

Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

28th June 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to apologise to the parents and carers of the children involved in the Chessington Trip. Whilst staff were well meaning with trying to organise this reward, we didn't give ourselves enough lead in time and information has got to parents too last minute.

On Tuesday, we had our fabulous sports day which went really well. This was the first time that Mr Scowen and Mrs Legate organised the day but they did a great job and students appeared to have a wonderful time. Please see the separate article.

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed 246 new families into Year 6 to Willingdon and we very much look forward to seeing the children again on their taster days next week.

On Thursday, we had a day of rewards which included free ice creams for Year 10 having completed the mock session so smoothly. There were also many students across the years who got to enjoy the giant inflatables on the school field.

Today, we have held our curriculum Inset Day which has allowed staff a chance to talk about their curriculums and schemes of work. We know we have an increased level of need at Willingdon and we need to ensure we are adapting effectively so all children can access the learning.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs May

Headteacher

September dates:

Monday, 2nd September – Staff INSET Day

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

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

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

Key dates

July

1st - Yr 10 College Taster Day - Eastbourne

2nd - Yr 6 Taster Day (1)

3rd - Yr 6 Taster Day (2)

5th - Yr 11 Prom

9th - Yr 6 Coffee Morning and Parent Forum

10th - Yr 10 Mock Interview Day

11th - Phoenix Festival

12th - Yr 10 Taster Day - BACA

15th-19th - Morfa Bay

23rd - End of Term (early finish)

YEAR 6 TRANSITION SUMMER SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 24TH - FRIDAY 26TH JULY

WILLINGDON SUMMER SCHOOL

(YEARS 5 - 8)

MONDAY 29TH - FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST

£45PER DAY / £150 FULL WEEK

Rewards Update

As we come to the end of the academic year, we will be looking to make sure that students are able to cash in their reward points. To do this, we will use the reward points accumulated to the 1st of July.



Summer Drawing

2024

Summer Writing

2024

Summer break is approaching, and we know kids won't want to think about schoolwork. However, we must also remember the importance of continuous learning to avoid summer learning loss.

For further information, see the attachments on this email.



SPORTS DAY

The weather was very kind for our annual Sports Day this week, with clear skies and bright sunshine the order of the day. The build up to the day, with tutor team selections and the anticipation of banner making and wearing House colours, demonstrated just how important this day is for the whole school

community. Pevensey Panthers, Wilmington Wolves, Cuckmere Cobras and Friston Falcons are our new Houses with not only students but, staff as well, attached to each to promote maximum participation in the build up and on the day. Mrs Collins and the Student Leadership Team organised an array of stalls along with the refreshment vans onsite, created an atmosphere fully in keeping with our 'We Are Willingdon' ethos. The commitment of the PE Department in ensuring the day ran smoothly should also be mentioned and I feel extremely privileged to be leading the team as Acting Head of Department whilst Miss Attrill is on maternity leave.

Onto the events, kick started by the athletic field events and the 800m. During lessons 1 and 2, these athletes came and competed for their Houses demonstrating our school values of Ambition and Respect as they waited for their event to begin. On the track, we saw some fantastic 800m races which resulted in 3 school records being broken. Sefton Heron finished in 2:32mins to break the Year 7 boys record; Bode Newnham-Reeve finished in 2:16mins to break the Year 10 boys record and Rosie Delgado-Howell finished in 2:39mins to break the Year 10 girls record. Congratulations to those athletes and everyone who stepped forward to compete in warm temperatures for middle distance running. Whilst they were breaking those records, William Holloway threw 23.60m in the javelin to break the Year 7 boys record.

Next up were the track events – obstacle; 100m; 200m; 300m; 400m – for Years 7 and 8 while Years 9 and 10 got their stoolball, basketball and table tennis competitions underway. All students were treated to the new House Dinosaur Mascots, adding to the already electric atmosphere created by the colourful banners and face painted supporters. Mr Gordon's legendary obstacle race kicked off the track races, with teams of 4 completing a course laid out along the straight including wearing a hiking rucksack, modified egg and spoon and crawling under a cargo net to finish! As the more traditional track races began, the warm conditions were ideal for sprinting with Kristi Prifti taking full advantage of them to win the Year 8 girls 200m and break the school record with a time of 27:09 seconds.

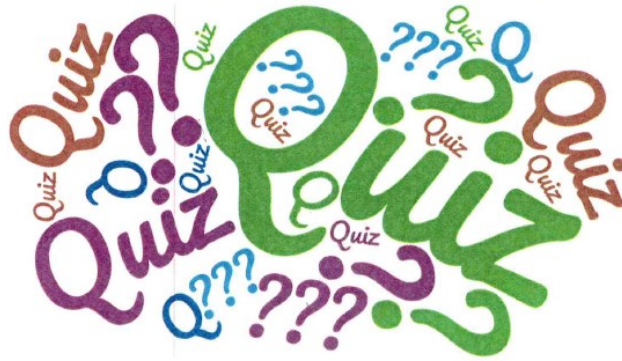
Lunch time arrived and the staff relay race took place with Cuckmere Cobras leading the way after a very impressive second leg from Mr Smith. This was followed by the House Dinosaur Mascots racing down the home straight as Years 9 and 10 prepared for the afternoon track events as Years 7 and 8 kicked off their team events. The temperatures were now roasting, making conditions that little bit harder for athletes. However, as Mr Stammers and Mrs McCarthy continued their excellent commentary of events and post-race interviews with winning athletes, there were some closely contested sprints and displays of Compassion for the runners who had picked up little injuries or struggled in the heat. With the total points for all athletics and team events from the day totalled, the final scores were shared with students as Wilmington Wolves were crowned Willingdon Community School Sports Day Champions 2024!

A special thank you also goes out to Mrs Powell who took control of collating all points scored during the day and Mrs Manning with her team of certificate writers; Mr Flack and Mrs Hadfield who made sure all winners were recognised for their efforts. Medals are to be presented during year assemblies for all winners of events and it just leaves me to say a huge well done to the Willingdon Community for such a fantastic event!

Mr Scowen







BEDE'S

This is to certify that:

Willingdon.

Won **3rd Place** at the Wealden Partnerships Schools' Quiz

14th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As most of you will be aware, we changed our Management Information System to Arbor last September.

Since then, we have kept Edulink as the parent and student interface. In the most part, this has been functional, but we have had a few issues over the year.

As such, in September 2024, we will be moving to the Arbor Parental Portal and Arbor Student Portal. These will replace Edulink for monitoring of behaviour and reward points, parents' evenings, communications, access to timetables, reports and homework. We will still be using ParentPay for our cashless catering and trips and activities so there will be no change there. By having fewer systems running, we should experience fewer issues and be able to offer you more information that we know some of you have asked for.

Getting Ready for Change

We encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with Arbor using the following link [Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App](#). Arbor also offers access to free training resources, which can be found [here](#).

Look out for further communication throughout July regarding the Parental App and registration details. Registration will be available in September.

Mr Jason Dubas-Fisher

PHOENIX

We welcome you all to join us for our annual Music and Creative Arts Festival

FESTIVAL

11 JULY 2024

Willingdon School Field

3:15pm - 6:30pm

**Rock Bands
Musical Theatre
Choirs
Dancers
String Ensemble
Instrumental & vocal solos
Duets and trios
Staff Band**

We have many exciting stalls offering sweets, mocktails, party games and many other items. Most stalls will be cash only. Some stalls may have contactless payment.

If you are feeling hungry or need cooling down, there will be the external vans offering **hot food** and **ice creams**. Cash only.



 **Willingdon**
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**Free Event
All Welcome**

Bring along a picnic blanket and deck chairs

PHOENIX

PHOENIX FESTIVAL RAFFLE

Dear Parents/Carers & Students,

We hope you are looking forward to the Phoenix Festival on Thursday, 11th July!

We will be holding a raffle and the prizes will include:

- 2 x child admission to Drusillas Park
- Sunday carvery for 4 at The View Hotel
- Family introduction at Ordinary Climbers
- Family pass for 2 adults & 2 children at Sharnfold Farm
- 2 tickets for Paradise Park
- Entry for 2 adults and 2 children to Monkey Bizness
- £40 meal voucher for K2 Indian restaurant
- Meal voucher for The Red Lion, Willingdon
- Meal voucher for The Red Lion, Stone Cross
- £10 gift card for Blackbrooks garden centre
- 2 x cinema tickets at Hailsham Pavilion
- Adult hamper
- Child hamper

Stationery sets plus more.....

Tickets can be purchased in advance on ParentPay and this will be available until 3pm on Monday, 8th July. The cost is £1 for 5 tickets and the maximum that you can spend is £10.

There will also be an opportunity to buy tickets at the festival on Thursday 11th July.

We look forward to seeing you!

Willingdon

Summer

School 2024

from **Monday 29th July**
to **Friday 2nd August**

8:30am - 3:00pm



CREATIVE



FUN

Students
welcome from any local
primary school in Years 4, 5 & 6
and our students in Years 7 & 8

Range of activities
available from sports to arts and crafts
£150.00 for the week or £45 per day, per child

Additional discounts available: 50% off for Pupil Premium students / 20% off for siblings
To sign up or further enquiries, please email: summerschool@willingdonschool.org.uk



ACTIVE



Year 7 & 8



Willingdon COMMUNITY SCHOOL

YEARS 7 & 8 CANADA RESIDENTIAL TRIP

October 2026

The deadline for the deposit of this trip is 23rd July.

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are incredibly excited to be able to offer a school trip to **CANADA** for students who are currently in Years 7 and 8 to be travelling in October 2026. (They will be in either Year 10 or Year 11 when they travel).

We are pleased to be offering the trip which is being planned for Wednesday October 21st – October 27th 2026. Travel will be from Gatwick to Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada. (Please note that we are not able to book flights yet, so dates / exact times will be confirmed nearer the time).

The group will be staying in hostels in small groups – (the exact accommodation will be confirmed when we have the numbers for the trip). Our days will be filled with activities like exploring the CN Tower - one of Canada's most famous icons and a must-see in Toronto. Those brave enough can take a walk over the glass floor! We'll be visiting Montreal, taking boat tours (including to the awesome Niagara Falls!) We'll see the biodomes, the Underground City and take in a Hockey game to name just a few amazing adventures – the itinerary is absolutely packed morning until night!

We have costed the trip based on 30 places. The trip is being booked through 'Diverse Travel' (<https://www.diverseschooltravel.co.uk/>); a company with a quality reputation of arranging a range of school tours. They will work closely with the school throughout the planning process and with the operators in Canada to ensure the very best learning experience for your young person. The total cost covers expenditure for the trip including all transfers, breakfast and evening meals, accommodation, activities and insurance. The total payable is £2100 and any changes in the exchange rates are protected. We are advised to add between \$10-20 per day for lunch. This cost is subject to numbers. Any spending money will need to be carried by the students.

Your young person will need to be in possession of his/ her/ their own valid passport for the time of travel. For general travel information for visiting Canada, please visit www.gov.uk. Please think carefully before committing yourself to this activity as refunds are not possible once the deposit is paid, as the funds are then committed. A **non-refundable deposit** before the end of term on 23rd July 2024, of £150, will secure your young persons' place on the trip. **12 Termly** payments of £162.50 will then be made over the course of the next two academic years.

Poor behaviour/ low attendance will not be tolerated at Willingdon Community School. Therefore, the school reserves the right to cancel a student's participation in a trip if behaviour /attendance does not reach our expected high standards.

If you would like to know more, we will be hosting an information evening on Tuesday 2nd July at 6pm for students and parents/carers interested in the trip. We will be explaining the itinerary, trip activities, answering questions and showing a presentation of some of the amazing locations that we will be visiting.

If you would like to register your interest for your young person on this amazing experience, please complete the attached google form [here](#)

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Crellin

Year 10

MOCK

INTERVIEWS



Wednesday 10th July

We would be most grateful if there are any parents/carers or employers that might be able to support us with interviewing our year 10 students on Wednesday 10th July. Currently we do not have enough volunteers for the whole year group to be interviewed.

We are proposing that the sessions will be at the following times and will hopefully will fit in with your other commitments. You can choose one, two or all three slots should you wish.

Each slot will involve 5 student interviews.

Session 1

8.40 - 9.00a.m.
9.00 - 9.20a.m.
9.20 - 9.40a.m.
9.40 - 10.00a.m.
10.00 - 10.20a.m.

Session 2

11.00 - 11.20a.m.
11.20 - 11.40a.m.
11.40 - 12.00p.m.
12.00 - 12.20p.m.
12.20 - 12.40p.m.

Session 3

1.20 - 1.40p.m.
1.40 - 2.00p.m.
2.00 - 2.20p.m.
2.20 - 2.40p.m.
2.40 - 3.00p.m.

If you are able to help, please email Sarah Rooney on srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk or call 01323 485254 ext 281.



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 mock interview day – Wednesday 10th July

We are hosting a mock interview day on Wednesday, 10th July for Year 10 students. The interviews will be held on the school site, by external employers, and the event is designed to give students some practice in preparation for their college interviews in Year 11.

Each interview will last approximately 10 minutes and the students will receive some constructive feedback. Another interview will take place when they are in Year 11 to give them additional practice.

Students should wear smart/business clothing for the duration of the day as this will help to give a more realistic experience for them. Suitable clothing would be trousers, shirt and tie, shirt/blouse and skirt/trousers. Suits can be worn should students wish to, and school uniform is also considered appropriate interview clothing.

For those students that have a P.E. V Cert lesson on this day, we would recommend that, dependent on the time of their interview, students either come into school dressed in appropriate interview clothing, and then change into their PE clothes after the interview, or vice versa. Students will be given the time of their interview by Friday, 5th July and reminded of this during the week of the interview.

Students will receive some hints and tips from their tutors over the next week to help them prepare for their interview, with a few example questions that may be asked.

If you or your child have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on rooney@willingdonschool.org.uk or 01323 485254 ext 281.

We would like to wish students good luck with their interviews.

Kindest regards,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

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

I am writing with regards to Year 10 work experience which will take place during the week of 12th – 16th May 2025. Please see the below, requesting that students source their own work experience placements by Friday, 27th September 2024.

Work experience is an important part of education and supports young people to make career decisions, develop employability skills and support successful transition into further education, higher education, apprenticeships and the workplace.

Finding a work experience placement

We would ask that students find their own placement for work experience with your support. This could be a placement with you or other relatives, friends/connections, or by simply approaching an employer directly*. Finding an own placement will mean that students will be able to undertake a suitable placement that is of interest and personally rewarding to them.

It also helps develop communication, resourcefulness and initiative and will help ensure that they have access to a wide range of jobs and employers.

Should students be unable to source their own placement, we do have a database of available employers and placements, and we do our utmost to place students in a sector they are interested in. However, it can sometimes be challenging to find placements that are aspirational and match student needs.

Note: A work experience placement cannot be outside of the UK or in a place where your child would need to be over 16 to access it (i.e. a tattoo parlour). It is also a legal requirement that all employers have 'Employers Liability Insurance' in place unless the parent is a sole trader.

***What pupils should consider when approaching an employer directly**

- What interests you?
- What careers are you interested in?
- Discuss ideas with family/friends.
- Think of a placement that will be beneficial and rewarding to you.
- Contact the employer (email, call, visit or write) to introduce yourself and what you are contacting them for. Ask if they would consider you for a placement.
- Explain why you want to work for them, what you are hoping to gain from the experience and future career ideas.
- Provide any other information that might support your application i.e. any relevant experience, predicted grades, membership of a sports club or group.

What happens next?

Students and parents start to explore options over the summer holidays. We would need to know of any confirmed placements by **Friday, 27th September 2024** due to suitability, risk assessment and health and safety checks that will need to be carried out by East Sussex County Council.

Once you have a placement confirmed, please can you email me on the following email address srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk with the below:

- Name and address of the company
- Contact name and email address at the company to send the information to
- Your child's name and tutor group
- Any medical or learning requirements we need to make the employer aware of

Those students that are unable to source their own placement will receive support in finding a suitable placement during school time.

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

Kindest regards,

Sarah Rooney

Careers Adviser Tel: 01323 485254 ext 281

Social Media

X x.com/WillingdonCS

Facebook facebook.com/WillingdonCS

Instagram instagram.com/WillingdonCS



Mr Ellwood and Mr Topham visited Willingdon Primary School on Wednesday to teach them some Latin as part of Year 3 Roman Day.

Mr Ellwood is modelling a segmenta lorica, galeum, and baltea, accessorised with a scutum.

Macie, Peighton and Zara will be representing England at this year's Dance World Cup, in Prague this week, with their dance school, Zoe Pennington Dance Studios. Best of luck to all of you.



Amazing job by staff, staff friends, governors, WCS parents and grandparents to kick start our Forest School project.

We will need to do another day so will let the community know in due course and would love some more volunteers! Mrs May's children came to check the progress and were very impressed. We can't wait to get this provision up and running for our students and our community.