

Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

25th October 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fantastic Term 1 and all of our community deserve a good rest this holiday. School will only be open for limited use so staff may not respond to emails until the first week back. Please be mindful of this; we do always say give us 48 hours on working days to respond. If you ever do not receive a response, please always follow up with an email to the pastoral team or talk2us, see the link on page 2. Everyone is very busy and sometimes with the email traffic, things can get lost by human error.

We are hearing fantastic reports from the current Language/Science trip to France. We hope the students have an amazing time and look forward to seeing more photos! We are so fortunate that we have staff that volunteer to run residentials, day trips and extra curricular clubs. The range we now have on offer is huge. If there is something missing though, do ask your child to let us know. We are always keen to ensure the offer is right for our young people.

Thank you to the Year 7 parents who followed up with our google form on transition. The feedback was exceptionally positive and fair. There were some excellent ideas given to support the school e.g. information sheet on platforms and passwords which we can put in place at the start of every year to help families. Many parents were frustrated with Arbor and we sympathise with you on this. We have been in contact with the company and ESCC to raise our concerns and ideas for solutions. We are hoping they address this asap.

The Year 7 students also commented on their transition and said some very positive things. Summer School appears to have been a real hit and helped students feel so much more confident before their official start in September. We are planning to run some holiday clubs over the next few holidays so do keep a watch out for this opportunity. There will be a cost but we have kept it reasonable in line with other providers.

We have some staff absence in the English department after half term. If your child is affected, you should have received communication to notify you of this. All classes are covered and there will be no need for supply but we have had to rejig timetables to make it work for the staff involved. Mrs Brown will temporarily step up to line manage and lead the English department until Ms Arnold returns. We are looking forward to Mr Gordon returning in Term 2 and the date will be confirmed soon. We say goodbye this term to Miss Markland-Cham and thank her for all her hard work in securing some incredible art results in 2023/2024. We welcome Mrs Childerley who is an experienced art teacher and brings great vision for the faculty. We also say goodbye to Miss Steven who joined us briefly as a Learning Mentor and wish her luck in the future.

There are many events coming up in Term 2 run by the Friends of Willingdon. I really hope you are able to attend some of them and support the school.

Take care all and enjoy your break.

Best wishes,

Mrs May

Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2 - NOVEMBER 2024

Inset Day - Monday 4th November (Year 11 Mock Exams)

Inset Day - Tuesday 5th November (Year 11 Mock Exams)

Start of Term 2 - Wednesday 6th November

INSET DAYS

Monday 4th November 2024 (Year 11 Mock Exams)

Tuesday 5th November 2024 (Year 11 Mock Exams)

Monday 6th January 2025

(Possible Year 11 French/Spanish Speaking Mock Exams)

Friday 14th February 2025

(Possible Year 11 Mock Exams)

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Friday 20th December 2024

Friday 4th April 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

Reminder of Parent Forum dates for this year

Wednesday 4th December 2024 6pm

Wednesday 5th February 2025 6pm

Wednesday 19th March 2025 6pm

Wednesday 30th April 2025 6pm

Term 2 - Timetable Changes

Due to staff absence, there will be changes to the English timetable for Term 2.

Your child will be able to see their amended timetable before the start of Term 2 on Wednesday 6th November.

We have rewritten the staff timetables to ensure that all students continue to have access to specialist teaching during this period of staff absence. Please note that this means some classes will be taught by more than one teacher.

The role of Acting Head of Department for English will be taken by Ms Brown during Term 2.

Do please get in touch if you have any further questions.

Ms Helen Arnold

Head of Department: English

and

Ms Rowanne Brown

Acting Head of Department: English

Please be reminded that teaching staff contact details can be found on our website

<https://willingdonschool.org.uk/our-school/our-staff-team>



Governor Recruitment

We are delighted to announce that we have recruited two new governors. Leigh Bradbury will be our new Co-opted Governor, bringing his finance expertise. Rachel Keen will be our new Parent Governor. Please see below some information they have each provided.

Leigh Bradbury

I am deeply passionate about the development, growth and success of my 2 young daughters, both of whom are pupils at Willingdon Community School. The school plays such an important and influential role in the development of young people and I recognise the governor position to be a unique opportunity for me to add value to the school, not just for the benefit of my daughters, but all the pupils, teachers and the community.

I believe the core values of the school are integral in allowing students to reach their full potential and I would very much like to play a part in supporting the school to achieve this.

As a governor, I would bring a range of skills and experiences to the role. My Senior position at Lloyds Banking Group requires me to act with strong leadership skills, strategic planning, and problem-solving abilities. I've gained a wealth of experience working in Finance, specifically Credit & Risk, successfully leading large teams through strategic transformation by working collaboratively with diverse groups of people.

Rachel Keen

I would like to stand for parent governor as I feel I have a lot to give this role. I am an emergency and critical care veterinary nurse by trade, and have a passion for our community especially children's education and welfare.

I am currently Chair of Polegate School PFA, Chair of First Polegate Scout Group and am on the committee for Polegate Community Centre. I was also recently Chair of Polegate Grasshoppers Girls Section.

I would really like to be involved in driving forward children's education at Willingdon.

Both Leigh and Rachel will commence with the FGB once all formal checks and forms have been completed.

Jane Branson

Chair of Governors

REMINDER - Year 7, 8 and 9 parents and carers would have received the letter below via email on Monday 21st October - 'How to Guide' attached to this email.



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carers,

Key Stage 3 Parent Evening

I would like to invite you to attend our Key Stage 3 Positive Progress Evenings.

We are launching this as a trial and a new approach to parent/carer evenings following parent and teacher feedback. The three evenings are on the dates listed below and appointments will be equally available for Year 7, 8 and 9. The three evenings will replace the individual evenings previously held for each year group.

It is hoped that this model will give parents/carers three opportunities to attend at least one of these evenings much earlier in the academic year. Furthermore, it will increase capacity for appointments where class teachers teach multiple classes in the same year group. You should only book in to see the one allocated teacher at one of the evenings for each of your child's subject. Parents should not book multiple meetings with the same teacher, unless they have more than one child in these three Year groups.

All appointments will take place in-person from 15:15 to 18:15. These are such important evenings and provides you and your child with the opportunity to meet your child's teachers, and gain feedback on their progress so far. We will have subjects located in different locations, so we recommend you have a space between each appointment. The locations of each subject are also listed below.

Dates: Thursday 7th November, Wednesday 13th November and Wednesday 27th November

Subject locations:

School Hall – Science, Geography, History, Sociology and Psychology

Canteen – Business, DT, Food Technology, Art, Drama and Music

Drama Studio – PE and Dance and Child Development and Care

EN1 – Languages (French, Spanish and Latin)

EN2 & EN3 – English

MA1& MA2 – Maths

Senior Leaders and Heads of Year will be located in the Hall or Canteen.

Appointments are available to book on Arbor from Thursday, 24th October at 6pm

Please see attached a 'how to' guide to book on Arbor.

If you have not yet accessed the Arbor Parental Portal, or you are having any technical difficulty gaining access to Arbor, then please get in touch with our IT support by email at the address parent.ithelp@willingdonschool.org.uk

I would like to encourage all parents/carers to attend, as I feel this is an important step in developing the home/school relationship and a positive, constructive experience in supporting your child's education.

If it is impossible for you to attend any of these three evenings, please contact the school to receive feedback an alternative way.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N Townsend Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Key Stage 3 Positive Progress Evenings


We are aware that some parents have encountered difficulties booking appointments through the Arbor app.

We recommend using the Arbor website for booking your appointments instead of the app. You can access the website through this link: <https://willingdon-community-school.uk.arbor.sc/>.

If you experience any further issues, please contact us at Parent.ithelp@willingdonschool.org.uk.

IT Department

ONLINE TUTORS KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE




GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

YOU MIGHT GET A TUTOR FROM SCHOOL, A GOOGLE SEARCH OR A RECOMMENDATION. BUT ANYONE CAN CALL THEMSELVES A TUTOR, SO HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE IF YOU GET THEM A TUTOR?


1) Select the right tutor

- o Get to know them first - ask about qualifications, experience (freelance? umbrella body?) & approach
- o Take up references and speak to them if you can
- o Ask to see a DBS (criminal record) check. NB - private tutors can only get the basic check; (don't let a DBS give you a false sense of security though)
- o Find out which platform they will use and its safety features




2) Establish clear rules

- o Sessions must always be arranged via you; the tutor should not contact your child directly between sessions, send private messages or change communication platform
- o A tutor is not a friend – they should behave in a professional way, like a teacher
- o Sessions must not be recorded without your approval
- o Try to be in the room for all sessions, especially for younger children, and certainly the first time
- o Your child should not join a session from a bedroom. If this is unavoidable, pop in frequently, ensure they are fully dressed at all times, point the camera away from beds & personal information; blur or change the background




3) Make sure your child knows

- o The rules apply to them and the tutor
- o A tutor is a teacher not a friend
- o The RED FLAGS: asking to communicate directly, change platform or meet up (if not booked via you)
- o Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages or photos & videos
- o They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform
- o Who their trusted adults are at home and school
- o They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset



**FIND MORE SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES
TO SUPPORT PARENTS AT
PARENTSAFE.LGFL.NET**





Thank you

Foodbank is such a popular charity that a number of tutor groups have asked to bring in MORE! We are happy to do another drop off in Term 2. Each tutor group gets House Points for their donations, so keep them coming.

We have already filled another pink crate and we are on to the next!



Willingdon Community School

THANK YOU

For your generous donations of groceries

67Kg

Last Christmas we dropped off 67kg of food and we are hoping to better that this year.

FUNDRAISING



Still collecting for foodbank in Term 2. Each tutor group gets House Points for their donations, so keep them coming!



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day - student leaders will be selling poppies from 6th November

BBC Children in Need

15th November



Willingdon COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Christmas Fayre - 19th December
4.30pm - 6.30pm before the
Christmas Concert

Christmas Jumper Day 
Day

9th December

St. Wilf's are sending in 'Wilfie the Bear' to promote.

Willingdon Community School and Stone Cross Primary School presents

Illuminate Firework Extravaganza

Friday 8th November 2024

Huge Firework
Display

By Frontier Fireworks

Gates open 6 - 8pm

At Willingdon Community School, Broad Road

Eastbourne Bonfire Society & Torch Lit Procession

Long Man Brewery, Catering Vans & Refreshments, Entertainment, Music,
Stalls, Fairground & Lots of Family Fun!

Tickets £5 each (Pre-schoolers free)

Tickets available from Stone Cross Primary School, Willingdon Community School,
British Queen Public House, Willingdon & Crafted Coffee Lounge, Stone Cross

Limited tickets available, tickets are non-refundable.

PURCHASE NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Contact: friends@willingdonschool.org.uk or Foscs@yahoo.com Tel: 01323 485254



Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay and collected from Student Support. We currently have tickets ready for those booked on or before 15 October.



Head of Year

Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

A huge well done to all Year 7 students who participated in the Partnership Cross Country Championships last week!

There were some excellent results including Teddy M (7th), Evie B (7th), Milly M (6th) and Harriett W (5th)!

We are at the time of year when illnesses are going around and we are at the end of a very long and busy term but excellent attendance is as important as ever. There is a clear correlation between attendance and GCSE results and outcomes. We really need our Year 7s to be resilient and try to keep their attendance as high as possible in the new term! Congratulations to all those students who successfully achieved 100% this term. Achievement points will be awarded.

Finally, we want to say a huge well done to the students and thank you to you for all your support through this first term. As a year group they have settled in brilliantly! We hope you all have a well-deserved rest over the half term break!

The Year 7 Team

YEAR NATURAL HISTORY / LONDON EYE TRIP - NOVEMBER 20th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers - ALL Year 7s have been given the coach list. They have had opportunity to let us know of any specific collection arrangements that require them to be on a particular coach. If any parent/ carer needs to let us know of any special consideration, please do so by Friday, 8^h of November 2024, as the staffing and risk assessments will then be submitted to county.



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

101 Dalmatians the Musical – Brighton Theatre Royal - Wednesday 18th December 2024

The Drama Department are planning to take a group of Year 7 students to see a live theatre performance in December. The production that we are going to take them to see will be the spectacular West End show '101 Dalmatians the Musical' at the Brighton Theatre Royal. The musical follows fashionista Cruella de Vill and her plots to swipe all the Dalmatian puppies in town to create her fabulous new fur coat.

We are planning to go to see the show on **Wednesday 18th December 2024**. We will be leaving school at around **9am** and returning to school around **2.30pm**. We will be travelling to the theatre by train and then walking to the theatre, therefore we will have the highest expectations about behaviour as the students will be representing the school. Students are expected to wear **full school uniform**.

The full cost of the trip is **£29.92** – this includes ticket, transport and insurance. Tickets are offered on a first come first serve basis. Payment is required by **Friday 9th November 2024** and can be paid by ParentPay. ParentPay will open on Monday 28th October at approximately 3pm.

Yours sincerely

Miss E McCarthy
Head of Drama



Head of Year
Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

We would like to congratulate Year 8 on a successful first term back! It has been a long 8 weeks, but Year 8 have carried themselves well and have more than risen to the challenge of transitioning from Year 7 to Year 8 students at Willingdon. A massive well done to the following students for being the front runners in the reward point tally for Year 8 at the end of Term 1:

1st William M (208 reward pts)

2nd Zara P (154 reward pts)

3rd Sefton H (151 reward pts)

We hope that everyone has a wonderful half term break and we look forward to meeting you all at our upcoming parents evening event after half term.

Mr Keast
Head of Year 8



Head of Year
Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

We have said goodbye to Miss Markland-Cham this week who has left the school, having been a form tutor to 9DMA since Year 7, as well as an Art teacher to many students across the year group. Mrs Childerley, joining us as a new Art teacher, will take over as the tutor for this group after October half term. All of us in Year 9 wish Miss Markland-Cham all the best.

Looking ahead to Term 2, we are excited to host 3 x Parents Evenings for parents/carers to book onto. These are on Thursday 7th November, Wednesday 13th November and Wednesday 27th November and will be in person. It is a fantastic opportunity for you to receive feedback on how your child is progressing and begin to consider potential GCSE Option Choices. More information regarding these evenings have been sent in previous communications.

Finally, as we end Term 1 in Year 9, we reflect on so many positives for students since returning from the summer. They have largely embraced the opportunities available to them and got involved in school life, whether that be in lessons or the wider, extra-curricular activities. I have shared with the students on so many occasions in assembly, that we have an overwhelming amount of talent within the year group. It is so pleasing to see and I encourage them to continually take advantage of the opportunities available.

The Year 9 Pastoral Team wish you all a wonderful and restful half term break.

Mr Cain
Head of Year 9



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to inform you that we will be offering the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award to Year 9 students. The Award will be run through an enrichment club, which will be every Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm in IT3. It must be stressed that students must commit 100% to the enrichment club. During this time, students will cover the content of the Award and develop the skills necessary to be successful during the expedition phase of the Award. The first enrichment club will take place on Tuesday, 26th November 2024.

To begin completing the Award, we are required to enroll the students onto the DofE online portal. This allows them to update all of their progress and create a profile for their DofE assessors to access and ensure they meet the criteria to gain the Bronze Award. **An initial enrolment fee of £35 is required per student. This can be made via ParentPay.** ParentPay will be opened this week and the deadline for the enrolment fee to be paid will be Friday, 22nd November 2024 at 3pm. We cannot accept any late enrolments after this deadline.

Willingdon Community School is unable to cover the full costs of the qualification, and we would require some parental contribution, particularly towards the expedition. When completing the expedition, students are required to spend 2 days hiking in the countryside and to camp overnight. We would also require the assistance of qualified assessors and insurance during the expedition. **A second payment of £55 per student to cover the expedition will be required by Friday, 4th April 2025. This is also accessible via ParentPay and can be paid at any time in advance.** If payment is not received, your child will not be able to complete the expedition phase of the Award. Please be aware that some equipment will also need to be purchased for the expedition such as walking boots.

We have provisionally booked the expedition to take place on the following dates, and request that you save these dates in order to allow your child to complete the qualification:

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June 2025 (camping at Willingdon Community School)

Further details of the expedition will be shared nearer the dates mentioned.

If you would like further information on the DofE Bronze Award, there will be an online parent/carer information evening on Thursday, 21st November from 4.30-5pm. This will be held by myself and Katrina Gadsby-Clifford, the DofE Operations Officer. If you would like to join this meeting to find out more, the link is:

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 364 383 010 343

During this meeting, Katrina will give details on the four sections which students will have to pass to gain the qualification, these include the Physical section, Skill section, Volunteering section and Expedition.

I very much look forward to supporting the students through the course and am grateful for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the DofE qualification.

Kind regards,

Miss Leonard

dleonard@willingdonschool.org.uk

Subject: End of Term Update and Important Reminders for Year 10 Parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and productive eight-week term, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate our Year 10 students on a very successful first term. Their academic achievements and attendance have been excellent and I'm sure they're looking forward to a well-deserved break. Please encourage them to relax, recharge, and prepare for Term 2.

There will be INSET days on Monday, 4th November and Tuesday, 5th November. Year 10 students are not expected to return to school until Wednesday, 6th November.

From Term 2, Mrs Elliott's tutor group will be taken by Ms Kane. Please do contact Ms Kane if you have any questions regarding your child.

A reminder about school uniform: blazers must be worn as part of the uniform, along with smart leather-look shoes. Unfortunately, too many students are coming to school in black trainers, which are not permitted under our uniform policy. Also, please ensure that v-neck jumpers are not worn with PE kits on PE days.

Finally, please note that the Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place in person on Thursday, 12th December, from 3:15pm to 6:15pm. I know this is early, but it's important to mark the date in your diaries, as this will be your first opportunity to meet with teachers regarding your child's GCSE progress. Bookings will be available on Arbor closer to the date.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

Kind regards,
Mr Roche
Head of Year 10

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Year 10 Work Experience / 12th – 16th May 2025

Further to my letter dated 19th September, students who do not yet have a work experience placement will be able to log into a database and choose four opportunities that are of interest to them. This will take place during the school day, over the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, on occasion, employers that show availability in the database no longer have opportunities, however I will try to place your child in one of their four choices. If this is not possible, I will do my utmost to source an alternative placement for them. Please note however, that it may not be in one of their preferred sectors, but I will have ongoing conversations with students about this.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards



Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser

Tel: 01323 485254 ext 281



Head of Year
Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11



As we end week one of the mock exams, I would like to congratulate Year 11 for the way they have conducted themselves. It can be a challenging time but as a year group they have risen to the task and can head into half term with their heads held high. I have had the pleasure of writing a number of references for students this week and it has been great to reflect on the contributions made by so many of the year group during their time at Willingdon. With that in mind, please share with us any success stories, hobbies or interests that might enhance post 16 provision applications.

Please remember that there are mock exams on the two Inset Days after half term, with the whole year group in for exams both mornings. Students with afternoon exams on those days will be remaining in school.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term break and we look forward to students returning, in full uniform, on Monday, 4th November.

Mr Scowen

Acting Head of Year 11



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers.

Year 11 College Applications

Since September, students have been working on uploading their personal profile to Careers East Sussex, the college application system we use. The personal profile includes students' personal statement and all information that the colleges will require to invite students for interview once their applications have been submitted. Students have been shown how to upload this information and how they would complete college applications.

Most students have completed the personal profile information and have been advised that they can then apply for colleges if they have decided what they would like to study. However, some students have not yet completed, or in some cases have not started, their personal profile despite having several sessions in the IT rooms to do this. Students are aware of their login details for Careers East Sussex and that they can update this information from home as well as in school.

After the current mock exams have finished, and your child has had the opportunity to attend the college open evenings, we will have more sessions in the IT rooms to complete the personal profile and apply for colleges. Applications can also be done from home, if students wish to, by following the guide attached to this email.

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 of 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.

Please note that college applications should be submitted via Careers East Sussex by Friday, 6th December 2024. For colleges such as BHASVIC, Bede's, Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and BN1 Arts, please apply directly via their website or application form.

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

Kindest regards,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser