



PARENT BULLETIN

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5th January 2024



Happy New Year to you all and I hope students and families had a restful and enjoyable Christmas. Students have come back demonstrating personal excellence and we have been very impressed with the strong start to lessons and their approach to learning. This term, we have a community quiz night that we are looking forward to on Friday 26th January. We also have our production of High School Musical, our first whole school show post covid lock downs. These performances take place on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February.

Year 11 are already preparing for the final set of mocks, which will happen the second week after half term. There are some Year 10s still to complete their work experience placement choice. Well done to the vast majority who have got this sorted. Year 9 will soon be choosing their options and we recommend parents engage in regular discussions with them about the choices they wish to make and the rationale for that. Lots of guidance will be found for parents in our options booklet which is available on the website as well as in hard copy. Year 9 parents and carers should attend the Year 9 Options Evening with their child on Thursday 18th January.

We hope this year that students will take more advantage of our extra curricular provision. We are trying hard to grow our offer and listen to student voice about the clubs they wish to do. We are also moving away from the traditional activities week we have had in the past to trips and opportunities throughout this calendar year. We felt this would be a more appropriate approach giving the rising living costs and the increased cost of trips at peak times in July.

Finally, we have a number of pastoral coffee mornings coming up where we welcome parents to come in and meet their children's teams. You may be curious about your child's performance at school or may wish to talk through any concerns. We really want to encourage many parents to attend where possible to help keep you in the loop and ensure effective dialogue between school and home.

Coffee Mornings

Year 7 – Tuesday 9th January 8-10am

Year 8 – Tuesday 9th January 8-10am

Year 9 – Thursday 11th January 8-10am

Year 10 – Wednesday 10th January 8-10am

Year 11 – Thursday 18th January 8-10am

All Year groups - Afternoon tea drop in – Wednesday 17th January 3pm - 4:30pm

All Year Groups - Online informal Parent/Carer forum/drop in – Wednesday 17th January 6pm -7pm.

We look forward to working alongside you all this year and wish you all a very happy and healthy 2024.

Best wishes

Mrs May

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS



I am Mr Parry and I joined the Willingdon community as Head of Department for Music at the start of this term. I am a first language Welsh speaker and hail from North Wales. I sat all of my GCSEs in a rural comprehensive school through the medium of Welsh. Before moving into the world of teaching, I worked as a violinist with numerous orchestras including the National Chamber Orchestra of Wales and as a chamber musician aboard the QE2. My first teaching post was at Eastbourne College where I spent eleven happy years before taking up a Head of Department post at another Independent School. Prior to arriving at Willingdon I worked as Director of Performing Arts at Shoreham Academy. I reside with my family in Eastbourne. Outside of school, I direct a semi-professional Chamber Choir in Lewes and enjoy walking and cycling on the Downs, reading and family holidays. I'm looking forward hugely to creating exciting and eclectic musical opportunities for students here at Willingdon.

My email address is sparry@willingdonschool.org.uk

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

A new enrichment club has been added to our clubs for term 3, WSL Football Social Club. See further details below.

Our clubs list can be found on our website—please visit

<https://willingdonschool.org.uk/learning/enrichment-programme>

WSL FOOTBALL SOCIAL CLUB!



Want a safe space to come and talk women's football?

- Watch WSL highlights!
- Collecting the new WSL stickers? Come and swap!
- Talk to people about your favourite teams and players!

Any questions? See Mr Edwards!

Tuesday lunchtime in H13!



Willingdon Maths News

SparX and Resilience



**Aiming for 100%
for Everyone**

As we enter 2024 we are raising the bar for Maths Homework and developing students study skills.

**Learn to help yourself
when you get stuck!**

A common student and parental concern is "how do I improve/revise my Maths?"

This is especially important as Year 11 prepare for their exams. However if we can build independent Mathematicians in Years 7 to 10, they will find preparing for Maths assessments is part of their weekly habits.

Sparx Maths is designed to be achievable and for everyone to be able to reach 100%, whilst providing some achievable challenge. We can see from our classes that some older students stop when they reach a question that they cannot do. Some of our students will stop and down tools as soon as they see something that takes them slightly out of their comfort zone. Not all students are watching the support videos that are there to help them. Please remind your children to use the support videos.

We are moving the homework expectation to achieving 100% and have put in ways to help students to achieve this at school. Sparx has been proven to boost student progress if used correctly. The most successful students in Year 11 are those that have strategies for when they are finding problems difficult instead of brushing them under the carpet. Working through these questions is where the learning happens!

To help students to reach 100% we are offering a daily drop in help room in IT2 with a Maths Teacher from Monday to Friday to help them with those questions they are stuck on. There are also KS3 and KS4 homework clubs open to all students to come and get help with their work.

We are reminding students need to start their homework earlier. This will allow us to support them earlier and for them to ask questions before the deadline. Please can you encourage students to start their Maths homework before the weekend, it is set on Tuesdays. This will allow us tackle tricky topics in Monday's lessons before the Tuesday deadline. If your child is getting frustrated with the homework and needs help please direct them to talk to one of us so that we can help them.

This will apply for the homework tasks set from 9th January onwards.

**Start your homework
before the weekend.**

**Watch the videos and
make notes.**

**Come along to the Maths
drop in sessions at
lunchtime.**

**Ask your teacher for
advice before the
deadline.**



Thank you to the Friends of Willingdon for funding Method Maths for KS4.

Year 11 Revision Support

It is that time of year where all students are starting to ask for past papers to practice on. Whilst past paper practice is one of the best ways to revise Maths, often students forget to get feedback on them with a member of staff.

Step in Method Maths!, This is program that will allow students to practice past papers until their heart is content and track their progress, all in one place.

Moving forward from January, Maths homework for Year 11 will be based on Method Maths with the same drop in sessions available to them.

Method Maths will also allow them to filter by topic so that they can get lots of practice on topics that they are finding tricky.

Revision checklists and resource links are available on Edulink for the whole year group.

Remember to practice the things that you find tough and not to keep repeating the things that you are comfortable with!

Enrichment: * Sparx Maths Help Drop In - Lunchtimes IT2 *

*** Chess Club (Weds Lunch Ma8) * Card Sharks (Fri Lunch Ma1)***

THIS WEEK



Willingdon staff and guests have experienced a wide range of training over the INSET days from a range of providers focusing on the school priorities of Ambition, Literacy and Teaching and Learning. Thank you



New term, new reading ideas. All of the Book Buzz books are now available to borrow from the school library. If there was something else that caught your eye, head to the library for your next reading adventure! [#inmyshoesWCS](#)

YEARS 10 & 11



Webinar: Apprenticeships & Scholarships with the British Army

Have you ever wondered what a career in the Army would look like for your child?

Do you have any burning questions about what a career could look like within this industry?

Join us on the 16th of January 2024 for an interactive webinar tailored to parents on the educational and career opportunities available within the British Army.

Anyone attending the webinar will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher!

[REGISTER HERE](#)