

# Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



25th April 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted with how Willingdon Community School students have returned to school this week after the Easter break. They have demonstrated the personal excellence values of ambition and respect in abundance.

The change from tutor time to coaching first thing in the morning has been hugely successful, and the coaching sessions are being received well. The coaching sessions in the morning are giving students an opportunity to ensure students are set for learning for the rest of the day as well as receiving any key messages.

A vast majority of Year 10 have undertaken their mock exam week with the right attitude and should feel that they have a good understanding of what it will be like to sit their final public examinations.

Good luck to Year 11s who have started their exams with Art this week and Modern Foreign Languages next week. We wish all of our Year 11s the very best and want to remind them that putting in the effort in these last few days before the exams start in earnest, will pay dividends in the summer.

As the weather improves, we want to remind Year 7 to Year 10 about the Willingdon Community School PE shorts which make up the PE uniform. If students do not wish to wear shorts, they can continue to wear their tracksuit bottoms or leggings (as per the guidance on page 4).

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs May  
**Headteacher**

## Update on collaboration between Willingdon Community School and South Downs Learning Trust

We are writing to update you on the recent discussions regarding collaboration between Willingdon Community School (WCS) and South Downs Learning Trust (SDLT). After careful consideration, the WCS Governing Board has concluded that academisation is not right for our school at this time and do not wish to proceed with a formal partnership. SDLT fully respects this decision.

Our schools share a longstanding commitment to high quality education and to improving opportunities for all learners. We will continue to collaborate through existing networks, shared initiatives or any future opportunities that reflect our shared values. Our priority remains ensuring the best possible learning experiences for our learners and we believe collaboration across schools is vital in achieving this. We value the positive discussions we've had and appreciate the ongoing support from all our stakeholders.

Mrs Branson  
**Chair of Governors**

Mrs May  
**Headteacher**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 5

### APRIL

Tues 29th April - Yr 9 Big Futures Fair

### MAY

Thurs 1st May - Year 11 Exams commence / Junior

Mathematical Challenge / Yr8 HPV vaccinations

Fri 2nd May - Yr 7 visit - Hampton Court Palace

Mon 5th May - BANK HOLIDAY

Weds 7th May - Yr 9 Tri Golf with primaries

Mon 12th May - Yr 10 Work Experience Week

Thurs 15th May - Yrs 7-9 Ocean Matters Award - Sea Life  
(Brighton)

### SAVE THE DATE

**YEAR 11 School Prom** - Friday 4th July

### EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

### 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


### REMAINING INSET DAYS 2024-25


Friday, 27th June 2025



### Activity Day 2025 – Back by Popular Demand!

Get ready—Activity Day is making a thrilling return on **Monday, 21st July** and this year we have an incredible lineup of exciting in-school and out-of-school activities and trips for each year group.

 **REMINDER: Trips go LIVE on ParentPay at 3pm on Thursday 1st May 2025**— so mark your calendars to ensure you book a space on your chosen activity in case it sells out.

 **Early Access Alert!** Students who have earned **Silver Award** will get **24 hours early booking**, and those with **Gold Award or higher** will unlock **48 hours early access!** Parents and carers will receive an email with further information.

With less than one week till activities go LIVE... let the countdown begin!

# Rewards Update

Our students have been working hard to embody our school values, and its been fantastic to see so many of them being recognised for their effort, kindness, and positive contributions around the school.

To celebrate their achievement we wanted to share some of the key milestones that we reached by the end of term four.



- As a school we have given out a staggering 373,162 achievement points so far this year.
- 84% of Year 7 have achieved their Bronze Award and been presented with their certificate and badge in special assemblies.
- 70% of students across all year groups have received a certificate and badge based on their reward points.
- 1/3 of all of our student body have either shared a hot chocolate with Mrs May or had a reward with their Head of Year.
- In excess of 350 postcards have been sent home to celebrate their achievements.
- We have celebrated with those students in Maths who have got a 100% in their Sparx homework all year.

**We're proud of each and every student and look forward to continuing to celebrate their success together.**



**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
Amelie B 7NWE	Luke G 8CFR	Zak B 9GEL	Dylan B 10MDU	Emma B 11LCN
Saira K 7JWI	Kru B 8CEW	Charlie R 9PHA	Scarlett P 10JBR	Flossy B 11CPH
Freya-Lee S 7RHA	Evie M 8RCR	Bonnie W-W 9AME	Samuel L 10SCR	Rosie F-F 11POS
Isabelle V 7JWI	Isobelle D 8TST	Aiden W 9ARA	Naomi R 10EOR	David N 11CPH
Astyn W-P 7EMC	Aeryn N 8BMA	Noah M 9PHA	Grace T 10JBR	Bella J 11POS

## PE Uniform expectations

We are reviewing the current arrangement whereby students wear their PE uniform on the days they have PE. We do recognise and are aware of the positives this can have, previously listening to the voice of parents and students when other local schools removed this opportunity. However, the increased infringement of this is now at a point where we need to reflect and re-consider the arrangement. We are looking for all students, with parent/carer support, to improve the standards of this during Term 5, to establish whether we can continue. We recognise the impact of the negative confrontations relating to uniform and want to alleviate this, particularly if this is having to be addressed in learning time. We believe that dressing smart leads to smart behaviour and effective learning.

A reminder, that PE kit policy must be followed:

- Plain black joggers/ sports leggings.
- WCS compulsory PE shorts
- WCS PE t-shirt
- WCS PE jumper or WCS PE tracksuit top
- Sports socks
- Sports trainers

If students have chosen GCSE PE or Dance as an option subject, they must bring their PE kit to school when they have practical lessons and change. Therefore, only wearing their PE kit to school a maximum of twice per week.

Logos no larger than a credit card are permitted. Leggings should be of a sports material so they are durable when students are undertaking physical activity.

**Cycling shorts are no longer permitted, and were removed from the PE kit list in October 2023- parents and students were informed of this adjustment.** Shorts should be worn **appropriately and not rolled.**

**Non- uniform branded tracksuit tops are not permitted** and will be confiscated. WCS PE jumpers and WCS PE tracksuit tops are the only permitted sweatshirt on PE days, not with the school uniform. Plain black jumpers are not permitted.

A reminder- students should ensure they have the correct footwear for their PE lessons. Converse/ Vans/ plimsols are not permitted. These are not waterproof or supportive for the feet and ankles. Waterproof sports trainers, preferably running style, not high tops are advised for PE lessons. The field can become slippery and unsafe, even in the summer months.

Any PE kit infringements will be sanctioned in line with the uniform policy.



# Self-harm Learning Network



## FREE workshops for parents & carers

### Self-harm Online Safety Training

Join us for an informative session focused on promoting online safety and discussing self-harm prevention strategies. Our experts will cover a range of topics to help you navigate the digital world safely and help you support those struggling with self-harm.

### Self-harm and Neurodiversity/ASD

Research and data has shown autism to be a significant risk marker associated with self-harm. This workshop aims to give you a better understanding of contributing factors, identify what support is required, understand and identify early warning signs, increase your knowledge of strategies and approaches to support, and know where to access support.

### Self-harm, Eating Disorders and Body Dysmorphia

Self-harm is very common alongside an eating disorder. This session will consider: What is the relationship between eating disorders, body dysmorphia and self-harm? Why is the person I am supporting with an eating disorder self harming? How should we best respond to self-harming behaviours which are co existing with an eating disorder? How can I manage my own feelings when supporting someone with an eating disorder who is self-harming?

## Dates and times:

On-line safety	Wednesday 1st October 2025 Wednesday 30th April 2026	09.30 - 12.30 09.30 - 12.30
Neurodiversity and ASD	Monday 7th July 2025 Monday 8th December 2025	09.45 - 12.15 09.45 - 12.15
Eating disorders and Body Dysmorphia	Wednesday 12th November 2025 Monday 11th May 2026	09.00 - 12.00 13.00 - 16.00

### How do I book my place?

Please reserve your place by scanning the QR code or see our Eventbrite page [www.westsussexmind.eventbrite.com](http://www.westsussexmind.eventbrite.com).

If you have any questions, please contact the West Sussex Mind Training Team on [training@westsussexmind.org](mailto:training@westsussexmind.org).



## Valencia Trip 2025 – What an Adventure!

40 students recently returned from an unforgettable 4-day trip to Valencia, packed with culture, science, and sunshine! From exploring the Oceanografic Aquarium, Bioparc Zoo, and Mestalla Stadium, to hands-on science at the Museum of Science and Hemisfèric, the trip offered a rich mix of STEM learning and cultural immersion.

Students learnt to cook authentic paella, enjoyed a tapas tour, and explored Valencia's beautiful old town, all while improving their Spanish speaking skills.

- 💬 Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive:
- ✅ 100% said they learnt more about Spanish culture
  - ✅ 89% improved their Spanish speaking skills
  - ✅ 85% learnt more about STEM
  - ✅ 100% would recommend the trip!



Here's what students had to say:

*"I absolutely loved every bit of the trip and there was genuinely not a single second where I didn't enjoy it"*

*"The range of things we saw was very cool and I loved every second of it. I couldn't have asked for a better trip. Everything was perfect and I loved all the friendships I made! This trip is one of the best memories I'll have forever—it really proved that time flies when you're having fun! Thank you so much!"*

*"I loved it and I learnt a lot about the culture of Valencia. The architecture was beautiful. I'm glad I went—it was very fun."*

*"Just got back from an AMAZING school trip to Valencia! Touring the Mestalla football stadium, making paella, seeing so many animals at the Bioparc, eating tapas, and exploring epic museums & aquariums was a great experience. Four days wasn't enough!"*

A huge thank you to our staff for making this trip so special. We're already looking forward to the next trip to Valencia!

¡Hasta Luego!







Head of Year  
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

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

# Year 7

Welcome back to Term 5 – and we hope you have all had a fantastic Easter break! Keeping with the Easter theme briefly, we just wanted to congratulate the 110 students who successfully completed the Easter challenge with regards to their behaviour and attendance data. These students were invited on the last day of Term 4 to take part in a couple of activities that lead to receiving their bags of easter eggs! Well done to all those involved. Those that weren't successful this time will get a chance to take part in the next challenge towards the end of Term 6.

All our Year 7s came back into school yesterday brilliantly – with uniform for all looking excellent! We have also been really pleased to see the vast majority with pencil cases. For those not in possession of one, please can they get one over the weekend, as this is an expectation for all. Once again thank you for your continued support!

**The Year 7 Team**



Head of Year  
Mr Keast

Email - [pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It's been wonderful to welcome our Year 8 students back to school, and I must say how impressed we've been with the way they've settled back in. They've adapted brilliantly to the new school schedule, especially with coaching time now taking place at the start of the day. It's been a really positive change, and it's lovely to see our coaching groups starting the day together with a real sense of community.

A huge congratulations is in order for the winners of our Year 8 British Science Week Poster Competition. First place went to Ada F and Lola D for their outstanding work – well done, girls! In second place, a big round of applause for Scarlett D, Georgia T and Isobelle D, and in third place, congratulations to Mimi H and Lola H. The creativity and effort that went into all the entries was fantastic, and we're so proud of everyone who took part.

We're also excited to have launched two reward challenges this term to keep motivation high and celebrate the brilliant things our students do every day. The first is our 'Beat the Bell Challenge', where coaching groups are going head-to-head in a friendly competition to improve punctuality across the year. The group with the best punctuality by the end of term will be treated to a well-earned and delicious Pizza Party – a very tasty incentive indeed!

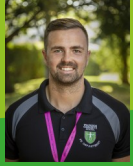
Our second initiative is the 'Term 5 Reward Challenge'. Students who achieve 100% attendance and receive fewer than 10 behaviour points during this term will earn themselves a well-deserved reward afternoon in the sunshine. It will be a chance to relax, socialise with friends and enjoy some time out on the school fields – a lovely way to celebrate positive choices and commitment.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're so proud of the way Year 8 have come back from the break with such energy and enthusiasm, and we're looking forward to a great term ahead together.

Warmest wishes,

**The Year 8 Team**





Head of Year  
Mr Cain

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

# Year 9

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been great to welcome our Year 9 students back into school this week! They've returned from the Easter break in high spirits and with a really positive mindset, which has been fantastic to see.

Having tutor time at the start of each day is proving really valuable – it gives tutors the chance to check in with students and help set them up for the day ahead. Part of this includes ensuring students are in the correct uniform and have all the equipment they need, so thank you for your continued support in helping them arrive at school fully prepared.

As we kick off Term 5, we've launched our new Attendance and Behaviour Challenge, which began this week. There's already a real buzz among the students, and many are feeling motivated by the rewards on offer – it's great to see such enthusiasm!

Lastly, as mentioned at the end of last term, students received their option choices. If you have any questions or concerns about these, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we're here to help.

**The Year 9 Team**

## Year 9 Term 5 Challenge



### REWARD

An afternoon outside, enjoying some sport or socialising with friends



Willingdon  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



#### Criteria to Attend

- ☐ 100% attendance for Term 5 **AND**
- ☐ Less than 10 behaviour points for Term 5



The dates for the challenge are:  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April → Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May



### **BIG FUTURES SHOW – TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 - SPACES STILL AVAILABLE**

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. We will travel there by coach for a slot from 9.30-11.00am, 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.

If you would like your child to attend, please make a contribution payment of **£10.71** via ParentPay to secure their place.

Sarah Rooney

**Careers Adviser**

[srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk)



Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students,

Welcome back to the first week of what will be a short but important term. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

This week, our Year 10 students have undertaken four days of mock exams in English, Maths and Science. I'm really pleased to report that the majority have approached these assessments with great maturity and have adhered to the key examination protocols expected in formal exam settings. These mocks are an essential step in helping students prepare for future assessments by developing their familiarity with exam-style questioning and the routines of a formal exam series.

Looking ahead, students will sit a second series of mock exams in July, focusing on non-core subjects. Then, as they move into Year 11, further mocks will be held in November and February.

### **Work Experience – 12–16 May**

Information about upcoming work experience placements has now been shared with all students. They should now know the details of their placements and have made initial contact with their employers. Please ensure your child is prepared by confirming the following:

- Work hours
- Point of contact at the placement
- Dress code or uniform requirements
- Any other expectations set by the employer

Members of the Year Team and Senior Leadership Team will be visiting students during their placements to check in and gather feedback on their experience in the workplace.

### **Attendance and Uniform**

Attendance this week has been excellent, averaging 96%—a great start to the term and a key contributor to student success as we move toward GCSEs.

However, we are still experiencing some uniform issues. Please can I remind you of the following:

- Trainers are not permitted; students should wear smart leather-style shoes.
- Blazers must be worn. If students choose to wear a jumper, it must be worn with the blazer.
- PE kit should only be worn on days when students have a practical PE session (Core or GCSE PE). A reminder has also been sent from the PE Department regarding this.

We appreciate your support in ensuring uniform standards are maintained so that we can focus our attention on supporting students' learning.

### **Homework and Intervention Support**

We continue to run our weekly homework and intervention session every Wednesday after school at 3:00pm in IT2. Learning Mentors are available to support students with homework and any questions across various subjects. As our Year 11s approach their exams, we will be increasing direct additional support to our Year 10 students to help prepare them for the year ahead.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I hope you have a restful weekend.

Kind regards,

**The Year 10 Team**





Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Year 10 Taster Days**

I am writing to inform you of the Year 10 college taster days that will be taking place in June and July. These taster days will give your child the opportunity to attend a college for the day and have taster sessions on subjects that they may be interested in choosing post-16. Students can select to attend **one** of the taster days which can be booked via the links below.

<b>East Sussex College Group</b> <b>Eastbourne:</b> <b>Lewes</b> <b>Hastings</b>	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June  Please click on the following link to book: <a href="#">Y10 Taster Days - ESCG</a> Prior to booking, an account will need to be created, which should include student & parent/guardian contact details & a clear ID photo of your child which will be used for safeguarding purposes throughout the taster day.
<b>Seaford Head Sixth Form:</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June or Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June To register interest in attending, please email <a href="mailto:ClareCallard@seafordhead.org">ClareCallard@seafordhead.org</a>
<b>Plumpton College:</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July Please click on the following link to book: <a href="#">Year 10 Taster Day – Plumpton College</a>
<b>DV8 Sussex Brighton &amp; Bexhill:</b>	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 4pm - 7pm For more information and to book please click on the following link: <a href="#">Year 10 Taster Event - DV8 Sussex</a>
<b>Bexhill College:</b>	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July Please click on the following link to book: <a href="#">Y10 Taster Day - Bexhill College</a>
<b>BACA (Brighton Aldridge Community Academy)</b>	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July Please click on the following link to book: <a href="#">Y10 Taster Day - BACA</a>

We kindly request that once a taster day has been selected that you register, via Edulink, that your child will be attending a taster day, and absent from school, on the selected date.

There will be further opportunities throughout the year to attend open evenings with your child, to explore the colleges and meet with the staff. Details will be in the parent bulletin, and on social media, once we have further information.

Please note that Willingdon Community School do not provide the transportation to the taster days and students should make their own way to and from the college.

If you have any questions, or would like to ask about a college that is not listed above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01323 485254 ext 281 or email [srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk).

Best wishes,

Sarah Rooney  
Careers Adviser



Head of Year  
Mr Gordon

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

# Year 11

It has been a pleasure to welcome back all Year 11 students this week. We were particularly pleased to see so many students making the most of the Easter revision intervention sessions offered by various subjects over the past two weeks, well done to everyone who attended.

This week, we also held an assembly which focussed on motivating and supporting students as they head into the final stretch before their GCSE exams, which begin in just 13 days.

During lesson drop-ins this week, it has been fantastic to see students fully focused and committed to their preparation.

Thank you for your continued support.

**The Year 11 Team**



Congratulations to Alex Martin and Oscara Noakes for their amazing achievement undertaking the national Maths challenge. Both students have made exceptional progress in the subject and have been rewarded with Amazon voucher, well done to both.



## GCSE Revision: How PARENTS Can Help!

Please encourage your child to attend the daily revision sessions that are being delivered each at Willingdon. Teachers are giving up their time after school to deliver sessions to support all our Year 11 students prepare for the GCSE exams. Please see table on the next page for days and times of the sessions being delivered.

	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	Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)	Spanish (La4) Computer Science ICT Maths Business Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)	Latin (La2) Maths EC Mentoring (invitation only) Science Music Vocational Award Homework Club Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)	English GCSE Music French (La3) Spanish (La1) Psychology Sociology Drama (DR1) Food Technology Homework Club	Geography (G2) GCSE PE PE Vcnet Child Development Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)



It has been great to see many students attending the sessions run by our learning mentors after school and seizing the opportunity to get support from them.

Our team of Learning Mentors, all of whom are former students, will continue to run sessions daily after school which are designed to provide valuable support for your child to help prepare them for their GCSE exams across all subjects. We have now extended the session from **Monday-Thursday 3-5pm**.

We encourage you to motivate your child to attend these sessions to gain support and guidance preparing for their GCSE exams.



As we approach the final months of your child's time at Willingdon, every day in school is crucial. These last days provide vital opportunities for focused learning, revision, and preparation ahead of the GCSE exams.

Please support your child by ensuring they attend school **every day** and arrive **on time by 8:30am**, ready to learn and make the most of every lesson.

Together, we can help them finish strong and give them the best chance of success in their final exams. Thank you for your continued support.



at Willingdon Community School

# HOLIDAY CLUBS

## MAY HALF TERM

### Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th May 2025

8.30am - 3.30pm with option of early drop off 8am

#### **Multisport**

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

#### **Team Challenges**

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



**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**

[May Half Term Holiday Club Google Form](#)

[Summer Holiday Club Google Form](#)



# Careers Page

## Career of the Week



### Prison Officer

**Prison Officers** maintain discipline, supervise and rehabilitate inmates in prisons, remand centres and young offenders' institutions.

#### Skills

##### Day to day tasks:

- Keeping inmates secure
- Carrying out security checks and searches
- Supervising prisoners and maintaining order
- Supporting vulnerable prisoners
- Going with prisoners on external visits like court appearances or hospital appointments
- Promoting anti-bullying and suicide prevention policies
- Preparing inmates for release through rehabilitation programmes
- Updating records and writing reports on prisoners

#### Routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

- An **Advanced Apprenticeship** as a Custody and Detention Officer.
- A **College Course** in Public Services.
- **Applying directly:** You don't need any particular qualifications, but you must be aged 18 or over and be eligible to work in the UK and pass the online **Prison Officer Selection Test (POST)** and enhanced background checks.

#### Subjects

There are no set requirements for this role, but you will need to meet the minimum GCSE requirements in English and Maths to access apprenticeships or college courses.

#### Salary\*

Jobs in this sector start at £22,000 and rise to £38,000 for an experienced officer.

#### Jobs

The number of jobs in this sector is expected to decrease by 1% by 2025.

\*In 2019 the national average salary was £30,378

This figure will go up or down, depending on your location.