

Parent Bulletin

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Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

17th May 2024



We have had a brilliant and busy term five. You only have to be on one of the social media Willingdon sites to see how much learning is happening inside and outside of the classroom.

We say goodbye to Mrs Griffith, our Head of Art and DT, and wish her luck at a school closer to her family home.

We have a few new staff starting back after the holidays so we will do proper introductions then.

We recently engaged in our parent engagement survey which was really useful to us as leaders. There was so much positive feedback which we very much appreciated. Comments like:

'You go above and beyond to try to engage parents.'

'For our family we get the perfect amount of communication.'

'I appreciate there is not a deluge of unnecessary information or letters.'

'I always get a prompt response if I email about anything. The school staff are fantastic.'

'I recognise you try various ways to engage and at time you must get disillusioned with the lack of response. However, this may be as parents are generally okay and happy and don't have anything to add.'

This last comment is interesting. We hope that parents are happy hence we didn't have the best response to the survey. Only 44/1051 parents took part. However, we don't want to just assume that you are happy and want to reach out to you to ensure that this is the case or listen to feedback on how to improve. I'm grateful to the parents who welcomed a follow up phone call or meeting with me to listen to more feedback. Whilst it's upsetting to hear when we don't get it right for the family or the child, it was so powerful hearing from the parent perspective. I share some of the comments below :

'Tailored communication to encourage a positive dialogue about learning.'

'I haven't met my child's new tutor. There has been no communication with them at all.'

'Focus seems to be more on behaviour not achievement.'

'I get very frustrated by the short notice given for many things.'

'Is it worth asking parents what areas of discussion they would like included in parent forums?'

'Actually answer emails when parents send them.'

'Provide more parents evening appointments.'

There is a lot to digest and think strategically about how we can improve however, we have taken the following actions already :

We have spoken to staff about ensuring they respond within 3 working days of an email sent. Can I encourage parents to ensure they only write to one person cc'ing anyone else in that they need to as some staff don't know whose replying if it is sent to five people. Staff do get an enormous number of emails a day and we will need to look as a school on how to reduce emails in house so that things aren't missed.

We are looking at a different model for parents evening to allow more capacity for appointments. We will share with parents soon.

We are looking to stop reporting on 'warns' as a trial in Term Six so that the focus for parents is on the many reward points given out each day. We need to give the children the capacity to make a mistake and correct it in school without telling on everything that happens during the day. We felt we were empowering parents with this knowledge but appreciate that many families feel it has caused the breakdown of relationship between school and home.

We have written to you to generate the agenda for our next parent forum. We have separated key stage three and four so it is more relevant to you. We have had one response so far so would be grateful for more feedback to drive the agenda.

We have always said secondary is a very different beast from primary. Primary teachers get to know the class very well with only thirty students to focus on. Some teachers meet 180 students a day. Where we can, we will try to personalise our approach but this tends to happen through parents evenings, meet the tutor evening and reports. You are welcome anytime to email teachers if you need an update on your child.

I understand about the lack of notice and how that can be frustrating. Sometimes we do have last minute opportunities presented and rather than turn them down, we do embrace them. All dates are on our website. Some parents said about the exams information to parents going late. Every child had their exam entries before Easter. The timetable was on the website and a link sent out. We did then give personalised timetables but we will try our best to get this out earlier.

There is still much more to work on but hopefully you can see we are listening and doing our very best to improve for your child. Please keep working with us though as the parent and teacher partnership will be one of the biggest influencers in helping a child succeed academically and pastorally.

Mrs May

Key dates

May

23rd - Yr 7 Parents' Evening

24th - End of Term 5

June

3rd - Start of Term 6

5th - Parent Forum

6th - Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

13th - Yr 10 Positive Progress Evening

17th - Yr 10 College Taster Day - Lewes

18th - Yr 10 Concert

19th - Town Sports Athletics

19th - Yr 6 Lone Taster Day

20th - Yr 7 & 8 - Big Bang Fair

24th - Yr 10 Taster Day - Hastings

24th/25th - Yr 10 College Taster Day

Seaford Head

25th - Sports Day

26th - Yr 6 Meet the Tutor Evening

27th - Yr 10 Mock Interviews Workshop

28th - INSET Day

July

1st - Yr 10 College Taster Day - Eastbourne

2nd - Yr 6 Taster Day (1)

3rd - Yr 6 Taster Day (2)

3rd - KS3 Prize Evening

5th - Yr 11 Prom

9th - Yr 6 Coffee Morning

9th - Parent Forum

10th - Yr 10 Mock Interview Day

11th - Phoenix Festival

12th - Yr 10 Taster Day - BACA

15th/19th - Morfa Bay

23rd - End of Term 6

YEAR 6 TRANSITION SUMMER SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 24TH - FRIDAY 26TH JULY

WILLINGDON SUMMER SCHOOL (YEARS 5 - 8)

MONDAY 29TH - FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST

£45PER DAY / £150 FULL WEEK



Next Thursday 23rd May,
Street Food menu will be
replace our normal menu..

We will be serving up..

Vegetarian / Quorn Sweet & Sour with Rice served on our
takeaway Clamshell boxes

Contains.... Peas, Vinegar, Spring Onions , Ginger , Five spices, oil ,
Soya sauce, Garlic, Paste Tomato, Pineapple, Peppers, Carrots,
Quorn Misfit.

Main Meal / Firecracker Beef

Contain ...Sauce Sriracha Chili, Honey, Sauce Soya, Oil, Onions,
Spring Onions, Garlic, Ginger, Beef lean mince, Katerveg Meat
Vegan mince,

Chilies red, sauce Mayonnaise, Cabbage , Peas, Vinegar Rice
Mikado.

Dessert ...Chocolate Cookie Sundae.

ENRICHMENT CLUBS INFORMATION

Many apologies, unfortunately our STEM Club has had to be paused due to unforeseen circumstances. It will restart in September, if not before – watch this space!



MINDFULNESS is cancelled until further notice. We hope to start running this again before we finish for the Summer holiday.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Forum

We are writing to invite you to our next Parent Forum this academic year. These forums are a fantastic way to keep you updated with our school improvement plan and national educational policy.

Wednesday, 5th June 2024

5.30pm – 7pm - By Zoom

- 1. 5.30pm – 6.15pm – Key Stage 3 focussed – Years 7 and 8**
- 2. 6.15pm – 7pm – Key Stage 4 focussed – Years 9 and 10**

Following parental feedback, we are giving parents the opportunity to drive this agenda. Please submit topics you would like us to focus upon. We will also have Governor representation at the forum.

Please be reminded that these forums are not an occasion to discuss individual students. Please refer any individual issues to your child's Tutor or Head of Year.

If you would like to attend the above Zoom Parent Forum and would like to suggest topics to be discussed, please complete the below google form. A zoom code will then be emailed to you.

Parent Forum 4 - Wednesday, 5th June 2024

If you are unable to attend this forum, we will place any relevant powerpoint slides on the school website for you to view.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E May'.

Mrs E May
Headteacher

Careers



HM Government

NHS

PHARMACY FIRST

services available

without a prescription

For patients in eligible age ranges

Earache

1 to 17 years

Impetigo

1 year and over

Infected insect bites

1 year and over

Shingles

18 years and over

Sinusitis

12 years and over

Sore throat

5 years and over

Uncomplicated urinary tract infections

Women 16-64 years

Careers - Year 10

Timeline for applying for post-16

Students will begin applying for their post-16 options in Autumn **2024** and the application process for sixth form, college and apprenticeships takes place throughout the course of the academic year. Here is a projected timeline for **2024-25**:

All students	Year 10 & 11 1:1 personal guidance interview with Level 6 Careers Adviser (by appointment) srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk Year 10/11 Wednesday lunch time drop-in session (Careers office)
June 2024	Personal statement guidance in English lessons.
June - July 2024	Taster days at local FE colleges and schools.
June 2024	Year 10 mock interview workshop
July 2024	Year 10 1:1 employer interview.
June - July 2024	Personal statements to be completed during Tutor time and handed in to HOY by end of year 10.
Sept - Nov 2024	Further Education and Apprenticeship assemblies.
3rd Sept - 31st Oct 2024	College applications to be completed during Tutor time.
Sept - Oct 2024	Parent Forum on post 16 options.
1st October 2024	Sixth form and college courses for 2024-25 visible on application sites.
31st October 2024	All college applications to be completed.
November 2024	Open days / evenings at further education colleges.
December 2024	Year 11 1:1 employer interview.
Dec 2024 – Feb 2025	Students invited to sixth form/college interviews.
17th January 2025	Probable closing date for sixth form applications <u>NOTE</u> : Colleges do not have the same deadlines but early applications are still advised!
Feb - Mar 2025	Students begin to receive offers from sixth forms and colleges.
March - July 2025	Students accept or reject offers for different courses.

May- June 2025

Apprenticeships on websites.

September 2025

Applications for 2024/ 2025 close for most colleges and last-minute clearance.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/> - The government's apprenticeship portal, which allows students to make an account and search and apply for apprenticeships.

NOTE: Apprenticeship and Traineeship applications run throughout the academic year and students must be 16 and have finished full-time education before starting. Apprenticeships have a much more detailed application process than sixth form or college and may require students to find their own placements if taken via colleges.

Post-16 Education – What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

Full-Time Study – this could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

Apprenticeships – this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

Traineeships – this is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering – this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

How do I pay for post-16 education and training?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a **16-19 Bursary Fund** to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an apprenticeship, they will no longer be considered your dependant and your benefits for them will stop.

More information can be found via the **Gingerbread** website: <https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/information/benefits-tax-credits-and-universal-credit/money-when-your-child-turns-16/>

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

Useful Links:

<http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk/help-information/raising-the-participation-age-rpa>

<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study:

Traditional A-Levels – Subjects like **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art**

Alternative A-Levels – Subjects like **Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science**

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

Entry Requirements – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A-Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE in order to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

BTEC L3 Diplomas – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include **Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.**

T Levels - Some colleges offer T Levels which are an alternative to A levels but are equivalent to 3 A levels. T Level students spend 80% of the course in their learning environment, gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where they put these skills into action.

Apprenticeships- An apprenticeship can be done directly after leaving school. Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to get paid while developing the skills required to work in that type of employment. Students would look for an advanced apprenticeship (Level 3 - which is A level equivalent) on the following website, <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> from the May/June of the year they are leaving school or approach companies directly.

Local College Information

Hailsham Community College <https://www.hccat.net/>

Seaford Head School <https://seafordhead.org/>

Heathfield Community College <http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/>

Plumpton <https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/>

East Sussex College Group <https://www.escg.ac.uk/>

Bexhill Sixth Form College <https://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/>

BHASVIC <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/>

Private Schools/ Colleges – Parents should be aware that both schools offer fully or partially funded scholarships for post-16 education, as long as specific criteria are met.

Eastbourne College <https://www.eastbourne-college.co.uk/>

Bede's School - <https://www.bedes.org/>

Smaller Training Providers – In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations around the city and further afield that offer a range of vocational courses for students, including **Motor Vehicle, Business Admin, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Construction, Personal Fitness, Hair and Beauty** and **Hospitality and Catering**, as well as support with **Maths** and **English** and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students:

POST 16 OPTIONS MADE SIMPLE

Use the information below to help you understand the options available to you after Year 11.

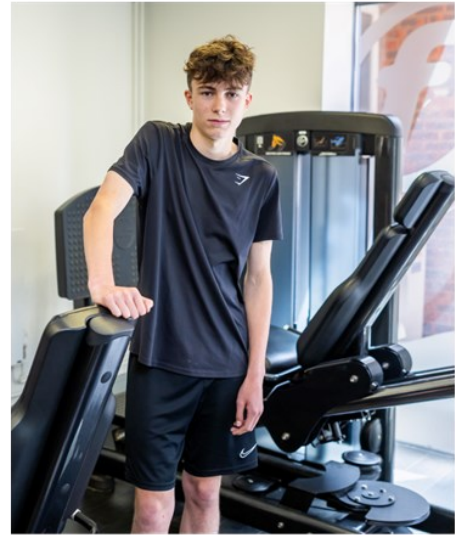
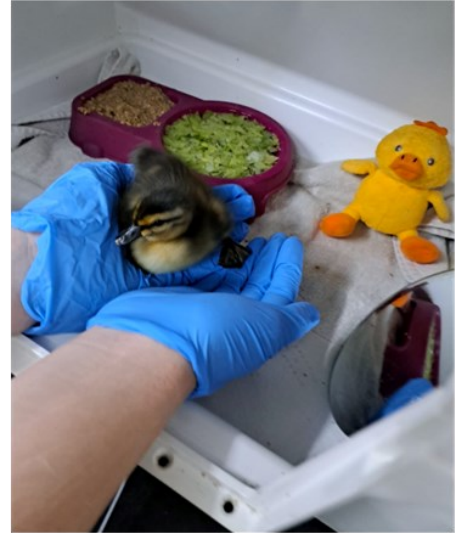
IF I ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING GCSES ...	I CAN MOVE ONTO LEVEL ...	AND CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS ...	AND APPLY FOR ...
5s, 5s, 5s, 5s, 5s Inc. English, Language and Maths at a Grade 4 Exact requirements vary according to the subject	3	A LEVELS	3 or 4 SUBJECTS
4s, 4s, 4s, 4s, 4s Inc. English and Maths at a Grade 4 and above	3	T LEVELS	1 SUBJECT
4s, 4s, 4s, 4s, 4s Inc. English and Maths at a Grade 3 Exact requirements vary according to the course	3, 2, 1	VOCATIONAL COURSES	1 SUBJECT COURSE
4s, 4s Exact requirements vary according to the employer	3, 2	APPRENTICESHIPS	APPLY FOR VACANCIES
What if I get grades below 2?	ENTRY	VOCATIONAL COURSES	1 SUBJECT COURSE

Speak to your Careers Adviser to help you explore the options in more detail.

Year 10 Work Experience

Well done to all our Year 10 students on their Work Experience Week.





Year 10

RSHE Year 10

Next week Year 10 will be undertaking sessions linked to their statutory learning in RSHE around sex and health education. This will include assemblies and workshops linked with contraception, fertility, healthy and unhealthy relationships, harmful behaviours, consent. We have outside speakers as well as experienced staff delivering the sessions and we are looking forward to full engagement from the Year 10s. They will all be advised of the content beforehand, should you have any specific queries, please do let the pastoral team know.

Year 11

Year 11 Art Students

A big well done to the Year 11 art students, I am very proud of the standard of work you have produced. Miss Markland and I have been busy marking the work students have handed in early. The deadline for work is Monday, 20th of May. We can then mark the work and feed back raw scores before the final grade submission deadline of the 31st May.

Thank you,

Mrs Griffith and Miss Markland Champ

Social Media

X x.com/WillingdonCS

Facebook facebook.com/WillingdonCS

Instagram instagram.com/WillingdonCS



Great to see our Year 9 students Honey, Poppy and Lily playing club netball in the Eastbourne adult netball league!! We look forward to hearing how they get on over the summer season!



We are so proud of our first ever GCSE Latin cohort who sat their language exam on Tuesday. By trying something new, challenging, and fiercely academic, these students have shown resilience and character.

Despite the weather turning, that didn't stop our intrepid students heading out to the Sussex Police engagement vehicle to talk with the officers and ask their many questions. Lots of students wanted to know about careers in the police, they got to see and try some of the equipment, scanners, fingerprinting and talk about a knife free community. The students were exemplary and huge thanks to Sussex Police once again for their work in engaging our young people around safety, prevention of harm and access to support.

Social Media

X x.com/WillingdonCS

f facebook.com/WillingdonCS

ig instagram.com/WillingdonCS



Congratulations to two Year 10 students Finley Phillipson and Alfie Hanmore who both achieved awards at last weekend's Eastbourne Rugby Football Club presentation evening.

The boys are part of the XI U15 Team who have had a successful season developing as a team with lots of new squad members.

Finley achieved the Most Improved Award with head coach Jean-Luc commenting that he "has been an exceptionally talented athlete. With the move of position this season to number 15 fullback he took to the role seamlessly. He has been solid in defence and prevented many try scoring opportunities".

Alfie achieved the Rugby Values award which goes to the player who represents all of the core the values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. Well done to both boys!



Our Year 7 and 8 discos were a fantastic success! Many thanks to our student body for supporting and to our student leaders and hard working staff for staying late to run the events.



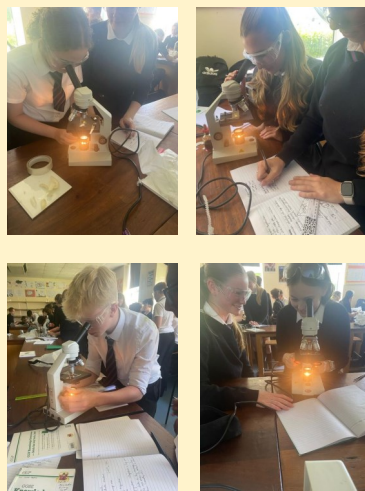
Social Media

X x.com/WillingdonCS

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ig instagram.com/WillingdonCS

Mrs Townsend-Smith who loved covering a Year 9 science lesson who were revising microscopy required practical.



Wonderful feedback for our students!

Yesterday I had the pleasure of being the driver of your pupils on the route 6.

Unfortunately during our journey my wipers failed in the rain and I had to pull in. The office sent out an engineer to repair the issue but I ended up bringing the pupils in 1 hour late.



I just wanted to comment on the exemplary behaviour of your students. I was initially concerned that the cereal and chocolate bars might get the better of them but they were very well behaved and polite. They also appeared a little cheerful at the delay. A credit indeed and I hope my children would behave this way. I did thank them but if you all still have the assemblies as I used to in school it would be great to pass my thanks on.



Dance club have been developing their choreography skills over the past few weeks creating dance pieces based of a image as a stimulus! These skills are fundamental for their futures in dance. Keep up the good work!

