

Parent Bulletin

office@willingdonschool.org.uk | 01323 485254



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

2nd May 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the weather continues to warm up, we kindly remind you to ensure your child comes to school prepared for the hot conditions. Please make sure they:

- **Wear a hat** for outdoor activities and break and lunchtime
- **Bring a refillable water bottle** to stay hydrated throughout the day
- **Apply sun protection** before school, particularly on days when they will be outside for extended periods and during break and lunchtime.

We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely **thank our Year 11 parents and carers** for your continued support during the build-up to exams. Your encouragement and partnership make a real difference, and we appreciate everything you're doing to help your children through this important time.

Finally, we wish all our families a **lovely and restful Bank Holiday weekend**. We hope you get a chance to enjoy the sunshine and take a well-deserved break.

Warm regards,

Mrs May
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - TERM 5

MAY

Mon 5th May - BANK HOLIDAY

Mon 12th May - Yr 10 Work Experience Week,

Thurs 15th May - Yrs 7-9 Ocean Matters Award - Sea Life (Brighton)

SAVE THE DATE

YEAR 11 School Prom - Friday, 4th July

INSET DAYS 2024-2025

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



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
Jack P 7DBR	Annie P 8REL	Alfie B 9AME	Leah G 10DMC	Oscara N 11CHO
Leighton P-S 7EMC	Callum T 8GST	Poppy-Rose J 9GEL	Aviv S 10MJE	Alfie H 11AED
Bella J 7EMC	Otto M 8TST	Oscar E 9PHI	Delilah F 10MJE	Thomas K-U 11LCN
Damien T 7RHA	Teddy D 8REL	Tommy N 9ARA	Evie C 10DMC	Olivia W 11LCN
Nhat Anh L 7ABE	Dexter P 8CEW	Vlad L 9ARA	Reece C 10DMC	Amy F 11HAR



Head of Year

Mrs Muller / Mrs Naylor

Email - pastoral-7@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 7

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing our 'Treats with the Team' this term where we celebrate the students with the highest number of achievement points from the previous week. Here are 2 of the students who achieved this enjoying their chocolate reward! We'd like to say a huge well done to these 5 students and encourage the year group to keep up their fantastic work!

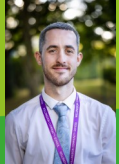
We'd like to say congratulations to Calista S-S who took part in the under 13 athletics league event in Lewes this week, coming 3rd in both the hurdles and 4x100m relay and winning the high jump event! Well done Calista! We love to hear about any achievements outside of school so please let the year team know of any successes!



Finally, with the warmer weather we'd like to remind you to make sure students are coming into school fully prepared - they should have a water bottle, suncream and a hat if they would like to wear one during breaks and lunches. We are starting to see an increase in incorrect uniform such as trainers and PE shorts on non-PE days. Students who are not following our uniform policy are losing their breaks and lunches and we would appreciate your support in ensuring they are dressed appropriately for the day.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend!

The Year 7 Team



Head of Year

Mr Keast

Email - pastoral-8@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and that your children are enjoying a positive and productive start to the summer term. I am delighted to share some wonderful news from Year 8. Harry D recently represented his scout group in a district target sports competition called "The Big Shoot" and achieved an outstanding result. Harry won the target archery section of the competition with an impressive score of 113 out of 150, securing a very decisive win. We are incredibly proud of Harry's success and the dedication and skill he demonstrated — a fantastic achievement that reflects so well on both Harry and our school community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our behaviour policy. As part of our approach to maintaining high standards and a positive school culture, we will always inform you via text or email if your son or daughter is required to attend an after-school detention. While this only applies to a small number of students across the year group, your support in reinforcing the importance of positive behaviour at home makes a real difference and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I would also like to wish our community a lovely extended weekend as we head into the bank holiday Monday.

Warm regards,

The Year 8 Team



Head of Year

Mr Cain

Year 9

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another successful and productive week for our Year 9 students – definitely a busy one too!

We had a great start to the week with Miss Connolly joining us in Assembly on Monday to hand out the Ocean Matters Awards – a big well done to all the students who were recognised! Looking ahead, we've got a new science project launching in a couple of weeks, focusing on biodiversity – something to keep an eye out for.

On Tuesday, lots of our students took part in the Big Future Careers Event at Eastbourne Sports Park with Mrs Rooney. It was a great chance to pick up useful info and think about future options for those involved.

Mr Gordon also shared details about the ski trip coming up in February 2026 – check out the letter below if you're interested for more information.

A special shoutout goes to the five students who visited the Bernhard Baron Care Home on Thursday afternoon – well done for giving up their afternoon to spend time chatting and socialising with the residents. You made us proud!

Finally, our Term 5 attendance and behaviour challenge is still ongoing, so we really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to be in school and to stick to our expectations.

From all of us in the Year 9 team – have a lovely weekend and enjoy the bank holiday on Monday!

The Year 9 Team



Years 9 & 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are planning a Ski trip to St. Johann, Austria leaving the school on the afternoon of **Thursday, 12th February 2026 returning on Thursday, 19th February 2026**. The visit will include five nights half-board accommodation, five hours of professional ski instruction each day and evening activities. Travel will be in a luxury coach with TV, DVD and toilet. The skiing is suited to all ages and abilities, and 800 km of slopes and 270 ski lifts should provide a great opportunity for all skiers to be challenged.

The cost of the trip is **£1,224** (this includes travel for the whole trip, one dry ski session and tuition in the UK prior to the trip, a ski trip hoodie, 25 hours of ski instruction, hire of ski equipment including helmet, all evening activities, including a visit to an Austrian Spa, transport for the whole trip, travel insurance and five days half board accommodation) per student.

For a place on this trip, an initial non-refundable deposit of **£330** is required. **PLEASE PAY ON PARENTPAY (ParentPay will open on Tuesday, 5th May)** with the balance to be received by Monday, 8th December 2025. **Snowslippers (Ski Trip Organisers) have requested that payments are made at certain points of the year to ensure the risk of the trip being cancelled is minimised. If your child pulls out of the trip, or is removed from the trip, you will only be refunded any remaining money (not initial deposit) if the place is filled by another student.** Your child will also require a valid passport to cross all borders to Austria and a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). All parents are requested to keep up to date on the travel restriction guidance to Austria prior to travel to ensure your child can meet the travel requirements.

Deposit payment of £330 for the trip must be made via ParentPay on Tuesday, 5th May 2025 at 3pm. Places will be awarded on a first come first served basis.

If a student displays poor behaviour or attitude in school, the school reserves the right to withdraw the student from the trip. Willingdon Community School reserves the right to refuse students whose past or present behaviour could potentially affect the Health and Safety of their fellow staff and students on the trip.

If you have any questions, please contact by email - lgordon@willingdonschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gordon
Ski Trip Leader





Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to congratulate all Year 10 students on another positive and productive week.

Attendance has remained excellent, and we've seen noticeable improvements in both behaviour and uniform. It's great to see students continuing to take pride in themselves and their learning environment.

This week, our focus has been on preparing students for their upcoming work experience. I'll be sending out further details shortly, building on the information shared last week and on page 6 again.

We also completed our final set of mock exams last week, and students will be receiving their results soon. We are hopeful that these reflect the hard work put in, and offer valuable insight as they look ahead to next year.

To celebrate students' ongoing positive progress, the Year 10 team and I have handed out some well-deserved treats.

On Thursday, students from Years 9 and 10 visited our local Bernhard Baron Care Home, where they spent time with residents completing craft activities / board games. It was a rewarding and enriching experience for everyone involved.



I hope you all enjoy the upcoming bank holiday and take some time to relax over the extended weekend.

The Year 10 Team

Well done 10EOR for the highest attendance in Y10. They will receive a biscuit reward today.

10DMC	92.00%
10EOR	98.61%
10JBR	92.31%
10JHA	92.93%
10MDU	94.76%
10MET	92.79%
10MJE	97.96%
10SCR	91.67%

Well done to the following Yr 10 students. They had the highest achievement points in Y10 in the last week.

Name	Tutor	Reward points Last weeks
Ewan D-H	10JHA	9
Leah G	10DMC	9
Aviv S	10MJE	9
Delilah F	10MJE	8
Evie C	10DMC	7
Lexi C	10MJE	7
Reece C	10DMC	7
Ethan F	10JHA	7
Roshan K	10EOR	7
Nathan U	10MET	7



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Dear Parents & Carers,

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

I hope that your child is looking forward to their work experience placement, where they will have the opportunity to develop a range of valuable employability skills.

By now, students should have contacted their work experience placement to enquire about working hours and dress code, and should have received a response from the employer. If you require support contacting the work experience placement, or have not heard back from them, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If your child is unwell during the placement week, please ensure you do the following:

- Notify the employer directly.
- Record the absence on Edulink.

Should you have any safeguarding concerns during the week, please contact the main school number 01323 485254, and you will be directed to the most appropriate member of staff. Alternatively, you can email talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Kind regards.

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser

Tel: 01323 485254 ext 281

Email: srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Year 10 Taster Days - REMINDER

I am writing to inform you of the Year 10 college taster days that will be taking place in June and July. These taster days will give your child the opportunity to attend a college for the day and have taster sessions on subjects that they may be interested in choosing post-16. Students can select to attend **one** of the taster days which can be booked via the links below.

East Sussex College Group Eastbourne: Lewes Hastings	Tuesday 24 th June Wednesday 25 th June Thursday 26 th June Please click on the following link to book: Y10 Taster Days - ESCG Prior to booking, an account will need to be created, which should include student & parent/guardian contact details & a clear ID photo of your child which will be used for safeguarding purposes throughout the taster day.
Seaford Head Sixth Form:	Friday 20 th June or Tuesday 24 th June To register interest in attending, please email ClareCallard@seafordhead.org
Plumpton College:	Tuesday 8 th or Wednesday 9 th July Please click on the following link to book: Year 10 Taster Day – Plumpton College
DV8 Sussex Brighton & Bexhill:	Wednesday 9 th July 4pm - 7pm For more information and to book please click on the following link: Year 10 Taster Event - DV8 Sussex
Bexhill College:	Friday 11 th July Please click on the following link to book: Y10 Taster Day - Bexhill College
BACA (Brighton Aldridge Community Academy)	Friday 11 th July Please click on the following link to book: Y10 Taster Day - BACA

We kindly request that once a taster day has been selected that you register, via Edulink, that your child will be attending a taster day, and absent from school, on the selected date.

There will be further opportunities throughout the year to attend open evenings with your child, to explore the colleges and meet with the staff. Details will be in the parent bulletin, and on social media, once we have further information.

Please note that Willingdon Community School do not provide the transportation to the taster days and students should make their own way to and from the college.

If you have any questions, or would like to ask about a college that is not listed above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01323 485254 ext 281 or email srooney@willingdonschool.org.uk.

Best wishes,

Sarah Rooney
Careers Adviser



Head of Year

Mr Gordon

Email - pastoral-11@willingdonschool.org.uk

Year 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to say a huge well done to our Year 11 students, who have been demonstrating excellent focus and determination in lessons as they prepare for their GCSE exams.

This week marks the beginning of the exam period for some subjects, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and ambition our students are showing during this crucial time. A special congratulations to those who completed their GCSE Art and GCSE PE practical exams over the past week, their hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed.

We would like to take this time to inform you of the plan we have for students during the exam period.

Students should be familiar with the exam times on their schedules. Students need to arrive at school and line up on the playground at 08:30 prepared for their exam. Following the exams, students have a chance to have a break, go to the toilet and then will return to their lessons. For afternoon exams, students that are sitting the exam will be allowed out early from period 4 to go to lunch and will then need to be lined up ready for their exam to start by 12:50. Following the afternoon exams, based on the projected end time of the exam, students will be directed back into lessons for the end of the day. If a student's afternoon exam is scheduled to finish between 14:30 and 15:00, we will give students the choice to either return to their period 6 lesson or leave the school site once they have been dismissed from the exam hall. If you would not like your child to have this option and would like them to remain on the school site until 15:00, then please do let the Year 11 pastoral team know. After school intervention sessions and lessons will remain on and we do encourage students to take full advantage of the time that staff are giving them after school to help them prepare for their GCSE exams.

As we enter these final weeks, please continue to support your child by reinforcing the importance of punctuality. Every minute in school counts, and arriving on time to both school and lessons is vital to their success.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

The Year 11 Team



Congratulations to the six Year 11 students who were awarded 'Treats with the Team' this week. Students were rewarded

for their focus and hard work demonstrated in lessons and their preparation for their final exams. Keep up the great work all as you embark on the final part of your journey towards your GCSEs.



GCSE Revision: How PARENTS Can Help!

A reminder to please encourage your child to attend the daily revision sessions that are being delivered at Willingdon. Please see the daily intervention timetable that is in place to support your child.

We are currently putting together a revision programme which will take place during the May half term break. The timetable will be shared in next week's parent bulletin.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor time	Tutor Time Independent Revision	Tutor Time Independent Revision		Tutor Time Independent Revision	Tutor Time Independent Revision
Lunch time 12:40-13:20	English Grade 7+ Masterclass (En5) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology	Maths Homework Support (IT2) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology Geography (G1) History	Maths Homework Support (IT2) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology Geography (G3)	Maths Homework Support (IT2) Year 11 study room MA4 Food Technology History	Food Technology Year 11 study room MA4 Year 11 IT study Room IT2
After school 15:00-16:00	Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)	Spanish (La4) Computer Science ICT Maths Business Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)	Latin (La2) Maths EC Mentoring (invitation only) Science Music Vocational Award Homework Club Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)	English GCSE Music French (La3) Spanish (La1) Psychology Sociology Drama (DR1) Food Technology Homework Club	Geography (G2) GCSE PE PE Vcnet Child Development Learning mentor Session (IT rooms)



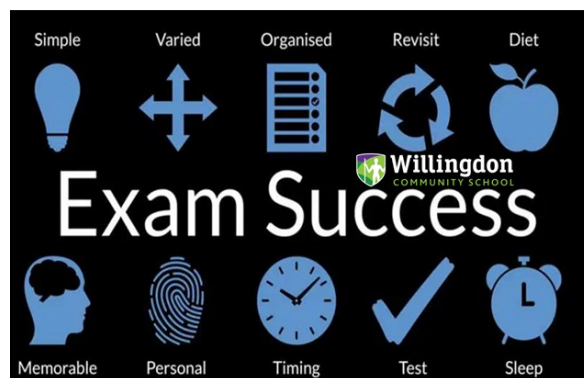
Our team of Learning Mentors continue to run sessions daily after school, which are designed to provide valuable support for your child to help prepare them for their GCSE exams across all subjects. We have now extended the session from **Monday-Thursday 3-5pm**.

We encourage you to motivate your child to attend these sessions to gain support and guidance preparing for their GCSE exams.

This week, Year 11 students were given important information about procedures for their upcoming final GCSE exams during their assembly.

We are proud to say that during the recent mock exams, Year 11 students demonstrated exemplary behaviour in both their preparation and conduct. We are confident they will continue to uphold these standards.

Please find below the key information that was shared with students, so you can help ensure they are fully prepared for their final exams.



What to do on exam days



Willingdon
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- ▶ Line up on playground in rows matching your seat row
- ▶ Line up quietly, and in silence when asked (you don't talk from entering the sports hall until you leave the sports hall! Don't speak or communicate with anyone inside the sports hall or your paper will be void)
- ▶ Be on time to start, line up ready at 8:30 and 12:50
- ▶ Have all equipment out of bag ready to go
- ▶ Clear see through pencil case
- ▶ Black pen to write with
- ▶ No case on calculator
- ▶ Phone turned off in bags with watches
- ▶ Clear water bottles with sports lid no logos
- ▶ If you are not in sports hall or main hall for exam you will go to the room stated on mock timetable
- ▶ Place bags on floor in taped off area before going into exam hall
- ▶ Enter exam hall in silence, from back and filter into your row and seat
- ▶ Make sure you do not have anything with you that you should not have!!



Congratulations to Charlie, 11HAR, for his golfing achievements last weekend. Charlie was chosen for Willingdon Golf Club's junior squad recently. Last weekend he took part in a junior competition for the club won the competition. This is a great achievement for Charlie, and we wish him good luck in his future golf competitions.

Year 11 Prom – Friday 4th July at The Cavendish Hotel

Students have been shared all the details regarding their Year 11 Prom during tutor time this week. Tickets are available to book on ParentPay.

Ticket price is £57 which include the following:

- Mocktails on arrival
- 1 x professional photograph which is printed and issued on the evening
- Meal, drinks and treats on the tables
- Disco
- Magician entertainment for the evening
- Ticket to evening prize draw with prizes to win during the evening





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**



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](#)

Eastbourne **KIDICAL MASS**

Safe Cycling
bespoke
Eastbourne
www.bespokecyclinggroup.org

EASTBOURNE
SPRING
WATER
Festival

**Saturday
10th May 2025**

**RIDE DEPARTS
AT 11AM**

GATHERING POINT:
SPRINGWATER FESTIVAL,
DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE STATUE,
WESTERN LAWNS.

**Bike riders of any age and ability welcome
for a happy marshalled mass ride along
the seafront road!**

Come from 10am for free bike decorating, see the
Water Cycle & Puppet Show. Bring a picnic for
afterwards, and stay to explore the fair!

- Hi-viz, bells, decorations, and flags encouraged
- Bike parking provided from 10am - 4pm
- Helmets on kids please, no balance bikes or scooters



www.bespokecyclinggroup.org



facebook.com/bespokecyclinggroup



Careers Page

Career of the Week



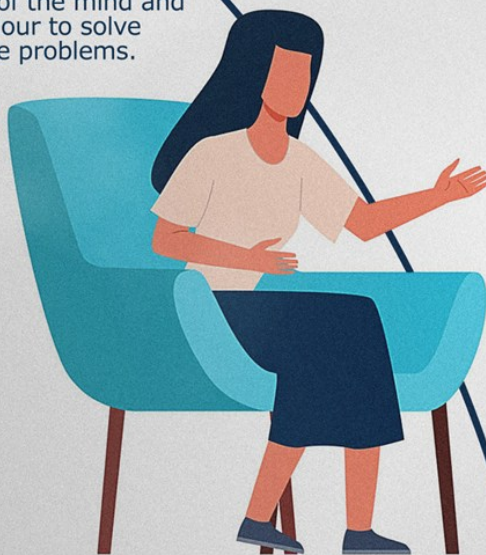
Psychologist

Day to day tasks:

In this role you could:

- Support young people with learning or emotional issues
- Work with patients with brain injuries
- Use psychological theory to help people who have been in prison
- Support people with conditions like anxiety, stress and depression
- Help businesses improve employee job satisfaction
- Help improve individual or team motivation and performance

Psychologists apply the scientific study of the mind and behaviour to solve real life problems.



Routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

University

You can do a degree in:

- Study a psychology degree accredited by British Psychological Society (BPS) or do a psychology conversion course
- Gain Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership
- Complete an accredited postgraduate qualification in your chosen specialism to practice as a psychologist

Subjects

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science.
- 3 A levels, or equivalent, including at least one science.

Salary*

£44,000 to £57,000

Jobs

There will be 3.8% more Clinical Psychologist jobs in 2027.

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

Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.