a question to think about on their own, then to share their thoughts with a partner, then prepare to share with the class. (*Morrison McGill- The Teacher Toolkit 2015*)

### Priority 2 – Get students thinking hard:



In order to develop students cognitive abilities by making them sit within the 'struggle zone' so that the work is not too easy or too hard.

**How? Card sorts:** Students are asked to rank/order/prioritise/categorise information based on limited information. (*Counsell – History and Literacy 2004*)

### Priority 3 – Formative Assessment:



In order to make all students feel involved and ensure that we know if students are 'getting it.'

**How? Assessment for Learning methods** including mini whiteboards, quick quizzes, traffic light cards etc. (*William – Embedded Formative Assessment 2011*)

In addition to these areas of focus, we want to be making the most of the 50 minutes we get each lesson with our students. To ensure engagement from the start, we have introduced 'do now' tasks so that there is consistency in how lessons start. The idea is that students have a very clear task to complete in silence when they arrive in the classroom. This helps settle them, and recap some of their prior learning.

## Cross-phase curriculum working group Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

We were delighted to be joined by colleagues from [Willingdon Primary School](#), [Stone Cross School](#), and [Polegate School](#) as well as other local primaries to share good practice on Monday and join up our thinking. We realised we have so much to learn from our colleagues in primary to help make the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 even more successful. We want to thank all those teachers who gave up their evening in helping support the long term development of the young people in our local community.

We also want to encourage parents to further explore the curriculum section of our website which details what students learn in each subject over the five years. There are useful roadmaps and booklets that show you the progress each student will make with us during their time at Willingdon: <https://willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/curriculum>



Best wishes,  
Mrs May

## Student Council Meeting

We enjoyed our inaugural Full House Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January where our four Houses, Friston, Wilmington, Cuckmere and Pevensy came together to feedback on a variety of items and strategies their ideas for improvements for the future.

The House representatives comprised all year groups and sessions were led by the current Year 11 Student Leadership Team, along with staff and learning mentors. Year 10s were also invited to support them in their applications for the Head Student Applications which are now well underway.

Students fed back on whole school Teaching and Learning priorities linked to lesson starters, rewards systems and behaviour. They considered and debated upcoming House events, fundraisers and tutor time topics. They also fed forward their ideas around the school values, mental health and the environment.

Their enthusiasm and engagement were superb throughout the afternoon and so much input was provided that enabled four of our Year 10s to take these ideas to SLT representatives and report back at the Full Governors Board meeting last night.

It is fantastic to see the school council having time to come together as Houses, driving their ideas forward, supporting and teaching each other and having the confidence to present and justify their plans.

Mrs Collins



**Reminder—Friday 9th February is an INSET Day. Term 3 for students will finish next Thursday, 8th February.**

**For the attention of all Rock and Pop Musicians**

Create Music (combining the amazing services of Brighton & Hove **Music** & Arts + East **Sussex Music**) are running a one day Rock and Pop course at East Sussex College in Eastbourne on Saturday 17 February.

Please see further details in the below link.



<https://createmusic.org.uk/for-children-and-young-people/whats-on/rock-and-pop-1-day-workshop-eastbourne/>

Mr Parry

Head of Department – Music



**High School Musical Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

No long now until the curtain goes up! Our students have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks to produce a superb production. We have a few tickets left for both evenings on ParentPay. We look forward to seeing you.





**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



A website and directory providing information about support for children and young people (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families.



## The East Sussex Local Offer consists of:

- ➡ an information site that outlines how different SEND processes work:  
[localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk)
- ➡ a SEND-specific directory, listing both local and online services:  
[ospace.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://ospace.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer)







### What you will find on the Local Offer information site

- » A comprehensive resource to help guide families through learning more about SEND, finding what support is available, and the journey to diagnosis
- » Up-to-date information on services provided by the council for children and young people with SEND, including short breaks and CLASS+
- » Signposting to groups and organisations across East Sussex that offer different services and opportunities



### What you will find on the Local Offer ISpace directory

- » A range of local and online services, including activities and events, mental health and wellbeing support, schools' SEND and accessibility information, and much more
- » A map highlighting the location of local services, making it easier to find support nearby
- » Easy-to-use filters, so you can narrow down the services to only show those that are most relevant to you



### Share your thoughts with us

- » We will continue to use feedback to drive changes and improvements, making information and support even clearer.
- » Please send any feedback or queries you have, either on the information website or directory, to:  
[localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**Find out more at:**  
[localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk)



Visit the website by scanning the  
QR code with your phones' camera

# SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



We are so lucky to be able to take a group of students out each week to our Forest School in Plashett Wood. Forest School enables our students to access a superb alternate way of learning key skills holistically. After the high winds of the last few weeks there are lots of branches and logs ready to be used – Callum has been busy today creating balancing structures demonstrating his excellent DT skills in the woods.



## Year 10 January Attendance Challenge

Congratulations to Ellissa Wickenden who won a £10 Amazon voucher in the Year 10 100% January Attendance Challenge. Well done to all the students that had 100% attendance during the challenge and had their names placed in the draw to win the voucher.



Year 11 progressed to the next round of the [Sussex Schools FA](#) County Shield after winning on penalties this week.

Well done to all of the boys involved 🍌 ⚽



Year 8 preparing Chinese stir fry and practicing complex knife skills.



## Fantastic Quiz Night

Thank you to the Friends of Willingdon and Mr Edwards for a fabulous night.





# SOCIAL MEDIA THIS WEEK



Excellent turn out for dance club which runs every Thursday after school 🍷 🍷

Let's Dance rehearsals started this week as well with students rehearsing to perform at the Congress Theatre in March!



On Wednesday, 77 students from years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge - a fantastic number of entries. The national competition encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency. We really look forward to seeing the results!