

# Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



**Willingdon**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

17th January 2025



## **Safeguarding message to Year 7 and 8 parents: Issue with student use of the social media platform 'WhatsApp'.**

We have been made aware of an issue with a WhatsApp group called **'Add all your contacts but not your parents'**. We

believe there are a number of students in Year 7 and Year 8 who are possibly on this group chat or being added without their permission and we are told inappropriate images are being shared on this platform. Some of these images maybe of a violent or sexual nature. We strongly urge parents to regularly check their children's phones to ensure that they are not being exposed to inappropriate material. Parents/ Carers are reminded that the age limit for WhatsApp is currently 13+. (Please note that it was 16+ until 2023 and there remains controversy over the reduction of this limit)

WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries. The majority of those people (70%) open the app at least once a day. According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3-17 year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8-11 bracket), despite its 13+ age restriction. If your child goes onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, this poster from National Online Safety provides you with some information to keep your child safe.

Mrs May

Miss Walters

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### TERM 3

**MACBETH THEATRE TRIP (YEAR 9)** - Friday 24th January

**PARENT TOURS** - Thursday 30th January - 8.15am - 9.45am

**YEAR 10/11 APPRENTICESHIP AWARENESS ASSEMBLIES** - Monday 9th February

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION - ALL DAY REHEARSAL** - Saturday 8th February

**SCHOOL PRODUCTION** - Wednesday 12th / Thursday 13th February - 6pm

**SKI TRIP DEPARTS** - Thursday 13th February

**END OF TERM 3 / INSET Day** - Friday 14th February (Year 11 mock exams)

**START OF TERM 4** - Monday 24th February

### SAVE THE DATE

**YEAR 11 SCHOOL PROM** - Friday 4th July

### **EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Friday 4th April 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

### **INSET DAYS**

Friday 14th February 2025

(Year 11 Mock Exams)

## Visits to the school during the school day

We would like to open our doors again to parents who would like to meet with a senior leader and have a tour with the school in action during the day. The next day and time is -

**Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 8.15am-9.45am**

Please click on the below link to book your tour. We will also see your child's class if you wish or we can avoid it if you would prefer! This is a great way of seeing the school, warts and all! The previous parent tours we did were very successful and we appreciated the parent feedback and observations made.

[Parent Tours during the school day](#)



Please join us in congratulating this week's Students of the Week for their outstanding contributions to our school community. Students will be invited to share a hot chocolate with Mrs May in recognition of their hard work.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Theo T 7ABE	Bow-Belle 8TST	Ruby W 9AME	Callum S 10MJE	Elsie R 11LCN
Myla C 7NWE	Leo D 8TST	Lily H 9GEL	Arthur C 10JBR	Alfie M 11HAR
Mia L-B 7ABE	Harry S 8TST	Imi Colby 9GEL	Tiffany 10MET	Summer S 11AED
Olivia B 7RHA	Isaac S 8TST	Khandi B 9AME	Daniel S 10EOR	Jack F 11CPH
James L 7EMC	Jessica B 8TST	Maya C 9PHI	Natalie W 10JHA	Aisha G 11HPO



# Holiday Club

**February Half Term**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am -2.30pm / Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am -**

**Multisport**

**Basketball, Football,  
Benchball, Badminton,  
Table Tennis, Just**

**Team Challenges**

**Taskmaster, STEAM,  
Photography, Logic  
Puzzles, Scavenger Hunt**

**Students welcome from Year groups 4-8 from all schools**

**£40 per day per child (10% sibling discount)**

**PP students attending Year 7 or 8 at Willingdon Community School 50% discounted rate**

**All enquiries to [holidayclubs@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:holidayclubs@willingdonschool.org.uk)**



***The Friends of  
Willingdon***

# *Gift Amnesty*

Got 2 of something for Christmas?  
Have something you would  
like to re-gift?

We would love any donations that  
can be used as prizes in future events!

Drop off to the school office  
by 24th January .

Thank you for your continued support



# ENRICHMENT CLUBS - TERM 3

## JOIN OUR LIBRARY CLUB ENRICHMENTS

### Daily clubs:

#### **Chromebook Study Club Break/Lunchtime Everyday All Year Groups (34 spaces)**

Come along to the library and borrow a Chromebook to complete your homework and independently study. Be inspired by others from all working well. Quiet environment will help you focus.

#### **Library Reading Club Break/Lunchtime Everyday All Year Groups (15 spaces)**

Join us in the library lounge area to chill out with your current read.

#### **KS4 Study Club Break/Lunchtime Everyday Year 10 and 11 Students Only (12 spaces)**

Are you a Year 10 or Year 11? Do you need a place to study and revise? Do you need to access key revision resources for your subjects? Come along to the study zone of the library and zone others who are working hard.

#### **KS4 Card Club Break/Lunchtime Everyday Year 10 and 11 Students (10 spaces)**

Join us for a friendly game of cards. Keep your wits about you to win the game!

#### **KS3 Rubik's Club Break/Lunchtime Everyday Year 7 and 8 Students (10 spaces)**

Come and join us to share cube tricks and practise speed solving. Please bring your own cube.

#### **Student Librarian Club (By application only. All Years. 30 spaces across the week).**

Each break and lunchtime a team of dedicated student librarians help to keep the library running smoothly. You might help students with questions, re-stock the shelves with imaginative displays, and issue or return books. Please apply to the librarian if you are interested in joining our amazing team.

### Once a week

#### **Crochet Club Thursday Lunchtime only All year groups (10 spaces available)**

Whether you are new to crochet or would like to learn some basics, you are very welcome to join us. Some equipment is available to borrow but you can also bring along your own equipment and creations. Share ideas and help each other learn new techniques.

SEE THE LIBRARY STAFF FOR ANY QUERIES

You can find a full list of our enrichment clubs for Term 3 attached to this email and on our website -

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

# ENRICHMENT CLUBS - TERM 3



Thank you to all the students who attended the new Textiles Club yesterday lunchtime.

Due to the popularity of this club, I have decided to run two lunchtime sessions:

- **Year 7** will continue on **Wednesdays**.
- **Year 8-11** will now meet on **Thursdays**.

Unfortunately, **there will be no club next Wednesday or Thursday** due to staff absence, but **the club will resume from Monday, 22nd January**. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Miss Bearne  
DT Teacher

You can find a full list of our enrichment clubs for Term 3 attached to this email and on our website -

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



Head of Year  
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - [pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 7

## Postcards Home

As part of our recognition of achievement , we are sending postcards home for any amazing achievements / or outstanding contributions etc that the Year 7's have done. At present we are focusing as a year team on those students who have not received any behaviour points at all this year. So please do keep an eye out in your post for these cards!

Also a reminder to let us know of any outstanding achievements your child has had outside of school . These could be of a sporting nature / drama / music / contributions to the community through charity work etc. We would love to hear about them and share with the rest of the year group.

### **The Year 7 Team**



Head of Year  
Mr Keast

The Year 8s have continued to build on their impressive start to the new year, maintaining our personal excellence values and improving behaviour across the board.

We would like to recognise the achievements of Jude S, Sefton H and Eli N, who competed in the Sussex School's Cross Country fixture in Brighton on Tuesday. The boys represented the school tremendously well, and should be extremely proud of themselves.

We love to hear about any extra curricular achievements, so please get in contact with the year 8 team so we can share and recognise our students' successes with our school community.

We would also like to invite all year 8 students to take part in the £20.25 fundraising challenge. This challenge not only aims to help bring in much needed funds for school improvements, but also help children develop their fundraising skills. The aim is for all students to raise the sum of £20.25 through any creative means e.g. cake sales, sponsored activities etc. All students who meet this target will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a prize.

Have a lovely weekend,

### **The Year 8 Team**



Head of Year  
Mr Cain

Email - [pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 9

A huge well done to all of the students who attended Options Evening last night and thank you to parents and carers for their support and engagement of the event too. The overriding feeling of excitement and intrigue was evident and it was great to have so many constructive conversations, with students being ambitious about the immediate futures and GCSE choices, as well as life beyond Willingdon. This followed a great afternoon of GCSE taster sessions, where I hope students were able to experience a variety of subjects they may have an interest in.

The remainder of the process involves the following:

- By Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, students to complete the final trial run of option choices on the google form
- By Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, students to complete the **FINAL** option choices and return signed paper form

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor or the Year 9 Pastoral Team. If you would like any more information on the Options Process or to look into any specific subjects, please use the link to find the Options Booklet: [https://willingdonschool.org.uk/assets/Willingdon\\_School\\_Options\\_Booklet\\_2025-2027\\_final\\_revised.pdf](https://willingdonschool.org.uk/assets/Willingdon_School_Options_Booklet_2025-2027_final_revised.pdf)

Mr Cain



Head of Year  
Mr Cain

Email - [pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 9



**Willingdon**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Only 7 places remaining

**YEAR 9 – IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SESSION.**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7.00am – 5.30pm**

Dear Parent/Carer

We are arranging a trip for Year 9 students to visit the Imperial War Museum in London. As part of the trip students will have time to explore the displays which include exhibitions on World War One, World War Two and Peace and Security 1945 to 2014. This is a fantastic opportunity to support and enhance your child's knowledge of 20<sup>th</sup> century history and for them to engage with historical artefacts from photographs and letters to a Spitfire and a T34 tank. During the day the students will also engage with museum staff who will run an education session focussed on the Holocaust, students will then have an opportunity to visit the Holocaust gallery.

The coaches will be leaving from school promptly at 7.15am, so students will need to arrive and register with staff in the canteen at **7.00am**. [Please consider how your child will get to school, as the coaches have to leave Willingdon before the school buses arrive.](#)

We anticipate arriving back at school at approximately 5.30pm. Students are expected to wear their school PE kit so that they are easily identifiable and so that they have comfortable walking shoes for the museum. A packed lunch will be required. If your child is entitled to free school meals, please indicate this when you make your payment on ParentPay and this can be collected before we depart.

If your child suffers with travel sickness that requires medication not currently held in school, they will need to take the medicine before they travel in the morning and you will need to provide the medication in a named box, to be administered by a member of staff, before we travel back. If medication is required, please indicate this when you make your payment on ParentPay. Students with asthma should carry their inhalers with them.

We have 44 places on the trip. The cost for the whole trip is £41.00, which covers all travel and venue costs. To confirm your child's place on the trip, would you kindly pay via ParentPay. The payment will secure your child's place on the coach and the trip will operate on a first come first served basis. (ParentPay will open at 9am on Monday morning).

If you have any questions or queries please contact Ms Hardwick [jhardwick@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:jhardwick@willingdonschool.org.uk) or Mrs Hughes [lhughes@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:lhughes@willingdonschool.org.uk).

Poor behaviour/low attendance will not be tolerated at Willingdon Community School. Therefore, we reserve the right to cancel a student's participation in a trip if behaviour/attendance does not reach our expected high standards.

Please ensure all medical information held on Arbor is up to date before the trip date.

Kind regards,

The History Department



## Year 9 Options

We want to thank all those parents/carers who came along last night to support their child with the options process. The next part of the process is students doing a 'dummy run' of choices.

Please get your child to complete the practice form by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January: <https://forms.gle/bEMm6XEPFxH7Gzxc7>

Here is a short video explaining the final sections of the process: <https://youtu.be/os4ipAihbVs>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with [pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk)


Many thanks,

Mr Holt & Mr Cain

### Option Blocks 2025 v2

You will have to choose one option from each block. Not all the subjects below will run, we require a healthy number of students for each class.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Spanish	ICT	Art
History	French	Dance	Drama
Spanish	Latin	DT	DT
French	Geography	PE GCSE	PE GCSE
	History	Ethics	Child Development
	PE V-Cert	Food Preparation	Food Preparation
	Child Development	Music	Sociology
	Food Preparation	Psychology	Business Studies
		Travel & Tourism	Psychology
		Business Studies	Astronomy



**Willingdon**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Head of Year

Mr Roche

Email - [pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 10

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by saying a huge well done to Year 10 for another successful week! During my learning walks this week, I was delighted to see so many students fully engaged in their studies and demonstrating a positive attitude towards their learning.

A special thank you to all parents and carers for the fantastic 80% turnout at the Parents' Evening we held at the end of December. Your support plays a crucial role in your child's progress, and it was great to see so many of you there. If you would like any further feedback on your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact the pastoral team or their teachers.

This week, Year 10 students have been focusing on our exciting new initiative, "£20.25 for 2025." Each student is encouraged to raise £20 over the school year, which will be used to support positive projects within the school, chosen by the Friends of Willingdon. This initiative promotes responsibility and community spirit, and we are excited to see the contributions our students will make.

In addition, Year 10 students have been invited to volunteer for a heartwarming project where they can visit the local resident care home. This initiative offers them the opportunity to engage with residents, foster positive relationships and strengthen ties within our community.

As always, we are continuing to celebrate positive behaviour in Year 10. This week, our top 10 students have been rewarded with chocolates, and our top attendance tutor group, 10 JHA, enjoyed a cake reward on Friday. Well done to everyone involved!

It has been a fantastic start to the term, and I look forward to seeing the continued success and growth of Year 10 in the weeks to come.

Kind regards,

**Mr Roche**



Head of Year  
Mr Roche

Email - [pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 10



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Further to previous communication regarding work experience, please see the below information on the next steps.

Once the health and safety visits have been made to the placements, and the work experience team at East Sussex County Council have approved them, you will receive an email with three forms to complete. These forms include:

- Parent/Carer Agreement
- Safeguarding Agreement

Emergency Medical Contact Form

Additionally, your child will receive a *Student Agreement* by email. These emails will be sent from [noreply@eprospectus.co.uk](mailto:noreply@eprospectus.co.uk). **This will also require signing by your child.**

### What You Need to Do:

1. Open the email and click on the link for each of the agreements.
2. Carefully read through the agreements and fill in the required information.
3. At the bottom of each agreement, click the blue 'Sign' box.
4. You will be prompted to type your name in the top box, which will create an e-signature.

After signing, click 'Confirm' to complete the process.

**Examples of the process can be found in the screenshots below:**

The first screenshot shows an email titled "Work Experience - Signature Needed" from The eProspectus Team. It contains a link to the "Student Agreement" and contact information for assistance. The second screenshot shows the "Student Agreement - SIGNATURE PAGE" with fields for Name, Date, and Verification ID, and a blue "Sign" button at the bottom right. The third screenshot shows a pop-up window titled "Sign the Student Agreement for Work Experience" with a text input field for the name "Sayed Jarrah" and a "Confirm" button.

### Important Reminder: Agreement Forms Required Before Placement

The Parent/Carer Agreement, Medical Contact Form, and Student Agreement must be completed before your child's work experience placement can take place. These emails will be sent out in the coming weeks, once the placements have been confirmed and approved by the work experience team at East Sussex County Council.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Rooney  
Careers Adviser  
Email: [srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk)  
Tel: 01323 485254 ext 281

Year 10 Parents / Carers

It is time for the Student Leadership elections! As we move closer to GCSE examinations, the Year 11s will be transitioning out of their roles and supporting the new team as they take over during Term

4. Information has been shared through tutors this week. All this information can also be found on our website at <https://willingdonschool.org.uk/our-school/student-leadership>



Please do encourage your young person to consider this fantastic opportunity. There is much that they can contribute and this cohort of Year 10s are extremely strong. They have so many ideas for events and improvements - Student Leadership is a great way to have a say in what happens at school. We really do value their input. Whatever their skill set, there is a role that will suit them, so we do hope that a wide range and large number of students enter an application.

Each student in year 10 has been sent a link to a Goggle Application Form that they should complete in as much detail as they can to support their application.

**The deadline for submission is 21st January at 4pm.**

If any student needs any support to complete the form, they can access this through their tutor, pastoral team or the student leadership team in G2 any lunchtime.

The timeline for the rest of the application process can be found below.

- **W/c Monday 27th January** – Students and staff are invited to vote based on the three key priorities identified by the candidates.
- **W/c Monday 3rd February** – Candidates with the most votes from the staff and student vote will have the opportunity to then present to a panel of teachers and current student leaders.
- **Friday 7th February** - Any or all of those may be invited to interview with the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and the current Head Students. From those finalists, a Student Leadership Team will be selected.
- After the panel has deliberated, the newly elected Head Students will be notified on the afternoon of Friday 7th Feb and the rest of the student leadership team will be contacted in due course before the end of term.

If the students have any questions or queries, they can contact me directly on [lcollins@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:lcollins@willingdonschool.org.uk)

Kind regards

Mrs Lucy Collins

*Head of Department for Geography and Ethics & Religion*





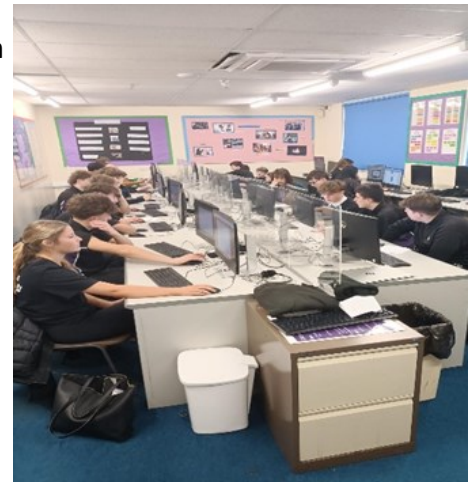
Head of Year  
Mr Gordon

Email - [pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 11

This week, we have observed great engagement from Year 11 students during lesson walk-throughs. Students have been demonstrating a high level of focus, enthusiasm, and commitment to their learning. It's clear they are taking ownership of their education as they approach their mock exams and enter the final straight towards their GCSE exams.

Additionally, we are pleased to report a strong turnout at after school subject interventions. These sessions are important to provide extra support for your child as they prepare for their exams. Please encourage your child to attend the lunch time and after school sessions and take advantage of the opportunity.



In preparation for the upcoming mock exams, Year 11 students have been allocated time during tutor sessions to focus on revision and exam preparation. This additional time allows students to use a range of revision techniques to prepare for their exams. Please ensure your child is prepared and is bringing revision material into school to use during these sessions.

## Year 11 Spring Mock Exams

	8.45am Start		12.30pm Start
10-Feb	English Lang Paper 2 1h 45m		Computer Sci 1h 30m
11-Feb	DT 2h Dance 1h		Biology Triple 1h 45m/ Trilogy 1h15m
12-Feb	Business 1h 45m Drama 1h 45m		PE GCSE 1h 30m PE Vcert 1h 30m
13-Feb	History 2h		Latin Lang 1h 30m
14-Feb	Maths Non Calc 1h30m	INSET DAY	Sociology 1h45m
24-Feb	English Lit Paper 1 1h 45m		Psychology 1h30m/ Further Maths 1h 45m
25-Feb	Chemistry Triple 1h 45m/ Trilogy 1h15m		Geography 1h30m
26-Feb	Maths Calc 1h 30m		Latin Civ 1h
27-Feb	Physics Triple 1h 45m/ Trilogy 1h15m		French (W) & Spanish (W) 1h 15m H & 1h F
28-Feb	Music 1H 15M		
03-Mar			
04-Mar	Spanish L&R H 1h 45m Spanish L&R F 1h 45m		French L&R 1h 45 m
05-Mar			
06-Mar	Art all day		Art all day

**Individual student timetables will be shared in the new year.**

**Please note those in the school production - we will set alternative dates for some exams to allow you to take part in the production. Please refer to your individual TT.**

**Please note those on the ski trip - we will set alternative dates for you to sit any missed exams. Please refer to your individual TT.**

Mock timetables are now visible on Arbor for parents and students.



Head of Year  
Mr Gordon

Email - [pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 11

We are excited to introduce an attendance challenge for Term 3 which was shared with students during their assembly this week. All Year 11 students are encouraged to achieve 95% or above with their attendance this term, good attendance is key to their success and all students need to be attending all their lessons in preparation for their exams. Students who meet this goal will gain early access to their leavers' hoodie at the beginning of Term 4, this will then replace their blazer for the remainder of Year 11. We hope this motivates students and encourages punctuality and consistent attendance as we move closer to the final stages of their GCSE preparation.

Please remind your child of the importance of good attendance, not just for academic success but also to ensure they don't miss any important revision or learning opportunities



Congratulations to George G 11LCN who was the first Year 11 to complete the 2025 Challenge and donate his money raised to the school. We want Year 11 to be the first year group to all donate their £20.25 that they raise, as well as raising the money they will win a non-uniform day for the year group. Please encourage your child to get fundraising.

**The Year 11 Team**

**The Friends of Willingdon**

PRESENTS

**THE  
2025  
CHALLENGE**

WE ARE ASKING ALL STUDENTS TO TRY AND  
RAISE £20.25 – HOWEVER THEY CAN!

RAISE  
£20.25

£5 VOUCHER TO THE FIRST  
IN EACH YEAR TO COMPLETE  
THE CHALLENGE!

How can you raise £20.25?  
sponsored bike ride, walk, swim. Bake  
sale, car washing? Its up to you!

All money is to be in by  
Thursday 3rd April. Prize draw to  
take place week commencing 22nd  
April

Completed the challenge?

You'll be entered into our prize draw after Easter to win:

£200 Merlin Voucher

£100 One4all Voucher

£50 one4all Voucher



Email [friends@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:friends@willingdonschool.org.uk)

If students choose to take on a sponsored challenge, Friends of Willingdon have provided a Sponsor Form, attached.

Willingdon Community School



Charity No. 1154283

**Friday 31st January 2025**

**Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start**

**Teams of up to 6 people**

**£5 entry per person**

Bring your own food and alcohol. Tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase. Book your place via [friends@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:friends@willingdonschool.org.uk)

**with prizes  
& a raffle!**

**Come along and challenge the staff at Willingdon teams**