

Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

28th March 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued support of our school community. The respect and courtesy with which you engage with our staff are greatly appreciated and play a significant role in creating a positive and nurturing environment for all our students. We are incredibly grateful for the strong partnership we have with the majority of our parents.

As a school, we are also thrilled to celebrate the achievements of our students. First and foremost, congratulations to all the students who were involved in **Dance Live!** It was an incredible showcase of the talent here at Willingdon, and we are extremely proud of how our students represented the school. A special thank you goes to **Miss Page** for her dedication and hard work in bringing this fantastic event to life – it was truly a remarkable performance.

Additionally, we would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on their excellent performance in their mock exams. We are very proud of the effort and commitment they have shown. However, we must remind both students and parents that every subject matters, and there is still plenty of time to make a meaningful difference to their final grades. We encourage parents to continue reinforcing the importance of consistent effort and focus as we move forward into the final stages of the academic year.

On a more serious note, we must address some concerning issues. Unfortunately, there has been a small but noticeable increase in verbal abuse and intimidating behaviour towards our staff from a small minority of parents. This behaviour is completely unacceptable, and we will not tolerate it. To make our expectations clear, **Parental Conduct** signs will be displayed at the main reception, outlining the standards of respectful behaviour we expect from anyone engaging with our staff. We will also communicate these expectations directly with parents. If these behaviours continue, we will have no hesitation in taking the necessary steps, including restricting access to the school site or limiting communication to email only.

Additionally, there has been an increase in physical assaults on staff by a small group of students. We want to make it clear: we have a **zero-tolerance** policy for any form of violence or aggression, and we will take appropriate action to address these incidents, including suspensions if necessary, to ensure the safety of our school community.

Once again, we deeply appreciate the continued support we receive from the vast majority of our families. Together, we can continue to make Willingdon a wonderful place for students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

Warm regards,

Mrs May
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

Tues 1st Spanish & STEM Trip - Valencia
Drama Practical Exam / History Trip -
Krakow / Lets Dance (Congress Theatre)

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

Fri 4th END OF TERM 4 - Early Closure

REMAINING INSET DAYS 2024-25

Friday, 27th June 2025

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

INSET DAYS 2025-26

Wednesday, 3rd September 2025

*Day after Year 6 October Open Evening – Friday 3rd
October 2025 Date TBC*

Monday, 3rd November 2025

Monday, 5th January 2026

END OF TERM 4 - Early Closure *(staggered by year group from 12.20pm-12.40pm)*

The school buses cannot be rescheduled to run early and therefore students will need to make their own transport arrangements.

Students will be in normal lessons up until this time. The end of the day will however be staggered to prevent traffic congestion on Broad Road. Please see the timings below. Please would everyone respect our neighbours and not block access to their homes and driveways.

Year 7 – 12:20pm

Year 8 – 12:25pm

Year 9 – 12:30pm

Year 10 – 12:35pm

Year 11 - 12.40pm

Students who receive free school meals should use the canteen at first break-time.

For your attention:

Dear Willingdon Community School Stakeholders,

I would like to take a moment to address the recent communication regarding the partnership between South Downs Learning Trust (SDLT) and Willingdon Community School. I deeply apologise for the premature release of this information, and I want to clarify that it was never my intention to cause any confusion or concern.

I fully understand that sharing this news early may have led to some questions, and I sincerely regret any disruption this may have caused. This partnership is an exciting opportunity for both schools to collaborate, share expertise, and strengthen the educational experience for all students. However, I recognise that clear communication is essential, and moving forward, I will ensure that all information is shared at the appropriate time and in a more coordinated manner.

As we move through this exploratory phase, it is important to note that the partnership is focused on assessing the benefits of working together before any long-term decisions are made. We are committed to working closely with all stakeholders, including students, parents, and staff, to ensure the success of this collaboration.

I appreciate your understanding and patience, and I look forward to continuing this journey together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With thanks,

Mr P Murphy

Executive Headteacher

01323 504011



SCHOOL FIELD SAFETY GUIDE

The field should not be used at the start of the day

Stay in Your Year Team Zone

Remain in your designated area.

Do not enter another year group's zone.

Year Group Zones:

Year 7 – Left side of field behind Maths block

Year 8 – Right side of field behind Sports Hall

Year 9 – Tree side of field behind English huts

Year 10 – Middle of field, no further than picnic benches

Year 11 – Right side of field behind Music



Neither Year 7 nor Year 8 should go beyond the cricket pitch or near the hedgerow along the long jump pit.

No football near the huts to prevent window damage and to allow students to sit comfortably at picnic benches.

No football on the playground



No mobile phones

Let's work together to keep our field safe, fun and fair for everyone!

Respect Our Neighbours

Keep noise levels reasonable

Do not trespass or throw objects near fences

Ensure We Follow the Hands Off Approach

No bundling or rough play

Play Football Safely

No slide tackles or rough play

Respect others – no taking footballs from other year groups

Stay Within the Boundaries

Do not go beyond the marked field areas

Use the Toilets & Water Fountain During Break, Not After the Second Bell

Plan ahead so you have time to use the toilet before the second bell

Leave on the First Bell or Whistle

Stop activities immediately

Begin making your way off the field

Keep Our School Clean

Put litter in bins or take it with you



STEM Careers Assembly: Inspiring Journeys into Science

We recently hosted **Dr. Amy Pashler**, a Senior Medical Writer, and **Mr. Ben Towler**, an Assistant Lecturer in Biochemistry and Biomedicine, who shared their career journeys with our Year 9-11 Triple Science students. They highlighted the exciting opportunities in STEM fields, from medical writing to university research, and discussed the paths students can take by pursuing A-Levels and degrees in science.

The assembly offered students valuable insight into the wide range of STEM careers and the endless possibilities that await in this dynamic and evolving field.

ENRICHMENT CLUBS INFORMATION

Eastbourne College Mentoring has now finished and will not continue in Term 5 or 6.

Unfortunately the following PE clubs next week are cancelled -

Monday – Basketball club (except for those doing GCSE PE Year 10/11 basketball assessment)

Tuesday – Girls Football, Boys Football, Rugby, Duke of Edinburgh

Wednesday – Dance Live, Girls Cricket

Thursday – Boys PE Club, Girls Fitness



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
Alana D 7ABE	Megan E 8RCR	Evie B 9CPA	Holly R 10EOR	Hannah A 11LCN
Avaley B 7EMC	Jack S 8GST	Travis H 9PHA	Mia P 10SCR	Ellissa W 11HAR
Andrew W 7ABE	Meliha C 8REL	Lexi-Anne P 9DMA	George H 10JBR	Matthew R 11AED
Keiran P 7ALE	Connor T 8BMA	Oliver M 9ARA	Lilly J 10MJE	Isaac G-W 11CHO
Thomas G 7RHA	Nico D 8CEW	Chloe S 9AME	Michael K 10SCR	Jessica R 11HAR

MESSAGE FROM STAGECOACH

To assist with punctuality in the mornings, the journeys that serve the school will be adjusted:

- Service 6 will start from Langney Shopping Centre at 07:30, eight minutes earlier than at present
- Service 57 will start from Pevensey Bay Road, ASDA, at 07:15, six minutes earlier than at present
- Service 58 will start from Stone Cross at 07:42, eight minutes earlier than at present

Most stops will be served earlier than at present and the three buses are scheduled to arrive at the school at 08:15.

Revised timetables are being introduced on the Hailsham corridor routes 51 (Eastbourne – Polegate – Hailsham – Heathfield – Tunbridge Wells), 53 (Eastbourne – Polegate – Hailsham – Herstmonceux – Ninfield – Bexhill) and 54 (Eastbourne – Polegate – Hailsham – East Hoathly – Uckfield). A new service 52 (Eastbourne – Hailsham) will serve Farmlands Avenue/Coppice Avenue in place of the 51.

Revised timetables can be viewed on the Stagecoach website at www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/south-east/eastbourne

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Gillian Laughlin

Team Manager Home to School Transport & Compliance

Transport Hub

Direct: 01273 335899 Mobile: 07548 846688 | Team: 01273 335067

eastsussex.gov.uk

The menu card has a pink background with a white curved band in the center. Stylized Easter eggs in yellow, white, grey, and purple are scattered around the text. A white rabbit silhouette is positioned above the word 'EASTER'.

EASTER TREATS

MAINS

Roast Chicken **or**
Roast Quorn

SIDES

Roast Potatoes
Carrots and Broccoli
Stuffing and Gravy

DESSERTS

Chocolate Cookie Crumble Muffin **or**
Strawberry Shortcake Pot

**Menus may be subject to change*

EASTER TREAT MENU - WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL

£2.57 Main / £3.12 with Dessert



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**

Holiday club for children aged 7-12 years from all schools

(Early drop off from 8am £10 extra including Tea & Toast)

£25 per day per child (10% sibling discount) or £40 for 2 days

Year 6s that have secured a place to join us in September will receive a discounted rate. PP students attending Year 7 or 8 at Willingdon Community School 50% discounted rate

Visit our website
<https://willingdonschool.org.uk/key-information/willingdon-community-school-holiday-clubs>
to book your place and to view other holiday club dates available.

All enquiries to
holidayclubs@willingdonschool.org.uk

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](#)



Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

Treats with the team

A huge well done to our to achievers from last week who enjoyed biscuits with the team this week! These students have worked so hard and consistently demonstrate our school values, well done!



Easter Challenge

We only have one more week of our Easter challenge so please encourage students to keep up the great work! We are asking students to aim for 98% or above attendance and 0 behaviour points across the last 4 weeks of this term. This reward will take place on the final day of term.

Year 7 Team



Head of Year
Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have some exciting news to share this week!

A huge round of applause for Aaryan Willmott, who has secured the role of Gavroche in the 40th-anniversary celebratory production of *Let The People Sing – Les Misérables*! Aaryan will be proudly representing Brighton Theatre Group, collaborating with 10 other theatre societies from across the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. This special production celebrates 40 incredible years of Boubil & Schönberg's legendary musical and will take place in a stunning 968-seat theatre—built during the very period that *Les Misérables* is set in! With twelve performances over two weeks, it promises to be a spectacular event. We are so proud of Aaryan for this amazing achievement!

This week, our students had the privilege of hearing from Johnathon, a former student who is now part of the RAF Cadets. His visit was truly inspiring, as he shared his experiences, challenges, and successes in the cadets, encouraging our students to aim high and pursue their passions. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm from our students, and we hope his visit sparks new ambitions for those interested in similar career paths.

We also want to wish the best of luck to our Year 8 boys' football team, who will be competing in the Eastbourne Cup Final against Seaford Head at the Oval Arena! The team has worked incredibly hard to reach this stage, and we are all cheering them on. We will update you next week with the results!

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing all our parents and students a fantastic weekend!

Best regards,

Year 8 Team

Vaccination is one of the most successful Public Health interventions giving protection against potentially fatal diseases for the whole of our population.



Scan the QR code to go straight to the HPV vaccination consent form



Sussex Community

NHS Foundation Trust

Immunisation Service
Brighton General Hospital
Elm Grove
Brighton
BN2 3EW

SC-TR.imms-team@nhs.net

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child's Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination is now due!

The Immunisation Service are coming into school on Thursday 01/05/2025 to offer your child the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination.

For information about the HPV vaccine and frequently asked questions visit [HPV FAQ's](#)

Please complete a consent form for your child to say YES or NO for them to have this vaccine.

This must be completed by a Parent or Legal Guardian with Parental Responsibility

Follow the steps below, before the closing date and time, which is at 11am, 3 working days before the school session date above. If you miss the cut off time, the consent form will reopen one working day after the session, enabling you to submit a form for your child to be offered the vaccination within one of our catch-up clinics.

1. Click on the following link: [HPV Vaccination Consent Form](#) or scan the QR code above.
2. Enter the following school code **SX114592** and click 'Find School' - School codes are unique to each school and site.

If you have any questions or need support to complete the consent form, please contact our friendly team: **01273 696011 ext 4931**

If we have not received a completed consent form from you and your child presents themselves to the Immunisation Team during the school session to request vaccination, we may offer them the opportunity to consent for themselves. (Details in the FAQs).

Please note that if we do not receive either a YES or NO consent form, the immunisation team may contact you by email, phone or text to ask for your consent preference.

Yours sincerely

Immunisation Clinical Service Manager



Excellent care at the heart of the community



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the Easter holidays, Year 9s have once again shown great maturity towards their studies ahead of another busy week. We have students taking part in the Poland trip, others heading off to Valencia, and many more being recognised for the Good Egg Award, which will be celebrated on Thursday with the in-school cinema big screen event.

It has been fantastic to see so many students working hard, staying ambitious, and meeting our behaviour expectations while maintaining good attendance.

Next week, all students will receive their next round of academic reports, and by the end of term, they will also find out their GCSE option allocations in preparation for Year 10. Parents/carers will be notified of the four subjects each student has been assigned so they can start preparing for September.

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage all students to keep up their high standards as we head into the final week of term. It's an exciting time as they look ahead to starting their GCSE journey!

Year 9 Team



Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

SUBJECT TITLE: Important information: Outstanding HPV vaccination - Year 9, 10 & 11

The Immunisation Service are coming into school for a **HPV** (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination catch up session on **Thursday 01/05/2025** to offer this vaccine to students in years **9, 10** and **11** who have not yet received the HPV vaccination, which is routinely offered in year 8.

If this applies to your child and:

You have already completed and returned a consent form; the Immunisation Team will contact you prior to offering this vaccination.

OR

You consented for your child to receive this vaccination at a different school, and it is still outstanding, please contact your local Immunisation team on **01273 696011 ext 4931** so that they can update your child's consent form.

OR

You have not yet consented and would like to do so please request the consent information from your child's school.

Students now only require one dose of the HPV vaccination in total.

For information about the HPV vaccine and frequently asked questions visit:

[Frequently Asked Questions | Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) \(sussexcommunity.nhs.uk\)](https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/frequently-asked-questions-human-papillomavirus-hpv)

Year 9 Visit to the Imperial War Museum - 18th March 2025

Students attended a workshop on the Holocaust and then were guided around the Holocaust Exhibition, after which they were given an opportunity to visit other exhibitions within the Museum. Thank you to Florrie B in Year 9 for her account of the day.

‘The workshop began with Museum staff discussing with us what we already knew and things to look out for when we entered the gallery. We looked at quotes from different people, whose stories we would encounter in the gallery. Then, we went in, seeing all the stories of Holocaust victims and their belongings. The most heart touching object I encountered was a little toy dog; I read that it belonged to a girl, who only had that teddy to remind her of her family, it was all she had. Further in the tour, we saw the carriages that sent the victims to the camps, bullets and wedding rings from the first massacre, and propaganda posters from the Nazis. It was a truly breath taking experience. Then, after we finished, we had a briefing with our group leaders discussing our thoughts. Next, we had our lunch, and after, had some spare time to look around with our friends. My favourite bits of the museum were finding out about the cold war, and even some artefacts from 911. Finally, we came back together for a picture outside the war museum for a picture before heading home. I found this experience truly captivating and it took my breath away seeing all the artifacts first person, rather than in a textbook. It truly changes your view, and you finally get to see the realness and extremes of this torture event. I want to thank all the teachers that were involved and recommend this highly to anyone willing to go on the activity day coming up.’





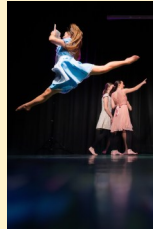
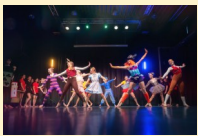
Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm pleased to share that Year 10 has had another excellent week, demonstrating continued commitment and leadership. It's been wonderful to see so many students working hard in class and taking pride in their progress.

By now, you should have received your child's Assessment Point 2 report, which provides an overview of their progress at this midway point in their first year of GCSEs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's subject teachers for further guidance or clarification.

Celebrating Student Leadership and Achievement

This week, 6 of our girls took part in the Dance Live competition, and I'm delighted to report that they represented the school brilliantly. Many of these students have shown leadership from the outset, setting a positive example for younger students. It was fantastic to see them enjoying the event and performing so well.



Treats with the Year 10 team

We also celebrated some of our students with biscuits and hot chocolate reward session where they sampled Mr Roche's famous hot chocolate. These students were nominated by staff for their positive attitude and performance in school. Congratulations to:

- Holly R
- Mia P
- George H
- Lily J
- Michael K



Outstanding Tutor Group Attendance

A special mention goes to 10JHA, who are leading the way in attendance, closely followed by 10MJE and 10DMC, all maintaining attendance above 96%. To reward this fantastic effort, these groups have received biscuits every Friday as a well-deserved treat.

We are also continuing to recognise our top 10 students for achievement each week, with each of them receiving a chocolate bar on Fridays to celebrate their positive contributions.

Mocks After Easter – Focus Areas

As we approach the holidays, I'd like to remind you that Year 10 will be sitting their mock exams starting from Monday 22nd April, when we return after Easter. It's essential that students take time over the break to focus on their revision, particularly in English, Maths, and Science.

Thank you for your continued support as we head into a positive final week before the Easter holidays.

Year 10 Team



Head of Year

Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS DAY



Year 11 students received their recent exam results on Thursday, 27th March as part of our Mock Results Day. Along with receiving their results, students were given valuable advice and motivation to support their preparation for the upcoming GCSE exams. All students conducted themselves in an extremely mature way throughout this final set of mocks exams and are now fully prepared for the exam procedures for their final GCSE exams.

The students were excited to receive their results and were also treated to a donut and a good luck message. We wish all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck as they begin the final stage of their journey with us at Willingdon Community School, working towards their GCSE exams which start in May.



Congratulations to the five Year 11 students who were awarded 'Treats with the Team' this week. Students were rewarded for the ambition they have demonstrated in lessons along with outstanding focus and commitment towards their learning. Well done to all

involved, keep up the great work as you embark on the final part of your journey towards your GCSE exams.



GCSE Revision: How PARENTS Can Help!

Please encourage your child to attend the revision sessions that are being delivered throughout the Easter holidays at Willingdon. Teachers are giving up their time in the holidays to deliver sessions to support all our Year 11 students prepare for the GCSE exams. Please find highlighted below the dates and times of the sessions being delivered.

Year 11 Easter Intervention Timetable

Week 1

Day	Subject	Staff Member	Location/ Time
Monday 7 th April	English Art	Mrs Arnold Mrs CChilderley	EN5 10am-12pm/ 12-2pm AR1 10am-12pm
Tuesday 8 th April	Geography GCSE PE	Mr Bradford Mrs Legate	G1 – 10am-2pm EN6 – 10am-1pm
Wednesday 9 th April	Geography DT/ICT/CS	Miss Marshall Mr Roche	G3 10am-1pm IT1 9am – 2pm
Thursday 10 th April	History	Mrs Hardwick	HI2 – 10am-1pm
Friday 11 th April	History	Mrs Hardwick	HI2 – 10am-1pm

Week 2

Day	Subject	Staff Member	Location/ Time
Monday 14 th April	Maths	Mrs Powell	MA1 – 10am-12pm 12pm-2pm
Tuesday 15 th April	Sociology Psychology	Mr Gardner	EN3 10am-1pm
Wednesday 16 th April			
Thursday 17 th April	Music (GCSE Music only) Drama	Mr Parry Mrs McCarthy	MU4 10am-12pm DR1 9am-1pm
Friday 18 th April			



It has been great to see more students attending the sessions run by our Learning Mentors 3-4pm afterschool and seizing the opportunity to get support from them.

Our team of Learning Mentors, all of whom are former students, will be 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 encourage you to motivate your child to attend these sessions to gain support and guidance preparing for their GCSE exams.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 11 Team



Proudly supporting the Nepal Trip and Conservation Project departing July 2025

Thursday 3rd April 2025

Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

**Teams of up to 6 people
£5 entry per person**

Bring your own bottle. Snacks and treats, along with tea, coffee & soft drinks available to purchase for cash on the night. Book your place via ParentPay.

**with
prizes & a
raffle!**

Careers Page

Career of the Week



Train Driver

Train Drivers

operate trains on the rail network, carrying passengers and freight around the country.

Day to Day Tasks

- Check controls and equipment before a journey.
- Drive the train between stations or freight depots.
- Speak with control centres along the route about any issues.
- Follow track signalling, safety and speed instructions.
- Leave platforms and pull into stations safely.
- Make passenger announcements.
- Control automatic doors.
- Position and hand over engines to drivers on the next shift.
- Record incidents like equipment problems, onboard issues or delays.

Routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

Apprenticeship - You can apply to a train operating company and begin a train driver advanced apprenticeship.

Work - You can start as a rail passenger assistant or train conductor, then apply for a trainee driver post. This is also a common way to become a London Underground driver.

Direct Application - You can apply directly to a train operating company to become a trainee driver.

Training can last between 12 and 24 months.

Subjects

Employers usually expect you to have GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) in English and Maths, or equivalent.

Salary*

Starting from £24,000 to £65,000 for experienced train drivers.

Jobs

Train Driver jobs are projected to grow by 0.5% by 2027.

*In 2020 the average salary was £31,461, up 3.6% on 2019. Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.