

Parent Bulletin

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Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

24th January 2025



Dear Parents,

Parent Bulletin: Understanding Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and Its Impact on Our Children

As technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, one area that is becoming increasingly important to understand is **Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)**. From virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa to more complex systems used in healthcare, education, and even entertainment, A.I. is becoming a part of our everyday lives. As we look ahead, it's important to discuss how A.I. will shape our children's future.

What is A.I.? Artificial Intelligence refers to machines or software designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks might include recognising speech, making decisions, or even learning from data. Some of the most well-known examples of A.I. include:

- Virtual assistants (e.g., Siri, Google Assistant)
- Recommendations on Netflix or YouTube
- Self-driving cars
- Chatbots that assist with customer service

How A.I. Impacts Our Children Today:

- 1. In Education:** Many schools are now using A.I.-powered tools to personalise learning for students. These tools can assess a student's strengths and weaknesses, adjusting lessons to meet their needs. Adaptive learning platforms, like those in math or reading, help children learn at their own pace.
- 2. Social Media & Entertainment:** A.I. plays a significant role in curating the content children see online. Platforms like YouTube or Instagram use A.I. to recommend videos or ads based on a child's interests, often creating a very personalised, but sometimes overwhelming, experience.
- 3. Safety & Security:** Some online games and apps use A.I. to detect inappropriate behaviour or content, helping to keep children safe while using the internet. However, it's important for parents to remain vigilant and engage in discussions with their children about their digital interactions.

Job Prospects: A.I. is transforming industries and, with it, job markets. Encouraging your children to engage in subjects like coding, problem-solving, and critical thinking will prepare them for a future where A.I. plays a larger role in the workforce.

The Role of Parents in Guiding Children with A.I. : As A.I. becomes a growing part of your child's life, there are several steps you can take to ensure they navigate this technology safely and responsibly:

- 1. Monitor screen time and content:** Use parental controls to limit the content your children interact with on A.I.-driven platforms. Discuss what's appropriate and help them understand the digital landscape.
- 2. Encourage curiosity:** Help your child learn about how A.I. works. Consider introducing them to coding or robotics, which are becoming essential skills in our tech-driven world. There are many educational resources available online that teach these subjects in fun, interactive ways.
- 3. Foster critical thinking:** Teach children to question what they see online. A.I. can sometimes create biased or misleading content and helping them build the ability to think critically about information is more important than ever.

Discuss the future of work: As A.I. continues to advance, certain job roles will evolve or even disappear. Encouraging your child to explore careers that are less likely to be replaced by machines—such as those requiring creativity, empathy, or complex problem-solving—can be an important part of their future success.

A.I. and Ethical Considerations: With great power comes great responsibility. A.I. has the potential to both solve complex global problems and create new challenges. Some key ethical considerations include privacy, data security, and the impact of automation on jobs. It's essential to have ongoing discussions with your children about the positive and negative sides of technology and how it shapes our world.

Final Thoughts: Artificial Intelligence is a tool, and like any tool, it can be used for both good and bad. By educating ourselves and our children about how A.I. works and how to engage with it responsibly, we can help ensure that the future is shaped by thoughtful, informed individuals who use technology to enhance their lives and the lives of others.

Thank you for your continued support in navigating this ever-changing landscape with your child. This week, I and many other senior staff attended the International Bett Show to understand about the impact of A.I. on education. We are already seeing many benefits to teacher workload and resource planning. However, we need time to plan how to get the very best out of A.I. for all stakeholders. We are currently working on our strategic plan for the school on A.I. which will be shared with governors shortly.

Should you have any questions or wish to learn more about how to integrate A.I. safely into your child's life, we encourage you to reach out. In full transparency, I have utilised A.I. to construct this bulletin item. The time it has taken me has been minimal, allowing me to be out and about focusing on the quality of teaching which I think parents would agree is a priority.

Warm regards,
Mrs May
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3

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 - Tuesday 11th / Wednesday 12th 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, 30th 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
Louis M 7EMC	William S 8NKL	Finley S 9AME	Jacob D 10DMC	Leo M 11CHO
Ella M 7DBR	Elliot T 8CFR	Curtis U 9GEL	Alicia H 10DMC	Abigail S 11CPH
Jack H 7JWI	Olli D 8TST	Sofia K 9AME	Seren G 10EOR	Ethan T 11CPH
Olivia A 7RHA	Grace B 8TST	James L 9PHI	Tilly G 10MET	Stanley D 11HAR
Eleanor D-J 7EMC	Chinedu O 8TST	Iris A 9PHA	Chloe F 10SCR	Harrison B 11HAR

Dear all,

The ESCC Parenting Team have a brilliant new group running for parents who are together but have conflict in their relationship. 'Harmony at Home' is all about reducing parental conflict to support the needs and wellbeing of children within the household but also help parents to feel more able to communicate effectively with one another, resulting in an overall more positive life at home.

There are still some spaces available for the free online group starting on 5th February.

Parents can self-refer or be referred by professionals as long as both parents have consented. The quickest way to get signed up is to email the parenting team eh.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many Thanks,

Gemma Adams

Senior Parenting Practitioner

ESCC Parenting Team



[Children's Services](#)

Click the icon to make a referral

ENRICHMENT CLUBS

Club Cancellations

Duke of Edinburgh Award - Year 9 - is cancelled on Tuesday 28th January due to Miss Leonard attending a DofE training course. The club will resume the following week.

New Enrichment Club

The Maths Challenge Club - Years 9 & 10 - Intended to prepare students for the UKMT Challenge, but also to expose them to maths that goes beyond the curriculum in the hope of driving motivation and ambition.

Thursday - 3pm-4pm - MA7 with Mr Higgins

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>

Debate Club - Congratulations to Poppy B and Hayley S for their win in Round Two of the Coastal Schools Debate Series. They opened the debate on whether we should prioritise colonising Mars and their fantastic arguments left the rest of the competition with no chance. This, along with their win in Round One, puts Willingdon firmly at the top of the Coastal Schools Debate standings. Let's hope for another excellent showing in Round Three!

Mobile Phones in Schools

We wanted to reach out to parents to explain the rationale we have for not having phones in school following a number of requests from parents that are trying to manage their child’s mobile phone use.

You may be aware of discussions at government level to completely ban phones in schools. As a community, this is not a decision we have taken, as we appreciate the need for students to have their phones when travelling to and from school. We have also refrained from imposing magnetic pouches due to the cost this would pass on to parents as an extra piece of equipment. We also believe our behaviour data historically doesn’t warrant such drastic measures. However, we are currently experiencing more students trying to contact parents and respond to parent contact throughout the day, when students are not allowed to use their phones, bypassing the traditional methods of communicating with home and school for example, student support, reception or the pastoral teams.

Research reports excessive mobile phone use has been linked to several psychological disorders and mental health challenges. As mobile phones become increasingly integrated into daily life, their overuse can have significant psychological consequences, especially when they interfere with sleep, relationships, work, or school.

Below are key psychological disorders and conditions associated with overuse of mobile phones:

Disorder	Impact	Signs
Anxiety	Constant notifications, social media comparisons, and the fear of missing out (FOMO) can lead to heightened levels of anxiety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nervousness when unable to access the phone. • Constant checking for messages or updates. • Fear of missing calls or notifications, even when none occur.
Depression	Excessive mobile phone use, particularly on social media, can contribute to feelings of inadequacy, loneliness, and sadness due to constant comparisons or cyberbullying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending long hours scrolling through content that negatively affects self-esteem. • Feeling isolated despite being “connected” online. • Increased risk of depressive symptoms from disrupted sleep
Nomophobia (No Mobile Phone Phobia)	Nomophobia is the fear of being without a mobile phone or being disconnected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panic or distress when the phone is lost, forgotten, or has a low battery.
Sleep Disorders	Blue light emitted from screens disrupts melatonin production, leading to insomnia or poor-quality sleep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. • Waking up feeling tired despite adequate hours in bed. • Overuse of the phone late at night as a coping mechanism.
Attention-Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)-Like Symptoms	Constant phone use can impair focus, create restlessness, and diminish attention spans due to multitasking and overexposure to stimuli.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty concentrating on tasks without checking the phone. • Decreased ability to engage in sustained focus on offline
Addiction-Like Symptoms (Behavioural Addiction)	Mobile phone addiction resembles substance abuse disorders, with cravings, withdrawal symptoms, and compulsive behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling compelled to check the phone frequently, even in inappropriate settings. • Experiencing distress or irritability when unable to use the phone.
Cyberchondria	Excessive searching for health-related information online can lead to health anxiety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obsessive checking of symptoms online, leading to self-diagnosis.
Social Anxiety Disorder	Over-reliance on mobile phones for communication may lead to difficulties in face-to-face interactions and increased social anxiety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of in-person socialising in favour of texting or social media.
Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD)	Social media use often involves exposure to unrealistic beauty standards, which can lead to dissatisfaction with one’s appearance and BDD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obsessive focus on perceived flaws in physical appearance. • Excessive use of filters or photo-editing apps to fit perceived
Impulse Control Disorders	Mobile phones can exacerbate impulsivity, especially in those prone to impulse control issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to resist checking the phone, even when it’s unsafe (e.g. texting while driving).
Gaming Disorder	For individuals who use mobile phones for gaming, excessive time spent gaming can lead to dependency and withdrawal from other activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obsession with mobile gaming at the cost of relationships, work, or school performance.
Eye Strain and Related Stress (Technostress)	Prolonged screen use can cause physical discomfort, leading to headaches and emotional stress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritability linked to physical strain, such as eye discomfort. • Stress related to being online too much or feeling obligated to

Suggested Preventive Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set boundaries: Limit daily screen time and create phone-free zones or hours. • Promote balance: Encourage physical activity, hobbies, and offline socialising. • Seek professional help: For severe cases, consult a counsellor or therapist who specialises in technology-related issues.

The psychological disorders linked to mobile phone overuse highlight the importance of mindful use, balance, and intervention when necessary. Understanding these risks can help mitigate their impact and promote healthier relationships with technology.

We also wanted to explain the reasons behind this decision on restricting phone use between 8:30am and 3pm and offer ways you can help us enforce this policy effectively and positively.

Reasons for the Ban

1. **Enhancing Focus on Learning:** Phones are a significant distraction in classrooms, diverting attention from lessons and reducing academic performance.
2. **Promoting Social Interaction:** Students rely heavily on phones for communication, often at the expense of face-to-face interactions. This ban encourages healthier relationships and interpersonal skills.
3. **Reducing Anxiety:** Studies show that constant notifications and social media can contribute to stress and anxiety. A phone-free environment provides a mental break.
4. **Improving Classroom Participation:** Without phones, students are more likely to engage actively in discussions and collaborative activities.
5. **Preventing Cyberbullying:** Restricting phone access during school hours minimises opportunities for inappropriate online interactions and cyberbullying.
6. **Encouraging Responsibility:** Students can learn to manage their time and responsibilities better without relying on phones for reminders or entertainment.
7. **Reducing Screen Time:** Limiting phone use during the day helps combat the negative effects of excessive screen time on physical and mental health.
8. **Minimising Disruptions:** Vibrations, notifications, and misuse of phones in class disrupt not only the user but also their peers and teachers.
9. **Protecting Privacy:** With smartphones capable of recording and sharing content, the ban ensures the privacy and dignity of all students and staff.
10. **Supporting Equity:** Not all students have access to the latest devices, and banning phones helps create a level playing field.

How You Can Support This Policy

1. **Discuss the Benefits:** Talk to your child about the reasons behind this decision and emphasise the positive outcomes for their learning and well-being.
2. **Provide Alternatives:** Encourage your child to bring a book, puzzle, or other quiet activity for breaks instead of relying on their phone.
3. **Set Expectations:** Clearly explain that phones must be turned off and kept in their bags and handed over if requested.
4. **Limit After-School Use:** Reinforce healthy habits by setting boundaries for phone use at home, modelling responsible use yourself.
5. **Encourage Problem-Solving:** Assure your child they can handle minor challenges (e.g. forgetting homework) without contacting you immediately.
6. **Use the School's Contact System:** Remind your child that the school office is available for urgent communication during school hours and the pastoral teams will contact regarding any welfare issues.
7. **Monitor Usage:** Keep track of your child's phone use and ensure they understand the importance of respecting school rules (No use between 8:30am and 3pm and phones are not in their pocket, they are switched off in bags).
8. **Avoid Confrontations:** Help your child understand the importance of compliance and respectful communication with teachers if issues arise.
9. **Stay Informed:** Review the school's full policy and reach out to us with any questions or concerns.
10. **Collaborate with the School:** Share feedback with us and reinforce the importance of this policy in partnership with teachers and staff - and do not contact your child using their own device during the school day.

We believe if all members of our community can support our policy, it will create a more focused, respectful, and nurturing school environment. We are counting on your support to ensure we can continue to apply the policy as it stands. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's pastoral team.

Thank you for your continued support.

February FUN

Holiday Club

February Half Term

Monday 17th February 9.30am -2.30pm / Tuesday 18th February 9.30am -2.30pm

Multisport

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

Team Challenges

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

Holiday club for children aged 7-12 years 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



[February Half Term Holiday Club - Google Form](#)



St Wilfrid's Hospice

With grateful thanks to
Willingdon Community School

For raising the wonderful total of

£434.05

From your Christmas Jumper Day

Signed P. Russell

Pam Russell - Development Director

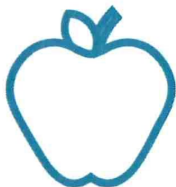
All funds raised will go to St Wilfrid's Hospice, a local charity providing skilled and compassionate care and treatment for *all* patients and their families with complex needs as they near the end of life.

Registered Charity No. 283686

Thank you for your support

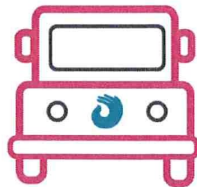
Last year **2,358** patients and family members received hospice care from St Wilfrid's; at home, at the hospice and in local care homes. This is only possible thanks to the generous support of the local community. Whether you fundraise, donate, visit our shops, play our lottery, volunteer, or have left a gift in your will, you are helping local people live well at the end of life. **Thank you!**

What your money can pay for



£49

meals for a patient for a day



£83

running a community car for a day



£121

a nurse for a day



£21,320

all the services provided by St Wilfrid's for one day



Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

We would like to say a huge well done to the following students who have been really quick off the mark and have managed to raise their £20.25 already! Calista S-S has raised hers walking dogs, Jessica S has raised hers by swimming 1000m in an hour, Olivia A has also raised hers swimming, getting 50p per length, and Ziva T raised hers selling bracelets. Well done!

We are promoting this challenge for all students and staff to try to raise £20.25 in 2025 to go towards an outdoor shelter so students have more space outside regardless of the weather. Please let us know when any students raise these funds, we'd love to share their achievements!

Year 7 Team



Head of Year
Mr Keast

Year 8

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting week, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the fantastic achievements of our Year 8 students and share a few updates with you. It's always such a privilege to see how talented, determined, and creative our students are, and this week has been no exception. From sporting success to literary accomplishments, our Year 8s continue to impress us all with their dedication and enthusiasm.

First and foremost, we are incredibly proud of Harry D, who has achieved something truly remarkable as part of the £20.25 fundraising challenge. Harry participated in a sponsored swim and absolutely excelled, swimming an astounding 2080 metres (104 lengths) in just 38 minutes. Not only did he tackle this impressive challenge with determination and grit, but Harry also went above and beyond, more than tripling the £20.25 target set for the fundraiser. This is an incredible accomplishment, and Harry's efforts will make a real difference. Well done, Harry - you're an inspiration to us all!

If Harry's story has sparked some ideas in your household, we'd love to see more Year 8 students getting involved in the £20.25 fundraising challenge. Whether it's through a sponsored activity, creative endeavour, or another unique idea, there are so many ways to make a positive impact while having fun. The challenge is open to all, and we can't wait to celebrate even more of your children's achievements.

We're also delighted to celebrate the success of another talented Year 8 student whose poem has been selected as part of a Young Writer's competition. Their piece will be published in an anthology titled 'The Beautiful Truth,' which is due to be released on the 10th February 2025. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to their creativity and hard work. Seeing their work in print will undoubtedly be a proud moment for them and their family, and we look forward to reading their contribution.

As we wrap up the week, the Year 8 team and I would like to thank you all for your continued support and encouragement of our students. It's wonderful to see their talents flourish, and we feel incredibly lucky to work with such an inspiring group of young people.

Wishing you all a happy, restful weekend.

Year 8 Team



Head of Year
Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

Year 9 students have been brilliant this week at going above and beyond to support the PE Department and younger students, providing them with an opportunity to take part in the Sports Hall Athletics competitions.

The Year 9 Sports Leaders have supported in hosting the Eastbourne Schools Competition this week, leading the event and officiating to ensure the smooth running of the competition.

On Thursday, the Year 9s then had the chance themselves to compete at St. Catherine's. They all performed exceptionally well and represented the school with such pride, racing to their full potential. The students involved this week have been a credit to themselves, the year group and to the school.

Moving into next week, we are aiming to have a real focus on attendance to school and building resilience for students. The attendance of Year 9 students this week has taken a dip and we are keen to support the students at such an important time, as they make their Option Choices for their GCSEs.

Mr Cain

Year 9 Team

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?

365 DAYS IN A YEAR
YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL FOR 190 OF THEM
LEAVING 175 DAYS TO BE AT HOME AT THE WEEKEND AND ON HOLIDAY
GOOD ATTENDANCE IS 96% AND ABOVE

OVER A SCHOOL YEAR AT WCS WITH 6 LESSONS A DAY:

PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE	NUMBER OF DAYS IN SCHOOL	NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	NUMBER OF LESSONS MISSED
100%	190	0	0
95%	180	10	70
94%	178	12	84
86%	163	27	189
85%	161	29	203
75%	143	47	329

MISSING SCHOOL MEANS:
YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON FUN PROJECTS AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
STRUGGLING TO CATCH UP ON WORK
DISCONNECTING WITH SCHOOL FRIENDS

Attendance %	Average Grade
100%	6.7
98%	5.6
95% - 98%	4.9
92% - 95%	4.4
90% - 92%	3.4
Below 90%	3.3
Below 80%	2



Year 9 Attendance

Attendance is crucial for Year 9 students when they are in the process of choosing their GCSE options for several reasons. There have been some days over the last week where absence has been a concern for reasons that should not permit absence.

If your child has a percentage attendance of 90% or below, they are at risk of losing half a year of education. As this declines to 80%, this equates to a whole academic year missed over the 5 year journey. We accept children are often sick and ask that parent/carers support us by ensuring students are fostering good habits in attending regularly, avoiding sporadic days off where possible to stand them in good stead for their futures. We have highlighted reasons why Year 9 attendance is so crucial at this exciting time whilst students are particularly focusing on their future choices and getting ready for GCSE:

1. Understanding Subject Content

- Regular attendance ensures students have a full understanding of the content and requirements for each subject. Missing lessons may lead to gaps in knowledge, making it harder for students to make informed decisions about their strengths and interests.

2. Teacher Feedback and Guidance

- Teachers play a vital role in helping students choose the right options. They provide feedback on performance, skills, and suitability for certain subjects. Poor attendance could result in missed opportunities to receive valuable advice.

3. Exposure to Subject Choices

- Schools often organise events like taster sessions, career talks, or option evenings for Year 9 students to explore their choices. Missing these events due to poor attendance, may leave students less informed about the subjects available.

4. Building Foundational Skills

- Year 9 is a preparatory year where students develop foundational skills for GCSEs. Consistent attendance ensures that they are prepared for the challenges of their chosen options.

5. Confidence in Decision-Making

- Students who attend regularly are more likely to feel confident about their decisions because they have the full picture of what each subject entails and how it aligns with their career goals or interests.

6. Maintaining Good Habits

- Good attendance in Year 9 sets the tone for responsible habits in the critical GCSE years. Missing school could lead to difficulties in managing coursework and assessments later on.

7. Eligibility for Certain Subjects

- Some subjects, especially practical ones like art, music, or technology, require consistent participation to demonstrate aptitude. Poor attendance might lead teachers to recommend against these subjects for students who haven't shown consistent engagement.

In summary, regular attendance ensures that students are fully informed, well-prepared, and confident in making the best possible choices for their future education and career pathways. It's a foundational step for academic success in Year 10 and 11. We really acknowledge those students' showing resilience to either be in each day or making huge efforts to improve their attendance. For any families that require any extra support, please do let us know, as early intervention for missed days has the very best impact.



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during what has been a challenging but productive time. With Year 10 now halfway through their Year 10 GCSE journey, your partnership remains invaluable in helping students achieve their best.

I would like to update you on a few key areas:

£20.25 in the 2025 Challenge

We are continuing to push for the “£20.25 in 2025” challenge, where we encourage each student to raise £20.25 during this academic year (2025). The funds raised will go towards the purchase of an outdoor shelter to provide students with additional space during breaks and lunches. Your support in this initiative is greatly appreciated.

Attendance Update

Our Year 10 attendance challenge is progressing well, with 10DMC and 10 MJE leading the way with an excellent average of 97% attendance – a fantastic achievement! However, as a year group, we have seen a slight drop in overall attendance, and I would like to stress the critical importance of regular attendance at school. Consistent attendance has a significant impact on GCSE results and we are keen to ensure all students stay on track to achieve their full potential.

Cold Weather Reminder

The weather this week has been extremely cold. Please ensure that students come to school wearing their blazers and suitable outdoor coats to keep warm throughout the day.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This week, students have been exploring the Holocaust during their tutor time sessions in preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27th of January. This has been a valuable opportunity for reflection and learning about this important part of history.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I look forward to another positive and productive week ahead.

Mr Roche

Dear Parents/ Carers

We have had a superb range of applications for student leadership roles from our talented Year 10s already.

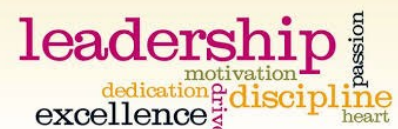
The deadline is today, Friday 24th January. If your young person has any queries or questions about the process or if they have not yet submitted and really wanted to apply, please do email me at collins@willingdonschool.org.uk

All students that have submitted have received a return email acknowledging receipt of their application. The next stage will be the student and staff votes after which the final candidates for Head Student will be invited to interviews on 7th February.

When the Head Students have been elected, they will start the process of putting together the team and will contact other applicants at that point.

Thank you for encouraging your young people to apply - the opportunities of student leadership will really support them in their school and college and we look forward to introducing the new team to you in due course.

Mrs Collins





Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

This week, we have continued to observe fantastic engagement from Year 11 students during lesson walk-throughs and students' demonstrating ambition and maturity.

Well done to all students that have completed the food tech practical exam this week, great focus, fantastic presentation and tasted amazing too!

Year 11 Interventions Term 3

Please encourage your child to attend the daily interventions that staff are delivering to support them in preparation for their mock exams, with coursework and their final GCSE exams.

Current Year 11 Intervention Timetable					
Term 3 - 4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor time	Tutor Time Independent Revision	Tutor Time Independent Revision		Tutor Time Independent Revision	Tutor Time Independent Revision
Lunch time 12:40-13:20	English Grade 7+ Masterclass (En5) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology	Maths Homework Support (IT2) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology Geography (G1) History	Maths Homework Support (IT2) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology Geography (G3)	Maths Homework Support (IT2) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology History	Food Technology Year 11 study room MA4 Year 11 IT study Room IT2
After school 15:00-16:00		Spanish (La4) Computer Science ICT Maths Business	Latin (La2) Maths EC Mentoring (invitation only) Science Music Vocational Award Homework Club	English GCSE Music French (La3) Spanish (La1) Psychology Sociology Drama (DR1) Food Technology Homework Club	Geography (G2) GCSE PE PE Vcret Child Development

Attendance

During the final straight towards your child's final GCSE exams it is so important that they are in school every day and not missing key learning in lessons to prepare them for their mock and final exams. Every lesson counts, so please encourage your child to attend every single lesson and be there on time.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- 8 days or less absence per year
97% or above
VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR TARGET
- Between 7 and 19 days absence per year
90% - 96%
BELOW EXPECTATIONS
- More than 19 days absence per year
Under 90%
POOR ATTENDANCE

**YEAR 11
MOCK
EXAMS**

DAYS TO GO

17

Year 11 Team

How to support Year 11 in the countdown to exams

#year11parents #GCSEsupport #parentsworkingtogether

For parents, carers and students alike, there isn't long until the real Year 11 exams! Student focus now could really pay off when they open that envelope of results in August!


With this in mind, members of our governing board have been sharing their experiences of parenting students through exams and have put together some tips. If you have any tips to share back, it would be great to hear them.

How to support Year 11 in the countdown to exams – 1

Encourage regular and frequent revision. When it comes to learning, regular habits work best. Support your child not to leave it to the last minute, but to return to each subject a few times a week.

#year11parents

How to support Year 11 in the countdown to exams – 2

Help your child see the big picture. Of course, our 15 and 16 year olds tend to live in the moment – that's one of the things we love about them!  But help them prioritise revision in these few weeks. After the exams, they will have weeks and weeks to do what they want! One of our governors said, 'My Year 11 child had a weekly schedule with revision time, work time, club time and sport time all planned out, which he found really helpful!'

Careers Page

Job of the Week



APP DEVELOPER

APP DEVELOPERS
design and build mobile applications for PCs, mobile phones and tablets.

ROUTES INTO THE INDUSTRY

You can get into this job through:

• UNIVERSITY

You can do a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in:

- Computer Science
- Software Engineering
- Computer Apps Development
- Mathematics
- Financial Technology

• APPRENTICESHIP

The following apprenticeships may be relevant:

- Level 4 Software Developer
- Creative Digital Design Professional
- Degree Apprenticeship

• GRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME

You can apply for a placement with an IT company if you have a degree. These are often open to non-IT graduates as well as those with a computing qualification, where you start as a junior developer and get training on the job.

KEY SKILLS

- Maths knowledge for understanding programming
- Analytical thinking skills
- Able to come up with new ways of doing things
- Knowledge of systems analysis and development
- Complex problem-solving skills
- Persistence and determination
- A thorough understanding of computer systems and applications

SUBJECTS

Mathematics, Media, Computer Science

SALARY*

£21,000 to £55,000

JOBS

The sector is expected to grow by 3% by 2025

*In 2020 the average salary was £31,461, up 3.6% on 2019.

Annual pay estimates seem unaffected by Covid-19.



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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

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

**with prizes
& a raffle!**

Come along and challenge the staff at Willingdon teams

***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

