## Parent Bulletin





21st March 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the Easter break, we'd like to inform you of an important change coming after the holidays. Starting after Easter, our tutor time will be moved to the start of the school day, beginning promptly at **8:30 AM**. This is a crucial part of our school day, and we ask that all students are **on time** so they can fully benefit from this important session.

This week, we were excited to welcome **210 parents** to our community on Tuesday, whose children will be joining us in September. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect and share our vision for the future with these families, and we look forward to working alongside them in the coming months.

I'd also like to take a moment to share some recent successes from our leadership team:

- Miss Walters has been doing secondment work for another local school, helping them improve their safeguarding practices. She is now also delivering training for the entire county on safeguarding. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a talented individual on our team.
- Mr Holt has been leading the Deputy Head network across East Sussex, recently co-leading a "Sharing
  Excellence" event with Seaford Head. This event allowed us to collaborate with other schools, share our
  expertise, and learn from one another.
- Mrs Townsend-Smith has been working across schools in the county to support them with behaviour interventions and strategies. Her role in helping schools implement effective behaviour management practices is highly valued. In addition to this, she has been supporting LSEAT (a South East academy chain) in their work with the Pupil Referral Unit, College Central. Her success in these areas speaks to the high regard her colleagues hold her in, particularly for her impactful approach to behaviour. We are proud to have leaders like Mrs Townsend-Smith whose influence extends beyond the gates of Willingdon.
- On a personal note, I continue to support a multi-academy trust in Kent on occasional days. I will be working
  with them again next week to review certain subject areas and share best practices. This collaboration further
  enriches our own practice and provides valuable insights for our school.
- I will soon be moving into the role of Chair of Eastbourne Area Group Two, leading school improvement across **nine local schools**. This is an exciting opportunity for me to have an even broader impact on education in the region, and our school will continue to benefit as well as the wider community.

All of this work is invaluable to Willingdon. It ensures that we remain at the forefront of educational excellence, helping us to continuously improve and provide the best possible environment for our students. By collaborating with other schools, we can implement effective change, learn from others, and adopt new ideas that will benefit our students. This also helps us to retain the very best leaders, who are key to ensuring the continued success of Willingdon.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you all a weekend full of sunshine and look forward to welcoming students back Monday morning for the final two weeks of school.

Best wishes,

**Emily May** 

Headteacher

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**MARCH** 

Tues 25th Dance Live (Hastings)
Fri 28th Yr 11 Thorpe Park Trip

**APRIL** 

Tues 1st Spanish & STEM Trip - Valencia

Drama Practical Exam / History Trip - Krakow / Lets Dance (Congress Theatre)

Thurs 3rd Quiz Night (Nepal Fundraiser) - 6.30pm

Fri 4th END OF TERM 4 - Early Closure

#### **EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Friday, 4th April 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

(staggered by year group from 12.20pm-

12.40pm)

#### **REMAINING INSET DAYS 2024-25**

Friday, 27th June 2025

#### **INSET DAYS 2025-26**

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Day after Year 6 October Open Evening – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

October 2025 Date TBC

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### PE Uniform

In the approach to the summer months, we wanted to remind parents, carers and students that we have moved to a **compulsory PE short, for all students**. This is with the aim to standardise and smarten our school PE kit. The Willingdon Community School shorts are available to purchase on ParentPay. (*Initial communication regarding this was circulated in July 2024*). Any other shorts or skort are no longer permitted as part of the PE kit. If students do not wish to wear the compulsory PE shorts, they should continue to wear their plain black leggings or joggers.

In addition to this, a reminder that **non-uniform tracksuit tops**, **hooded tops and plain black jumpers**, **including those with a V neck**, **are not permitted** as part of the school PE kit and will be confiscated if worn. If students are cold on PE days, the options for layers are:

- Willingdon Community School logoed sweatshirt
- Willingdon Community School logoed zip top
- Plain black or white long sleeved base layer underneath their PE t-shirt
- Their blazer, which can then be removed once they arrive to their PE lesson.

We are very proud of the engagement we have in our PE lessons, and do believe part of this is due to removing the barrier of having to change out of uniform. For this to remain in the place, the PE kit policy must be followed.



#### **Changes to Tutor Time**

Following feedback from our recent Parent Forums, as well as input from teachers and students, we have decided to move tutor time to the start of the school day. This change will ensure that students are welcomed each morning by a familiar contact, setting them up for a positive day. It will also allow us to check uniform and equipment expectations at the beginning of the day, preventing unnecessary negative conversations later on.

We remain committed to excellent punctuality and are pleased that Stagecoach has responded positively to our request for earlier bus arrival times. Additionally, our tutor programme will continue to cover key areas such as Literacy, Careers, and support for the RSHE programme.

This change will take effect immediately after the Easter break. We will also be returning to a single break time, which will increase the capacity of staffing available to supervise the field, allowing students more space to enjoy during break time. Year 7 students will receive additional transition time built into lessons to support their movement around the school.

Below is an example of the revised Willingdon timetable.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Tutor Time:** 8:30am – 8:55am

**Lesson One:** 8:55am – 9:45am

**Lesson Two:** 9:45am -10:35am

Break: 10:35am – 11:00am (for all year groups)

**Lesson Three:** 11:00am – 11:50am

**Lesson Four:** 11:50am – 12:40am

**Lunch:** 12:40pm – 1:20pm

**Lesson Five:** 1:20pm – 2:10pm

**Lesson Six:** 2:10pm - 3:00pm

# SCHOOL FIELD SAFETY GUIDE

The field should not be used at the start of the day

## Stay in Your Year Team Zone

Remain in your designated area.

Do not enter another year group's zone.

Year Group Zones:

Year 7 - Left side of field behind Maths block

Year 8 - Right side of field behind Sports Hall

Year 9 - Tree side of field behind English huts

Year 10 - Middle of field, no further than picnic benches

Year 11 - Right side of field behind Music



Neither Year 7 nor Year 8 should go beyond the cricket pitch or near the hedgerow along the long jump pit.

<u>No football</u> near the huts to prevent window damage and to allow students to sit comfortably at picnic benches.

No football on the playground



No mobile phones

Let's work together to keep our field safe, fun and fair for everyone!

#### **Respect Our Neighbours**

Keep noise levels reasonable

Do not trespass or throw objects near fences

## Ensure We Follow the Hands Off Approach

No bundling or rough play

#### **Play Football Safely**

No slide tackles or rough play

Respect others - no taking footballs from other year groups

#### **Stay Within the Boundaries**

Do not go beyond the marked field areas

# Use the Toilets & Water Fountain During Break, Not After the Second Bell

Plan ahead so you have time to use the toilet before the second bell

## Leave on the First Bell or Whistle

Stop activities immediately

Begin making your way off the field

#### **Keep Our School Clean**

Put litter in bins or take it with you





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 a 'Treat with the Team' in recognition of their hard work.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Millie G 7DBR	Nate W 8RCR	Jacob M 9PHA	Lexi C 10MJE	Tommy B 11HPO
Rose H 7SMI	Oliver S 8REL	Oliver K 9AME	Seth P 10EOR	Oscara N 11CHO
Olivia I 7EMC	Alfie B 8REL	Jess G 9PHI	Oliver W 10JHA	Izzie P 11HPO
Jade K 7RHA	Mimi H 8CEW	Louis H 9PHI	Maisie C 10DMC	Charles C 11LCN
Bethany N 7RHA	Faye M 8TST	Mia L 9GEL	Indio C 10DMC	Olivia S 11AED

Willingdon School celebrated British Science Week 2025 with a bang, offering students an engaging lineup of hands-on activities based around this year's theme: 'Change and Adapt'! From the fiery excitement of Colourful Combustion to the engineering challenge of Paper Bridges, students explored science in creative and interactive ways. They delved into the Evolution of the Camera, examined Animal Adaptations in nature, and witnessed Chemical Changes in action. It was a week filled with discovery, fun, and a deeper understanding and curiosity about the world around us!



















## **MAINS**

Roast Chicken or Roast Quorn

### SIDES

Roast Potatoes
Carrots and Broccoli
Stuffing and Gravy

### **DESSERTS**

Chocolate Cookie Crumble Muffin or Strawberry Shortcake Pot

\*Menus may be subject to change

**EASTER TREAT MENU - WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL** 

£2.57 Main / £3.12 with Dessert



#### Visit our website for further information and future Holiday Clubs

https://willingdonschool.org.uk/key-information/willingdon-community-school

-holiday-clubs

#### Book your place/s below

Easter Break Holiday Club Google Form

May Half Term Holiday Club Google Form

Summer Holiday Club Google Form



#### **Poetry by Heart Winners**

A Huge congratulations to 7EMC who won last week's Poetry by Heart competition! Here are some photos of them enjoying their pizza reward!

#### **Treats with the Team**

As a new initiative we are starting 'Treats with the Team'. This is where we are congratulating the top 5 students who have gained the most achievement points for the week, by sharing some treats with them. Below are the 10 students who had the highest reward points in Year 7 over the last two weeks. These students have worked so hard and it was a pleasure to be able to celebrate their success with them!





#### **Easter Challenge**

A reminder that we have 2 weeks left of our Easter challenge! For students to qualify for the reward they need over 98% attendance and 0 behaviour points for the last 4 weeks of term. Please encourage students to keep up their hard work!

#### **Year 7 Team**



Head of Year Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. It has been a fantastic week for Year 8, and I wanted to take a moment to share some of the highlights with you.

Mr Keast had the opportunity to visit all Year 8 classes during a lesson walk-through this week, and he was incredibly impressed by the focus, engagement, and enthusiasm of our students. It was wonderful to see them so eager to learn, participating thoughtfully, and making the most of their lessons. Moments like these truly reflect the hard work and dedication of both our students and their teachers.

Yesterday in assembly, we were privileged to welcome Ross from Southern Rail, who spoke to the year group about the importance of railway safety. His message was both powerful and thought-provoking, and our students responded with great respect and compassion. It was clear that they took the message seriously, asking insightful questions and demonstrating a real awareness of the responsibility we all have in keeping ourselves and others safe around railway tracks.

As we wrap up another busy and productive week, I want to wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable weekend. Thank you for your continued support – it is always appreciated.

#### The Year 8 Team

#### Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy and full on week for Year 9 students, where they have engaged in a full range of various activities and events.

It started with a winning performance from the football team, winning 2-1 v Peacehaven in the Eastbourne Schools Cup Final. This was followed by a trip for many to the Imperial War Museum, London on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the Timeout Production team who performed for the year group regarding drug and alcohol use. Later on Wednesday afternoon, 9 students represented the school in the Eastbourne Schools Rugby Tournament at Eastbourne Rugby Club. Finally, on Thursday we welcomed Ross from Southern Rail. Please see below for more information on each event and the outcomes...

Year 9 student Darcie G was a part of the Charlton Athletic FC Academy team that won the London Cup final on Sunday.

Midfielder Darcie was a starter for the Charlton team that beat Hinton Revolution Haringey Girls 7-0 in the final at Barking FC.

Their journey to the final was tricky, winning on penalties in the quarter-final (in which Darcie took the first spot kick and scored) and then scoring in the last minute of extra time to win the semi-final.

The previous day, Darcie and her team were guests of honour at The Valley for the Charlton Men's match against Wigan where they took part in the half-time pitch walk in front of 16,500 people.

It's Darcie's first full season with the academy squad where she trains twice a week in south London. She's lucky to have the support of her parents to get her to training and fixtures and we are all incredibly proud of her achievements too!

Keep up the hard work Darcie





Dear Parent/Carer,

#### Big Futures Show – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for our **Year 9** students.

The Big Futures Show is a careers event which is organised by the Eastbourne Education Business Partnership and comprises of approximately 80 stands representing local companies and colleges.

Your child has the opportunity to attend this event, which we hope they will enjoy and find beneficial.

The date for the show is **Tuesday**, **29**<sup>th</sup> **April** and is being hosted at Eastbourne Sports Park, Cross Levels Way, BN21 2UF. We will travel there by coach for a 9.30-11.00am slot, then return to school for the remainder of the day.

We believe our students would gain a great deal of information from this event, meeting prospective colleges and taking part in the interactive sessions that the companies are providing.

There are **45 spaces** available, and it is therefore on a first come first served basis. We kindly request that each student pays a contribution of **£10.71**, payable via ParentPay, to cover the entrance fee and transport costs. This will be live in ParentPay at approximately 3pm on Tuesday, **25**<sup>th</sup> March.

If you would like your child to attend, but require support with payment, please do contact me on the below email address.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser

srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another positive and productive week for Year 10 as we approach the final stretch before the Easter holidays, which are now just over two weeks away.

#### **Assessment Point 2**

Head of Year

This week, teachers have submitted the second assessment point for Year 10, and you can expect to receive these reports towards the end of next week. These reports will provide a clear indication of the progress your child is making in their first year of GCSEs. If you have any questions or concerns after reviewing the report, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant classroom teacher.

#### **Imperial War Museum Trip**

We were delighted to take a group of students from Year 10, along with other year groups, on a fantastic trip to the Imperial War Museum in London this week. The students conducted themselves brilliantly and represented the school with pride. Well done to all those involved!

#### **Dance Live Participation**

A special mention goes to the students taking part in Dance Live this week. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing about their performances.

#### **Hot Chocolate and Biscuits Celebration**

Congratulations to the six Year 10 students who were nominated by staff for their hard work and positive attitude. They were treated to hot chocolate and biscuits with the team at break time. Well done to:

- Lexi C
- Seth P
- Oliver W
- Maisie C
- Indio C



#### **Upcoming Mocks**

As a reminder, students should now be revising for their upcoming mock exams, which will begin immediately after the Easter break, starting on Monday, 22nd April.

We're looking forward to a positive and focused final two weeks before the break.

Kind regards,

Mr Roche

**Year 10 Team** 



#### **Work Experience Information for Year 10 Students**

Dear Parents and Carer,

Our Year 10 students will soon begin their work experience, taking place from 12th to 16th May 2025. We hope that they are looking forward to this valuable opportunity!

By Wednesday, 26th March, your child will be provided with the contact details of their employer. We kindly ask that you encourage your child to reach out to their employer by either email or phone. They should introduce themselves, confirm that they will be on a placement during the specified week, and enquire about the working hours and dress code. Students should email the employer using their own personal email address and not their school email address to enable the employer to respond.

To assist with this, examples of what your child can say will be included with the contact details.

Please ensure that your child contacts their employer by **Friday 25th April**. For students with school or nursery placements, please note that these may be closed from **Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April** for the Easter holidays.

There may still be some outstanding agreement forms that require completion. If you or your child have not yet completed these, please check your email inbox (for parents) and your child's school email (for students) for any messages from <a href="mailto:noreply@eprospectus.co.uk">noreply@eprospectus.co.uk</a>. These forms can be signed electronically.

If your child requires assistance in contacting their work placement, or if you have any questions about the work experience process, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me using the contact details below.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth and successful work experience for your child!

Best regards,
Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser & WEX Co-Ordinator

Tel: 01323 485254 ext 281

Email: srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk



#### **YEAR 10 STUDENTS**

RE: Romeo & Juliet Trip, Globe Theatre, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Globe Theatre, London, is showing a performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' and the English department would like to offer your child the opportunity to attend. As the text is studied for GCSE Literature, we are pleased to be able to offer the chance to Year 10 students.

We will travel by coach from school to the Globe Theatre at approximately 9am to arrive in time to have lunch, which students will need to bring with them, prior to the matinee performance. We shall then return to school by coach at approximately 7pm. Students will need to bring a packed lunch.

The cost of this trip is £48, which includes return coach travel, the theatre ticket and insurance. Payment should be made via ParentPay. Places are limited so you are advised to make your payment as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. This will be available to book on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 from 3pm.

Poor behaviour/low attendance are not tolerated at Willingdon Community School. The school reserves the right to cancel a student's participation in a trip if behaviour / attendance does not reach our expected high standards.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Elliott

Teacher of English

M. Elyst

**PEST OF LUCK** 

#### **Brighton and Hove Albion**

Congratulations to Bode N-R, who has been rewarded for his hard work and dedication to football with a further two-year contract with Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club. This is an incredible achievement and a testament to his commitment and progress in the sport. Additionally, Bode has recently been called up to play for the U18 squad—another fantastic milestone in his football career

We wish Bode all the best as he continues to excel in his football journey!

## Learning Mentors

A reminder that our team of Learning Mentors, all of whom are former students, will be running after-school sessions from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the IT rooms each day. These sessions are designed to provide valuable support for your child as they prepare for their GCSE exams across all subjects.

We highly encourage you to motivate your child to attend these sessions, as they will assist with coursework and provide essential preparation for the upcoming exams. Well done to all students that have been attending the sessions.

#### **FINAL REMINDER:**

We would like all students to have a letter or card from parents/ carers to open and read with their results on the day. This would be to mark a big milestone in their journey towards their final GCSE exams, and we want to take a moment to share with them just how incredibly proud everyone is of everything they accomplished so far. Whether their mock results turned out exactly how they wanted, it is a step in their journey towards their final exams in May.

Please can any letters/ cards be delivered to the school reception or if you would like to email a letter, please send to <u>pastoral-</u>
11@willingdonschool.org.uk by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

# GCSE Revision: How PARENTS Can Help!

#### Working environment

Your child will spend many hours revising at school, both in normal lessons and during extra revision sessions held after school, but it's the extra time they spend school, but it's the extra time they spend

"Try to make sure they have a quiet place to study at home."

revising independently at home that can make such a big difference.

Ideally, when they are studying at home, they need a permanent, quiet, well-lit place to study with very few interruptions or distractions. The best set up is probably to have a flat surface such a desk or table in their bedroom. The problem with using other spaces, such as the living room or kitchen, is that they are more likely to be interrupted from their studies.

However, students like to work in difference places in different ways and working at a desk or table isn't always possible, practical or even preferable. Instead, some students do like to work in the kitchen or living room or if they do study in their bedroom prefer to lie on their bed rather than sit at a desk.

When studying, they should make sure that the desk or table they are working at is clear of everything except for relevant material and equipment and free from anything that might distract them. It is a good idea for them to get into the habit of tidying up their workspace at the end of each revision session so that it is clear when they start again.

- Ask your child if they think they have a suitable working environment at home and what you can do to improve things.
- Make sure that siblings and anyone else in the house are aware that they will need to be extra considerate at this time.
- If it proves difficult to find a suitable place to revise at home, find out if their school offers quiet spaces before or after school or during lunch breaks.

#### Revise, test, rest

Revision sessions should be kept to a reasonable length and anywhere between I-3 hours is about right, with regular short breaks. Before starting a revision session, students need to set a definite time to start and finish and stick to it.

An effective revision session follows a pattern of revise, test, rest and might be divided up like this: 40 minutes revising, 10 minutes testing, 10 minutes resting or 20 minutes revising, 5 minutes testing, 5 minutes resting.



Short bursts of revision following this pattern can be useful when students are tired or the topic is difficult or boring. They should always try to end each revision session by summing up or testing.

Many students like to have something to look forward to or some kind of reward after a revision session. This might include spending time on their phone, watching videos or a favourite snack.

- ✓ Offer to help them to structure their revision sessions.
- Ask if they would like you to help with testing them at the end of revision periods.
- Buy a cheap digital kitchen timer so that they can keep track of time during revision sessions and take scheduled breaks.









Proudly supporting the Nepal Trip and Conservation Project departing July 2025

# Thursday 3rd April 2025 Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

## Teams of up to 6 people £5 entry per person

Bring your own bottle. Snacks and treats, along with tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase for cash on the night. Book your place via ParentPay.



## Careers Page

## **Career of the Week**







