

Parent Bulletin

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Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

29th November 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter the month of December, many students enjoy the countdown to Christmas. As a community we find great opportunities to come together in December to celebrate the excellence that exists at Willingdon Community School. We hope all can enjoy the Christmas Concert and Christmas Fayre which takes place on Thursday 19th. We often find ourselves reiterating the point that every minute matters at school, and we know that this time of year colds and illnesses can be frequent but it is so important that students find that inner resilience and still come into school where possible. For Year 11, we have introduced the '5 days of Christmas' attendance challenge with a chance of winning a prize including prom tickets, leavers hoodies, and chocolate for those students with 100% attendance from Monday, 25th November (there are of course exemptions for authorised medical appointments etc). Years 7 - 10 have the '12 days of Christmas, attendance challenge also commencing from Monday, 25th November with chocolates, sweets, gift cards and vouchers available to win.

Recently, we have seen the very best personal excellence from our students on various trips including the rugby game at Twickenham at the weekend, the Year 7 trip to London, the Year 8 trip to the Science Museum, Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh, and the trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace. We want to thank colleagues who have gone above and beyond to plan these extracurricular activities for our young people. The students who took part in these trips showed the school values of respect, compassion, and courtesy.

To further celebrate our school values, students with the highest number of achievement points have also been rewarded with a 'Hot Chocolate with the Head', where they can provide even more student voice directly to Mrs May or one of her Deputies. One of the emergent themes has been young peoples' concerns about vaping in the wider community. As a school, we have a very strict policy on vapes, including the seizing of any e-cigarettes, disposable vapes or similar products, sending them off to be destroyed and a follow up sanction for any students involved. We have installed vape detectors in the school which detect the specific vapour emitted from such devices. We take the health and wellbeing of our students incredibly seriously, and as part of our RSHE programme, explain the dangers of vaping. We have heard of recent cases in the news of irreparable harm which has been caused to secondary school aged students and would ask of our parents/carers to reinforce the message about the dangers and laws on vaping. Further advice and guidance can be found here: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/e-cigarettes.html>

The three weeks leading up to Christmas should be a time for further celebration and student voice on the positives of our community and what we can do even better to support their wellbeing and learning. Our Year 9s have the publication of the options booklet to look forward to, as well as a third round of student voice on the options blocks. We recently invited Cathal Lynch (an external verifier) to accredit the hard work we are putting into staff and student wellbeing at Willingdon Community School, and we hope to publish his findings with you soon. On a final note, we promote to students the importance of courtesy and respect, can we please remind all parents/carers collecting their children at the end of the day to park considerately and avoid parking in the bus stops and blocking neighbours' driveways.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Holt
Deputy Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2

DECEMBER 2024

PARENT TOURS - Monday 2nd December

GLYNDEBOURNE SINGING PROJECT WORKSHOP - Tuesday 3rd December

YEAR 9 PRIMARY SCHOOL INDOOR ATHLETICS - Wednesday 4th December

YEAR 9 RSHE THEATRE PERFORMANCE - Wednesday 4th December

PARENT FORUM IN PERSON - Wednesday 4th December - 5.30pm - 6.30pm

ROBOTICS CLUB FIRST TECH CHALLENGE - Thursday 5th December

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - Monday 9th December

YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS - Wednesday 11th December

YEAR 10 PARENT EVENING - Thursday 12th December

YEAR 7 NATURAL HISTORY TRIP - Friday 13th December

YEAR 7 THEATRE TRIP - 101 DALMATIANS - Wednesday 18th December

CRASH INTO CHRISTMAS CONCERT/FAYRE - Thursday 19th December

YEAR 7 DISCO - Friday 20th December

INSET DAYS

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 14th February 2025

(Year 11 Mock Exams - TBC)

EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Friday 20th December 2024

Friday 4th April 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

Visits to the school during the school day

We would like to open our doors again to parents who would like to meet with a senior leader and have a tour with the school in action during the day. The times these will take place are listed below.

Monday, 2nd December 2024 8.15am-9.45am

Thursday, 30th January 2025 8.15am-9.45am

Please click on the below link to book onto one of these tours. We will also see your child's class if you wish or we can avoid it if you would prefer! This is a great way of seeing the school, warts and all! The previous parent tours we did were very successful and we appreciated the parent feedback and observations made.

[Parent Tours during the school day](#)

In the Event of Adverse Weather Conditions



If there are adverse weather conditions, please visit our website for the latest updates: willingdonschool.org.uk/key-information/emergency-closure-information.

The site will be updated with the most current information by 7:00 AM each morning on days with adverse weather.



Parent Forum

We are writing to invite you to our next Parent Forum. These forums are a fantastic way to keep you updated with our school improvement plan and national educational policy.

Wednesday, 4th December 2024 - 5.30pm-6.30pm

In person

1. Open Agenda – Led by parents

Following parental feedback, we are giving parents the opportunity to drive this agenda. Please submit topics you would like us to focus upon.

Please be reminded that these forums are not an occasion to discuss individual students. Please refer any individual issues to your child's Tutor or Head of Year.

If you would like to attend the above Parent Forum and would like to suggest topics to be discussed, please complete the below google form.

[Parent Forum - December 2024](#)

If you are unable to attend this forum, we will place any relevant powerpoint slides on the school website for you to view.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs May
Headteacher

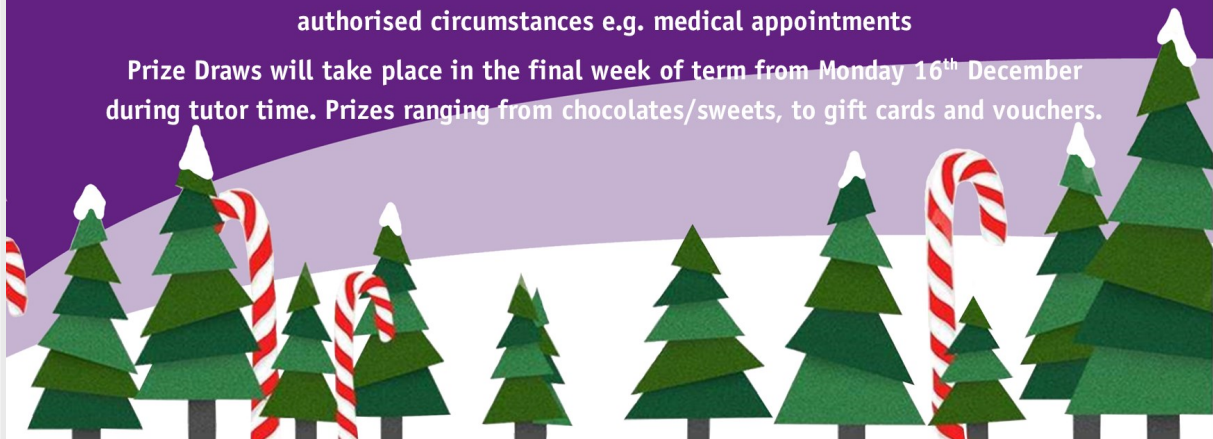


YEARS 7 - 10 ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

12 Days of Christmas

To be in with a chance of winning a prize in December, you need to have 100% attendance from 28th November to 13th December. Allowances will be made for authorised circumstances e.g. medical appointments

Prize Draws will take place in the final week of term from Monday 16th December during tutor time. Prizes ranging from chocolates/sweets, to gift cards and vouchers.

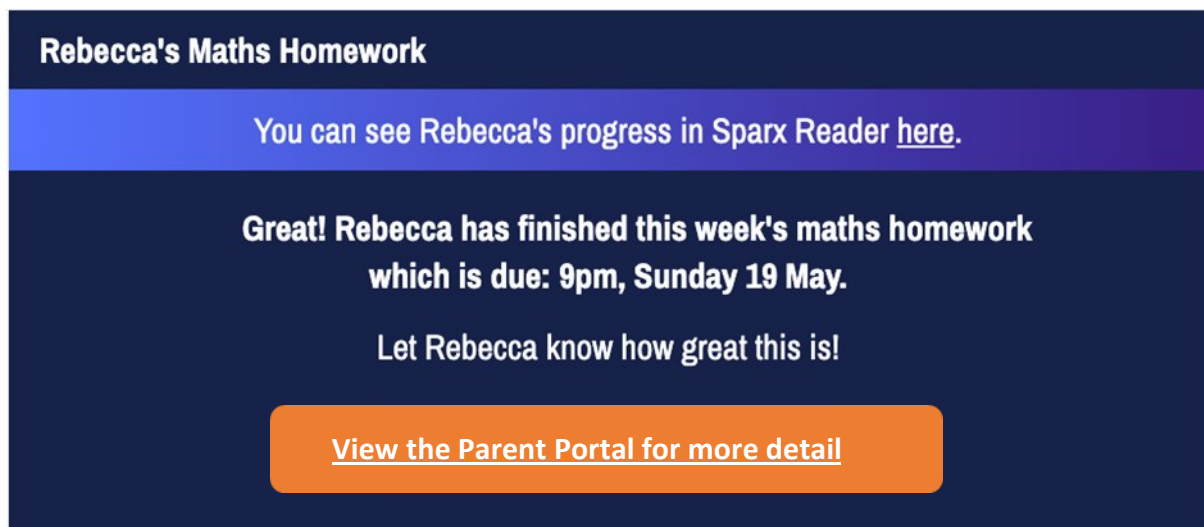


Sparx Reader

Parent Portal

Parents of children using Sparx Maths will currently receive a weekly email that updates them on their child's homework progress that week. The email is sent 3 days before the hand-in date of their Maths homework.

There is also a callout in this email which mentions that Reading homework information is also available to view.



If parents click on the link in this email, they will get taken to our Parent Portal, where they can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx learning system their child is using. For Sparx Reader, parents can see progress with the current and previous homework, and browse books that their child has been reading as part of their current homework.

Please note that each email contains a unique link to Parent Portal, and this link will expire 7 days after the email was sent.



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 share a hot chocolate with Mrs May in recognition of their hard work.

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Isabella B 7JWI	Henry D 8NKL	Cody B 9PHI	Roshan K 10EOR	Jakub A-S 11LCN
Riley C 7ABE	Edward D 8RCR	Kristi P 9GEL	Oliver P 10JHA	Lucas B 11HPO
Ady B 7ABE	Urenna I 8BMA	Cody E 9PHA	Kayleigh J 10EOR	Josh S 11HPO
Skyla M 7JWI	Jewel J 8BMA	Billy E 9ARA	Amy-Leigh C 10JHA	David N 11CPH
Dylan M 7JWI	Taylor S-M 8TST	Esme R 9PHI	Joshua H 10EOR	Alex M 11AED



Wow, what an evening last night! The Wreath Making night was such a great evening and I think everyone attending agreed! Thank you to all those who came along and for also spending money on the raffle and those extra glasses of Prosecco (I will buy more next year!!) Thank you to Claire from Glenister's for hosting the night, everyone seemed to have such a good time. I haven't got the exact figure just yet but we raised around £400 which is an amazing amount, so thank you all!

Our next event is supporting the Schools 'Crash into Christmas' Concert and Fayre on 19th December where we will be doing refreshments, a tombola and running our online raffle (which we will advertise as soon as it goes live).

Any further donations to either the raffle or the tombola would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us at friends@willingdonschool.org.uk if you can support us with either one. Tombola prizes can be dropped into the office for us to collect, we are currently very short on these. Additionally, if you are able to volunteer at the event, we would love to hear from you. We are currently short on volunteers, and it would be wonderful to have some new faces join us in making this event a success.



Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7



Christmas Card Year 7 Competition

**You have the chance to design
the official Willingdon Community School
Christmas Card!**



Open to Year 7



1st Prize winner - £20 voucher

The card will be used by Mrs May for most of the school Christmas cards.



2st Prize winner - £15 voucher

The card will also be used by Mrs May for some of the school Christmas cards.



Runners up (x4) - £5 vouchers



Closing date: 2nd December 2024 (Monday)



**Hand in your artwork at your tutor bases or email to our
competition email address:**

competition@willingdonschool.org.uk





Head of Year
Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

As we are nearing the end of term, we are promoting our 12 days of Christmas attendance challenge. In order to be in with a chance of winning a prize each day through the last week of term, students will need 100% attendance for 12 days - from Thursday 28th November until Friday 13th December. Allowances will be made for authorised circumstances such as medical appointments. We understand that there are illnesses going around but we need Year 7 to show resilience where they can and to keep their attendance as high as possible!

We are also running a Christmas card competition for Year 7, where students have the chance to design the official Willingdon Christmas card! The first prize winner will get a £20 voucher and their design will be used by Mrs May for most of the school Christmas cards. There are also prizes for second place and 4 runners up. To enter, students need to hand their artwork into their tutors or email competition@willingdonschool.org.uk by Monday 2nd December.

The Year 7 Team



Head of Year
Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

Well done to all the Year 8 students who went on the London science museum trip on Thursday. It was a great trip all round (thank you to Mr Smith for organising) and to all the students involved who represented Willingdon amazingly well, behaving both responsibly and maturely. A polite reminder that as the weather has got colder, students need to bring coats to school (along with their blazers on uniform days). We do expect students to be outside both break and lunchtimes, so they need to wrap up warmly.

Have a lovely weekend!

The Year 8 Team



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the first Year 9 reports were sent home. These reports were printed and distributed to students during tutor time on Wednesday. We have also emailed a copy to parents and carers, and uploaded the report to the Arbor portal, which you can access under the "Report Cards" section. The teachers' lists for Terms 1 and 2 are also available there.

Reports for other year groups will be sent in the coming weeks, as indicated in the table below. The report provides an overview of your child's progress in their subjects. It's important to note that this progress is measured against each student's individual KS2 SATs scores. As a result, students with different KS2 data may be achieving similar grades, but their progress may vary. This is a standard process in secondary schools, where performance measures such as Progress 8 are based on KS2 data. The target outcome for each student in their subjects, which will guide their progress toward GCSEs, is determined by their KS2 scores. We use nationally recognised assessment companies to predict these target outcomes for every subject.

In addition to progress, the report will include feedback on your child's behaviour, engagement, and homework in each subject. These will be rated as Excellent, Good, Inconsistent, or Cause for Concern. A rubric explaining these ratings will be provided alongside the report, ensuring full clarity on each grading. We aim for transparency, so no grade should come as a surprise. Our teachers are encouraged to keep in touch throughout the year if there are any concerns about your child's performance.

As is typical in many secondary schools, we do not provide written reports but instead supplement them with our Positive Progress Parent Evenings and Meet the Tutor events, where you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress directly with their teachers.

We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to working with you to support your child's development.

Year Group	Reports in Week Commencing
11	9 th December
10	2 nd December
9	25 th November
8	16 th December
7	16 th December

Many thanks,

Mr Dubas-Fisher

Assistant Headteacher



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Email - pastoral-9@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 9

Another full on week for Year 9s this week with lots happening. We welcomed Jack the Lad and his team into school on Monday morning for their final session of the Dare to Dream programme. The students have really enjoyed and embraced the programme, feeling motivated by the sessions that Jack has delivered.

The Year 9 Sports Leaders have also begun their training this week in preparation for hosting the Primary School Athletics Competitions next week. They have been committed to giving up their time after school to develop their leadership skills for the events ahead.

A number of students have today joined Mr Ellwood in visiting Fishbourne Roman Palace, Chichester, and we look forward to hearing all about their experience when they return next week.

Finally, a huge well done to Lottie, Georgia, Annabelle, Lydia (all 9CPA), Florrie and Harley (both 9PHA) for combining to deliver a student-led assembly this week. It takes huge courage to stand in front of their peers and deliver an assembly – well done to them all!

Mr Cain

Head of Year 9



Head of Year

Mr Roche

Email - pastoral-10@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 10

Dear Year 10 Students and Parents,

Congratulations on another successful week! Following our fantastic Awards Evening last week, I'm delighted to share that the Assessment Point 1 grades are looking very positive, with most students showing good progress. Well done to all!

However, we have noticed a slight dip in attendance, so I kindly ask for your support in ensuring all students are attending school and arriving to lessons on time.

With just three weeks to go until Christmas, I'd like to remind you of some exciting initiatives:

- 12 Days of Christmas Attendance Draw: All students with 100% attendance for 12 days from this week will be entered into a prize draw.
- Mr Roche's Christmas Bake-off: Students will represent their tutor groups in a baking competition, with the winning group earning pizza in the last week of term.
- Cake Friday: The tutor group with the highest attendance each week will receive a cake treat.
- Chocolate Rewards: The students with the most achievement points each week will win a chocolate prize.

A few reminders:

- Please ensure students are in the correct uniform, including blazers.
- As the weather gets colder, students should wear suitable jackets to stay warm.

Let's aim for a smooth and positive run-up to Christmas! Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Roche

Head of Year 10



Head of Year
Mr Gordon

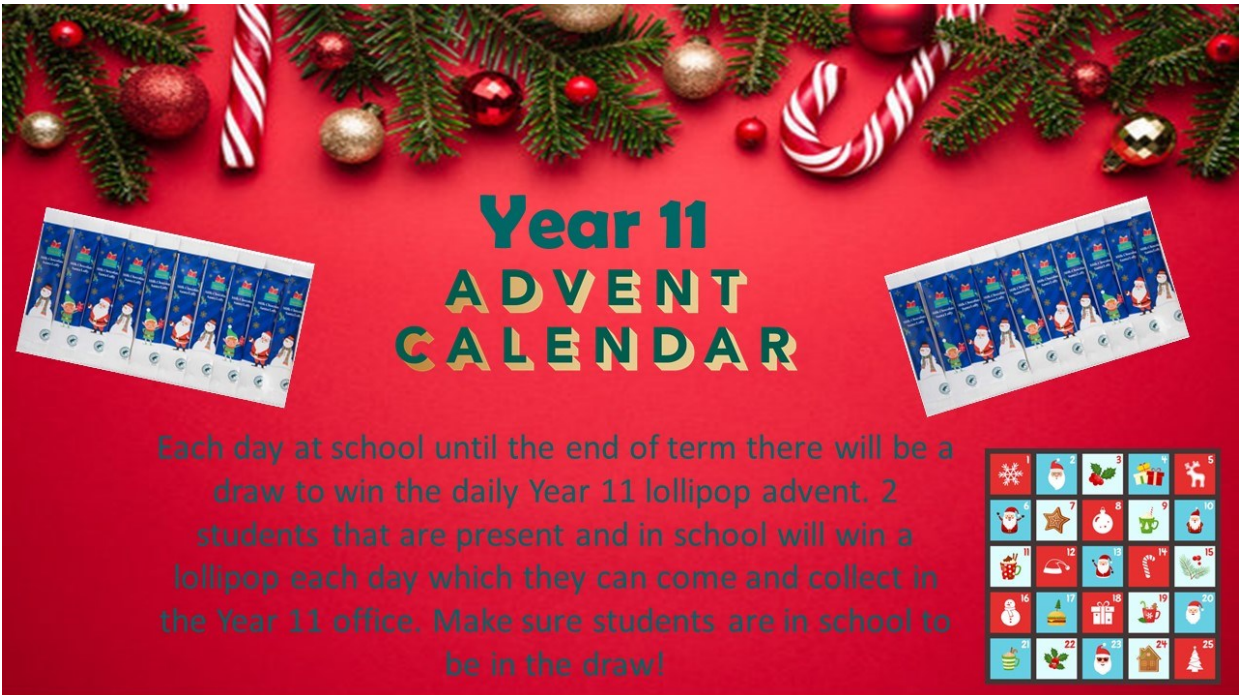
Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11




Term 2 seems to be flying by, made all the more obvious by the number of Year 11 students asking for their most recent reports and grades in preparation for their Post 16 interviews. The enthusiasm shown by students is evidence of their ambition to be successful and ready for their next step beyond Willingdon. A big thank you to all that have made the payments for leavers hoodies, a reminder that the deadline for these payments is Friday 6th December via ParentPay. As a year team, we would like to encourage all our students to make sure they are maximising their learning time and getting themselves into school. Please see the information below regarding our daily advent draw, running alongside our 5 days of Christmas Attendance draw that we shared last week. Thank you for your continued support, enjoy your weekend.

Mr Scowen
Acting Head of Year 11



**Year 11
ADVENT
CALENDAR**

Each day at school until the end of term there will be a draw to win the daily Year 11 lollipop advent. 2 students that are present and in school will win a lollipop each day which they can come and collect in the Year 11 office. Make sure students are in school to be in the draw!




Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

YEAR 11 ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE
5 Days of Christmas

To be in with a chance of winning a prize in December, you need to have 100% attendance from Monday 25th November until Friday 13th December. Allowances will be made for authorised circumstances e.g. medical appointments

During the last 5 days of term there will be a draw everyday

Prizes:
2 x Prom tickets, 3 x leavers hoodies and chocolates!



Crash into Christmas

19 DEC 2024

6pm - 8pm

Willingdon Community School

**Free
Event**

**Everyone
Welcome**

**Rock Bands
Musical Theatre
Choirs
String Ensemble
Instrumental and Vocal
Solos
Duets and Trios**

We have many exciting stalls on offer in the School Canteen from 4pm - 7.15pm offering:

A variety of Christmas goodies including handmade gifts, stocking fillers and lots of treats. Games and tombola for the kids to play
Bar with mulled wine and mince pies, beer and wine and soft drinks
Santa's Grotto £5 picture with Santa and a mystery gift.

Most stalls will be cash only. Some stalls may have contactless payment.



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

YEARS 7 & 8

Willingdon

HOLIDAY CLUBS

NEW YEARS EVE ADVENTURES

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Thursday 2nd January 9.30am - 2.30pm

Friday 3rd January - 9.30am - 2.30pm



CREATIVE



FUN

Multisport

Basketball, Football, Benchball
Badminton, Table tennis, Just dance

Students welcome from Year groups 4-8 from all schools

Team Challenges

Taskmaster, STEAM, Photography
Logic Puzzles, Scavenger Hunt Team

Rates

£40 per day per child.
10% sibling discount
PP students attending year 7 or 8 at
Willingdon Community school 50%
discounted rate

All enquiries to holidayclubs@willingdonschool.org.uk