

# Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



**Willingdon**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

28th February 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a huge thank you for your continued support as we begin Term 4. It's been wonderful to see so many students arriving with their uniforms looking neat and tidy, and we have been especially pleased with the strong attendance this week. With the warmer weather and the arrival of spring, we are hopeful that attendance will continue to improve, bringing more vibrant and engaged students to school each day.

On another note, I wanted to update you on a recent meeting I had with Stagecoach regarding the ongoing concerns we have had about their bus services. We discussed several issues, including poor communication, the lateness of buses, the rising prices of fares despite the poor service, and the weekly paper tickets which many of our students misplace or accidentally leave in their blazers, only to have them washed. Stagecoach was very receptive and fair during our meeting, and I am pleased to report that they acknowledged the issues as being unacceptable and issued an apology.

Mr Mitchell, the Managing Director of Stagecoach, and I also discussed the challenges we face with traffic congestion and roadworks, which have made it difficult to adhere to the timetables. To address these issues, **Stagecoach has agreed to make some changes to the morning timetables. From the 6th of April, buses 6, 57, and 58 will arrive by 8:15am. The students will notice these changes when they return after the Easter holidays. This will mean waking up earlier to catch the buses five minutes earlier than the current time.** Many thanks for our parent representatives who attended the meeting and our Vice Chair of Governors who supported me in the meeting.

Just as a reminder, if you are keen to be involved in our regular parent feedback sessions, please don't hesitate to email [stomalin@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:stomalin@willingdonschool.org.uk) to register your interest. The first of these sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

We look forward to an excellent remainder of Term 4. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Mrs Emily May

**Headteacher**

## **A reminder to all parents and students that Willingdon Community School is a nut-free school**

Some of our students and staff have severe allergies which can be triggered simply by breathing in the allergen, and not only through being eaten.

Please avoid bringing any products into school that contain nuts of any variety. Examples of this would be peanut butter sandwiches, granola bars, cakes containing nuts etc.

Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MARCH

Tues 4th Yr 11 Mock Exams - Spanish/French  
Yr 7 County Cup Final  
Yr 8/9 Girls Footy Area Cup Final

Weds 5th Yr 9 Towner Gallery Workshop  
Yr 10 - National Senior Stretch (Oxford)

Thurs 6th Yr 11 Mocks - Art  
Yr 10 - Blood Brothers (London)  
Yr 10 - Careers Fair

Fri 7th World Book Day

Mon 10th Yr 11 Food Practical Exams (all week)  
Yr 10 Cambridge Uni Visit  
Yr 8 County Shield Match

Tues 18th Yr 9 Imperial War Museum  
Yr 6 Welcome Evening - 6pm-7pm

Thurs 20th Yr 9/10 Bedes Debate Competition  
Fri 21st Wembley Football Trip  
Tues 25th Dance Live (Hastings)  
Fri 28th Yr 11 Thorpe Park Trip

### APRIL

Tues 1st Spanish & STEM Trip - Valencia  
Drama Practical Exam

Weds 2nd History Trip - Krakow

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

Fri 4th END OF TERM 4 - Early Closure

#### EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

#### INSET DAYS

Friday, 27th June





**Next  
Week  
3<sup>rd</sup>  
March !**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March = Year 7 Girls Football Sussex Shield

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March = Year 8/9 Girls Football Eastbourne Final

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March = Year 7/8 Girls Football Club 5-aside

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March = Staff Goalie - Penalty Shootout @ LUNCH

**#LET  
GIRLS  
PLAY**



**BARCLAYS  
GIRLS' FOOTBALL  
SCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIPS**  
BY ENGLAND FOOTBALL



**Welcome back to Term 4!!!** We wanted to say a huge congratulations to Year 7 for having such successful visits to the church as part of their Ethics lessons last term. Some great feedback from the church;  
*'I want to say how privileged we all felt to be part of this. It is always a refreshing experience to hear what young people think about church, and matters related to Christianity as a whole. But all of us enjoyed the interaction with the students and staff, and may I add that I was encouraged by the standard of questions and the friendliness of children and staff alike.'*  
We are so proud of the Year 7 students representing our school and themselves so well - well done!

A huge well done to Isla C who, during half term, did exceptionally well at Eastbourne Performing Arts Festival, along with her amazing Shining Stars team. 6 medals in total for her - 3 silvers for her MT duet, first ever MT solo, jazz group dance and 3 golds for 2 MT groups and lyrical group. What a fantastic achievement - well done Isla!

#### Year 7 Team



Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers,

I am organising a Year 7 trip to **Hampton Court Palace** on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**. The cost of the trip will be £37.62, which includes coach travel and all admission fees. We will be leaving at **8am** on this day and will return at approximately 4.40pm.

During the course of the day, students will be able to explore the palace, including Henry VIII's kitchens and apartments, King William III's apartments and the palace gardens. Students should also have a chance to get lost in the garden maze (weather permitting)

This trip will support and develop student understanding of the Tudor period which they will also study in class. Students will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink on the day and they may wish to bring a small amount of money for the gift shop. They will need to wear PE Kit and weather appropriate clothing and footwear.

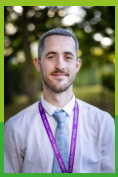
If you would like your child to attend this trip, please make your payment on ParentPay from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at approximately 9am, which will guarantee your child's place. Please note there are a limited number of places available, so this will be on a first come, first served basis.

You are welcome to email me with any questions, but please do note my working days are Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs L Hughes

**Joint Head of History**



Head of Year  
Mr Keast

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

# Year 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into Term 4, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Year 8 students so far. Their hard work, dedication and positive attitudes continue to impress us, and I am so proud of everything they have accomplished.

A huge congratulations to all students who have earned their Bronze Award for achieving over 250 reward points. It is fantastic to see so many of our students demonstrating resilience, kindness and a commitment to their learning. In fact, we have given out over 150 Bronze Awards—a truly outstanding achievement! Well done to each and every student who reached this milestone.

An extra special congratulations to our Silver Award winners, who have gone above and beyond, earning over 500 reward points! This is a remarkable accomplishment and we are incredibly proud of the following students:

Urenna I, Isla W, Aaryan W, George H, Callum A, Shantel O, Jaime W, Amy B, Zara P, Harry D, Sophia B, Freya C, William M, Masha W, Scarlett D, George D, Alfie B, Isabella M, George I, Margot D, Chinedu O, Olli D and Leo D.

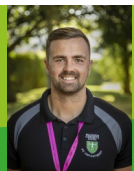
Well done to all of you—keep up the fantastic work!

We are excited to launch our Term 4 ‘Good Egg’ Challenge! To be eligible, students must achieve 95%+ attendance for the term and have fewer than 10 behaviour points. Those who meet the criteria will be rewarded with a fantastic film afternoon, where they will be able to relax and enjoy a movie of their choice—complete with popcorn!

This is a great opportunity for students to stay motivated, maintain excellent attendance and continue making positive choices. Let’s see how many ‘Good Eggs’ we can get this term!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,  
**Year 8 Team**



Head of Year  
Mr Cain

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

# Year 9

Well done to all our Year 9 students on a largely positive return to school this week. It’s been great catching up with you all and hearing about what you got up to over half term.

We had a fantastic start to the week with our reward assembly on Monday, where we handed out 105 Bronze Award badges and certificates! In fact, there were so many awards to issue, that we ran out of time to get through them all - so we’ll continue next week with the Silver Awards and the Amazon Voucher prize draws that all students will be a part of.

It’s also been great to see students getting involved in student voice with Ms Arnold, sharing their thoughts and feedback on English lessons to help shape them going forward, as we look ahead to beginning GCSEs.

Overall, a really positive week—let’s keep this up for the rest of the term! And don’t forget about the ‘Good Egg’ Challenge running for Year 9 students this term. Keep up your hard work and keep getting involved!

**Year 9 Team**

**Year 9 ‘Good Egg’ Easter Challenge**

**REWARD**  
Film afternoon in school, watching a selected film of choice

**Criteria to Attend**

- 95%+ attendance for Term 4 **AND**
- Less than 10 behaviour points for Term 4

The dates for the challenge are:  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February → Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Immunisation Service have recently attended your school for the **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY)** vaccinations.

If you have already completed a form and your child wasn't vaccinated in school, you will have received a separate email with clinic booking instructions and do not need to complete another form. Please refer to the 'How do I book an appointment for my child to be vaccinated' section in this email.

If you did not return a consent form, but would like your child to receive this vaccination, it's not too late. Please see guidance below on how to complete an online consent form, which will re-open one working day after the school visit, and subsequently book an appointment.

### **How do I consent / refuse to my child having these vaccinations?**

**Visit** the following website: [TDIPV MenACWY Vaccination Consent Form \(susseximmunisations.co.uk\)](https://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/tdipv-menacwy-vaccination-consent-form)

**Enter and confirm** your preferred email address – *you will receive a confirmation email following submission of the consent form.*

**Enter the school code:** **SX114592**

**Complete and submit the consent form**, indicating your choice of consent - *Please ensure you provide the child's registered address and GP.*

**Book an appointment** by following the steps below.

### **How do I book an appointment for my child to be vaccinated?**

**Follow this link:** <https://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/clinicbooking/booking> to book an appointment at one of our Community Catch up Clinics, for your child to receive the vaccination (s) – *You will require your booking reference number which can be found within the email you receive(d) from Cinnamon once your consent form has/had been submitted.*

**Arrange for an adult to accompany your child** to their clinic appointment.

If you are unable to complete the online form, wish to change your consent or have any trouble booking an appointment, please contact your local Immunisation Team on the appropriate telephone number below:

**Speak to a member of the Immunisation Service by calling your local team on 01273 696011:**

|                              |                                |                             |                                |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Brighton</b><br>Ext. 3789 | <b>Chichester</b><br>Ext. 8100 | <b>Crawley</b><br>Ext. 2043 | <b>Heathfield</b><br>Ext. 2080 | <b>Uckfield</b><br>Ext. 4931 | <b>Worthing</b><br>Ext. 8533 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|

Many Thanks

Sent on behalf of the Vaccination Programme Coordinator, Sussex Immunisation Service (SIS)  
**Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT)**



Head of Year  
Mr Roche

Email - [pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk](mailto:pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk)

# Year 10

I hope you and your families had a refreshing February half term. We started the week on a positive note with an awards assembly on Tuesday, where we celebrated our students' achievements. Bronze and silver awards were presented in recognition of their hard work, and we also rewarded students with outstanding attendance and achievement with McDonald's lunch vouchers. To conclude the assembly, six students were drawn at random to receive Amazon vouchers.

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind you that our first round of Year 10 mock exams will begin at the end of April. These will focus on the core subjects: Maths, English, and Science.

On Monday, 10th March, I will be taking 15 students on a visit to Cambridge University. Unfortunately, I have not been able to secure any additional places, but I am working on arranging a whole year group trip to Sussex University later in the spring.

A quick reminder about our uniform policy: please ensure that students are wearing the correct school shoes and adhering to the jewellery guidelines. We have noticed some students returning in trainers, which we would like to avoid addressing through unnecessary confrontations.

Starting next week, we will be running after-school intervention sessions, where learning mentors will provide a quiet study space for students. Details will be shared with students via the daily bulletin during tutor time.

Lastly, a reminder that our Careers Fair is taking place on Thursday, 6th March. If your child would like to attend, please ensure they have signed up in advance.

Kind regards,

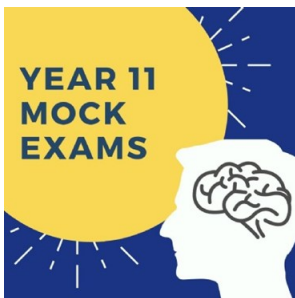
**Mr Roche**  
**Year 10 Team**




Head of Year  
Mr Gordon

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

# Year 11



We would like to congratulate all Year 11 students for another week of hard work and dedication during the second week of their mock exams. Student behaviour has continued to be exemplary when entering the exam hall and during the exams. Please see below the remaining mock exams for next week.

| Morning |  | Year 11 Spring Mock Exams   |  | Afternoon |                    |             |
|---------|--|---|--|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| 03-Mar  |  |   |  |           |                    |             |
| 04-Mar  | Spanish L&R H 1h 45m<br>Spanish L&R F 1h 45m |  |  |           | French L&R 1h 45 m |             |
| 05-Mar  |  |   |  |           |                    |             |
| 06-Mar  | Art all day                                  |   |  |           |                    | Art all day |



Congratulations to Caleb Pout 11LCN for being awarded the Richard Halliday Music Scholarship Award for Year 12 & 13. This is a great achievement for Caleb and it reflects his ambition, dedication and talent. We wish him all the best in his musical journey at Eastbourne College next year.

## 8 CROSSFIT



Congratulations to Sydney S 11POS, who took part in a Turf Games CrossFit competition during half term.

Sydney competed with 5 others from her gym and they had 4 workouts to complete throughout the day. The workouts involved barbell lifting, toes to bar, wall balls and snatches and finished on the 120kg worm.

Sydney was the youngest competitor there and she loved competing, managing to lift 55kg on the barbell complex - 1 clean, 2 shoulder to over head and 3 front squats. Sydney is seeing the impact in her performance from her hard work and dedication.

## Year 11 Thorpe Park Trip on 28<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to all parents/ carers that completed the indication of interest for the trip. The trip is now live on Parent Pay to book your child's place on the trip.

The deadline for booking your child's place is **3pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**







It is extremely important to emphasise the value of your child being present in school and in lessons after their mock exams and leading up to the final exams. Here are a few points to consider when talking to your child about the importance of staying focused and engaged during this critical period:

### **1. Consolidating knowledge and understanding**

Mock exams are extremely valuable for assessing how well your child has understood the material learnt to date, but the results also highlight areas for development. Attending lessons after the mocks allows them to address any gaps in their understanding and reinforce concepts they might have struggled with during the exam.

### **2. Teacher support**

After mock exams, teachers often spend extra time reviewing the results and clarifying any misunderstandings. Regular attendance ensures your child doesn't miss out on personalised feedback or crucial explanations that can make a important difference in their performance during the final exams.

### **3. Filling in the gaps in knowledge**

Mock exams identify areas that need an extra focus when revising. If your child is absent from school, they risk missing vital lessons that directly address gaps. These lessons can be the key to improving grades before the final exams.

### **4. Developing exam techniques**

It's not just about content; attending lessons also helps your child refine their exam techniques, time management skills, and strategies for answering questions effectively. Teachers provide valuable advice on how to approach different types of questions, which can be beneficial in the final exams.

### **5. Maintaining momentum**

The months leading up to final exams can feel long, and it's easy to lose motivation. By staying in school and being engaged in lessons, your child can maintain momentum and avoid falling into a pattern of procrastination or disengagement. It's all about maintaining a consistent study routine and then also accessing the lunchtime and after school interventions sessions we provide.

### **6. Building confidence**

Being present in school after mock exams shows your child that they are committed to doing their best. This sense of responsibility, coupled with the knowledge that they are actively improving, can build confidence and help reduce exam anxiety.

### **7. Well being**

Final exams can be stressful, but it's important to remember that school is also a space for your child to connect with friends and Year 11 peers. Social interaction with those who are going through the same process can provide emotional support and shared motivation.

By emphasising the importance of attending school and staying engaged in lessons, you're helping your child approach the final exams with the right mindset and tools to support their success.

Thank you for your continued support.

**The Year 11 Team**

# Careers Page

## Job of the Week



### Midwife

**Midwives** support pregnant women and their babies before, during and after childbirth.

#### Skills

##### Day-to-Day tasks:

In this role you could:

- Advise pregnant women and check they are healthy.
- Run classes about pregnancy and parenting.
- Manage labour and deliver babies.
- Advise on ways to manage pain during labour.
- Give advice after the baby is born.
- Visit homes to check on parents and the baby.

#### Routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

- a University degree
- an Apprenticeship

This typically takes 48 months to complete and includes learning on the job and studying at an approved university.

#### Skills and Knowledge

You'll need:

- Knowledge of medicine and neonatal care.
- Sensitivity and understanding.
- Knowledge of psychology.
- Customer service skills.
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure.
- Counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach.
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail.
- Patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.

#### Subjects

- 5 GCSEs, at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science.
- 2 or 3 A Levels, including a science, or a level 3 diploma or access to higher education in health science or nursing.
- A degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.

#### Salary\*

The starting salary is £27,000, rising to £47,000.

#### Jobs

There will be 3.8% more Midwife jobs by 2027.

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

Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.



**Futures Fair, Friday 7 March 2025**  
**Eastbourne College, Old Wish Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4JX**

Dear parents and guardians,

You are warmly invited to attend the annual Futures Convention at Eastbourne College taking place on Friday 7 March 2025 from 7pm onwards.

The Futures Convention is perfect for pupils in Year 11 upwards. It is an ideal opportunity to ask questions about next steps, get advice on career options and even secure work experience. We will have around 60 exhibitors including representatives from a range of different career pathways, universities and colleges who will be there to offer their help and guidance.

A full exhibitor list will be available nearer the time but to book a place, please use this QR code to access our online booking form.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me.

Best wishes

Sarah Gordon

