

Parent Bulletin

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Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

23rd July 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a fantastic year and so much to celebrate with our community. This newsletter will highlight some of the enrichment, extra-curricular and school events we have organised this year to help students feel the sense of belonging to our community. We hope to increase our events next academic year and will be tracking more rigorously the students' involvement. We want all students to have the opportunity to take part in our wider school life.

We would like to thank the following people for all their hard work at Willingdon as they embark on new adventures. Mr Mortlock and Mr McKenna will be leaving the Maths department, our Learning Mentors, Mr Fryer and Mr Wakefield will also be off to university. We are delighted Mr Robinson-Ash will remain with us for another year, moving to the SEN department completely. Mr Crisp will also return as a Learning Mentor for Term 1. Miss Dolan moves from a Learning Mentor role to teacher training in History. We also say goodbye to our Learning Support Professionals Mr Carr and Miss Bradley. We wish them luck with their further/higher education plans. Miss Attrill and Miss Timms remain on maternity leave and we will let parents and students know of their return date within the new academic year. We would also like to wish Mr Higgins, Miss Martin and Miss Jenkins the best of luck as they all get married this summer.

I haven't been able to thank Mrs Saunders yet who stepped down as Vice Chair of Governors. She was a brilliant asset to the governing body who gave us so much wisdom and understanding about policies and procedures. She also gave so much time in supporting our safeguarding team. We are very grateful for this and would like to thank her for the time she gave in supporting the school particularly during the OFSTED inspection last year. We are also deeply saddened that Mr Hale steps down after many years in our governing body. Mr Hale has been a governor at Willingdon since 2012, Chair of Governors for 7 years and then Vice Chair of Governors for his last 2 years. He has been a truly superb governor, giving me so much guidance and advice in her first few years. He has been a fantastic finance governor always finding the silver lining in difficult times. Mr Hale has chaired or helped support many of our working parties too from Health and Safety, HR to curriculum. We are so lucky to have had someone who gave so much time to support his community. Governance can be a thankless role yet is crucial in ensuring the vision of the school is delivered successfully. We would also like to take this chance to thank all of our governing body for the hours they dedicate to support the school and our progress. We are lucky to have an incredibly talented team of people.

We do have some staff who will be absent in September due to personal reasons. We are already working hard to secure a plan to cover their temporary absences. In Mr Gordon's absence for Term 1, Mr Scowen will lead Year 11 supported by Mrs May and Mr Dubas-Fisher. Mr Gordon's teaching will be covered by Miss Beesley. Mr Cain will also be off for paternity leave in Term 1 and his teaching will be covered by Mr Worrall. Mrs Townsend-Smith will lead the year group in his absence. Finally, Mr Roche will also be off for surgery for a couple of weeks and he will be covered by Mr Ronnie and Mr Stammers. The year team will be overseen by Miss Walters and Mr Holt. I hope this reassures you that we will start the year strongly despite these unavoidable absences.

Finally, thank you for all the support you have given us all throughout the last year. We really do value our partnership. We all remain so committed to being the very best for our community. We have very few teachers leaving this year and that is a clear sign that staff sign up to our values and are committed to your children.

Have a wonderful holiday and see you in September.

Mrs May
Headteacher

We are delighted to announce the introduction of our new PE shorts to our school PE kit list.

These are plain black football shorts with the PE logo on the left leg and are supplied from our regular uniform provider BluePrint.

These will be available to order over the summer holidays via ParentPay where you will find the sizing guide and costing. These are a very reasonably priced pair of shorts that come in a variety of sizes.

Although these will be part of the school uniform list from September 2024, we appreciate many of you will have already purchased shorts for PE, and therefore, this item will not be made compulsory until January 2025. We anticipate the stock of these items will become available in school from mid September.

September dates:

Monday, 2nd September – Staff INSET Day

Tuesday, 3rd September – Year 7 start school - 8.30am

Wednesday, 4th September - Year 7 in school and Years 10 and 11 return to school - 8.30am

Thursday, 5th September - All years in school - 8.30am

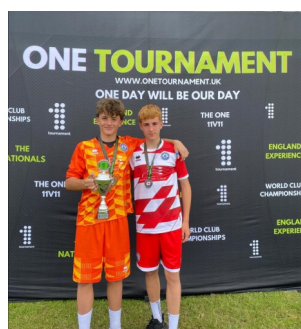
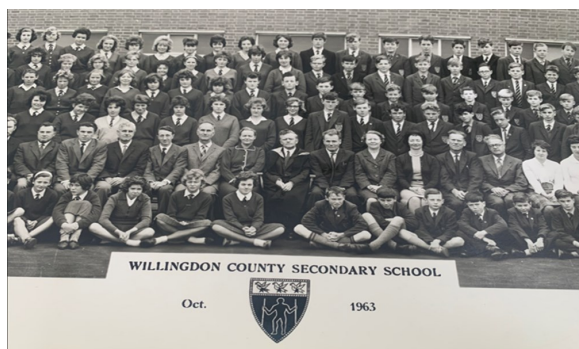
YEAR 11 MOCK INFORMATION

Year 11 Autumn Mocks will run from 21st -25th October and 4th -12th November (half term in the middle)

Year 11 will be in school on the 4th and 5th of November to do mocks (these will NOT be INSET days for Year 11)

The Timetable will be shared in September.

It is with sadness that we share with you all the death of Miss Dorothy Cummant who taught at Willingdon for many years. Dorothy was 102 when she passed away. Due to the War, Dorothy came into teaching later on in her life, and started at Willingdon when the school first opened in 1956. She taught English and went on to become Deputy Head until her retirement. She was one of the first female Deputy Heads and one of the first single women in the country to be approved a mortgage! Dorothy dedicated her whole life to teaching and whilst she didn't initially have a degree later on in her life gained her first BA and then a MA. Dorothy always retained a strong interest with the school and kept in touch with many ex-pupils over the years.



A massive well done to Year 10 students Taylor & Aston, part of their U15 Eastbourne Borough team winning today's National One Tournament .

Having qualified for the National Competition by winning a regional tournament first, they went on to play all the regional winners at the National Final.

4 games, 4 wins, 4 clean sheets.

One tournament U15 National Championships.

Keeping safe over the summer holidays - advice for students:

We want you to have a thoroughly lovely summer holiday, here is some advice to make sure you keep yourself safe.

Out and about:

1. Stay alert and keep your attention focused on your surroundings. Avoid using headphones or listening to loud music so that you can hear what's happening around you.
2. Stick to well-lit and busy roads, and avoid taking shortcuts through alleyways or secluded areas.
3. When using public transportation, try to use bus stops or train stations located on busy roads or in well-populated areas.
4. Keep your mobile phone and other valuables out of sight to avoid attracting unnecessary attention.
5. Always inform your parents or caregivers about your plans, including where you are going, when you will be there, and when you expect to return home.
6. Remember to look both ways and be attentive when crossing the road. Avoid crossing the road while distracted.

Online:

7. Take a moment to review and adjust your privacy settings on social networking sites to ensure that only your friends can see your personal information.
8. It's important to take regular breaks from spending time online. Engage in other activities and enjoy the holiday season offline.
9. Be mindful of what you post online. Avoid sharing anything that is unkind, inappropriate, or could potentially compromise your safety.

Water Safety:

10. When near bodies of water, such as pools, rivers, or beaches, always follow safety guidelines and swim with caution. Never swim alone and ensure there is a lifeguard present if possible.
11. If you're not a strong swimmer, consider wearing a life jacket or buoyancy aid when participating in water activities.
12. Be aware of the signs and dangers of rip currents or strong currents in open water. If caught in a current, swim parallel to the shore until you can safely swim back to land.

Train Line Safety:

13. When using trains or railways, always stand behind the yellow line on platforms and wait for the train to come to a complete stop before boarding or disembarking.
14. If traveling alone, choose seats or compartments that are near other families or groups of people.
15. Don't trespass on train tracks or walking along railway lines. Trains can approach silently and at high speeds, making it dangerous to be near the tracks.



Over 600 rewards have been claimed this week, the last few bags awaiting collection!

Year 10



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers.

Year 11 college applications

Further to the recent year 10 taster days, I am writing with regards to the college application process that will start in September.

At Willingdon Community School, we use a college application programme called 'Careers East Sussex'. In September, students will start the process of adding their personal profile to the system as well as adding their personal statement that they have been working on during English lessons, details of their work experience, and their predicted grades. We aim to have this part of the application process completed by **Friday, 25th October 2024** so that students can then complete and submit their college applications.

If they have not already done so, please could your child consider the courses that they would like to study at college during the summer break. Please see the below web links with the list of courses at the local colleges.

East Sussex College Group	https://www.escg.ac.uk/search/
Bexhill College	https://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/courses/
Plumpton College	https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/16-courses/
Seaford Head Sixth Form	https://seafordhead.org/sixth-form-centre/sixth-form-prospectus/
Hailsham Community College	https://www.hccat.net/sixth-form/subjects-offered/
BHASVIC	https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/courses/search

In addition, I have attached two documents; one which explains the various types of courses on offer at the colleges and the other that lists the grades/entry requirements necessary.

When we return to school in September, it may be that your child is still considering which A levels to take or that they are undecided if they want to apply for a T Level/BTEC instead. Students can apply for a variety of courses and have interviews on all of them before deciding. For example, if your child is undecided which three A levels they want to choose, they can choose four or five and discuss them at interview stage. Alternatively, if your child would like an interview for A levels, but would also like to consider a T Level, they can add all the courses of interest and discuss them further at their interview.

If your child is unsure of the college that they would like to attend, they can apply for as many colleges as they wish and have interviews at all of them.

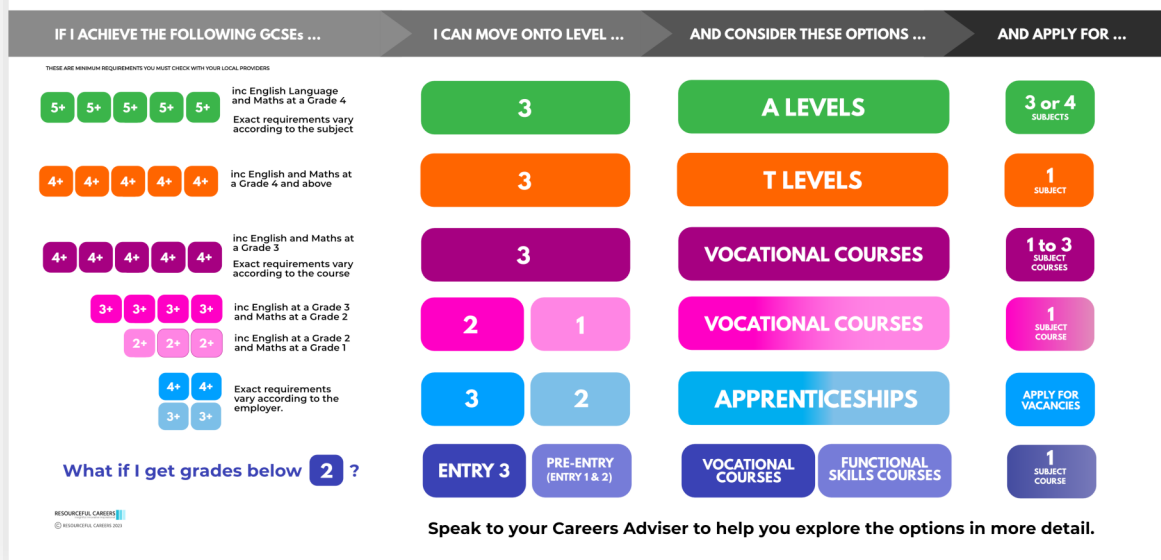
If you have any questions, please email srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk or call 01323 485254 ext 281.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser

POST 16 OPTIONS MADE SIMPLE

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



POST-16 OPTIONS

- A-levels** – A-levels normally take two years to complete, full-time and are at Level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Students usually take A-level qualifications in Year 12 and 13, after completing their GCSEs. They would usually need at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 to be able to study them. Some colleges require you to have grade 4 or above in English and maths, or grade 5 or above in the subject you want to take. You usually choose the A-levels that you wish to study in Year 11, but you do have the chance to change your choices after receiving your GCSE results or after a week or so of the course if it is not what you expected. There is a wide range of around 80 subjects available, although exact courses on offer will change depending on the college or sixth form you choose. Subjects are mainly academic, but there are also some 'applied' subjects, which are more career focused.
- BTECs** – BTECs are vocational, work-related qualifications that aim to engage and inspire learners in a wide range of subjects. BTEC Nationals are Level 3 courses (there are also Level 2 courses, which are the same level as GCSE) that are usually studied full-time at college. The content of your course and the knowledge you will gain depends on the subject you choose. The aim of a BTEC is to develop skills that apply to the workplace and will be beneficial for the future, and so your learning will be tailored around the specific sector you are studying. BTECs develop more practical knowledge and provide a different approach to learning, based alongside a theoretical background.
- T Levels** - these 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses to prepare students for work. T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.
- Apprenticeships** – An apprenticeship gives a combination of on-the-job training with study (usually one day a week) meaning you can earn while you learn. With some apprenticeships you can even get a degree. It usually takes between one and four years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which level you take. Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industries and many high-quality, prestigious companies offer them.
- Traineeships** – a traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that unlocks the great potential of young people and prepares them for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'. Designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment.



Chessington



Phoenix Festival



Eastbourne

Willingdon Adventures



2023-2024

French Trip



Morfa Bay



London O2





Imperial War Museum



Chessington



Lets Dance



School Production



Belgium Battlefields



Ski Trip

